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USH E-News

October 29, 2025

"Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice"

Sunday, November 2 10:30 a.m.

"Fragile Embers"

"Big Blooming on an Ember" by El Greco, 1576, Venice

Pulpit Guest, Owen McKenzie
Worship Associate, Miriam Bryssale
Musicians, Benjamin Malvey, Pianist
Noah McKenzie and Colin McKenzie

Owen McKenzie – Pulpit Guest
Owen McKenzie is originally from Burlington Vermont, and lives in West Hartford with his wife Sarah and his two sons. He has been a member of Unitarian Universalism in Minnesota. He is an avid collaborative contemporary music from a wide range of genres.

Miriam Bryssale – Worship Associate
Miriam Bryssale is a Lifelong Unitarian Universalist in the North Group of the Universalist Church in West Hartford while in high school. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Meadville Lombard Central CT State University. When not reading a textbook these days, she is active in public library advocacy and has been on the Manchester Public Library Board since 2013.

Noah, Colin and Sarah McKenzie – Guest Musicians
Noah and Colin McKenzie began singing along with their mother, Sarah, in the car when they were very young. The three have performed together many times over the past five years, sometimes even being paid to do so.

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Matters of the Heart
To have a meal delivered from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail Mathew or the Hour. Please send in your Matters of the Heart, indicating exactly what you would like to have read.

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Services are livestreamed every Sunday on Zoom and Facebook
Zoom: **Meeting ID: 893 4000 0724**
Passcode: 181404
Virtual Coffee Hour is follow
** Note: Zoom Coffee Hour is a separate link or room*
Pastor Services

Join us on Zoom

Upcoming Worship Services

November 9, Thursday, - Chapel Service, 5 p.m. with Reverend Bob

November 2 - "Anarchy in the UMC" Reverend Bob/Benjamin Harvey, Worship Associate/Meredith Sonneman, Director of Music/Bob Cohen, Schola Singers/ Gerald Lykes, Pianist

November 16 – "Three Days", Reverend Bob/Nick Kendall, Worship Associate/Mandingoma, Guest Musicians.

November 23 – Thanksgiving Service, Reverend Julie Jane Alleyman-Bean, pulpit guest/Jim Suozzi, Worship Associate/Meredith Sonneman, Director of Music/Benjamin Malvey, Pianist

November 30 – "Waiting in Vain" Reverend Bob/Ann LaPorte-Bryan, Worship Associate/Meredith Sonneman, Director of Music/Schola Singers/Gerald Lykes, Pianist

Weekly Message from Rev. Bob.....

What do you call a vampire who's good in the kitchen?
Count Spatula!

That's all I got. But the Halloween Hoot is happening **TONIGHT** – pantry and pumpkins, what more could you ask for? Many thanks to Diana David for making this event a reality this possible – drop on by! Join disorganized this issue... Yellowstone!

Yours Grumpily,
Rev. Bob

Medical Update:
Many of you were in the Sanctuary last Sunday and noticed we reacted to a medical emergency that occurred during the service. Our friend, Ann Bryan, was taken by EMS from Line 1.5, the very, very, happy to report that Jim is fine – he was checked out at Hartford Hospital, and was home again later that day. I knew many of you were concerned, and I wanted to let everyone know that Ann is doing well. Our "medical team" – I think we had several decade aggregated of the former medical experience, combined with several social workers, chaplains, and ministers. And that was REPAIRED the wonderful EMT team arrived.

I will also we're saving the trumpets, does lights and cancels for a real medical emergency. Ann is in our prayers. Thank you so much everyone and glad to be the bearer of really good news.
Yours Gratefully,
Rev. Bob

USH General Interest

It's that time of the year! This weekend, don't forget to turn the clock back one hour for daylight savings.

Calling all Grown-ups and Kids!

Bring your Halloween costumes and your poems to Fellowship Hall **TONIGHT** from 5:30-7:30 pm. Join us for an evening of spirited Halloween fun.

Spooky potluck dishes are welcome and costumes are optional so carve pots 'n lanterns and have a good old-fashioned pretty time!

Bring original poems or your all-

favorites. We'll have Mad Libs and other prompts for kids and adults with acrostics challenges and better games. It'll be a free-third night for pumpkins and a real monster mash-up of poetry!

Music at USH

First, in September at Ingathering, then last Sunday with a spine-tingling rendition of "Fragile Embers", we have had the pleasure of volunteer singers from our congregation, supplemented with professional section leaders, will make possible a wide variety of vocal music, using our sanctuary as a rehearsal and performance venue. Our choir will rehearse and perform at least once monthly, supported by the "Schola" (Norse professional singers) section leads, who also perform as a small ensemble for special services.) Pianist Benjamin Malvey will continue to perform the duet, and Benjamin Malvey will be our in-house pianist for all regular services.

