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# March 2018

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## Uniter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING  
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[www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)

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### Sunday Worship Services

#### March 4—10:30 AM

*Free Minds* Rev. Evan Keely

Members of the Free Minds Book Club ([freemindsbookclub.org](http://freemindsbookclub.org)) will share their gifts and their witness.

#### March 11—10:30 AM (Daylight Savings Time begins today; set clocks ahead one hour.)

*Renewing Our Commitments* Rev. Evan Keely

We show our love for our church and its people by what we are willing to give of ourselves.

#### March 18—10:30 AM

*Finding Resilience for Times Like These* Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo

As people of faith, we must confront hatred, bigotry, and white nationalism as part of a long-term sustained movement— not an every-now-and-again thing. Where can we find strength for ongoing resistance? And how can we remain resilient in the face of such renewed racism and systemic injustice?

#### March 25—10:30 AM

*Wade in the Water* Rev. Evan Keely

A multigenerational reflection on the ancient story commemorated in the Passover celebration.

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Nursery Care and Religious Education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service. ASL interpreting is provided during the service. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. through March 25. Coffee hour will take place after the service.

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## Message From Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister

March will be a time of consequential decisions for this congregation. We will kick off this year's Annual Budget Drive with the theme of "Renewing Our Commitments." A Congregational Meeting will be held on March 11 to make a decision about clergy leadership for the coming year and when the search for a settled minister should begin.

It's not unusual for there to be anxiety associated with making important and far-reaching decisions. Indeed, anxiety isn't irrational when the stakes are high. Telling an anxious person, "Don't be anxious" is not usually all that helpful. ("You say, 'Don't be anxious'? Well, why didn't I think of that? I'll just stop being anxious right now. Thanks!"—said no one ever.) What we can do is manage our anxiety in a mature and constructive way by remaining focused on our core values and on our most important goals. This is a moment when this congregation is being asked to address questions of fundamental importance: Who are we? What are the things that mean the most to us? Which goals should be given our top priority?

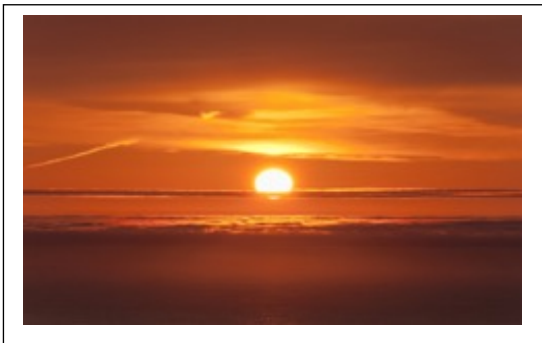
I am just going to keep repeating that one of the great strengths of this congregation is the refusal by just about everybody to sweep things under the proverbial rug. That asset will be especially valuable as this church plans for the future and considers a wide variety of options and possibilities. It will also be beneficial in fostering the honest conversations that will need to happen in the midst of the Annual Budget Drive. For instance, if the search for a settled minister does go forward next year, the church will need to budget up to about \$13,000—what a ministerial search typically incurs. That's certainly possible, but any cost increase to be borne by any organization ought to be assessed through a lens of thoughtful decision-making. The real question for us is: does this church have the capacity to make important decisions with discernment, courage, and hope? I think the answer is yes.

## Message From John Henderson, Board President

As you know, we have been exploring our own church identity this year, ascertaining who we are and who we want to be in the world. I think we have all been pleased with the remarkable drive and commitment of our church community. I am personally delighted that we are moving ahead with contracting and preparation for doing the first phase of our capital improvements, addressing deferred maintenance and other emergent issues. And we are preparing for the next phase of this work.

The Board has been looking ahead to what the next year might bring for this church community. We are currently preparing for our Annual Budget Drive (ABD) to fund the regular operations of our church. There are a number of things on our horizon that we hope to accomplish that will help us continue on our journey forward with renewed vision. Most importantly, this includes the question of ministry to serve this church (interim and long term).

