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# February 2019

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## UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING  
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### Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

#### **February 3: *Hope Through Community*** / Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

UUCSS's high school youth group will reflect on emotional wellbeing, with an emphasis on how this congregation provides help and support to those who are suffering. Frank testimony about challenges such as depression will move into the hope offered by community.

#### **February 10: *We Know Within*** Rev. Lyn Cox

Music Residency guest artists **Nana Frimpong** and **Romero Wyatt**, alongside **Rev.**

**Lyn**, will lead this participatory service exploring the deep calling of identity. Drumming, call-and-response, and ritual will provide a path of reflection and community.

#### **February 17: *The Wisdom of Love*** Rev. Lyn Cox

Love is more than sentimentality and greeting cards. Love, in the broader sense, offers lessons such as groundedness, embodiment, and interdependence. This is wisdom that helps us to live out our faith. The essays and poetry of Unitarian Universalist (UU) ancestors such as **Egbert Ethelred Brown** and **Lewis Latimer** show that intellect and love are partners in cultivating wisdom within our faith tradition.

#### **February 24: *This Freedom Commands*** Rev. Lyn Cox

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that strives for freedom, and also a faith that takes seriously the responsibility that comes along with that freedom. As fallible humans comprising a fallible faith movement, we have sometimes lived according to our principles and we have sometimes fallen short. In the case of efforts toward black liberation, civil rights, and dismantling white supremacy, it is useful to examine our UU identity, history, and aspirations with regard to being true to the responsibilities that our freedom commands.

**Nursery care and religious education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service. ASL interpreting is provided during the service. There is one service at 10:30 a.m. followed by coffee hour.**

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# INSPIRE

## Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox

*"Who are **you**?" said the Caterpillar.*

*This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly, "I — I hardly know, sir, just at present — at least I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then."*

*"What do you mean by that?" said the Caterpillar sternly. "Explain yourself!"*

*"I can't explain **myself**, I'm afraid, sir" said Alice, "because I'm not myself, you see."*

*"I don't see," said the Caterpillar.*

*"I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly," Alice replied very politely, "for I can't understand it myself to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing."*

*"It isn't," said the Caterpillar.*

*"Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet," said Alice; "but when you have to turn into a chrysalis—you will some day, you know—and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little queer, won't you?"*

*"Not a bit," said the Caterpillar.*

*"Well, perhaps your feelings may be different," said Alice; "all I know is, it would feel very queer to **me**."*

*"You!" said the Caterpillar contemptuously. "Who are **you**?"*

*Which brought them back again to the beginning of the conversation.*

*-Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, "Advice from a Caterpillar"*



Congregations are often a bit like Alice in this scene. Every day, congregations stretch their ideas about themselves to hold both curiosity and continuity. Finding your path is hard when the world does not appear to make sense. Change can seem to happen quickly within and around a congregation, leading to disorientation when something that was a best practice a few decades ago doesn't seem to be working any more. Just when we think we're ready to enter the beautiful garden, we find that we need to find a different way around, and once we get there, it isn't as peaceful as we expected.

Over the last 65 years, UUCSS has been a small fellowship, a pastoral-size congregation, and a mid-size congregation. Alice is right, it can be confusing to be several different sizes. There is not an inherent value in a congregation being one size or another, but the expectations and the strategic choices will be different for each size. One set of the questions UUCSS might ask itself over the next several years has to do with which aspects of culture and mission are core to the congregation, and which can be released as having served their purpose for a size and an era that no longer fit. Who are you? What are you here to accomplish together?

The threads of mission, culture, governance, healing, and strategy are all tied together. Mapping them out more fully will take time, patience, and a trusting relationship with your next minister. Meanwhile, you are moving toward clarity through your strategic planning process. By the time you read this, we will have just had our World Café-style congregational gathering. The Strategic Planning Team will compile the data from that meeting and compare it with other meeting notes and survey data. A rolling, 3-year strategic plan is a great way to begin living into a shared sense of mission, but without the pressure or finality of a static 5-year plan. It will also give the congregation a framework for ongoing program evaluation, so that you can tailor your shared efforts to the goals you have formed together.