Looking to next year, the vision is to expand our choral program by forming a large all-are-welcome choir, a smaller auditioned ensemble, and professional quartet, offering participation opportunities for singers of all levels. These choirs will not only sing at worship, but will also collaborate with other local musicians to promote concerts and events.

If you are interested in getting involved with the choir this year, contact Meredith Sonneman, Director of Music at musicdirector@hartfordunitar.org

Twilight Fire Circle
Samhain Celebration

Saturday, November 1, at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, Sanctuary in Fellowship Hall

Go Bloomfield Ave. Hartford **Saturday, November 1 at 7 pm.** **Join us in celebration on the eve of the Celtic New Year**

Samhain is a time to remember loved ones who have passed and our ancestors. There will be an ancestral altar set up. Anyone who wishes is welcome to bring photos of loved ones who have passed on.

Ritual will be followed by a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to share with others. A dish is not required to join in or celebration.

Bring a dish to share, a photo of a loved one, and an open heart to be uplifted. Please keep the cost to $20.00 or less.

We want to remember those who are less fortunate than us. We will be collecting donations of canned or dry goods for the Hartan Bushnell Food Pantry in Hartford. Please, give from your heart as you are able.

Everyone with an open heart is welcome to ask questions or participate. If all you can bring is yourself – then – so mote it be! Welcome! Feast and be merry!

The USH Hiking Group invites you to join us for a hike at Talcott Notch Conservation Area **Sunday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m.** This is a long-ish walk at 3.8 miles but the terrain is easy. We will follow the dirt road that runs around the lake, unless some one who actually knows the trail shows up and leads us on the shorter loop or on any several optional. Because the main parking lot at Barnard is a little bad at this time, we will park at the lot that overlooks the water treatment plant. take a left on Talcott Notch Road off of Farmington Avenue. Go straight until you see a yellow the paved road to the end, taking a left uphill to the parking area. We will meet in that lot at 1:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yuletide Festival Saturday, December 6
Next planning meeting November 6, 4 p.m. - Library

The Yuletide Festival is shaping up faster than you can say "Ron, Ron, Rudolph," and the planning is full the fun! Our Chair, Ann Marie, is in her element as she and Jim are looking for musicians and storytellers to perform throughout the day in the Chapel, and vendors to take part in the 'Merry Mall' in the Fellowship Hall. Meanwhile, Ann Marie is also looking for vendors for the silent auction to raise funds and food contributions.

If you would like to be added to the email Festival list to stay informed of meetings, and to join the friendal of conversation please tell Karenlisa in the office or email **Diana.**

Mine your light by sharing your time and talent to make this feel-your Yuletide Festival a successful and magical new tradition in our USH year!

INDIVISIBLE
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES

Dismantling Science: What Happened and What Comes Next?

A Conversation with
Sarah Raskin
Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience at Trinity College*.*

Moderated by
Jeremy Pressman

November 11, 2025 at 7 PM

Scan here to register

*For identification purposes only

Social Justice

November Good Neighbor Offering (GNO) : Hispanic Health Council

Our Mission:
To promote equity and address health disparities for Hispanics, Latinos, and other culturally communities through research, advocacy, and culturally resonant services.

The Hispanic Health Council (HHC) is a nationally recognized, statewide community-based organization founded in 1970 by a group of Puerto Rican Hartford residents to bring a relationship of trust and respect with the communities we serve through our commitment to social justice and direct care. Annually we provide services to over 10,000 individuals and families in the Greater Hartford area. Our staff and volunteer members are people of color who is a lot of cases do not speak English and are refugee or immigrants. It is important to note that over 50% of Hartford, the state capital of CT, is Latino or Afro-Latino.

Hispanic Health Council Centers
Community Health Center
Compassion Center
Behavioral Health Center
Health Promotion & Education Center
Maternal and Child Wellness Center
Migrant Health Clinic and Wellness Center

INDIVISIBLE

In the present government shutdown scandal, the minority party is finally wielding its power – holding the line, winning the messaging fight, and putting "MAGA" on the defensive. Now, we need to have their backs.

Email your senators now. Thank them for fighting hard, and urge them to keep holding the line in the Shutdown Showdown.

GHIAA Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance

Fall 2025 Issue-Specific House Meetings

This fall, GHIAA is organizing a series of issue-specific house meetings. These are an opportunity for people to come to a relaxed, together-and-about-mutual-concerns-and-what-we-can-do-about-them-and-who-else-we-need-to-talk-to-about-it-and-who-else-we-need-to-be-talking-to-together.

Each meeting lasts 90 hours on a specific issue: immigration, land, poverty, housing affordability, or the human impact of our ever-escalating inequitable economy. Each meeting is led by a member of the organization or a local leader who is passionate about the issue.