As we prepare to move to what lies ahead for us, it is important to look at where UUCSS stands financially this year. As I have discussed several times before, the 2017–2018 church fiscal year is a particularly difficult one financially in the life of this church. With the amounts received from the supplemental pledge drive, the UUCSS congregation pledged \$388,000 for the 2017–2018 church fiscal year. This is a reduction of about \$117,000, or 23 percent, compared to fiscal year 2016–2017. We made significant cuts to the UUCSS Budget that will make it challenging to do some of the things we want going forward. But while the reductions we needed to make for this year were difficult, it is wonderful to see what this church has accomplished in this year, even with constrained financial resources.



I think we stand on the cusp of moving forward strongly together, to an exciting upcoming year of change for and renewed commitment to this fantastic faith community. I know there are a lot of requests for money at this time, from very worthy causes, but I encourage you to increase your pledge to UUCSS for next year, if possible. Thank you for your generosity.

## Message from Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education

### March for Our Lives

Here we are again: another school shooting. I sat in the coffee shop with a friend a few days after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead, not to mention hundreds holding each other: the parents, siblings, relatives, and friends' wounded emotionally by the loss of their loved ones. We stared at each other, the coffee more bitter with each sip as we named together the mass shootings in the past decades: Las Vegas, Pulse, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Aurora, San Bernardino, and Columbine. This is an incomplete list—a statement that hits me like a tsunami.

We have come to a place in our country's zeitgeist that we have a mass shooting media cycle. We have come to a place where comedians joke about "thoughts and prayers." We have come to a place that I never thought 20 years ago with the Columbine shooting we would be again, again, and again.

Yet, something feels tangibly different this time, and I believe it is the hearts and souls of the young survivors of the Parkland shooting. They are members of the mass shooting generation, a generation that has been ignored by politicians, only to witness their classmates and friends being gunned down. The older generations failed to guide our children to safety; now it is our youth who are lighthouses that our country must follow to safe harbors where students of any age, teachers, and staff can learn and teach in places unmarred by gun violence.

I invite you and your family members young and old to follow them. Let's make Parkland the last mass shooting. On March 24th, the Parkland survivors are marching on DC for gun reform in the March for Our Lives. Your presence amplifies their voices.

On March 23rd, UUCSS will be hosting a sign-making event in the Community Hall from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. with the Paint Branch UU Church. The next day we'll meet by the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall at 9:30 a.m. to march together. Wear your yellow Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt if you have one.

More information is available on <http://www.marchforourlives.com>.

I hope you join us. If you or your children are feeling overwhelmed by these recent violent and heart-shaking events, reach out to me at [DRE@uucss.org](mailto:DRE@uucss.org) to talk. We only move forward together arm in arm.

I leave you with words from the Epistle of John:

"Our love must not be just a theory,  
An empty form of words,  
But something real and active.  
Only so can we be sure  
That we live in the realms of truth."



### More on the March for Our Lives

Can you offer housing, transportation and possibly other assistance to students coming from all over the country to the Saturday, March 24th, student-led March for Our Lives?

March leaders are still seeking a contact person or persons among the march organizers to offer and help with logistical assistance. In the meantime, please RSVP to Stephen Klitzman at his email listed below if you'd be willing to house students for the march and if so, tell us how many.

Stephen Klitzman. [steve.klitzman@gmail.com](mailto:steve.klitzman@gmail.com)  
Chair, Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group  
Co-Organizer, DC Area Interfaith Network to Prevent Gun Violence

## UPDATES AND REPORTS

Those of us on the **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** feel fortunate to do the fun and spiritually nourishing work of welcoming visitors to UUCSS. In that spirit, we invite members of the congregation to join us in creating a friendly and congenial atmosphere for newcomers by:

- ❖ Helping us welcome guests on Sundays after the service and during Coffee Hour with a simple greeting and chat. There are so many of you who do reach out, and we thank you for that.
- ❖ As a friendly gesture, wearing your name tags, please.
- ❖ Contacting anyone on the Membership Committee if you have unused auction slots that we can share with new and prospective members. Our email is [membershipchairs@uucss.org](mailto:membershipchairs@uucss.org).



