



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Monthly **COMMENT** Newsletter

Welcoming all in a spirit of compassion, inquiry, and service

DECEMBER 2023



FROM OUR MINISTER

“Mystery is the Meeting Place of Science and Spirituality”

Dear Beloveds,

A dozen years ago I read a book by journalist Steve Volk titled *Fringe*ology: How I Tried to Explain Away the Unexplainable – And Couldn't*. Volk surveys the work being done to study various area of the paranormal and reports on what we know and what we don't yet know about phenomena such as UFO's, ESP, Lucid, Dreaming, Prayer,

Ghosts, and After Death Experiences. The most fascinating takeaway for me has been how unscientific the scientists, skeptics, and materialists are in defense of, well, their belief in science and reason. In case after case, the people doing the most scientific, controlled studies are supporters of these paranormal happenings. They are also very modest about their findings. When studies for the existence of ESP report statistical anomalies above the rate of chance, no one makes a claim that ESP exists, rather they claim we don't know enough to say what is going on, but something is going on. Brain scans taken while people speak in tongues show that they are not crazy, nor are they hallucinating, or faking, or just making it up.

Volk reports on sociologists studying the conflict between skeptics and parapsychologists. What the sociologists found were people they called “scientific vigilantes” who “do not hold scientific degrees but appoint themselves guardians of ‘true’ science.” Trevor Pinch, one of the sociologists involved in the study, says that the findings surprised him, in that he expected to find the skeptics were correct in their belief that parapsychologists were self-deceived and used shoddy experiments with poor control techniques. “What he found was the opposite: parapsychology researchers took the skeptics seriously, conducting experiments according to methods that kept pace with the most rigorous of the psychological sciences. Pinch says, ‘These were qualified, sincere researchers doing serious work, and they always had to deal with this group of people (skeptics) that were essentially engaged in a lot of name-calling.’”

Each year during the winter holiday season, I see a lot of convicted skeptics and non-religious people gleefully debunking the virgin birth, the star of Bethlehem, the miracle of the temple oil in the Hanukkah story, and various myths from around the world explaining the winter solstice. Don't be one of these people. Don't give in to being a “religious vigilante” who doesn't hold a professional or academic qualification in religion or theology but appoints themselves the “guardian of reason” at a holiday gathering or even a church coffee hour.

There are many people, including many Unitarian Universalists, who take their Christian, Jewish, Pagan, or other spirituality seriously but not literally and are aware of the inadequacy of the old stories as factual, literal explanations.

The winter holiday season reinforces for me the importance of ours being a religious tradition where science and spirituality meet. All of us within Unitarian Universalism, even those among us who are theistic or Christian, practice a humanistic religion. We understand and accept the findings of science, we do not practice or condone magical thinking, and yet we still hold open the possibility that science will discover yet more remarkable things than we now understand, and maybe there will be things about the human condition and our universe that are and will remain – a mystery.

Holiday Blessings,
Rev. Tony

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE - Embrace Ambiguity and Paradox.

The winter holiday season presents many opportunities for meandering in mystery, intentionally inhabiting liminal space, wandering in wonder, and exploring ambiguities. This is my challenge to you this December – Embrace ambiguity and paradox.

Virgins can't give birth, the Roman empire never conducted a census in first century Palestine, reindeer can't fly, and decking the halls, lights in evergreen trees, and yule logs come from pre-Christian European traditions. And yet - nonbelievers as well as believers carol, feast, enjoy time with family and friends, put up lights and trees, and like Scrooge's nephew Fred treat the Christmas season *"as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."* There's a lot of ambiguity at Christmas for lots of people and yet, there's a part of us that yearns for peace on earth and goodwill among people.

One day's worth of oil cannot magically burn for eight days, but Hanukkah remains a celebration of identity, struggle against tyrants and dictators, and the importance of religious freedom.

Beyond the religious holidays of this season there's plenty of ambiguity and paradox. Superposition and quantum entanglement provide even the best minds in physics with mysteries we can't yet solve – the grand unification theory still eludes us. Even at the level of simple folk wisdom there's plenty of room for pondering the paradoxical because the unexamined life is not worth living while at the same ignorance is bliss.

Einstein wrote *"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom the emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder, and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead —his eyes are closed."*

This December, set aside some time on a regular basis (daily, weekly) to sit in the mystery, ponder the big questions, lay down the skepticism, and be okay with not knowing the answers to big questions. As always, I'd love to know how you did with this challenge. Text me or call me at 508-344-3668 or email me at revtony@pm.me.

