

USH E-News June 25, 2025 "Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice" 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860) 233-9897 Email: office@hartforduu.org www.hartforduu.org

E-News Reduced Summer Publication Schedule:

During summertime, we cut back on our publication schedule, with numerous programs and meetings 'taking a break'. Here is our list of planned "release dates" through August:

- July 2, 16, 30 August 13, 27

Weekly publication will resume September 3. Please note that the altered schedule applies only to the USH E-News: Worship Reminders and Orders of Service will continue to be available each week.

Have a great summer... breathe, and relax!

Tina and Karolina

Minister: Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - noon or by appointment. Call/Text: 860-539-1259 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call/Text: 860-539-5729 *Karolina is away Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, June 31

Sunday Morning Service June 29, 10:30 AM "Living Into Holy Curiosity"

Join Matt Myer, itinerant troubadour and worship leader for a service of song and silence, grounding ourselves in ritual and reflection. We'll breathe deeply, letting go of what has not served us, and invite each other back to love.

Matt Meyer, Pulpit Guest and Musician Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Matt Meyer, Pulpit Guest and Musician Matt Meyer graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand drumming and world music and he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has led music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country.

He has lead worship for convocations at Starr King and Bangor Theological seminaries, for Harvard UU seminarians, and has been Artist in Residence at the Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI), Ohio-Meadville Summer Institute (MODSI), and at Star Island RE Week.

Matt is honored to have performed with Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, Peter Mayer, Jim Scott, Nick Page, The Halalisa Singers, Samba Tremeterra, and Bloco de Afrobrasil.

He is a founding worship leader and current Director of Operations for Sanctuary Boston, a contemporary worship community in Boston.

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Sue Smolski, a former congregationalist, joined this congregation in 1981. She has been a Worship Associate for seven ministers and served twice as the Worship Associate Coordinator. The editor of our Worship Associate Handbook, she currently edits the weekly OOS Insert with our church administrator and serves on the Archive Committee.

Services are live streamed every Sunday on Zoom and Facebook Zoom info: Meeting ID: 921 0388 7934 Password: 128493 Virtual Coffee Hour to follow * Note: Zoom Coffee Hour ends at noon Past Services

Join us on Zoom

Upcoming Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. Summer Services start in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 6

July 6 - "Creating Connection", Martha Bradley, Pulpit Guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate/Barbara Robbins, reverend July 13 - "Reflections on a Long Sojourn in England", Reverend Bob/Miriam Byroade, Worship Associate/Ben Mabrey, guest pianist July 20 - "Rags to Rainbows", Deana David, Pulpit Guest/Peter Meny, Worship Associate/Barbara Robbins, guest pianist July 29 - "Conversations on the Path", Reverend Bob/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate/Ben Mabrey, guest pianist

Message from Rev. Bob...

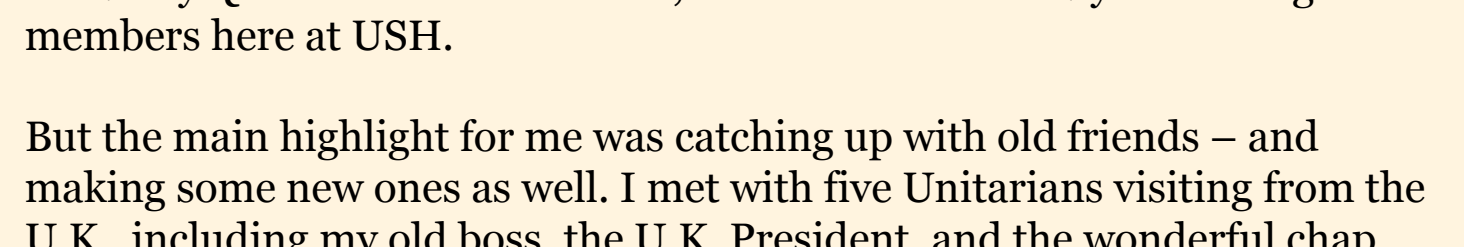
So I went to General Assembly in Baltimore, and I all I brought back was this photo...not even a lousy T-shirt...

