



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 23, 2022



W.E.B. DuBois c. 1911

February 27th, 2022, 10:30am

"The Sorrow Songs"

***The Sorrow Songs*, Our final service of Black History Month will be dedicated to the life and work of W.E.B. DuBois, the pre-eminent black public intellectual of the 20th century.**

**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess
Diane Cadrain, 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>

Matters of the Heart

On Sunday we will also make space for sharing "Matters of the Heart" with one another (often referred to as "Joys and Sorrows" in other congregations). We would love to hear about recent births of new family members, or share your sorrow at a recent bereavement, and lift up any meaningful life passages or events that you would like to share with others.

Here is how Matters of the Heart will be shared —

- Please send me an email with any Matters of the Heart that you would like to share with the congregation by 9:30 a.m. on Sunday (revterryush@gmail.com); or

- If you are attending the service in person, index cards and pencils will be provided at the welcome table for you to write them down when you arrive at the Meeting House; or
- Write them in the chat if you are attending the service by Zoom.

I will share your Matters of the Heart from the pulpit immediately before our customary candle ritual. (Please do not share announcements about upcoming meetings or other events, as this will not be a time for general announcements.)

In Faith, Reverend Terry

Transitions ~ ~

I want to let you all know that I have given my resignation to Rev. Terry, to be effective Friday, March 11, 2022. My husband and I purchased a home in Florida this past fall and I have been fortunate enough to find full-time employment there, comparable to my situation in Connecticut.

I will have spent nineteen years (almost to the day) at USH. I was not yet 40 years old when I arrived and will be leaving you just a couple of years shy of 60 — "Oh The Places We've Been" together!

The opportunity to work at USH presented itself at just the right time in my life. I am grateful for the many wonderful people and experiences I have had at the Meeting House. Spending that much time in one place affords you the opportunity to witness the full cycle of things. I have done just that, and appreciate the opportunity.

I now find another opportunity presenting itself at just the right time in my life and so my time with you must come to an end. I think this provides



you a wonderful opportunity to view things through a new set of eyes (those of Rev. Terry) and dream big dreams for a vibrant future.

Fondly,

Brian

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper, Unitarian Society of Hartford

Short-Term Volunteer Opportunity

While we are sad that our long time bookkeeper (and formerly, office manager) Brian Mullen is leaving us, we are happy that he and his husband Steve now have the opportunity to enjoy the next phase of their lives in a warmer climate. If any members have a working knowledge of QuickBooks and are willing to volunteer a few hours per week to help USH while we look for Brian's successor, please reach out to Rev. Terry by email (revterryush@gmail.com), or Brian at brianmullenush@mail.com. We are looking at outsourcing our payroll to a payroll company, so this volunteer role will not require managing payroll.

Did UU Know?



Ambulatory Luminaries

Did you ever notice that the numerous rooms off the Ambulatory of our church are named after (you might have guessed) various Unitarian or Universalist luminaries? This is the third of several articles that will attempt to shine a light on who these Ambulatory Luminaries were and why they merit the honor of being named to these locations.

Faustus Socinus (1539-1604, Ambulatory Room 3)

by Toni Gold

Fausto Sozzini, or in Latin form Faustus Socinus, the next of our ambulatory luminaries, was an Italian theologian and the founder of the non-trinitarian Christian belief system known as Socinianism. He was born in 1539 to a wealthy Italian family; the Protestant Reformation, including the ideas of Martin Luther and John Calvin, was in full flower as he grew up. At the age of 22 Socinus was already formulating a more radical Protestant theology, asserting that Jesus was not essentially divine — in other words, that he was not born both God and Man.

Socinus' uncle Laelio Sozzini was also involved in the movement, called the Radical Reformation, and influenced him immeasurably. Laelio learned Greek and Hebrew so he could read the Bible in the original, and found that much of the Roman Catholic Church's doctrine was directly contradictory to scripture.

While Socinus and his followers believed in miracles such as the virgin birth, they also said that religion should not contradict natural reason, or what we would today call scientific understanding. The rise of such beliefs in Europe, of which Socinus was an early pioneer, led to what today we call the Enlightenment, and the philosophy of Hobbes, Locke, and Hume. Socinus' ideas also had considerable influence over Isaac Newton who, upon his death, was found to have many Socinian books in his library, four of them written by Socinus himself. The spirit of the Enlightenment played a large part in the formation of the American experiment in self-government, in the rule of reason and law, and the separation of church and state.