We are looking for new friends and members to join the Membership Committee. If interested, please contact our chairs, Maggie Hayes and Jean Snell, at [membershipchairs@uucss.org](mailto:membershipchairs@uucss.org).

### **From the Annual Budget Drive Co-Chairs**

We are still a couple of weeks away from the March 11 official kickoff of the 2018–2019 Annual Budget Drive (ABD). During the ABD, we gather in the financial pledges that sustain the life and work of church community. We—Ashley Holt, Jeremy Holt, and Jane Jackson—would like to share a bit about who we are and why we each decided to renew our commitment to UUCSS by leading this process.

**ASHLEY:** I joined UUCSS in March 2014 as a recovering Catholic, looking for a spiritual home for our interfaith family. While my initial participation was sparse, I always felt welcomed and embraced at every service and event. However, it is possible that the warmth I felt was more surprise or curiosity that Jeremy’s wife does in fact exist. Fortunately, this year I had the capacity to fully commit to this community. I joined the Worship Committee, and have taken an active role in supporting the services. Additionally, I am thrilled to be a co-chair of the ABD for 2018–2019.

**JEREMY:** While I was raised in a Conservative Jewish synagogue, and as a child could see myself growing up to be a Rabbi, I didn’t attend any religious services regularly after my Bar Mitzvah. I heard about Unitarian Universalism from teachers in high school and friends in college, so Ashley and I attended All Souls in DC soon after graduating from college. Our first day was a baby dedication, and we immediately fell in love with the UU faith. UUCSS was the first church we attended after the birth of our daughter Nora, and I felt an immediate connection. It wasn’t long (a month after we officially joined) that I was helping run the Passover Seder and regularly attending every Sunday service. Every Sunday, I seem to get more out of the church, which inevitably leads to my wanting to give back to the church. That is why this year, I am a co-chair of the ABD.

**JANE:** I moved to Silver Spring in 1984 with my husband, John Acton, and our 2-year-old daughter. We had been married by a UU minister, so we decided to check out the nearby UU churches to see if one of them would be a good place for us and our young family. Our first visit was to UUCSS, and on that Sunday the minister preached the annual “Sermon on the Amount” for the budget drive! We nonetheless decided we had found our place, and we have now been members for almost 34 years. Over that time, my spiritual evolution has taken me from a largely unexamined agnosticism to a place where I describe myself as a UU Buddhist. There have been harmonious times and challenging times, both in the church and in my own life. Every time I have considered whether to remain, I have always come back to the fact that I am deeply interconnected with the people that are this church. As it says on one of the quilts in the sanctuary, I am yours and you are mine. When I retired on January 1 of this year from my career as a government lawyer, I set the intention to volunteer more of my time to the organizations and causes that I believe in and give my money to. So, I really could not say no when I was asked to join Ashley and Jeremy in chairing the ABD!

## Reserve Saturday, April 28th for the Fellowship Dinner

The time for breaking bread together and celebrating the wonderful fellowship of UUCSS, the Fellowship Dinner, is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th. Once again, we will gather around tables sharing dishes we've made, enjoying the company of our friends and making new friends, and listening to great music and (hopefully) dancing. The Fellowship Dinner is held as a table potluck, with the people at each table bringing dishes to share with each other, and one person bringing dessert to contribute to the congregational dessert table. There will be an open bar beforehand. Signup for the Fellowship Dinner begins March 11, 2018. Opportunities to sign up for childcare for the very young and activities for older children will be provided. Questions? Please contact Laura Ellis at (301) 792-1232.