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is the annual gathering of the national movement of Unitarian Universalists. Held in a different city each year (we are moving to alternative years of alternative-only, for technology and cost reasons), the "GA" is a whirlwind of business resolutions, programming, worship, and meetings. One of the main votes this year was the election of UUJA's Moderator position - Bill Young, who ran as co-moderator along with Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and won, is known and loved by some long-time members here at USH.

But the main highlight for me was catching up with old friends - and making some new ones as well. I met with five Unitarians visiting from the U.K., including my old boss, the U.K. President, and the wonderful chaper who will be my successor in my ministry there. And we also had a dinner (pictured) with our contingent at USH: Shahan Islam, our Director of Religious Exploration, Laura and Paul Cipriano, Board Members, and young adults Alysa McDonald, Eliza Box, and Leila Bittern. We are so grateful to have such a good contingent from our congregation go to General Assembly. And we were joined at dinner by two international Unitarian ministers, currently based in the USA - one from India and one from Columbia. Given that many would-be international visitors had their visas denied this year, it was even more poignant than usual to cross national barriers.

This summer, I'm around in July, though I go on study leave here and there, to reflect, write, read, and plan a few sermons for next year. I go on vacation for a couple of weeks in August. But you are always welcome to reach out - it's a tough time in the world, and a particularly tough time for some of you, and I'll happily make time to meet or chat if it's helpful to you. Best wishes to you all.

Yours faithfully, Rev. Bob



USH General Interest

Building and Grounds is holding a mulch distribution work/exercise activity on Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28 for our gardens from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. We would be delighted if you wish to join in the light exercise activity.

Let Evan Williams know your plans for planning purposes: evanwilliams.ms@gmail.com

We are looking forward to reasonable temperatures for the activity. Give an hour, more, or less as suits your activity level. And thank you!

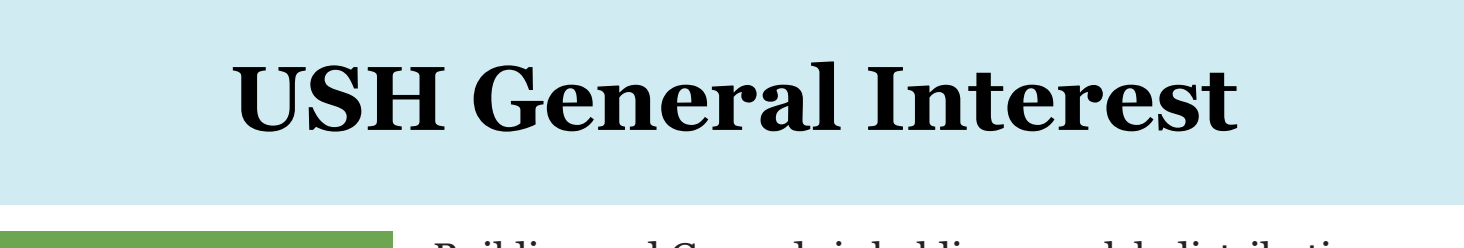
Candlelight Concerts

Our first Candlelight Concert takes place on July 5, in Fellowship Hall. We need some volunteer staff to assist with a few simple tasks before, during, and after the concert. If you are interested in volunteering, please click the green button below to view available slots.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office.

Purchase Concert Tickets Here

Volunteer as Concert Staff: Sign-up Here



NEWS BULLETIN - June 13, 2025

Spanish is My Superpower! Building and Grounds is holding a mulch distribution work/exercise activity on Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28 for our gardens from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. We would be delighted if you wish to join in the light exercise activity.

