



Unitarian Society of Hartford

Building Community Since 1830

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduociety@gmail.com

Website: www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm, or email/call for an appointment.

FEBRUARY 16, 2022



February 20th, 2022, 10:30am

"The Greatest Common Denominator"

Embracing Differences and the 1st Principle

What if we embraced each other's differences instead of taking the safe path of focusing on our common ground?

Rev. Friederika 'Rica' Kaufel, M. Div., Pulpit Guest
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada, Worship Associates
Mike Covault, Zoom & Coffee Hour Host
Kathy Lee & Ginny Hedrick, Greeters
Helen David, Welcome Table
Susan Hope & Dana Donovan, Ushers
Susan Hope, Chancel Art
10:30am Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

11:30am - Fellowship Time will be immediately following services both in person and ZOOM

You can also watch the Sunday service at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>



Pulpit Guest: Rev. Friederike 'Rica' Kaufel, M.Div.

Rica's ministry is inspired by her strong passion for social justice and anti-oppression work, and her conviction that working towards justice starts with building a beloved community that is diverse, vibrant, and welcoming.

Rica was born and raised in Germany and came to the US to attend college in 2001. After several years in rural Illinois, graduate school finally brought her to California. She was teaching Academic English and working with international

students at University of CA at Irvine for several years before she decided to follow her call to ministry. Having graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May of 2020 and finished her ministerial internship

around the same time, she has now completed the last steps and was ordained in January, 2021.

Rica is an avid reader, finds joy in long walks, and loves nothing more than spending time with her daughter Elise.

Religious Education at USH

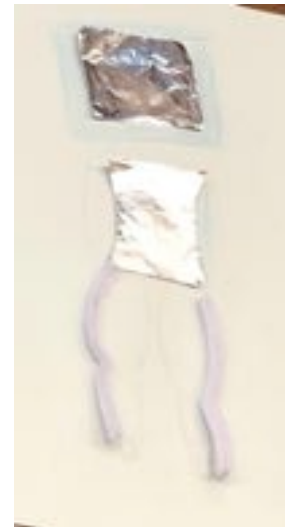
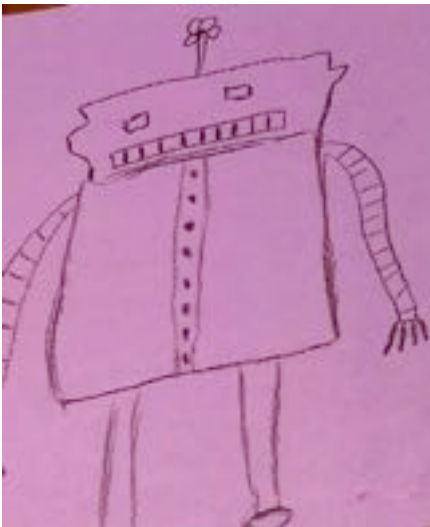
Welcome (Back), Annie!

Adding to all the love emanating from the Chancel on Sunday, was the debut of Annie Witzler as volunteer RE program associate. She will be helping USH rebuild its Religious Education program for children and youth, and began with an engaging reading of *Love, Z* by Jessie Sima: a story of a young robot seeking the meaning of love (quite literally!)

Following this Time for All Ages she led the young attendees to the library where, with art supplies and imagination, they drew their own fetching robots. **(see artwork below)**

Annie says she's very honored to be able to work on this regrowing project at USH and is excited for what the future holds.

Parents attending USH worship with children: please look for Annie at the welcome table in the lobby to introduce yourself and your family!



Did UU Know?



Enhancing How We Give to USH with our New Online Giving Portal

"Hybrid church" is now our new normal — and USH continues to grow in our ability to offer more ways to stay engaged in our community beyond the Meeting House walls.

Our new normal now includes professional-quality Sunday Worship streaming services, Town Hall meetings offering both in-person and virtual participation, and interest groups adept at flexing between virtual and hybrid meetings. We should take pride in how far we've come in the last two years! We are better equipped than before to help our community stay connected to USH, whether from home, on the road, or in the Meeting House. Our journey continues with modernizing and simplifying our **Online Giving** capabilities. UU churches are increasingly using secure, online platforms to make it easier to give from home. After speaking with a couple UU churches who used Vanco Faith, we selected Vanco because of their 20+ years of experience in faith-based giving with a customizable platform which meets USH's needs.

Using USH's Online Giving Portal (LINK

TO: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHA5/home>), you can now:

1. Make your offering using the "Shopping cart" and ensuing check-out experience.
2. **Contribute to USH with more ease and less paper.** On the portal you have the option to make a one-time donation, or schedule weekly, biweekly, or monthly contributions. Simply create an account to manage your donations and make repeat giving even easier. You will receive your donation receipt by email. Once you create an account, you can see your giving history and change your options with ease.
3. **Lower rates than PayPal.** PayPal charges 2.9%. In contrast, donations funded by your bank account on USH's Online Giving Portal are charged only a 1% fee. Debit/Credit card donations have a 2.2% fee. Our online giving portal also gives you the option to add a nominal surcharge to help defray processing costs. (This is not

necessary, but of course appreciated!)

4. **Funds are deposited automatically into USH's accounts**, minimizing cash handling and manual tracking. You can contribute to Sunday Offerings, Good Neighbor Offerings, and make payments for the USH Auction and other special events. Brian Mullen receives a monthly report identifying where the funds are to be allocated.

We encourage you to **try out the new portal to see how it can work for you!** Visit our Giving & Stewardship page (LINK TO: <https://ushartford.org/stewardship-2/>) to access the USH Online Giving Portal and other giving options.

Of course, you can continue to give using your current method. All contributions are equally welcomed and appreciated.