December Services – One Service at 10:00 a.m.**Sunday, December 3rd**Fringe-ology

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Rev. Tony reflects on the meeting place between science and spirituality, noting the profound opportunities for reveling in mystery during the winter holiday season.

Holiday Party - You are invited! After service on Sunday, December 3rd, we will have a holiday party for all ages, with music, food, and time together decorating the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 10thChristmas Pageant – Multigenerational Service

Our no-rehearsal Christmas pageant will be participatory and fun! Turn yourself over to some Christmas magic as we sing carols and re-enact the Christmas story as told in Luke and Matthew in the Christian Bible. Come a little early if you are willing to take a part in the story.

Mitten Tree Gifts Due December 10th - Please bring the gifts you have purchased for families of the Interfaith AIDS Ministry when you come to service. Wrapped gifts are helpful, but if you are not able to wrap your gift, the Youth Group can wrap it for you. Please make sure to include the mitten label for the gift, or if you signed up online and don't have the mitten, bring a tag with the name and four-digit code of your recipient. If you need to make alternative arrangements to drop-off one or more gifts you have committed to bring, email Sierra-Marie at dre@uudanbury.org.

Sunday, December 17thThe Shortest Day

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Rev. Tony reflects on the winter solstice in song and story and other fun activities.

Sunday, December 24th – One Service at 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Tony Lorenzen

"The Child's Face" - Rev. Tony Lorenzen leads an all ages Christmas service and tells a folk tale about looking upon the baby's face.

Sunday, December 31st

To Be Determined

Rev. Sierra-Marie Gerfao

From The Board of Trustees

by Nancy Cullen



You Are Invited

You can attribute the recent auction theme, "Wizard of GenerOZity," to me. At a Zoom meeting of the auction team in September, Jeff Asher, a new member of the team, was trying to understand how the auction worked and asked, "I'm trying to understand what is behind the curtain?" Reverend Tony had informed us that Generosity, in all its forms, was our spiritual challenge for November. With no time for subtlety, I suggested "The Wizard of GenerOZity" as an auction theme. The 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz" is the most widely seen film in movie history, and everyone knows it. Additionally, there were colorful images to borrow, making my publicity project easier. I even used pictures of the witch in October - how easy is that? The auction team worked efficiently and effectively, like a well-oiled machine, despite the short amount of time we had. In this issue of the Comment, you will find a list of names and the amount of money raised. Barb Myers and Lisa Horton know what goes on "behind the curtain." After volunteering for two auctions, I am just beginning to understand it myself.

Next year will be different. We will do advance planning this winter and spring in order to have an in-person event. You are invited!

Stewardship Volunteers Needed!

by Peter Horton



WANTED – someone with a passion for creative writing and theme development. Are you a good communicator who can enhance a theme, create targeted messages, and work within a series of deadlines? Sounds like copywriting and marketing, doesn't it? Actually, it is. And it's for our Annual Stewardship Campaign.

Our Stewardship Campaign has very little to do with finance. It has a lot to do with encouraging and reminding folks to be generous and make a commitment to UUCD. We are looking for one or two folks to work with me, Peter Horton, on next spring's pledge campaign. As I said above, if you are a good writer and can handle deadlines, that's just about all that we need. Let me know if you would like to help. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Welcome

New Members

Jonathan Langdon Phillips



I'm Jonathan Langdon Phillips, but you can just call me Jon. I am the eldest of six siblings, raised by my loving father, Robert Phillips, in Norwalk, CT.

Summers were a time of adventure and learning, as I traveled abroad to join my mother, Brenda Langdon, a dedicated humanitarian, in countries like Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Bolivia.

In 1999, while attending the University of Connecticut, I met the love of my life, Larissa (Wigglesworth) Phillips. Our paths intertwined and led us to a beautiful wedding in 2009 at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT. Together, we're blessed with two amazing daughters, Lanah (8) and Zella (5).

Traveling is in the DNA of my family, with my mom and many siblings living and working across the country and the world. Larissa and my home in Meriden, CT was known as the Rock of Gibraltar to my family, the steadfast location for family gatherings and many happy Thanksgiving reunions. It was a shock to all of them (and indeed us) when my career in the software industry with DocuWare took our family to Munich, Germany, in 2019. This international experience enriched our lives, offering new cultural perspectives and a deeper appreciation of our roots back in the US. We just returned home in August and have made Bethel, CT our new home.

