

## Unitarian Society of Hartford



**Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice**

**Unitarian Society of Hartford**

**Building Community Since 1830**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

**Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.ushartford.org](http://www.ushartford.org)**

**Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or email/call for an appointment.**

*MAY 25, 2022*



**Image: Sadako Sasaki and Her Thousand Cranes**

**May 29, 2022 10:30 a.m.**

**"A Memorial Day Service: Remembering Peace"**

Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest  
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate  
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries  
Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator  
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess  
Susan Hope, Usher  
Bill Simmons, Greeter  
Annie Witzler, Welcome Table  
Chancel Art by Paula Bleck

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service**

Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

**11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour will be immediately following services, in person and ZOOM**

You can also watch the Sunday service  
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>  
or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.



## Are You Ready to Join USH?

We will be holding a New Member Ceremony on Sunday, June 12 during the worship service.

Please contact Carolyn Carlson at [carlsoncjc@gmail.com](mailto:carlsoncjc@gmail.com) or 860-

462-9757 if you would like to join our congregation at this time.

## *From The Board: Annual Meeting Summary*

[This is a *very brief* summary of our Unitarian Society's annual meeting which has held on Sunday, May 22, simply to recap the constitutionally-required business conducted along with a few remarks on the "state of the Society". We'll summarize a few more highlights next week.]

Eve Pech, as President-Elect, opened the meeting, welcoming the congregation and thanking those who contributed to the effort of organizing and assembling people, food, information, technical arrangements. These included Annie Witzler for arranging a catered lunch; Brian Harvey for producing the annual report; our Sunday sextons Jaz and Noni Acevedo-Perez, along with the Newtons, for choreographing the set-up for lunch; and Nancy Kemmerer, Evan Williams, and Janice Newton for desserts.

Rob Spector, President, summarized some highlights from the year just past: the transition from Revs Cathy and Heather to hiring Rev. Terry Cummings as Interim Minister; moving from a pandemic-necessitated strictly online presence to hybrid services (and back to online... and back to hybrid...); our technical advances which have made streaming services and hybrid meetings possible; opportunities to gather, speaking and listening to our own and others' personal experiences of USH and our community.

Rob then segued into recent events. The Fact-Finding Team completed a detailed, comprehensive, and confidential report and submitted that to the Board. The Board then met twice in executive session, weighing the contents of that confidential report and developing thoughts on how to move forward. The following meeting, on Tuesday May 20 included Reverend Terry Cummings, along with her 'Good Officer' from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), and Joe Sullivan, our UUA Regional Representative. Following that meeting, Rev. Terry and the Board have mutually agreed that she would resign, and that the Board is presently working on the terms of that resignation\* and will soon begin a search for a minister to take over for next year.

Rob then recognized five long-time members for their consistent and enthusiastic records of volunteering talent and service to benefit our community (see below).

Candidates for election to Board of Directors positions were introduced and elected (unanimously, as far as one could tell):

- Eve Pech, President (one-year term)
- Dana Donovan, President-Elect (one-year term)
- Jon Covault, Treasurer (two-year term)
- Paul Cipriano, Chair, Council on Administration (two-year term)
- Tina Davies, Chair, Council on Community Within (two-year term)
- Judy Sullivan, Chair, Council on Social Justice (one-year term)

Additionally, Sarah Harmon McKenzie (Secretary) and Peter Meny (Chair, Council on Spiritual Life) will be serving the second year of their respective two-year terms.

To conclude, a motion was made and seconded for approval of minutes from the 2020/21 annual meeting; the minutes were approved, and we adjourned for lunch in Fellowship Hall.

*\* [Editor's Note: Procedures involving future interactions between Reverend Terry and members of our congregation will be part of these terms, and will be available to us all once details have been worked out. Please remember, while the UUA does not govern the manner in which a congregation conducts its affairs, it **does**, through guidelines pertaining to ministerial fellowship, govern how clergy may interact with members of a congregation (from which these clergy have departed) if that clergy wishes to remain within ministerial fellowship.]*

**To view the 2021/22 Annual Report, navigate [HERE](#):**

## *USH Community*

### ***2021/22 Exemplary Volunteers Recognized***

Creating and maintaining a community requires participation from *all* its members. Even those who, in the words of blind poet John Milton, "only stand and wait" contribute their presence and a sense of expectation that their needs are willingly met by those with the ability to do so. Because we *are* a community, service is deeply embedded in our culture. At USH, our great covenant reminds us "love is our spirit; service, our law".

We thus depend greatly on voluntary participation in activities and tasks which help us thrive... caring for people and facilities, leading groups, planning events, spreading information, teaching children. The list goes on. There's a lot to be done, and the USH Board recognizes this.

A few years ago, the realization grew that while our community relies greatly on volunteers to keep us functioning, we as a body were *not* great at recognizing and honoring dedicated volunteers. A few 'thank you' notes had been sent. Annually, the congregation, en masse, was thanked from the pulpit. Sometimes, if an exceptionally active volunteer was moving to, say, Florida, that person would be feted and bade farewell with a cake and flowers. There existed no formal culture of institutional gratitude.