Later this month we'll share more on how to **Give by Text!**

By Lisa Galinski

USH Community & Business

News from the Board

At the February 8th board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to postpone any search for a settled minister for at least one year. Thus, the search will not begin before March, 2023.

Over the coming months, the Board will discuss various options available for the time when Rev. Terry's contract expires in 2023. We will be consulting with the UUA about these options, and meeting with ministers and staff at the UUA to better understand the aspects and relative advantages of potential choices.

Whether to proceed directly into a search, or to wait, was the main topic of discussion at our recent congregational town-hall-style meeting. Your opinions were solicited and voiced, and the decision to postpone a search affirms thoughts expressed during that meeting.

As you've probably already gathered, the board also approved a return to numerically-unrestricted attendance at Sunday worship, for vaccinated and masked people.

Please note that the next Board meeting will be held **March 8**, at 6:30pm, via [Zoom](#).



[USH Calendar of Events for February 2022](#) can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact [Buffie](#) with any questions or concerns.



"Chalice" ZOOM Room Password Change

Please note that the password for the ZOOM room named "Chalice" has been changed. Please contact either **Buffie** or **any Board member** to receive the

new password.

Any attempts to login in as "host" while using the old password will result in a "lock out".



Announcing ***UU SpiritLife Conversations***

UU SpiritLife Conversations is a series of monthly facilitated zoom conversations on spiritual topics offered on the fourth Saturday mornings through May, 9 – 10:30 AM. ***UU SpiritLife Conversations*** is open to all members of the three Hartford area UU churches on a drop-in basis – you don't need to register or commit to the whole series. The topic for Feb. 26 will be *John Shelby Spong on Being A Mystic*, facilitated by Dave Gonci. Please go to uuspiritlife.org and click the program title to access an article to read before this session. Questions can be directed to Judy Robbins at judyrobb2@gmail.com.

Social Justice News

The Social Justice committee has chosen hawkwing.org to be the recipient of USH's Good Neighbor Offering for February. The offering will be given on Sunday, February 27. Rochelle Ripley is the founder of ***hawkwing*** and she has been a visitor/speaker at USH several times. ***hawkwing*** supports the Lakota/Sioux of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. The reservation is about the size of Connecticut.

hawkwing began with a promise Rochelle Ripley made to her Lakota grandmother to "go home and help the People." "Home" is the Cheyenne River Lakota/Sioux Reservation, South Dakota, a land of beauty, wilderness, inspiration and heart-wrenching poverty. The Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation is the poorest county in the United States with limited healthcare, a life expectancy of only 48 years, 85% unemployment, and an average annual income per person of only \$2,926.

hawkwing brings basic needs items: food, clothing, medical supplies, personal care items, and books and toys to some 2,600 children and 500 Elders on the Reservation. ***hawkwing*** brings doctors, nurses, and dentists to the Reservation for health services, and brings construction volunteers to repair dilapidated homes, community buildings, and special projects.

hawkwing brings hope, respects culture, supports families, promotes life, and keeps promises.

Please hold this in your thoughts and heart, and please donate generously on February 27.

Programs for Adults and Families

Adult Programs:

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.

Book Selections 2022

March 10- Finding Higher Ground: An Adaption in the Age of Warming- Amy Seidel

Apr 14- First Friends:The Powerful Unsung (and Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents- Gary Ginsberg

May 12- The Extended Mind:Thinking Outside Your Brain-Anne Murphy Paul

June 9- The Hellfire Club- Jay Tapper

July 14- Hamnet- Maggie O'Farrell

Aug 11- The Vanishing Half - Brit Bennett

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

Disability Support Group:

This group meets on line the first Saturday of each month at 10 a..m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. 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 group stays in the group.

Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at **860 904-7768**.

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member or friend experiencing some difficulty, please contact **Janice Newton** at janicecnewton@gmail.com 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.

Events in the Hartford Community



Dear Friends,
Greetings! I hope you are all doing well. It is so nice to see a gradual return to normalcy in 2022.

Last Christmas I received a card from my student's family. It was a home-made card with the father's pine tree drawing on the front and

inside the card there was a quote from John Muir:

***Climb the mountains
and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you
As sunshine flows into trees.***

It is so true that I get good tidings in the woods, and, of course, also from my students! I would like to share that experience with you. I am releasing a new YouTube video, *Woodland Sketches: Discovering the sounds and nature of New England*. Here is the premiere time and link. Of course, you can watch it any time after the premiere:

Premiere Time: Sunday, February 20, at 3 pm (Eastern Time)

YouTube link: https://youtu.be/BcwyqXh_XTw

I hope you will subscribe to the channel and share your experiences with me.

**Sincerely,
Pi-Hsun Shih**

(Note: Pi-Hsun is a favorite guest musician at USH, having played at many worship services and other events.)

Your 2021-2022 USH Board of Directors

Rob Spector: President

Eve Pech: 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. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister (ex-officio)

The latest financial reports for **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **December 2021** 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.

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.org/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.org/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:

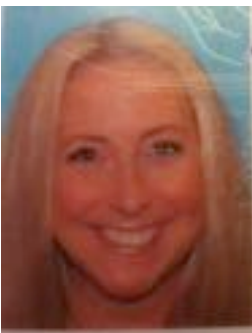
<http://www.ushartford.org/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
revterryush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
brianmullenush@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

News from Buffie's Desk

Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm. Please email at her at hartforduusociety@gmail.com.
Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



**Sunday Welcome Volunteers
See Sign Up Genius
Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie
at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for
any assistance or additional
questions.**

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is by

[Tuesday at 12 Noon.](#)

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com OR
enewsush@gmail.com

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

www.ushartford.org