You are also welcome to invite a neighbor, friend, or fellow congregant to register and attend. Each meeting is intentionally small, so we can have a meaningful conversation. Each meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about the issue, or who is already involved in it, and wants to learn more about what others are doing and what is needed.

Please arrive at conversations with hope to engage DIGNITY, and stayed-in-work of Bread Home-some. Please pick one.

- **Housing Affordability**
  - Tuesday, October 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, First Church of Christ, Amherst
  - Tuesday, November 4, 7:00-8:30 pm, Westminster Presbyterian, West Hartford
- **Immigration**
  - Tuesday, October 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, Universal Church, Hartford
  - Thursday, October 30, 7:00-8:30 pm, Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford
- **Land Use and Poverty**
  - Sunday, October 26, 7:00-8:30 pm, Unitarian, Hartford
  - Monday, October 27, 7:00-8:30 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, Farmington

For registration and confirmation, scan the QR code or email www.ghiaa@greaterhartfordinterfaith.org

Religious Exploration

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for RE PROGRAM:
You can register online at the Link.

Thanks to Jen Velez and Jalanee Hoon: Thanks to Jen and Ann for the Pumpkin Patch. Jen's grandchild is one! Jen's family teach this holiday, both in our lives.

THIS FOR ALL AGES: Kids/youth are asked to start upstairs this Sunday and will be "sung out." I am asking parents and Kids/youth to try to participate and start upstairs. Thanks!

Kids/youth are invited to bring a photo of themselves as a baby.

A UNO Youth Group is being formed for 9th grade and up. Kids/youth have expressed from Transylvania, another youth is going in late November! More on this later as we review all the images and footage.

HALLOWEEN SONG – WEE-OCT 4:00: Come and enjoy a quick-teacher HALLOWEEN SONG! Dress up – Halloween, Dentist day – I do the crowing. Quick bits of fun activities, including:

- Pumpkin Painting and Carving (Bring your pumpkin hollowed out if carving small pumpkins are available for purchase)
- Puzzles
- Puppets
- Painting
- Acrostic Poem Challenge

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2: *Explorers* RE dance for the month is Nurturing Gratitude. Youth will be asked to write down what they are grateful for and what Congregation has done to put a new story. Begin discussion of visit to Quaker Meeting House.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16: Neighboring Faiths:
Visit to Quaker Meeting House, Hartford
Youth: Bring a photo of a time when you felt welcomed or alie.

Worship at Hartford Meeting
Structure of Hartford Meeting
What to Expect in Hartford Meeting for Worship (video)

Sunday, November 23: Soup Sunday for Youth and older Explorers.

USH Resources

Unitarian Society of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860) 232-9367
Website: www.hartfordunitar.org
Email: office@hartfordunitar.org

Office Hours:	Minister
Tuesday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	or by appointment.
Call/Text: 860-548-0779	Call/Text: 860-559-1268

"Board Meetings are held on the Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Next Meeting: November 24

2025 – 2026 USH Board of Directors --

Nina Elgo- President
Joya Gerard- Treasurer
Ann Marie Gerardi- Secretary
Laura Clapham- Community Within Council Chair
Laurie Kelliher- Membership Council Chair
Ann Marie Gerardi- Nominating Chair
Michael Mahnkopf- 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: usboardmembers@gmail.com.

Click HERE to view the USH Directors, Reports, and other church business documents. Click HERE to view the USH Bylaws and Standing Rules documents. Contact the Office for the username and password.

The latest financial reports for FY 2023-2024 have been posted; click HERE to view.

See the 2024/25 Annual Report HERE

The Board Meeting Minutes for June 2025 have been posted.

Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up Genius

USH Staff:

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minister@hartfordunitar.org | 860-523-9807 ext. 103
Cell: 860-559-1268

Karenlisa Wojtyshn, Church Operations Manager
office@hartfordunitar.org | 860-523-9807 ext. 100
Cell: 860-539-3776

Meredith Sonneman, Director of Music
musicdirector@hartfordunitar.org | 860-406-0423

Shaham Islam, Director of Religious Exploration
shaham@hartfordunitar.org | 860-232-9367 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
pattyjeanne1@yahoo.com

The deadline for USH E-news submissions is 5 p.m. Monday!

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 be sure to include the information in a clear 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 "pasted" formats).

Articles should be sent as small file attachments, (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as .jpeg, .png, .tif, or .bmp.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Rev. Bob Zanin, Minister
Production and Technical Expertise: Karenlisa Wojtyshn

The calendar for November can be viewed HERE.

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events and updates. Click the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

Visit our Happenings page on the website for more details.

Unitarian Society of Hartford | 50 Bloomfield Ave | Hartford, CT 06105 US

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