Sue Tenorio, at that time Chair for the Council on Administration, determined to bring attention to this gap. She, with Carolyn Carlson's help, proposed an annual award to recognize "exemplary volunteers" — a few members who historically and routinely answer calls to service when a need is apparent.

Here are the specifications:

Purpose: To demonstrate appreciation and recognition by the Board, of the valuable contributions of an individual member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

Selection criteria:

- USH Member
- Nomination by Board member(s), one person per member
- Recognition of **non-monetary** service
- Neither a current Board member nor a USH employee
- Service in a selected role or multiple roles for a minimum total of five years

- Delivery of exemplary service
- Active promotion of USH values
- Demonstrated dedication to completion of necessary tasks
- Sustained and successful engagement with the congregation.

Procedure:

- An individual Board member recommends, in a short written statement, a nominee, based on accomplishments and/or activities in service of USH
- A copy of the statement is reviewed by a subgroup of the Board, which selects a maximum of 5 individuals for presentation to the full Board
- A majority vote approval of each nominee is required
- Selected awardees are presented a certificate of Outstanding Service at the USH Annual meeting or other suitable opportunity.

There are a couple of critical distinctions to observe here: first, this is recognition and thanks by the Board... not by the ministers, not by the congregation. The Board is aware of, and publicly notices and expresses gratitude, for the person's outstanding service. Second, this is not a "retirement/gold watch/enjoy Florida" recognition... the person, in addition to a history of service, continues active involvement with our society. Further, qualifying service is not necessarily prominently visible. Several recipients have been known to "fly under the radar", participating not on the Board or on the chancel, but stepping forward when a need for some behind-the-scenes help presents.

For the 2021/22 year, our honorees were **Diane Cadrain, Helen David, Marye Gail Harrison, Ginny Hedrick, and Joe Rubin**. Certificates were presented on Sunday, May 22, at the annual congregational meeting. Outgoing President Rob Spector offered a short summary for each person, expressing deep gratitude on behalf of the Board.



Always an honor & a pleasure to deliver food on behalf of USH! I'll take time out of my schedule anytime to do so. This must've been at least 60 lbs of delicious food leftover from the annual meeting (sorry I missed it, but I did watch on FB).

When I first started seeking out other soup kitchens in Hartford to make deliveries to, I'd tell them that this was

from the Unitarian Society of Hartford. They'd ask, who? I'd repeat it & describe the building over by University of Hartford. Oh yeah, the spaceship building, they'd usually say. Now they know who we are, & they simply thank us. This is Alex from South Park Inn. He told me to tell the congregation **"This is amazing! Means a lot! Thanks so much!"**

~JB

## *Did UU Know?*

### *Ambulatory Luminaries*

Have you noticed 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 seventh 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. Read about the Ambulatory [here](#).



## **Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803 –1882 (Room 10)**

*by Toni Gold*

Ralph Waldo Emerson was an American essayist, lecturer, philosopher, abolitionist, and poet who led the Transcendental Movement of the mid-19th century. He was a champion of individualism; his ideas were disseminated through dozens of published essays and more than 1,500 public lectures across the United States. Like his father, he was an ordained Unitarian minister.

Emerson's emphasis on a universal soul flowing through individual souls had wide-ranging implications for students and religious seekers. The basic Calvinist idea still lingering in 1836 New England — of humanity's helpless dependence on God's grace — was superseded by the Transcendentalist doctrine of the God within each individual. Over time,

this belief prospered, and Unitarianism became an independent denomination.

In September of 1836 Emerson anonymously published his first essay, "Nature." At about the same time, he met with several like-minded intellectuals for the beginning of the Transcendental Club — the beginning of a movement. A year later, women began attending meetings of the Transcendental Club. The group began the publication of its flagship journal, *The Dial*. Emerson used the journal to promote talented young writers including William Ellery Channing and Henry David Thoreau.

On July 15, 1838, Emerson was invited to Harvard Divinity School to deliver the school's graduation address, afterwards known as the "Divinity School Address". In it, Emerson discounted biblical miracles and proclaimed that, while Jesus was a great man, he was not God: historical Christianity, he said, had turned Jesus into a "demigod, as the Orientals or the Greeks would describe Osiris or Apollo". His comments outraged the establishment and the general Protestant community. He was denounced as an atheist and a poisoner of young men's minds. He was not invited back to speak at Harvard for another thirty years. In May 2006, 168 years after Emerson delivered his "Divinity School Address", Harvard Divinity School announced the establishment of the Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Professorship.

In 1841 Emerson published *Essays*, his second book, which included the famous essay "Self-Reliance". It gained favorable reviews in London and Paris; the book and its popular reception, greater than any of Emerson's previous contributions, laid the groundwork for his international fame.

