

April 2022

Uniter



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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WORSHIP SERVICES

In-Person Worship Resumes!

COVID rates have subsided in our area, and we are excited to welcome the congregation back at 40% capacity in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings, having begun on Sunday, February 27! Worship will continue to be offered virtually as well, though the transition to live worship in the Sanctuary means services will again be streamed via Zoom rather than YouTube. Please see upcoming all-church emails for service links and more details.

Beginning on Sunday, March 6, Religious Education will resume in-person classes on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Children will begin 1st and 3rd Sundays in the Sanctuary for the first third of worship after which they will be sent to their classrooms. It will be so wonderful to be together in worship as a multigenerational community again!

While we will not be offering childcare until children under 5 can be vaccinated, families with young children are always welcome in the Sanctuary. We will be adding some rocking chairs and a small play area in the Sanctuary for grown-ups and young children who may need more freedom of movement. We have also recently installed a flatscreen TV in the Dolan Lounge (in the Administrative Building) where grown-ups with young children who wish to be on campus but in a space with fewer people can watch the service.

April 3: Awakening: Lessons from Encanto Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon, and reflections by two special guests

This week in worship we enjoy music and explore lessons from Disney's hit movie Encanto. This is a service for all ages, and as such no RE classes will be offered this week.

April 10: Awakening to the "Yes, And" Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon

Join us this Sunday for a service about deserts and resurrection, about loneliness and belonging, about the journey we travel together. With reflections on the upcoming Jewish holiday of Passover, Rev. Laura considers the importance of our spring holidays and how they might inform us at this particular time.

April 17: Joy Comes in the Morning Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

This Easter Sunday we celebrate in story and song the power of life and love over death and hate. Alleluia! Children and youth will be dismissed to their classes about halfway through the service, and, when worship and Religious Education conclude, everyone is invited to join us outside for an Egg Hunt!

April 24: Earth Day Sunday Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

This morning we give thanks for the abundant gifts the earth provides us, we lament the deadly impact of human activity on the web of life, and we envision a more generous, sustainable future for all. This service also marks the end of our Annual Budget Drive, features music by the amazing Jennifer Cutting, and is a service for all ages (no RE classes this week). You won't want to miss it!

INSPIRE

Minister's Column by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt



My spouse is one of those people with an innate sense of direction. There's a good chance he'll remember how to get somewhere after just the first time he's driven there. I, on the other hand, need several trips, all using precisely the same route, before I will have the route down pat. And all too often, I'll think I know the way, only to discover mid-route that I'm lost, much farther from my destination than I thought. When that happens, I pull over, fire up my phone's map app, and follow the instructions to my destination.

No matter our favorite time of year, there is no ignoring springtime! After such a long time bundled up in heavy winter coats and cooped up indoors, after months of white snow, grey skies, and bare landscape, I love the way the crocuses and daffodils, warmer air, and birdsong draw me outside of my house, outside of myself, out of my habits and any ruts I might have unknowingly fallen into. As the natural world wakes up from its winter slumber we are invited to awaken as well. As Anne Lamott writes:

Oh my God, what if you wake up some day and you never got your memoir or novel written; or you didn't go swimming in warm pools and oceans all those years because your thighs were jiggy and you had a nice big comfortable tummy; or you were just so strung out on perfectionism and people-pleasing that you forgot to have a big juicy creative life, of imagination and radical silliness and staring off into space like when you were a kid? It's going to break your heart. Don't let this happen. Repent just means to change direction—and NOT to be said by someone who is wagging their forefinger at you. Repentance is a blessing. Pick a new direction and aim for that. Shoot the moon.

Here at UUCSS this month we have some truly excellent services lined up to celebrate the springtime holidays and explore this theme of "awakening" together. I'm amazed all over again by this community's generosity as our Annual Budget Drive continues, and also as people show up for one another and for the refugee family we are sponsoring. UUCSS truly is "All In, Together!" But right now I'm most excited that our Passover Seder will again be in-person (outside under a tent), that our hybrid Easter service will again be followed by an Egg Hunt, and that Jennifer Cutting will share her beautiful music with us for our Earth Day service.

May this season of color, fragrance, warmer air, and longer days wake us up to all that's possible as we continue life's journey toward deep purpose.