Socinus traveled to Transylvania, where there were many who had rejected the idea of the Trinity. The interchange between Socinus and the Transylvanian anti-trinitarians is one of the principal threads in the development of modern-day Unitarianism.

Socinus left Transylvania for Poland in 1579, where there were many others of like mind; he remained in Poland until his death in 1604. He was a major influence on the development of the Polish Brethren, a dissenting church which forms another thread in the development of a non-supernatural way of participating in the Christian faith. Unlike Servetus and Francis, he did not die a martyr.

Articles, full or continued, are found in their entirety here: [Did UU Know?](#)

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.

Among our various options for when Rev. Terry's contract expires, in 2023, are these: extending Rev. Terry's contract by one year; hiring another interim minister for a one or two year term; hiring a contract minister for one year; or hiring a developmental minister for a period that would likely last between four and seven years. These, with possibly some less-frequently-employed alternatives, will be examined and discussed in coming months.

Our desire, and intent, is that this be a transparent and inclusive process. We welcome your input, your observations, your counsel, your energy. For now, if you are interested in familiarizing yourself with the UUA's guidance on ministerial transitions, there's a wealth of material at: www.uua.org/transitions

The next Board meeting is **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.**



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

Message from hawkwing's director, Rochelle Ripley –

We are grateful that you have selected ***hawkwing*** to receive your February donations. It has been a long two years for all of us, including challenges on the Reservation. We were able to ship two semi loads during 2021 and it was a great help to the Tribe. It included knitted goods from local donors as well as toys and other items. Through our partnership with Amazon we could provide personal care items, household goods, clothing, and much more. We distributed holiday gifts through the schools and Head Start to some 1,850 children. Our partnership with Amazon is simply amazing – we receive nearly one million dollars worth of new items. It is enough that this year we are planning to open a local distribution site for those in need in the Greater Hartford area. The concept is a "Free Store" where people can "shop" for free and select needed items. The one on the Reservation is named Wawokiye Tipi (The House of Generosity) and the local one will be Wawokiye Tipi 2. We will be looking for lots of volunteers for this expanded program and we need donated or very low cost space (about 2,000 square feet). So if you know of space and if you or your teens would like to volunteer, there will be plenty to do and we will need many hands. The pandemic hit the Reservation hard. Given the pre-existing health challenges and wide distrust of "government" programs, COVID spread rapidly and there were many deaths despite all efforts. We missed our annual summer trip and we are judging whether we can make a trip in

the late summer this year. We are grateful for your continuing generosity and caring.

Peace,
Rochelle

Please hold *hawkwing* in your thoughts and heart, and donate generously on February 27.

Continuing the Conversation: Compassionate Choice for the Terminally Ill

Several years ago USH sponsored a series of conversations centering on medical assistance in dying for terminally ill individuals seeking choice and control as they approached the end of their lives. A desire was expressed to see, in Connecticut, legislation similar to Oregon's pioneering Death With Dignity law. Now, about a decade later, such a bill is coming before the Connecticut State Legislature and, if passed, will grant a right of choice in dying. Hearings at the Capitol have been scheduled for February 23rd (today), but you can still register viewpoints with your elected representatives by contacting them directly, to comment on **SB 88**.



Youth Group Soup Crew Returns

There were 4 teenagers (plus John Bengtson and Annie Witzler) chopping up dozens of pounds of produce last Sunday. The aroma filled the sanctuary, enticing folks downstairs for soup and biscuits at coffee hour. Sales were brisk, even though the crowd was sparse. Our soup purchases enable the group to continue supplying two local organizations with tasty, nutritious soup each month. This month, 4 gallons were given to Church Street Eats and 8 gallons to South Park Inn. Well done, all!

Meeting House Presents

[Meeting House Presents](#) **Save the Dates!**

\$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID

Mad Agnes Friday, Apr. 22, 2022

Seán Heely and Beth Patterson Friday, May 13, 2022

Susan Werner concert **Saturday, April 30, 2022** This special Meeting House Presents Saturday concert is not included with season tickets, but season ticket holders get a \$5 discount. Ticket price \$25.

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.

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/>

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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!