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | 2018**

The call of our Unitarian Universalist faith has a place for each of us. [All Are Called](#) to join us this June 20–24 in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.

### **FINANCIAL AID FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Financial aid for General Assembly (GA) is available in the form of working volunteer positions as well as registration scholarships and travel grants. GA volunteers exchange a set number of hours of work at GA for a full-time GA registration. There are several different funding sources available via the General Assembly Unified Scholarship Application, including additional funding committed by the UUA Administration to the 2018 budget to facilitate the participation of People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Persons at GA. Anyone with a relationship to a Unitarian Universalist congregation or UU organization (covenanted community) is encouraged to apply. [Financial Aid applications](#) are accepted **March 1 through March 31**.

### **HOST A NETWORKING SESSION AT GA**

You are invited to submit a [proposal to host a networking session](#) at GA. Time has been set aside at GA on Friday evening for networking among affinity groups within Unitarian Universalism, for people to connect around identity, role, interest or any other dimension. **Proposals are due Thursday, March 15.**

### **PRESENT A POSTER AT GA**

You are invited to [apply to present a poster at GA](#) on an inspiring story, best practice, or a resource of interest to other GA attendees. Sessions will be selected based on how they address equity, inclusion, and the GA theme. If chosen, you will need to be present for one 75-minute session where attendees can drop by to discuss with you the topic of your poster. Poster sessions will be scheduled daily in the GA Exhibit Hall. **Proposals are due Thursday, March 15.**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [Housing Reservations](#) open at 10 a.m. EST on March 1. Room rates start at \$136 + tax.
- [Registration](#) opens March 1. Rates Increase May 1.
- [Programming Highlights](#)
- [Schedule of Events](#)

## UUCSS, Civil Rights, and Fred Cappuccino (Part 2) by Jo Paoletti

This article is drawn from a recent telephone interview with the Rev. Fred Cappuccino, his unpublished memoir, his book *Bonnie and Her 21 Children*, and *The Selma Awakening*, by Mark Morrison-Reed. I have tried to tell the story in his own words, as much as possible.



Fred Cappuccino's journey to Selma began with an urgent phone call from Ken Marshall, the minister at Davies Memorial UU church in Camp Springs. Ken had disturbing news: their friend and former colleague Jim Reeb had been walking in Selma with a small group of other ministers when they were attacked by a group of white men. Jim was critically—probably mortally—wounded. Within 24 hours, Fred and Ken were on their way to Alabama. If you saw the movie "Selma," you'd have the impression of Reeb as a mild-mannered, quiet man, but Fred recalls him differently. "Jim was... always laughing. When he came into a room, no matter what else was going on, everybody would laugh, because Jim was here. He was full of vitality."

Once they got there, they joined the demonstration in the city square. "When I first went there, I was intimidated because it was a three-square-block area, and they had the whole thing encircled by police cars ... all parked bumper to bumper, and you had to crawl over to get in there. I happened to be with Farley Wheelwright, another Unitarian minister, and he said "Fred, don't worry. We're all safe now because of what they did to James Reeb." I didn't actually give much credence to that, but that's how he felt. It helped a little."

"Every morning we'd set out from one of the churches and there would be four or five people across, and we would march up to where there was a line of police waiting. Twenty feet back, we'd stop. Somebody would bring out a soap box, and one of the ministers would be up on the soap box preaching Christian non-violence. We would be exhorted not to let hatred take over, but we must conquer hatred in ourselves. It went on and on like that.

For the first few days, with a charged feeling in the air, I didn't feel like eating or sleeping. I slept 2 hours the first night and 1 hour the second night." Hunter Leggitt, another UU minister, remembers standing "in wind and rain and mud...often without eating, for days without sleep, sustained by the belief that we would overcome. We stood or we sat on the ground."

Between the soap box sermons, there was singing, "with four part harmony, it was so beautiful.. saying we love our opponents, we love Sheriff Clark, we love Chief Baker, we love Governor Wallace. I was crying and laughing the whole 5 days. It was exhilarating."