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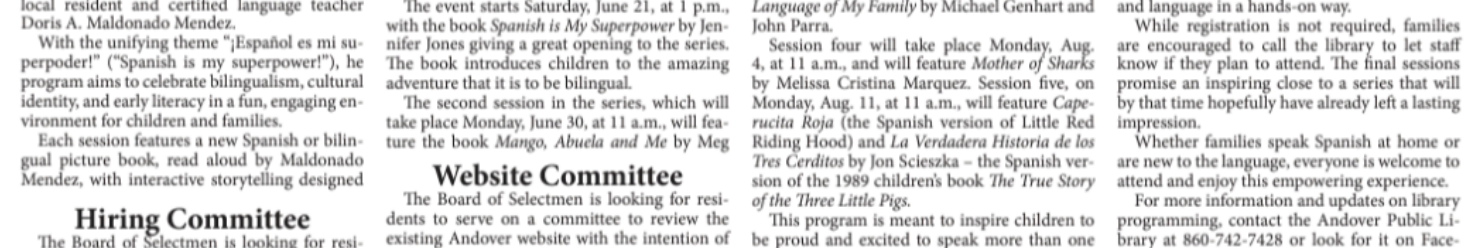
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Dear USH!

I am delighted to share that I have the opportunity to offer the first Spanish storytime series at my Public Library!

For those seeking enrichment and empowering volunteer opportunities, I strongly encourage you to connect with your public libraries this Summer. Public Libraries remain the foundational mainstays in the fabric of our communities!

Although my proposed Language Access Bill (SB 955) was not successful, I remain steadfast with community-centered grassroots by reaching the very foundation of our society-Children and Youth!

"Primera serie de cuentos en español: "¡Español es Mi Superpoder!"

Estoy encantada de tener la oportunidad de ofrecer la primera serie de cuentos en español en nuestra Biblioteca.

Para aquellos que buscan oportunidades voluntarias, enriquecimiento y empoderamiento, les animo a conectarse con sus bibliotecas públicas este verano. ¡Nuestras bibliotecas públicas siguen siendo los pilares fundamentales en el tejido de nuestras comunidades!

Aunque mi propuesta de Ley de Acceso al Idioma (SB 955) no tuvo éxito, me mantengo firme con las bases centradas en la comunidad llegando a la fundación de nuestra sociedad-los Niños y Jóvenes!

-Doris Maldonado

The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser July 2025 Where real change happens The Village for Families and Children is having its annual Back to School Uniform Fundraiser this summer. USH has been donating to this special summer fundraiser since 2013. From July 6th-August 17th USH will continue its tradition of supporting The Village this summer. The Uniform Fundraiser helps 1,500 families in Greater Hartford buy required school specific uniforms for their children. Each uniform costs between \$40.00-\$60.00. Donations may be made via check made out to USH with Uniforms in the memo line or through our online giving portal, here. Any amount is welcome.

Thank you for thinking of the children so faithfully. ~Joanne Orlando

Social Justice

INTERVAL HOUSE U.S. HOUSE NEIGHBOR OFFERING Interval House was formed in 1977 and has grown into a comprehensive intervention and support agency, serving 24 towns in Connecticut. The agency provides compassionate and confidential 24-hour hotline response, safety planning, crisis counseling, emergency safe housing, support groups, criminal and civil advocacy, information and referrals, children's programming and community education and outreach - all at no cost. They are the largest non-profit domestic violence intervention and prevention program in our state, serving about 6,500 victims of domestic violence each year.

Horace Bushnell Food Pantry News

What does it mean to go hungry if you're a kid at home in summer in Hartford? No school breakfasts or lunches now...just what's in the refrigerator or cabinets at home. Having myself been in the homes and kitchens of poor families in Hartford, let me tell you...there is nothing in either the refrigerator or in the cabinets...NADA...NOTHING...EMPTY Let's fill our bins in the lobby with as much healthy food as possible. I'll take it to Horace Bushnell every week. Hartford's poor families are counting on us. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

If you forgot food, you can always put a check or a few dollars in an envelope and send in or pass it in with the collection each week. Thanks again.