In 1851 Emerson denounced the Fugitive Slave Act. He wrote in his diary: "This filthy enactment was made in the nineteenth century by people who could read and write. I will not obey it." He believed in immediate emancipation of the slaves.

For Emerson, slavery was a moral issue, while equality of the races was a separate issue that he tried to analyze from a scientific perspective based on what he believed to be inherited traits. However, his ideas changed when he became more involved in the abolitionist movement. In much of his later work, Emerson seems to allow the notion that different European



races will eventually mix in America. This hybridization process would produce a superior race that would lead to the superiority of the United States.

The major tenets of Transcendentalism have persisted and become fundamental to American thought. The most important of these is the affirmation of the right of individuals to follow truth as they see it, even when contrary to established laws or customs. This principle inspired not only the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement, but also the twentieth-century civil rights and conscientious objector movements.

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Further *Did UU Know?* articles may be found [here](#).



**USH  
Calendar of  
Events  
for **May 2022**  
can be**

viewed [HERE](#).

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

## *Social Justice*

### **OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS**

USH'S Good Neighbor Offering in May will be donated to the Hartford chapter of PFLAG — a support group for parents, families, friends, and allies united with LGBTQ+ people for support, education and advocacy. Monthly meetings in Hartford are held on the third Wednesday, and in Manchester they're held on the first Tuesday of the month.



"Through support, education, and advocacy, PFLAG Hartford works to make make our community a healthier, more well-informed, safer, fairer, and happier place for LGBTQ+ people, their families, and their loved ones." You can learn more about PFLAG Hartford on Facebook.

On Sunday, May 29th, Lindsey Pasqual will join us, representing PFLAG, and will give a brief overview of their work. Since May 29th is Memorial weekend, it is possible that there will be a small turnout for service. For that reason we will be collecting for the GNO both on May 22 and May 29... half the proceeds from the collection on each Sunday will be donated to PFLAG and the other half will go to USH. As always, you can designate the total amount of your check or online donation for your pledge here, or to the Good Neighbor Offering as you choose... simply write "pledge" or "PFLAG" in the memo line to indicate your preferred destination. Undesignated offerings will be split evenly between the two recipients. Please be a generous as you are able to support this valuable and worthy cause.

**The West Hartford Food Pantry needs this week:**

**Canned fruit/applesauce**

**Rice – 1 lb packages**

**Pasta and sauce**

**Baked beans**

**Canned pasta (“spaghettios”)**

**Please deliver to West Hartford Town Hall**

*Thank you, Diana Heymann*

***Meeting House Presents***

**Thank you all for joining our Spring Series at USH.  
Please see the latest spring concert videos at the links below  
and be sure to stay tuned for our next engaging series of  
talented artists!**

**[Irish Jigs ~ Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)**

**[Oran eile don Phrionnsa - Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)**

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford

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



## *Programs & Events*

### Meetings, Events, Programs

#### **HARTFORD GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

presents Singing From the Heart of Hartford, Saturday June 4, 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m. AETna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Tickets: \$45 and \$30. Purchase tickets online at: [HGMC.ORG/EVENTS-TICKETS](https://hgmc.org/events-tickets)

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](mailto: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**

June 9 – *The Hellfire Club* – Jake Tapper

July 14 – *Hamnet* – Maggie O’Farrell

August 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](mailto:tcote11@gmail.com).**

**Disability Support Group:**

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## *In & Around Greater Hartford*



**The Elizabeth Park Conservancy** will present four free outdoor summer concerts on the [Rose Lawn](#). In collaboration with the West End Civic Association, the Park presents three outdoor

movies during the summer, and the Connecticut Ballet presents the annual Marge Wilder Tribute Performance on a Saturday in July. See event information [HERE](#)

Image: [elizabethparkct.org](http://elizabethparkct.org)

### 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**

**The next board meeting is Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.**

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

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **April 2022** 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](mailto: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/](http://www.ushartford.org/events/)**

**To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) 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. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.**

**USH Staff:**

**<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>**

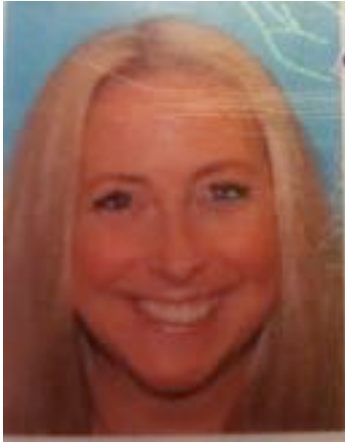
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Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
**[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)** | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

## News from Buffie's Desk



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie works Sunday through Thursday from 9 am – 2 pm. Please email her at [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com). Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!

## Sunday Welcome Volunteers STILL Needed!!

See Sign Up Genius Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie



at [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for any assistance or additional questions.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

**Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

Email to: [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) OR  
[enewsush@gmail.com](mailto:enewsush@gmail.com)

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