"On Thursday, when the death of Jim Reeb was announced, being Jim's friend, I was asked to offer the prayer. I don't usually pray, but it was a distinct honor to be on the soapbox and pray at that time. I was satisfied when I finished that I did okay, but I don't have any idea what I said."

As a student of the writings of Mahatma Gandhi, Cappuccino remembers Selma as the experience that transformed non-violent confrontation from a theory to a real force of persuasion. "Gandhi's concept of God was not a personal being in the traditional Christian sense. He believed that there is a power in truth, and in love. This is the highest reality, and this is what Gandhi called God. I had never experienced that power before Selma. Certainly, some power was on our side in Selma the police did not have."

Those days in Selma were a religious experience, Cappuccino recalls. "I'm not easily moved to tears, but down there, many times something would occur and I would break down and cry, not for danger to myself, but by a recognition of overflowing human nobility, sensing the courage of the people who lived in Selma. After all, we brave fellows who came down from somewhere else would return to our secure homes; these people would have to face the bigots."

When he returned to Maryland, Fred Cappuccino reported the experience to a packed church in Silver Spring. He



remembers, "We laughed and wept together, and sang in harmony as never before."

## NEED BOOKS!



One way to support people who are incarcerated is to donate books. Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) inmates need your books. Inmates who come into the MCCF prior to decisions wait with no access to the MCCF Library. Other inmates use the MCCF Library (which is part of the Montgomery County Library system) for research, recreation, and reflection, as we all do. Of particular interest are paperbacks and books on all topics that might be of particular interest to this diverse population. For example, according to the librarian, *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander “flies off the shelves,” as does urban fiction and books in Spanish.

To donate books to the MCCF Library, UUCSS members should put the books to be donated in a box, close the box, and label it clearly (e.g., with a dark marker) **"MCCF."** Then take the box to your nearest Montgomery County library for appropriate delivery to MCCF, where it is processed before the books are added to the collection or distributed.

Beginning in March, we will also have a box at church marked “Montgomery County Correctional Facility Donations” near the visitor table in the front entryway, where you can leave books that Pat Hulsebosch will box, label, and deliver to a local library for shipping to the MCCF. If you have questions, you can reach her at [Pathuls@icloud.com](mailto:Pathuls@icloud.com) or 240-643-2976. Thank you. Kathy Lorr, Richard Lorr, and Pat Hulsebosch

## EVENTS

**MARCH 10** If you become interested in UUCSS membership, we offer a “**Pathways**” class several times a year. The next class is Saturday morning, March 10, at the church. This is an opportunity to learn more about the history and principles of the UU faith and about UUCSS in particular. You will also learn about the privileges and the responsibilities becoming a member entails. Reverend Keely will be joining us. Pathways usually runs for 3 hours or less, and more information can be found in the order of service and the UUCSS website.

**MARCH 11** Immediately after services in the Sanctuary, a congregational meeting to determine whether to seek a full time Interim Minister to serve UUCSS next year and, if so, the period of Interim Ministry.

**March 11** Signup for the April 28th Annual Fellowship Dinner begins.

**MARCH 17** Social Justice Leaders Roundtable - 1:00pm-4:30pm [UU Church of Arlington, VA](#)  
Check the [UUSJ website](#) under Quick Links for registration details. Please bring talking points for a two-minute one-on-one sharing of one successful program at your congregation. We will also break into small groups to learn what others are doing on specific topics such as How to Get Ministerial and Congregational Support. We expect one to three Social Justice leaders from each congregation to attend.

**MARCH 23 and 24** To prepare for the March 24th March on DC for gun reform, UUCSS will host a **sign-making event** in the Community Hall March 23rd from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. with Paint Branch UU Church. The Parkland survivors are marching on DC for gun reform in the March for Our Lives. Your presence amplifies the Parkland survivors’ voices. On the 24th, UUs will meet by the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall at 9:30 a.m. to march together. Wear your yellow Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt if you have one. You and your family members, young and old, are invited to follow them. Let’s make Parkland the last mass shooting.