In gratitude, Diana Heymann

LEVO U.S. HOUSE NEIGHBOR OFFERING Well, maybe more of a garden, but we are definitely planning our vegetable hydroponic garden! The photo shows our 5 ft. model which will be here at USH for any and all interested to sign up to participate in this care.

The good news: hydroponic gardening uses less water, less work, no weeding, more produce than traditional gardens, shorter growing time, accessibility for all

All produce will be donated to Horace Bushnell Food Pantry, which, like all other food pantries, has lost significant government subsidies.

Levo is setting up our system in July - it will be planted and functional and they will train us in the simple operation.

All interested, please contact Judy @ : ushsocialjustice@gmail.com

More about Levo International:

Join our CSA! Eat Fresh, Support Local. 441 Homestead Ave., Hartford

Our mission is to create food security solutions to strengthen communities through partnership and innovation. Our program supports growers in urban Hartford, creating economic stability and self-sufficiency. All proceeds support Levo's food security program. Levo's growing team, comprising residents of Hartford's North End, uses environmentally sustainable hydroponic systems. https://levointernational.org/

Make your voice heard.

5 Calls is the easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact.

PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DEMOCRACY!

Call your representatives. Let them know what you expect them to do for you. It only takes 5 minutes with 5 Calls.

- 1 Pick an issue you care about 2 Look up your reps 3 Read a short script if you don't know what to say

All you have to do is call.

5 Calls Scan this QR code or go to https://5calls.org to get started

Religious Exploration

LAKE COMPOUNCE USH RE DAY: July 19 will be USH RE day at Lake Compounce! Parents may wish to buy Lake Compounce Season Passes for the kids - so they can use them anytime this summer (in addition to the Lake Compounce Days). Details on the timing of when we meet will be provided later. Meanwhile, you may wish to hold this date. Kindly note that the permission slip for the trip may be obtained by scanning the QR code on the flyer. Kindly see flyer here

SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIE WITH POSSIBLE SLUMBER PARTY: We have the equipment (huge outdoor screen, projector, sound system) to have outdoor movie showing this summer and will try to create at least a couple of these, combined, possibly with an overnight element for the older kids. Stay tuned.

USH Resources

July 2025 Board Meeting: Tuesday, 7/08, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Link

2024 - 2025 USH Board of Directors - Nancy Kemmer: President Elton Elger: President-Elect Jon Covault: Treasurer Laura Mengual: Secretary Laura Cipriano: Community Within Council Chair Laurie Keliher: Membership Council Chair Jim Venneman: Finance Council Chair Rick Tsukada: Spiritual Life Council Chair Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

Click HERE to view the USH Directory, Reports, and other church business information online. You will need the user ID and Password to access these documents.

Contact Karolina Wojtytko for the username and password.

The latest financial reports for FY 2024-2025 have been posted; click HERE to view.

See the 2024/25 Annual Report HERE

The Board Meeting Minutes for April 2025 have been posted.

Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up Genius

USH Staff:

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister minister@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 103 Cell: 860-539-1239

Karolina Wojtytko, Church Operations Manager office@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 100 Cell: 860-539-5729

Shahan Islam, Director of Religious Exploration shahan@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper ush@casarcn.org@gmail.com

The deadline for USH E-news submissions is noon Tuesday!

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH Enews", and include the dates that your submission should be featured. Announcements about upcoming events appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.

When forwarding information concerning an "outside" event or organization, please pre-edit your copy in order to keep the piece to 200 words or less. Note that all material is subject to editing prior to publication. Also, please submit editable material (text and images separately, rather than "poster" format).

Articles should be sent as email file attachments. (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files.

Thank you for your cooperation. Editor-in-Chief: Tina Davies Production and Technical Expertise: Karolina Wojtytko

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for July 2025 can be viewed HERE.

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford

