



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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Office Administrator's Hours (adjusted for COVID-19): Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00am to 1:00pm, or email/call for an appointment.

MARCH 24, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



Rev. Sierra-Marie Gerfao (she/her) lives in New Haven, CT with her wife, two teenagers, and a 100-pound dog. She works half-time as Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth at the UU Congregation of Danbury, and the other half of the time she has an emerging ministry of public theology which involves scholarship, writing, and activism. She is white, disabled, queer, and cis-gender, and she is originally from the southwest.

March 28th, 2021, 10:00am

"What You *Can* Do"

What if, instead of telling each other that we can do anything if we put our minds to it, we started telling each other that whatever we can do is important?

**Rev. Sierra-Marie Gerfao, Guest Minister
Rayla D. Mattson, DRE
Sam Moffett, DMM
Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
Buffie, Coffee Hour Host**

**10:00am Worship Service - Join us [HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113
Passcode: 014277**

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#) with USH immediately following services in Zoom.

March is Stewardship month at USH. Stewardship is the responsible overseeing and caring for of something considered to be worth caring for and preserving. We are stewards of our homes, our families, our communities, our environment, – because these are all things worth caring for and preserving, no matter what.

One of the things I find worth caring for and preserving is my UU faith, and USH – my spiritual home. During the month of our stewardship drive, we ask you to consider what makes USH worth caring for and preserving, for you, personally. How does USH serve you, meet your needs, enhance your life and well-being? How does USH help you to be your best self?

Is it through meaningful connections with people you care about, and whose support you can rely on? Is it through opportunities to learn and grow as a person, -- to use your gifts in the service of others? Is it through joining with others to support causes that make a better life for all of us? Is it by guiding you to explore and express your values? Is it through nurturing your spirit and fostering hope, during these particularly challenging times?

This past year has been extraordinarily difficult by any measure. The impact on everyone, emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially, has been considerable. Still, USH relies on the

stewardship of its members and friends. Keeping USH alive and vital will need all of us to invest our human and financial resources.

Your financial contributions are vital to maintaining this faith community, especially during these times of uncertainty and transition, when its message of hope and love are most sorely needed.

Please take the time to consider what you can give, and then complete your pledge form, either online at our website, or when you receive it in the mail. Even if you plan to continue the pledge you made last year, please confirm that amount for 2021.

You can give by check, credit card, or automatic withdrawal from your checking account – either monthly or in a lump sum. Gifts are tax deductible. If you encounter difficulties or have questions, contact me or our accountant Brian Mullen. Please give as generously as you can to help to maintain USH as a vital and caring community for all of us. Thank you.

~Submitted by Martha Bradley, Board President

RE News You Can Use: Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

**Please join us for our next several get togethers~
Join our DRE for this week's story-time. [\(20+\) Unitarian Society of Hartford | Facebook](#)**

**3rd-8th Grade will meet Friday at
6:00pm <https://zoom.us/j/96126146892?pwd=ei9PK0pDSWRDTUpQTzdCRDZUQ3ZVUT09>**

**Dungeons and Dragons will meet at 7:00pm on Friday Join
our [Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)**

**Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | dre@ushartford.com
I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday.**

Programs for Adults and Families

March's Chomp n Chat will include a special Class Experience - you'll be able to sit in on Dianne Daniels' JotItDown Journaling course at 12 noon!

If you've been interested in, or just plain curious about journaling and how it can help you, but you didn't get a chance to sign up for the course, send Dianne Daniels an email at ushinterndd@gmail.com and let her know you'd like to attend the class on Wednesday, March 24th, at noon EST. The class discussion will be covering tips for how to get the most out of journaling, including how to start, focusing on emotion, going easy on yourself, and using writing prompts. Whether you've enrolled in the class or not, you'll get a LOT from this session. Let Dianne know you're interested, and she'll get the Zoom link to you before class on Wednesday, March 24th.

Adult Programs:

Artist's Way Group: Meets on Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. via [Zoom](#) using Mira Kirschenbaum's book *The Gift of A Year* as the basis for our conversation. We focus on living creatively, with the appreciative eye of an artist; creative expression of all types and stripes is celebrated, though not required. If you're interested in joining us, mark your calendar now, and look for contact info here in early September. Contact Tina Davies for more info at daviesush@gmail.com.

The USH Book Club: Meets **monthly**, on the **2nd Thursday**, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Disability Support Group: This group has moved its gathering online. Please reach out to the facilitators for more info. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the

room stays in the group. Email **Don Hope** for more information at **donhope48@gmail.com** or call at **860 463 7982**.



Unitarian Society of Hartford
Inquirer Series
An Introductory Program for Newcomers and
Friends and Interested Members
Spring 2021
Updated March 16, 2021

The purpose of the Inquirer Series is to welcome newcomers into the Unitarian Society of Hartford community. The goals of the Inquirer Series are as follows:

Make our church values and culture transparent and known to newcomers so that they may make an informed decision about membership in our church.

Introduce newcomers to church ministers and lay leaders.
 Establish a "safe space" for newcomers to learn more about Unitarian Society of

Hartford in the form of a regularly scheduled small group designed for their needs.

Worship and Spirituality

Sunday, March 28: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Host: Peter Meny

Worship and the Liturgical Year: Sue Smolski

Adult Spiritual Programs: Peter Meny

Community Partnerships

Sunday, April 11: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Host: Rev. Cathy Rion Starr

Social Justice: Rev. Cathy Rion Starr

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Agency: Dana Donovan

Education and Faith Development for All

Sunday, April 18: 11:15 – 12:15 p.m.

Host: Rev. Heather Rion Starr

Life-Long Learning and Adult Programs: Dianne Daniels

Faith Development for Children and Youth: Rayla Mattson

On becoming a Member: Rev. Heather Rion Starr

To Register contact Buffie Pinney at
hartforduociety@gmail.com

and log in [HERE](#).

Social Justice at USH



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

**Dear GHIAA
Clergy and
Core Teams,**

We have learned that the [Appropriations Committee](#) will have a public hearing on **Friday, March 26th, 2021 at 10:00am** on [H.B. No. 6662 An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health](#). Public testimony will begin at 11:00 am, the first hour is reserved for public testimony from public officials. GHIAA has been supporting this work under the leadership of Leading Lady Melinda and Pastor AJ Johnson ever since they led the funeral procession for George Floyd. Under the guidance of BIPOC Clergy Caucus and with a small group of GHIAA Clergy Leaders, we have been urging Governor Lamont and his administration to take the necessary steps to eradicate the racial inequities and outcomes in our state. We believe that this bill is a step in that direction. We are asking you to support this legislation in the following ways:

1. You can write and submit testimony in support of [H.B. No. 6662](#):
 - a. Please use the Testimony Guide attached for tips and information that can help you draft your testimony.
 - b. You can find facts and a sample letter on our website: www.cljct.org
 - c. Please submit written testimony in either a word document or a pdf by attaching it to an email and sending them to: APPTestimony@cga.ct.gov
2. If you are interested in providing oral testimony during the public hearing, we are asking you to:
 - a. Sign-up to provide testimony here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PpOYXos8R-yULFnq8hISGg?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=53eba63a-07a1-4b8f-b6db-9e6d9bec45f0

- i. **Deadline:** Please note that **Registration will close on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 3:00PM.**
 - b. Learn if you are representative is in the appropriations committee by clicking [here](#).
 - i. Not sure who your legislator is, find out [here](#).
 - c. Speaker order will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Appropriations Committee website on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony.
 - i. ***If you would like to provide spoken testimony we will be monitoring the public hearing and will text you updates as you get closer to your time to speak so you do not have to sit at a computer all day waiting for your turn. To sign up to receive text alerts, fill out this form:*** <https://forms.gle/uhHtTjHK4EYD7Udm6>
 - 3. Are you nervous or new to submitting written and oral testimony? We want to provide some prep/open office hours for in the upcoming week for anyone who is interested; here are some dates/times:
 - a. **Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 12:00pm**
 - b. **Thursday, March 25th, 2021 at 6:30pm**
- Sign up to get the link for either session by clicking [here](#).**
- Thank you for your support, if you have any immediate questions on this matter please contact us at GHIAA@cljct.org or contact your organizer. **Thank you!**

Church Community & Business News

Distilling the Listening Sessions – How Do We Feel Connected?

When the board conducted our listening sessions in January, a key question was “will people come, and will they respond?” The answer, as it turns out, was “yes”! Some of you showed up multiple times, and some fed their thoughts individually through phone calls or emails. About 65 of you (give or take a couple) contributed.

There were two basic questions: (1) How do you feel connected to USH during the pandemic? and (2) What would you like to see/have more of, in the coming year, to help nurture this connection? Answers to Question 1 are easier to categorize, as we’re dealing with existing circumstances

rather than Question 2's wide-open invitation to visualize possibilities. Thus, we're summarizing our sentiments about connections this week; next week we'll talk about hopes and desires.

Overwhelmingly, we feel most connected to... each other. The most widely cited connection is "the people!" We come to Sunday services on Zoom to feel a connection with our society, see pictures of our Meeting House, feel a familiar grounding through music, stories, ritual, and coffee hour where we can see... "the people". Zoom may be a poor way of connecting, but we decidedly appreciate its existence.

While Sundays afford a central connection, meetings through more intimate venues offer opportunities to see and talk as well. Spirit Life, Artist's Way, Connection Circles, GHIAA actions, support groups, even board meetings promote continued involvement. Rayla, Buffie, Sam, and staff in general were mentioned enthusiastically for creative adaptations, helpfulness, music, and technical facility. For those able to join in, Chomp 'n' Chat was a hit. We've all found ways which work for us, and leverage those for maximum effect.

As we move toward summer, and into a period of ministerial transition, we're looking at ways to capitalize on and extend those benefits of our virtual presence. Your thoughts are always welcome.

Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within



Unitarian Society of Hartford <https://www.ushartford.com>

50 Bloomfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105



<https://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghouse>

MEETING HOUSE PRESENTS

Days are lengthening and we are remembering the wonderful music-filled nights of other years. We are still waiting to hear about when we can reopen

for in-person concerts. In the meantime, here are links to some concerts by performers we plan to feature when we reopen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIUGgAOa-gQ&fbclid=IwAR2pxqwDinKQD_10X5akC5-9QzdB_tZAPnD5HGgWXmtxJYe86Mb1JVrDPUc

Join us for another Maestro Bistro followed by a presentation on New England Barn Dances, part of the Winter VMFC weekend! This month's bistro features Chris Brinn, Julia Plumb, and Mark Roberts & Andrea Cooper. Donations welcome to [paypal.me/MaineFiddleCamp](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.paypal.me/MaineFiddleCamp)

Scott Cook https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSOPgrXf_X8 (online on demand)

<https://www.scottcook.net/> "As good a modern folkie as we have these days. A voice perfect for the genre. An understanding beyond the norm."

SUSIE ON SUNDAY! Susan Werner every Sunday eve 7 PM Eastern watch with [YouTube](#)

or [Facebook Live](#)

Reggie Harris

3. Lincoln Conversations - 7pm CT

March 24, 2021 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Concert on history

Parlour Session: Abbie Gardner

Friday Mar 26th, 2021 @ 07:00 PM

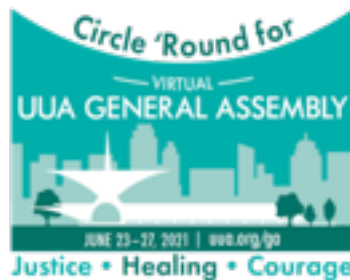
Join us for a live-stream series, concert and conversation, hosted by Dina Hall. Presented over [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

The live-stream is free to watch, but we encourage you to Pay What You Will through the artist's link. All proceeds will benefit the artist. Visit the artist's website at [Abbie Gardner](#).

**We hope to see you soon,
Laura and Paul Cipriano**

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/>



Here is the link for GA information and registration: General Assembly: [The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting](#)



Congratulations to our Courageous Love 2021 Awardees:

La Bodeguita de la Gente and Mutual Aid Hartford/ Apoyo Mutuo

Connect with them here:

La Bodeguita de la Gente & **MutualAidHartford.com** and @MutualAidHartford on Venmo

How to support:

Contribute to our Good Neighbor Offering to these two groups - send your check to USH (put "Share the Love" in the memo of your check or **donate online**)

Bring your paper grocery bags to USH, and Virginia DeLima will continue to get them to La Bodeguita

Donate directly or get involved:

@MutualAidHartford on Venmo, **MutualAidHartford.com** or **La Bodeguita de la Gente**

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member experiencing some difficulty, please contact Eve Pech or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211.

News from the USH Board of Directors



The Board is very pleased to welcome Rob Spector as USH President Elect.

The Nominating Committee recommended Rob to fill the position for the remainder of the 2020-21 church year. He will be the nominee for President on the 2021-22 slate of officers up for congregational vote at the Annual Meeting on May 16th. A lifelong, UU, Rob has been a member of USH since 1997, and has been very active in RE and as a worship associate.

His Bio is attached [HERE](#) for your convenience.

Your 2020-2021 USH Board

Martha Bradley: President

Rob Spector: President-Elect

Bob Hewey: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair

Jon Covault: Administration Council Chair

Dana Donovan: Social Justice Council Chair

Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

The latest financial reports for **Sept-Oct 2020** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view. The Board Meeting minutes for **Oct 2020** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

News in the Larger Community



I hope you are all doing well. Since public concerts are hard to come by, I made this home video with my sister Yu-Chen and the two nieces. It is joined together from CT and CA. I hope you enjoy it. Thank you!
Sincerely,
Pi-Hsun

Mother Goose Suite by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) - YouTube. I. Pavane for a

Sleeping Beauty II. Little Thumb III. Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas IV. Conversations of Beauty and the Beast V. The Fairy Garden Piano Pr...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTtXbR9H-9U&t=725s>

AIM Alert: Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Resources from EqUUal

We want to bring to your attention these resources and connections now regularly available for Unitarian Universalists who self-identify as living with disability. If you are a person with a disability, you can go to the EA website to find the weekly theme and the active links to join all connections by Zoom: <http://www.equualaccess.org/connect-online/>

- **Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm** Eastern Time: Theme Chat (with an EqUUal Access facilitator)
- **Thursdays @ 8:00 pm** Eastern Time: Oasis (worship service/spiritual gathering by/for disabled UUs led by EqUUal Access volunteers, ministers, seminarians)
- **Fridays @ 1:00 pm** Eastern Time: Craft & Chat (bring your latest craft project/idea and join in relaxed conversation-- with an EqUUal Access facilitator)
- Individual Pastoral Conversation with a UU minister (by appointment)

Pastoral Conversation appointments are available with Rev. Helen McFadyen or Rev. Barbara Meyers. Please email hmfadyen@uuma.org or bfkmeyers@gmail.com to arrange a private Zoom or telephone call.

Thank You,
Shelly & Helen (AIM Administrative Director Duo)
AIM Alert by Rev. Helen McFadyen, Administrative Director



Annual Taste of Ramadan Event

You are invited to join us for this years MCCT Virtual Taste of Ramadan

Date: Saturday, April 17

Time: 5:00-6:30 pm

Event is free and open to all!

Registration is required

Zoom link will be emailed closer to the date

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Register by noon 4/17/21

A panel of Muslims from diverse backgrounds will share what Ramadan and fasting means to them.

Panel presentations will be followed by Q and A session

For questions email us at info@mcct.us or call 860-242-1707.



**You're invited to the Universalist Church of West Hartford's next Virtual Cabaret!
Friday, March 19, 7:00 - 8:30**

Would you like to perform as part of the next Universalist Church Virtual Cabaret on Zoom? Join in as one of the acts, or come hang

out with us in the audience for the entertainment and a chance to see and chat with friends afterward.

It's not just music—you could read a poem, tell a joke, or juggle. We're always looking for new performers, and it's very relaxed. Children and families are welcome to entertain us, too!

Please reserve your spot by Friday, March 12, a week before the Cabaret, so we'll know how many folks are performing. If you're going to watch, no need to reserve—just join us! Contact Patrice Fitzgerald through MusicArts@westhartforduu.org Click the link below to watch our February cabaret Zoom, featuring What A Wonderful World, Crazy Love, When Will I Be Loved, Fly Me to the Moon, Oh, You Beautiful Doll, Who Can I Turn To, A Whiter Shade of Pale, Yesterday, and two original songs. Thanks to all who performed!

<https://youtu.be/OAfTN9jCDm4>

Here are the dates for future Virtual Cabarets:

Monthly on Fridays at 7:00 pm

3/19, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18

Sign in to watch live at those times [here](#). Please contact Patrice at patricefitzgerald@gmail.com for more passcode info.



We're celebrating our un-fur-gettable friends with two online gatherings.

We'll introduce our pets and share what we love about them.

All area UU's are welcome to Come, Sit, and Stay!



FAMILY PET PAW-TY! **Friday March 26 at 7 PM**

Let's celebrate our un-fur-gettable friends with an online party just for pets, kids & parents.

We'll introduce our pets and share what we love about them. This is an **inter-congregational online gathering** for UU's from USH, UCWH and UUSE.

REGISTER BY MARCH 20 to get the Zoom link:

tom.j.gervais@gmail.com



CommunityNOW: Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check out some new programs **here!**



Please contact our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at **hartforduusociety@gmail.com.**

Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the

Unitarian Society of Hartford: www.ushartford.com/events/

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

To read the USH Blog click [HERE](#).

E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be included in the 'Subject' field.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister

revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

revheatherionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)

USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager

dre@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

smoffett@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator

hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper

Office or Phone by Appointment | bmullen@ushartford.com

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!

Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week.

Be kind to others – and to yourself.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles: The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.