**MARCH 25, APRIL 22, and MAY 20 UUCSS 101 for UUCSS Visitors**

UU101’s are informal gatherings for visitors to our church who would like to learn a bit about Unitarian Universalism and about UUCSS in particular. In March, April, and May, we will meet following the 10:30 service in the room adjacent to the community hall. Bring all your questions and grab a cup of coffee or tea on your way in from coffee hour. We can’t wait to meet you!

**APRIL 22 and APRIL 29** Polystyrene (plastic number 6) is not generally recyclable. That's why Montgomery County has banned its use by restaurants. But you still get stuff sent in styrofoam. We found a place that will recycle it into insulation. So save it and bring it to church on Earth Day on Sunday, April 22, and the following Sunday, April 29. Let's turn that nasty stuff to good use! We will collect it during Coffee Hour.

Please place foam in clear, sealed bags.

Place packaging foam and food service containers in separate bags.

Food service containers **MUST** be clean and rinsed.

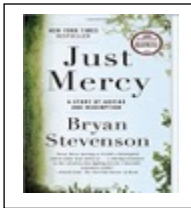
ACCEPTED—(must have symbol with the #6 inside the chasing arrows triangle) post-consumer foam cups and "to-go" containers, egg cartons, ice chests, rinsed meat trays, protective packaging foam used to protect electronics and other delicacies during shipping

NOT ACCEPTED—packing peanuts, straws, lids, plastic wrap, or trash



## ONGOING EVENTS

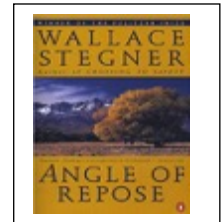
### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



Women's Book Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month. We are an informal group that has been meeting since 2000, and we are open to interested readers; there is no long-term obligation. Please contact [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com) for additional details. At our next meeting on March 26, we will discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson.

### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *The Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner, the winner of the 1972 Pulitzer Prize. Stegner was often called "The Dean of Western Writers" during his lifetime. The next meeting will be at 7:00 on Sunday, April 1, at the home of Bruce McConachie, 7231 Windsor Lane, University Park, MD 20782. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** ([rlorr4@gmail.com](mailto:rlorr4@gmail.com)), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!



## CONNECT WITH UUCSS

**MARCH  
VOLUNTEER  
OF THE  
MONTH  
AUDREY  
ENGDAHL**

Audrey grew up in local UU churches. Audrey and her husband Rick first came to UUCSS when Rev Liz Maclay was preaching her candidating sermon and were married by Rev. Liz the following year in 2001. They chose to join UUCSS because of Rev. Liz's sermons and the church's commitment to children and social justice. Audrey quickly became very engaged in both music and RE. She and Rick agreed to be youth advisors in 2002. She enjoyed getting to know the youth so well, although helping youth manage the transition to youth leadership sometimes proved challenging. Audrey also has contributed substantially to the UUCSS music program, as a solo player and in a duo with Rick, and now also as one of the leaders of the children's choir. Her work with Michael Holmes has allowed UUCSS to develop a stable and ongoing children's choir.

Audrey believes that UUCSS's services provide perspectives, words, and uplifting emotional content. When she is the music performer, either individually or as part of a duo, she considers the theme of the sermon, and works to contribute to the arc of the service, starting with a song that lightly introduces the theme, then music that allows the listeners to dig deeper into the theme, and finally closing with music that sends listeners out into the world with movement, action, and a sense of being in the world. She believes that this arc is why people come to church—they come in solo and leave as part of a larger movement.



## Howdy from Puerto Rico

On February 26, Brian Beard sent a letter (excerpted below) to UUCSS Yahoogroups about his experiences working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Puerto Rico and beginning to volunteer to protect and study sea turtles.