Message From Maggie Hayes, Board President



Last month, I wrote about the worship theme for March: “Renewing Faith,” the quest for which may be individual, such as meditation, nature, and therapy; or making closer connections with family, friends, and co-workers; or working with others to address social, political, and environmental causes. I said, “Some of these quests can occur within a community like UUCSS, where we find spiritual inspiration, fellowship, and meaningful opportunities for service.”

Shortly after submitting that article, I came across an interview in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*:

(<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/02/21/magazine/laurie-santos-interview.html>) with Prof. Laurie Santos, whose class on Psychology and the Good Life is one of Yale University’s most popular courses. After a discussion about how our culture leads us astray in figuring out how to be happier, the interviewer asked, “A lot of stuff that we know can have a positive effect on happiness—developing a sense of meaning, connection with other people, meditation and reflection—are commonplace religious practices. How helpful are they outside religion?”

Prof. Santos replied that cultural structures definitely can cause behavior change; studies show that religious people are more satisfied with life than non-religious. But evidence suggests that it’s not so much their spiritual beliefs that produce happiness; it’s their actions within their religious communities. That’s critical, Prof. Santos said, “because it’s a fact that you’ll be happier if you meditate, volunteer, and engage with social connection. It’s just much easier if you have a cultural apparatus around you.”

That apparatus is precisely what I’ve found so valuable at UUCSS. We could all meditate and reflect by ourselves (and I know many of you do), but the opportunity is always presented during worship services and other church gatherings. We could all independently volunteer with a myriad of organizations, but UUCSS folks bring our attention to many worthwhile ways to serve our community. We do all make social connections on our own, but UUCSS facilitates such relationships, both within and outside our walls. I know my happiness quotient has definitely increased since I joined UUCSS! In keeping with our “Awakening” worship theme for April, let’s all notice and take advantage of the many avenues to a life of satisfaction that our own religious/cultural apparatus provides.

And now – a big announcement!

On March 23, the Board of Trustees elected Doneby Smith as our new president, beginning July 1. Doneby and her husband David Miley joined UUCSS in 1995. Among Doneby’s many contributions to UUCSS: chair of Green Sanctuary, member of Dream Builders and the Capital Improvements Committees, RE teacher (middle school and adult), Gaia Circle leader, and organizer of Catoctin and Women’s Retreats. Most recently Doneby has served on the Board and as chair of the Program Council. With great support from the five members continuing on the Board and from the three to be elected in June, Doneby—with her deep knowledge of this community, her unwavering commitment to it, and her leadership and people skills—will be an outstanding UUCSS president.

LEARN

Message From Rev. Laura Solomon, Director of Spiritual Growth



Hello UUCSS!

I do most of my really good brainstorming while I'm doing something totally unrelated to a task...I write poems while I'm driving, and develop RE programming while I'm walking the dog!

Maizel Roo (my dog) and I were taking a gorgeous hike the other day, and I was thinking about how beautiful it is that we get to devote some time to intentionally reconnecting with one another this spring—the moments of connection feel even more precious now, as we move into this endemic phase of Covid-19.

Somewhere along the beautiful Patapsco trail we were hiking, it came to me that we at UUCSS are not just reconnecting this spring...we are RE-connecting. That is, we are reconnecting with Religious Education through our engagement with UUCSS! From there, my thoughts went wild with all the things we can RE-connect to...Each other! Spirit! Magic! The Earth! (See below for details.)

I am so excited to RE-Connect with all of you!

April Sunday RE Schedule for Children and Youth

April 3: Multigenerational Worship Service. Children and youth are invited to stay in the service this week for a worship service on the movie *Encanto*

April 10: Virtual grade-based RE for children and youth

April 17: Easter Sunday! In-person programming during worship for children and youth. Easter egg hunt following the service

April 24: Multigenerational Earth Day Worship Service. Children and youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary this week.

Other Children's RE Activities

April 24: *RE-Connecting to the Earth.*

After the Earth Day service, Green Sanctuary will offer some time to let our kids get dirty! After service, join members of Green Sanctuary at UUCSS to plant some bulbs and make our campus beautiful!

May 7: 1-3 pm *RE-connecting to Each Other: Kid Edition!*

Park day! Join us at Wheaton Regional Park for playground time, snacks, and fellowship among parents and kids alike!