Professionally, I've navigated various roles in the tech world, focusing on everything from technical aspects of R&D, Product Management, and leading several Service teams across the globe. Currently, I'm diving into the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence technologies, a field that constantly challenges and inspires me.

My faith journey is rooted in the Unitarian congregation, which I attended in Westport, CT, under the guidance of the inspiring Rev. Frank Hall. After a 23-year hiatus, I've reconnected with my spiritual roots at the Unitarian congregations in Danbury. This return feels like a homecoming, a vital step in my journey with my family, and a powerful way to contribute towards shaping a world filled with more kindness, empathy, and love. As I join this new chapter with all of you at our church, I look forward to learning, growing, and serving alongside this wonderful community.

From Our Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth



Upcoming in Religious Education

- **Sunday, December 3rd** - Regular Sunday morning programs followed by our multigenerational after-service holiday party; Junior High Youth Group holiday activities in the evening
- **Sunday, December 10th** - Multigenerational Sunday Service with our Christmas Pageant (no other programs); Deadline for bringing in Mitten Tree gifts
- **Sunday, December 17th** - Multigenerational Sunday Service celebrating Winter Solstice (no other programs)
- **Sunday, December 24th** - 5PM Christmas Eve Service (no morning service and no programs)
- **Sunday, December 31st** - Holiday Break (no programs)



Our Caring Circle is Available

Our 'Care Coordinator' receives requests and answers questions for the Caring Circle.

Donna Lawrence is the contact person for December.

Joan Stapleton is the assistant.

If you have a need, please contact **Donna**

Please note that your call will be returned as quickly as possible but it may be at the end of the day.

Community Dinners on Holiday Break

During the busy month of December there will be no Community Dinner or Neighborhood Bridges programming. Our next dinner will be January 10th, and the optional Neighborhood Bridges program following dinner will be on Sikhism.

Upcoming Events

New Group for Caregivers of LGBTQIA+ Young People

Parents of LGBTQIA+ young people, please join us in gathering on the **first Friday of every month from 7:30-9PM** for mutual support and celebration of our kids. Our December meeting will take place on December 1st. Please RSVP to dre@uudanbury.org.

Our No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant is Back

December 10th – 10 am - Last year we started a new tradition of a Christmas pageant that doesn't require any rehearsals. We make the story together as we go. It is messy, just like life, and fun and sweet. Kids who have signed up in advance will be assigned their parts in advance, but we will be liberally giving out additional parts the morning of the pageant to both kids and adults alike. Anyone willing to get roped in should arrive early.

UUCD Men Conversing over Coffee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m. at UUCD in the Fellowship Hall Lower Level. For more information contact **Jeff Asher** or **Joe Gillotti**.



December 9th: Suze Shaner and Dan Brodax are facilitating **Movies with a Message**, using **Spiritual Cinema's** movie shorts the second Saturday of each month **from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** These nights will consist of 1-3 short movies that explore the big questions about life and living (i.e, Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we bound? and What can we become when we live at our highest level of potential?) with discussion afterwards.

PLEASE NOTE: This month we will be featuring our very own **Luchina Fisher's** film, (recently launched on Netflix) *The Dads* as one of our shorts.

We will supply water and popcorn. Feel free to bring your takeout dinner. Donations to UUCD accepted.

Cee Songbird

And the

Sound Travelers

Cee Songbird and the Sound Travelers are a group of experienced musicians with a mission: to present real R&B and blues as it should be...with integrity, knowledge, and soul. All the members of the band have played in a variety of different bands and other genres. This project is the culmination of our experiences and the realization that there is something missing from the live music scene that people want to hear. The Sound Travelers reflects our dedication to stay true to the roots of real R&B/blues and to play that music with honesty and soul.



Cee Songbird-Vocals; Mario Giampaglia-Guitar; Laurence Holland-Bass; Scott Staton-Keyboard; Bernard Davis-Drums

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 – 4PM



www.musicattheridge.org

**24 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT**

*\$25 in person/\$20 streaming
tickets at door (as available)
at same price as online*



*In-person and live-streaming
tickets at Eventbrite.com*

Ministry/Team News

From the *Auction Committee*

2023 "Gener-OZ-ity" Auction: A Great Success!

The November 2023 Auction's total profit is **\$21,823.50**. Thank you to all **51** of our Bidder/Buyer Households. All of the funds will be used for our 2023-24 Operating Budget.

Grateful thanks to...

- * **Our Hardworking Auction Committee:** Jeff Asher, Val Cochrane, Nancy Cullen, Lisa Horton, Peter Horton, and Barbara Myers
- * **Our Behind-the-Scenes Tech Team:** Chris Creter and Joanna Ribisi
- * **Jerry Phelps and the Auction Performers:** Joanne Davidson, Chris McCarthy, Jen McPartlin, Barbara Myers and Deb Oria
- * **Our Auctioneers:** Peter Lerman & Peter Horton
- * **Our Donors & Solicitors** of gift cards, dinners, events, food offerings, services, and more:

Gale Alexander	Nancy Cullen	Sherry Kyriacou	Melene Rose & Todd Zagorec
Jeff Asher	Eva DeFranco & John Bonansinga	Judy Lacker	Yvonne Ruddy-Stein & Jeremy Stein
Lisa Austin-Smith	Cheryl Edelen	Donna Lawrence	Annie Senol & Inge Hill
Randy Becker & Jane Leff	Joe Gillotti	Peter Lerman	Suze Shaner
Board of Trustees	Lisa & Brad Greene	Kristie Liotta	Heather Smith
Bob Bollinger	Margaret Henderson	Rev. Tony Lorenzen	Joan Stapleton & Carl Dwyer
Marcia Brooker	Nancy Hershatter	Alex Makai	Lynn Taborsak
Ginny Cameron	Dale Hill	Barbara Myers	Carl Tichler
Joan Campbell	Paula Hopewell	Deb Oria	Sue Tarshis
Gina Cassetta	Peter & Lisa Horton	Kristen Papucci	Nancy Tramontana
Val Cochrane	Anne Krieg	Jerry Phelps	Camilla Warden
Chris Creter & Tim O'Donnell	Mary Ann Kulla	Diane Purvis	
Corporate/NonProfit Donors:	Bridgewater Chocolates	Music at the Ridge	Salon 53
	Cathedral of St. John the Divine	Sherman Playhouse	Uncle Matt's Bakery



2023 Gener-OZ-ity Auction Matching Donations Program

The Auction's Matching Donations program was very successful this year!

30 folks participated, **17** of whom pledged a percentage of the Auction total, and **13** of whom pledged a discrete amount.

Altogether, this group donated **\$6,722.50!**

Sincere thanks to all who participated:

Jackie Alexander	Bruni Edwards	John Miglietta
Jeff Asher	Karen & Joe Gillotti	Deb Oria
Bob Bollinger	Judy Lacker	Kristen Papucci
Valerie Cochrane	Donna Lawrence	Diane & Brad Purvis
Virginia Cook	Jane Leff & Randy Becker	Suze Shaner
Chris Creter & Tim O'Donnell	Melody Levy	Pete Simon
Eva DeFranco & John Bonansinga	David Lias	Rich & Lola Strilowich
Marian & Tony DiFabbio	Alex Makai	Heidi Winslow
Marie & Keith Dupree	Sue Maynard	Anonymous
Cheryl Edelen	Sam McCoy	Anonymous

From the *Membership Team*

by Heather Smith

We look forward to welcoming New Members during the December 3 Sunday service. We will welcome Jonathan and Dale Hill, Jon Langdon Phillips, and Kirk Keniston in the service led by Rev. Tony Lorenzen. We hope you can join us in celebrating new membership at UUCD.

In this season of gratitude, we want to thank all of our Greeters throughout 2023. Our current slate of Greeters have committed to volunteering one weekend of each month. They certainly make the UUCD a place of welcome and the Membership Team appreciates their time and dedication.

From the *Social Action Council*

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Judy Lacker

On Saturday, December 2nd, some members of Soup Kitchen Team 2 (Team Leaders **Carl Tramontana and Darlene Anderson-Alexander, Rose Schlemmer, Andrea Anderson, Lisa Deldin** and newcomer **Jyo Buyyala**) will be returning to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street to help serve take-out meals that were cooked in volunteers' homes as well as bagged sandwiches for lunches and breakfasts and hot lunches for Pacific House also prepared in volunteers' homes as well as through donations. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to serve the guests a meal inside because of the Covid pandemic.

You can also help feed our neighbors with a gift card in any amount from any local supermarket.. Lynn Taborsak has also been scheduling the sandwich donations so we have just the right amount each day at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please email her at ddhhsandwiches@gmail.com. We can all be an important part of the fight to end hunger in our community!.



In the past couple of years, we have lost some of our **Dorothy Day** volunteers. Please consider volunteering to be on a DD Team - it only involves a few hours, 3 Saturdays per year. You will find it to be a very rewarding experience. Please contact **Judy Lacker** for more information or to sign up.

Please note that we have resumed collecting non-perishable food donations on Sunday mornings. Please place your food donations in the basket in the foyer. You can sign up to help transport the weekly collection to The Dorothy Day Hospitality House on Spring Street.



Notes on Two Hundred Years (and More)

by Douglas H. Parkhurst

New lay leaders, whether serving Unitarian Universalist groups styled churches, congregations, fellowships, or societies, quickly become aware of the weekly and monthly challenges, problems, and opportunities facing their organizations. Such issues might involve preaching and worship services, religious education, building maintenance and repair, clergy and employee relations, music, denominational affairs, identifying volunteers for offices and committees, finances, fundraising, membership, and public relations (hopefully not all at once!). And, this is nothing new. Let's take a look back to 1873-74, one hundred fifty years ago, and see what issues the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury's (UUCD) lay leaders were addressing at that time. Denominational records indicate fourteen active Universalist societies in Connecticut with about eighty-nine members in the Danbury group and a Sunday school in existence since 1838. [Note - There were two active Unitarian societies in Connecticut in 1873-74, in Brooklyn and Hartford.] Rev. Dwight M. Hodge, then in his late twenties, was in the midst of his decade-long pastorate in Danbury. The church's home, a traditional wooden structure about twenty years old, was on Liberty St., off Main. The following excerpts are from First Universalist Society of Danbury meeting minutes beginning in October 1873.

"Notice, The First Universalist Society of Danbury will hold their Annual Meeting, on Wednesday Oct. 15 [1873], to elect Officers for the year ensuing, and to do any other business, that may be brought before said meeting...."

"Met in accordance with the above notice. Bro. Stephen Bates as Moderator....The following persons were admitted, (by vote), members of the Society, viz. Alfred Husk, Mrs. L.L. Hubbell, Mrs. Joseph T. Bates, Mrs. Mercy A. Foot, Mrs. Cynthia Norton....The following were elected officers for the year ensuing, viz. Executive Committee [Trustees], Timothy H. Foster, Lewis A. Ward and Luman L. Hubbell. Treasurer, Alfred A. Heath. Clerk, Luman L. Hubbell. Collector, Ammon T. Peck. Agent of the Society, Alfred A. Heath. Voted, That the Executive Committee be empowered to make the necessary repairs upon the Church Building...."

No meeting minutes are recorded until the following entry dated March 23, 1874.

"Notice. The members of the First Universalist Society...are hereby warned to attend a Special Meeting of said Society...on Monday March 30, 1874, at 7:30 o'clock P.M. to take action in regard to the settling of a Pastor over said Society & to arrange for the payment of the indebtedness of the Society...."

"Met in accordance with the above notice. Bro A.T. Peck appointed, Moderator....Voted, that Amos L. Hoyt and Catholine [sic] F. Hoyt, his wife, be admitted members of this Society. Voted, That we pay Bro. Hodge, the amount due him, tomorrow. Voted, That the Executive Committee give their note for \$220 for two months, and that the Subscriptions now due, as collected, be reserved as a fund to pay the same when it becomes due. Voted, That we hire Bro. Hodge by the month at the rate of \$1,000 a year, from April 1, 1874. Voted, That the Society's Committee, transmit to Bro. Hodge, a copy of the vote extending a Call, and to get his reply in writing, and report at future meeting. Voted, That the Society's Committee pass over to the Treasurer, the mortgage and note securing the loan of the Andrews Legacy...." [Note - The Andrews Legacy was a bequest of \$400 made in 1870 to the Society by the will of the late John L. Andrews of Bethel. The Society invested the money in one or more first mortgages. Today the purchasing power of \$400 would be about \$10,000.]

The meeting adjourned to Thursday evening, April 2. 1874.

"April 2, 1874....Bro. T.H. Foster, reported that a draft for \$100 had been received from the Missionary Board....Voted, That the Pastor be allowed four (4) weeks vacation, during the year to be taken at his option. Voted, That his contract can be annulled by either party, on giving thirty (30) days notice...."

"Notice, The members of the First Universalist Society of Danbury, are hereby warned to attend a Special meeting of said Society...on Saturday, May 23, 1874, at 7:30 P.M. for the purpose of instructing the Society's Committee in regard to repairing the church building, and putting the fences and outbuildings in proper and necessary condition, also to take the necessary steps or action for the payment of the debt incurred thereby...."

The Society met and adjourned on May 23 and the same on May 24.

"Sunday, May 31, 1874. Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. A.T. Peck, presided. Voted, That the Society's Committee make the necessary repairs and the addition to the church premises. Voted, That the Committee procure plans and specifications of the work to be done, and receive proposals for the same...."

"Saturday, June 13, 1874....[The Society met and] Voted, That the Ex. Committee be authorized to draw up plans and specifications for raising the Church building [] feet, so as to provide three rooms in the Basement 9 1/2 feet in the clear, - to be floored all over and finished, and said committee to receive bids and estimates for completing the same..."

"June 20, 1874, The Society met...Bro. Stephen Bates as Moderator....Voted, That we build an addition in rear of the Church, size 20 feet by 35 feet, and also all necessary repairs. Voted, that the work shall not be commenced until 33 1/3 of the estimated expense shall have been subscribed. Voted, That Luman L. Hubbell be appointed a Special Agent, to mortgage the Church property for 2/3 of the actual expense of the repairs and addition...."

At a meeting on July 6, 1874, it was reported that \$485 had been subscribed for the repairs and work on the church. The Executive Committee was also empowered to employ Messrs. Boughton and Short to do the stone work at the rate of 12 1/2 cents per foot.

July 10, 1874....[Stephen Bates wrote in a letter to the Clerk] You will please take notice that I cease to be a member of [this] Society from this date. You will please erase my name from the same....[Note - We do not know what prompted the resignation of this prominent member. In any event Stephen Bates was readmitted to the Society by vote on October 24, 1875.]

"July 16, 1874...Voted, that the Society's Committee give their note for \$500 for two months, to be used in paying on church repairs...."

"August 17, 1874...Voted, That we procure eight Settees for the new Sunday School Room. Voted, That the matter of having an ornamental window over the pulpit be left to the discretion of the Ex. Committee...."

"August 31, 1874...Bro. T.H. Foster as Moderator. Voted, That we rescind the vote...instructing the Special Agent 'to mortgage the Church property for two thirds of the actual expense of the repairs and addition.' Voted, That the Special Agent be authorized to ask for, and, if possible, to obtain Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) in addition to the amount already asked for, from the Savings Bank, making Fourteen Hundred (\$1400) Dollars in all...."

Three brief meetings were held in September. The Society's 1874 annual meeting was conducted on the evening of Wednesday, October 21. Officers for 1874-75 were chosen. Discussion and action regarding church property and finances continued. Rev. Hodge's next rehiring, salary, and conditions of employment dominated Society meetings into the first part of 1875.

Corrections to a recent article - In the third paragraph of the November 2023 article the sentence "The main entrance...opened into the large auditorium (sanctuary)...." should read "The main entrance...opened into a small lobby leading to the large auditorium (sanctuary)...." Also, in the last paragraph of the November 2023 article the word "precededed" should be spelled "preceded."

UUA News and Events



Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 4 pm PT/ 5 pm MT/ 6 pm CT/ 7 pm ET

The Winter Solstice occurs when Earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making it the shortest day and longest night of the year for those living in the Northern Hemisphere.

Join us the evening BEFORE the Winter Solstice for music, reflection, meditation, and spiritual grounding.

On this longest night, we will be featuring the work of the [Energy Democracy Project](#) and sharing a portion of our offering with them. Let's work for light for all on the longest night of the year. Our service is part of the larger arc of Clean Energy as a Human Right being led by Side with Love.

Register Here For. the Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcumurzgvGNfGw4IsyIL9eG3tGfc3ZGaL#/registration>

Our Mission Statement:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs. We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need. With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth. We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration. - Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is a UUA designated “Welcoming Congregation.” Our congregation is welcoming to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. The Welcoming Congregation program is consistent with our first UU principle in which we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We welcome all – regardless of age, race, disability, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religious background, or political affiliation – factors that can separate people in our larger culture.

Deadline for the January Comment –
Friday, December 15th.