It is looking like I will not return until late June....I have been here for almost 4 months, and have put about 5,400 miles on my rental car. I'm meeting lots of very nice and appreciative people, but it can still be a roller coaster of emotions, since I see so much destruction and so many people that are still living in partially destroyed homes. The vast majority of the people in my hotel are here because their homes were completely destroyed, and they are still getting vouchers from FEMA to cover their lodging, but when that runs out in 1 or maybe 3 months from now, they will have to try and find relatives to stay with, or be homeless.

My territory now covers the east coast of Puerto Rico, except for the corners, and includes the municipalities of Ceiba, Naguabo, Las Piedras, Humacao, and Yabucoa. Yabucoa is where the eye of the hurricane hit, and the rest are just north of that. The wind gusts hit over 200 mph, so I have seen a lot of hurricane damage. In the first area where I was working in north-central Puerto Rico, every 8 or 10 telephone poles had been broken by the winds, but in Yabucoa I have seen places where more than a dozen telephone poles in a row were snapped like twigs. After a very slow start, there are now a lot of electrical crews working all over the island to try and restore power, but out of 78 municipalities (small counties), only 3 have 100 percent power.

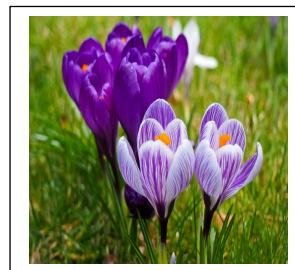
On the weekends, I have just begun volunteering with Amigos de las Tortugas Marineras (ATMAR), a local non-governmental organization (NGO) located right next door to my current hotel, which works to protect and study the sea turtles that regularly nest on the beaches of southeast Puerto Rico. Check out the website: [www.tortugasmaunabo.com](http://www.tortugasmaunabo.com). Click on the Facebook link, and on the ATMAR Facebook page, you can see the pictures I took yesterday morning of the marks in the sand left by the first leatherback sea turtle nest of the season. (90–100 eggs were laid 3 feet deep in the sand, and will hatch in 60 days) Volunteers regularly hike the three closest beaches, where the majority of the sea turtle nests are located in Puerto Rico (the other spot is the island of Vieques), and to record and mark the location and then try to keep poachers and dogs away.... Yesterday morning I hiked the beach in front of my hotel, and a mile and a half away, near the end of the beach (just before a cliff and a lighthouse built in 1892 by the Spaniards), I found the markings in the sand that indicated that a leatherback turtle had recently made a nest in the sand. So as a rookie gringo who has not even been trained yet, I had the honor of finding the first nest of the season, which was pretty cool.

A few of you asked me a while back, after my last email to the listserv, about identifying a good organization for making donations to the relief effort. I never got a good answer from the people I asked, so I finally did a lot of online research and came up with All Hands and Hearts, [www.allhandsandhearts.org](http://www.allhandsandhearts.org) or <https://www.hands.org/projects/puerto-rico-response/>, a nonprofit that gets five stars from Charity Navigator. I hope to volunteer with this organization on Saturday mornings.

### Administrative Update

Wishing everyone a Happy Spring!

--Melinda Yalom  
UUCSS Church Administrator





**Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring**  
10309 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

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**Melinda Yalom**  
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**John Henderson**  
Board President  
[president@uucss.org](mailto:president@uucss.org)

Submissions to the *Uniter* are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to [uniter@uucss.org](mailto:uniter@uucss.org).

Format Guidelines for Submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Microsoft Word file or in the body of an email that can be copied and pasted. Graphics must be in a format in which they can be repositioned and resized—jpeg is greatly preferred.

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Co-editors are Jane Larrick and Stephanie McConachie.

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**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday: 2–5 pm**  
**Tuesdays–Thursdays: 9 am–5 pm**  
**Church Website: [www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)**