Adult RE

April 9: 2-4 pm *RE-connecting to Each Other: Reconnection Circles*

Come join us at UUCSS for time to reconnect with new friends and old! This is a great opportunity for newcomers and old-timers to gather and ground ourselves in community and connection. We will have small group discussions in rotating groups. Indoor and outdoor groups will be available, weather permitting, so you can choose what best suits your comfort level.

May 14 10-11:30 am at UUCSS or on Zoom *RE-connecting to Spirit: Poetry Share*

Do you have a favorite poem? Have you read a poem recently that moved you, or written a poem that begs to be shared? Many of us connect to ourselves and our spirituality through words we read or write. Let's share them with each other! Bring your favorite poem—your own or someone else's—to share and reflect on.

Intergenerational Activities

April 30: 1-3 pm *RE-connecting to Multigenerational Community*

We have a project for all ages! One of the fun things about virtual worship is the ability to do other things while listening to the sermon (knitting, drawing, dishes, walking the dog...we all do it!). On this last day of April, we will gather in multigenerational community to create busy bags for our sanctuary. Appropriate for people of all ages, these bags will provide quiet activities to occupy busy hands (chalice coloring sheets, fidgets, pipe cleaners!).

We need help making the bags! Folks with sewing skills and/or sewing machines are particularly invited, but we also need bag decorators and bag-fillers, too. Join us! There will be a task for everyone.

May 15: 1:30-3:30 pm *RE-connecting to Magic: Fairy House Building!*

"All you need is faith, trust, and a little bit of pixie dust!" Join us at UUCSS to create fairy houses! Been wondering what to do with that pinecone or acorn collection, or the seashell pile from last summer? Bring your natural materials and we will create homes for the fairies to move into!

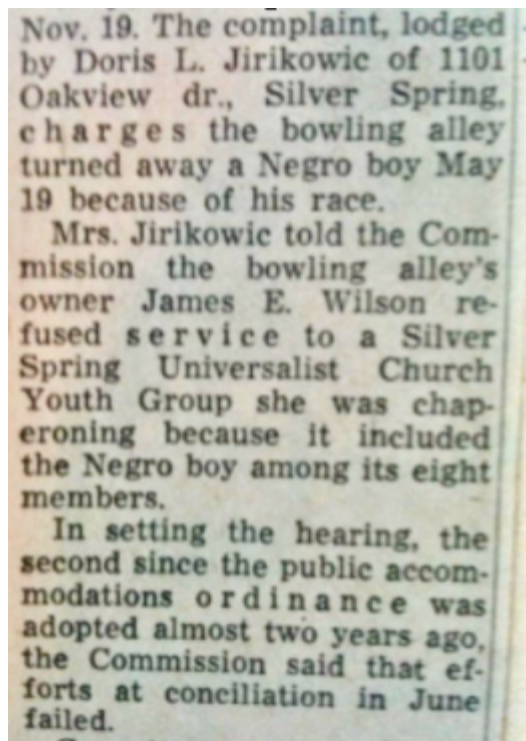
UUCSS History: UUCSS, Civil Rights, and Rev. Fred Cappuccino—Part I

In observance of the 70th anniversary of the founding of UUCSS, Jo Paoletti is updating the history series originally published in the Uniter in 2017 and 2018.

A few years ago, UUCSS invited the Rev. Mark Morrison-Read to lead us in a racial justice workshop. Part of the requirements for hosting the event was that the congregation needed a sense of their own history, and then UUCSS minister Rev. Liz Lerner-Maclay asked me to undertake the task of researching and preparing a summary of our activities since 1952.

The condensed version is, from the beginning, UUCSS has been active in protests, service, and legislative advocacy related to social and economic justice. In the 1950s, under the leadership of Rev. David McPherson and social action chair Margaret LaRocca, the congregation was involved in the integration of local schools and housing. The adult education committee hosted book discussions and speakers on race relations in America.

In 1962, Rev. McPherson accepted a call to the Towson Church, and the search committee invited an unusual, even remarkable, person to candidate. Rev. Fred Cappuccino was a Methodist minister whose theological and social views were making it difficult for him to find and hold a pulpit. At the time, he was assigned to three Chicago area congregations, where his sermons on such topics as “Moral Strength in the Face of Injustice” were not well received. Even less popular with his neighbors and his flocks was his unusual family. In Rev. Fred’s words, he and his wife Bonnie “had decided to



Nov. 19. The complaint, lodged by Doris L. Jirikowic of 1101 Oakview dr., Silver Spring, charges the bowling alley turned away a Negro boy May 19 because of his race. Mrs. Jirikowic told the Commission the bowling alley's owner James E. Wilson refused service to a Silver Spring Universalist Church Youth Group she was chaperoning because it included the Negro boy among its eight members. In setting the hearing, the second since the public accommodations ordinance was adopted almost two years ago, the Commission said that efforts at conciliation in June failed.

News article about Doris Jirikowic's bowling alley complaint. The owner eventually agreed to desegregate his business. (This was NOT the lanes in White Oak.)

have two children born to us—in keeping with Zero Population Growth—and if she wanted more to adopt one or two. But she got carried away.”

At the time he candidated at UUCSS, they had six, including four mixed-race children, three of them adopted from Japan or Korea. Eventually, they would have 21 children, all but two adopted. (I highly recommend his memoir, *Bonnie and Her 21 Children*, if you want to learn more about them.) Happily, the search committee had no problem with Rev. Fred, his theology, or his family, nor did the congregation, which voted unanimously to call him as our second minister. He served UUCSS from 1962 to 1966, a time he and Bonnie remember as “among the best [years] in our lives.”

They were also among the most important years of the civil rights movement. UUCSS members attended the August 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom, where they heard Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream Speech.” In that same year, many took part in the September 22 silent protest

march to the White House as a memorial to the children killed in the Birmingham, AL, church bombing. There was also a special collection in church that day to be donated to the families. Doris Jirikowic's RE class was denied entrance at a local bowling alley because of the presence of one of the Cappuccino children. She complained publicly, and the bowling alley owner later agreed to end discrimination.

Rev. Fred remembers the congregation organized and attended demonstrations in favor of fair housing in Montgomery County every Saturday, and their efforts expanded to Prince George's Country as well. UUCSSer Ruth Atchison was among five Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) members arrested at a 1964 protest against a whites-only housing development in Bowie; Marge Romberger of the Social Action Committee collected money for bail and legal defense funds for all five. Ruth was arrested again at the same development in February. Member Marie Erickson, with the help of several other members of the Social Action Committee, drafted and presented testimony in favor of a proposed fair housing statute in Prince George's County.

Church members provided home hospitality for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party when they came to DC in January 1965 to challenge the seating of five elected congressmen from Mississippi. After his friend and colleague Jim Reeb was injured in Selma, AL, Rev. Fred spent several days there, witnessing for voting rights. (I will be telling more of this story in next month's Uniter.)

He later recalled, "I appreciated the strong support of the [UUCSS] congregation in this venture, and was greatly heartened to see the largest congregation in the history of our church on the Sunday I reported the Selma experience. We laughed and wept together, and sang in harmony as never before."

Rev. Fred and Bonnie now live in Maxville, Ontario. To learn more about them and their work, visit the [Child Haven International website](#). His contact information is there, if you would like to express your gratitude for his leadership. (And say thanks to Marie Erickson for her efforts to bring fair housing to Prince George's County, when you see her in church or online!)

Enjoy this [recent interview](#) with Rev. Fred.



Rev. Fred, Bonnie and family in the early 1960s, just before the call to UUCSS. From an article about them in *Redbook*.



CONNECT



Events

Recurring and committee events can also be found on the Church Calendar at <https://uucss.org/calendar/>

April 9, 2-4 pm. RE-connecting to Each Other: Reconnection Circles for adults (see LEARN in this issue).

April 22, 6. Passover Seder Potluck. On the church grounds (see article below).

April 24, at church after the service. RE-connecting to the Earth for kids (see LEARN in this issue).

April 24, 11:45 am. The Annual Budget Drive ends with an ice cream social in the church parking lot. Bring a camp chair.

April 25, 7:30 pm. Women's Book Group. We are reading *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney. Interested readers are welcome without a long-term obligation. Contact: dweiner04@gmail.com.

April 30, 1-3 pm. RE-connecting to Multigenerational Community (see LEARN in this issue).

May 1. Deadline for lay-led summer worship sermon proposals (see article below).

May 14, 10-11:30 am. At UUCSS or on Zoom. RE-connecting to Spirit: Poetry share for adults (see LEARN in this issue).

May 15, 1:30-3:30 pm. Intergenerational RE-connecting to Magic: Fairy House Building! (see LEARN in this issue).

May 15, 7 pm. Men's Book Group. We are reading *She*, subtitled *A History of Adventure*, an 1887 novel by the English writer H. Rider Haggard. If you are interested in joining the discussion, let Richard Lorr know (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and join us on Zoom with the link or come to an in-person meeting, depending on what the group decides.

Lay-Led Summer Worship Series

Would you like to lead a service this summer? Here's how you can!

The theme for the first half of the summer will be "Wisdom Beyond Words: Lessons from Music." This series will run for 5 Sundays: June 19 and 26, July 3, 10, and 17. Anyone is welcome to submit a service idea for consideration. Rev. Kristin will choose five to be shared on the Sundays mentioned above. If more than 5

people submit workable service ideas, we will try to schedule those in the fall/winter. If you would like to submit a service idea for consideration, here is the information we'll need:

- Your name
- Service title
- 3 songs you'd like included in the service
- How the music/songs reflect UU values/principles
- The Sundays between June 19 and July 17 when you are available to lead the service

Service leaders will have the support of a Worship Associate and music coordinated by Michael Holmes, our Music Director. Please email your submissions to Rev. Kristin at minister@uucss.org. **The deadline for submissions is Sunday, May 1.** The Summer Worship series will be finalized on May 15 and publicized in the June Uniter.

Passover Seder Potluck

Friday, April 22, 6 pm

UUCSS Grounds

Mark your calendars for this beloved annual tradition led by Jewish members and friends of our congregation. At the Seder, we remember the story of the Jewish people's journey from slavery into freedom and then enjoy dinner together as a community. This year's Seder will be held outside under a large tent in the church parking lot. An email with links to reserve your spot, make a donation, and sign up to bring a dish to share will be sent to the whole congregation soon!

Committee Updates



Annual Budget Drive

Annual Budget Drive (ABD) in Full Swing as We Go to Press! Remember the Incentives!

For this year's ABD, "We're All in, Together!" and working toward some goals we've had for a while. Funding a full-time church administrator and continuing improvements to the Community Hall.

A full-time church administrator would support current staff and remove the burden from volunteers, allowing current staff to focus on their core duties and freeing up volunteers. Our community hall is overdue for HVAC updates and repairs. Planned improvements are in line with our 7th principal and would decrease ongoing power costs. It would also make the space more attractive to renters which would improve our bottom line.

To support these goals to allow UUCSS to thrive, we're asking for an **8% increase** in overall giving. We are lucky to have some generous members who have stepped forward to be matching donors. When you increase your pledge, the increase will be matched. For members pledging for the first time, the entire pledge will be matched 200%.

By now most of you will have heard from your stewards. Please respond when they reach out. Steward visits are a great way to connect with other church members and share experiences about our beloved community.

Submitting your pledge is easy. You can go to the UUCSS webpage at uucss.org. The main header on the far right has the text "22-23 Pledge Here!" Click the text and you'll go directly to the pledge form.

You can pledge by email, Fill out the pledge form you receive in your inbox and email the completed form to abd@uucss.org.

Lastly, you can postal mail your pledge form by printing the pledge form and filling it out by hand.

Don't forget about the incentives! If you are a "Timely Donor" and submit your pledge form by Sunday April 3, you'll be entered into a raffle to have lunch on Rev. Kristin's screened porch with other "Timely Donors." Winners will be announced Sunday, April 10.

Everyone who signs up for monthly auto pay by April 17 will be entered in a raffle to work with Rev. Kristin to choose a sermon topic. The winner will be announced Sunday April 24, the day the ABD ends. And, don't miss the closing celebration—an Ice Cream Social following the service in the parking lot..

Thanks to everyone who has already pledged.

Your ABD Team:

Tamara Bowman, Teresa Meeks, Dina Raley, and Pat Scheid

Update from the UUCSS Afghan Resettlement Task Force

Our congregation continues to support the Thina family with time, treasure, and talent!

You have generously and joyously donated furniture, household items, toys, pantry items and more, which are being housed and stored until an apartment is found for the family. Behind the scenes, a group of volunteers have been working closely with the family, arranging medical appointments and prenatal care, providing transportation, childcare, a quiet environment where Sharif can take his English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes and conversational practice. In addition, we continue to explore options for bridging language barriers. Many church members have come forward to share ideas and information. As a result of information shared by one member, Sharif attended a Montgomery County job fair and has a very strong job possibility lined up that he is excited about!

Our most urgent need right now is more volunteer drivers to get Sharif to his new job. Ideally, drivers need to be available in the early morning and late afternoon/evening, willing to drive to different locations in the

county, be reliable and on time. It is also a great way to meet and get to know Sharif! Anyone interested and able to help with this critical support, please contact Jane Larrick (jane.larrick@gmail.com) or Stephanie McConachie (smccona@gmail.com) **as soon as possible**. They will provide more information and a brief training. THANK YOU!

Member Spotlight: Jeffrey Noel-Nosbaum



Jeffrey grew up in Takoma Park and has lived there most of his life. His mother is Presbyterian and his father is Catholic. For most of his early years, his family attended Takoma Park Presbyterian Church for services and Sunday school. When the time for First Communion approached, his father wanted him and his siblings to get Catholic sacrament preparation as well and so they started also going to Catholic mass and CCD (equivalent of RE) classes, first at Our Lady of Sorrows and then St. Camillus. While there was a great deal of good in both traditions, Jeffrey found a lack of fit for his own goals and beliefs. The Catholic church seemed too top down with less opportunities for congregational leadership. While the Presbyterian church had a more congregational leadership structure, formal leaders receive a form of ordination, while it is a recognition of calling he appreciates, it requires affirmation of

the Book of Confessions that he did not fully believe in. After much research, he determined he was a Universalist. UUCSS was the closest UU church, and he found our welcome warm and engaging for a lifelong introvert.

Jeffrey has sung in the choir and has been our Worship chair. Worship was a good fit because it is integral to church life and an opportunity to give to the congregation what spoke to him in the Presbyterian and Catholic worship of his youth. It was also a major vehicle for personal growth. Helping lead services and giving his first sermon allowed him to continue to practice the public speaking skills he had just started developing during a run for Takoma Park City Council. As for his words for the congregation, he says, “find something that you have a passion about that the church needs. Don’t hold back, it will create a sense of connection you cannot imagine.”

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Staff Hours and Contact Information

Jeannette Jackson, **Administrator**
administrator@uucss.org

Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon, Director of Spiritual Growth

Laura is available by appointment Tuesday through Friday at dsg@uucss.org and (443) 671-2845. Monday is her day off. If something urgent comes up outside normal office hours or over the weekend please text or call her. You can schedule an appointment with Laura at www.calendly.com/uucssdsg

Michael Holmes, Music Director

Michael works Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings, and is available at other times by appointment. Michael can be reached at musicdirector@uucss.org.

Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Minister

Rev. Kristin works Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Mondays is her writing days and Friday is her day off. She is available at minister@uucss.org and 202-780-7164. If you experience a pastoral care emergency outside normal office hours or over the weekend please text or call her. You can schedule an appointment with Rev. Kristin at www.calendly.com/rev-kristin-schmidt

New Staff Appointments

Jeannette Jackson, Office Administrator, administrator@uucss.org.

Jeannette joined the staff team at UUCSS as Office Administrator in March. She brings many years of office management and communications experience to her work with our congregation along with a deep commitment to freedom and equality.

Philip Browne, Tech Support.

Philip provides tech support to UUCSS. He is a native of Columbia, Maryland, and is delighted to be part of our staff. Philip enjoyed a multifaceted career as a professional orchestral musician in the Baltimore-Washington area, served UUCSS formerly as our Communications Administrator, and now works as a software engineer.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

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FIRST CLASS

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Jeannette Jackson

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Philip Browne

Tech Support

Maggie Hayes

Board President

president@uucss.org

Submissions are due by the 17th of the prior month.

Uniters are published monthly September-June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org.

Format guidelines for submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Google Doc (preferred), 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.

Co-editors are **Lynn Cave** and **Caroline Stauss**.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at administrator@uucss.org.

To receive a mailed copy of the **Uniter** for the year, please send **\$24 to UUCSS, Attention: Collector**.