As the Strategic Planning Team and Search Committee do their work, one of the themes I am noticing in congregational feedback is the emphasis you place on accessibility and inclusion. This is a congregation of people who want to honor human dignity in all its forms. You want UUCSS to be a place where people can and do bring their whole selves. This is a congregation that wants to dismantle white supremacy inside and out, to warmly welcome people of every gender identity and sexual orientation, to tear down the barriers keeping people separated according to ability or mobility or language, and to help people to heal and grow out of whatever toxic concepts of identity we've been poisoned by in the larger culture. This impulse toward love and hospitality is one of the endearing things about UUCSS, and it is important to keep it as an aspiration (How can we do this better?) rather than a defensive identity (We're loving and welcoming, so we know we already do this perfectly). May we move ever closer to the values we strive to embody.

## Interim Minister Column continued

February is Black History Month, and so it is an especially good time to study the positive lessons from African American leaders and from black-led historical movements for liberation, and also a good time to remember when our nation and our faith movement have not lived up to the values we espouse. Our identity as UUs cannot rest on the myth that we and our UU ancestors have all been on the “right” side every time, not when it comes to slavery, or reconstruction, or civil rights, or Black Lives Matter. Rather than basing our identity on being the people who are always right, let us become a people who learn, a people who are willing to approach the work of love and justice with humility, a people who strive for right relationship. This may be a different way of understanding ourselves than we are accustomed to. Let us have courage.

As Alice says, we can expect that the process of transformation into the next version of ourselves, individually and collectively, will feel queer. It will if we are lucky. By “queer,” I mean both Lewis Carroll’s definition—that change will be disorienting and uncomfortable and unusual—and our modern definition of the word—that change will open up new frontiers of inclusion and justice for people with marginalized gender identities and sexual orientations. Saying a whole and enthusiastic “yes” to spiritual growth, welcoming, and justice-making will lead us through a process of change that is weird and uncertain and beautiful. Again, have courage. If we are called to grow toward love and liberation and celebration of our interdependence, we will be transformed. May it be so.

The calendar pages turn, we let the old year go, we renew our commitments, and we make a fresh start. Most of us are facing some combination of challenges, those we have taken on voluntarily, those that have come to us through circumstance or systemic inequality, and those that come from our efforts to increase the degree of right relationship in our lives and our world. Living through these challenges, celebrating life through these challenges, is what hope looks like.

Hope can be reduced to sentimentality. If our sense of hope comes from quote-a-day calendars or oblivious positivity, it may be subject to wishful thinking. Hope that waits for an external source to rescue us is similarly flawed. These forms of hope are delicate, and we humans are capable of ignoring facts and minimizing the consequences of our behavior in order to defend this kind of hope. If fragile forms of hope are betrayed, they might transform into cynicism or apathy.

There is another kind of hope, and that’s the hope that’s more like a verb. We “do” hope, we act out hope, when we work together with others toward a concept of wholeness. When we do our best to repair systems or relationships, when we participate in healing, when we begin recovery from something, our actions are hope. When we join with others to infuse more love into our community or our government, even if we don’t have an assurance of the outcome, we are doing hope.

**Rev. Dr. William Barber**, known for his co-leadership of the Poor People’s Campaign with **Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris**, has spoken about hope as a verb. He writes:

"When I was growing up in eastern North Carolina, I used to love to sit in my grandmama's kitchen and listen to her sing as she made dinner. Whenever she was done cooking, she'd give me a plate to eat. Then she and some of the other sisters from the church would make up some to-go plates and, with their aprons still on, they'd head out the door to visit the sick and shut-in. 'We going to hope somebody,' Grandmama would say."

At UUCSS, I observe people doing hope in a variety of ways. People check in with each other, bring casseroles, send thoughtful emails. People make coffee, greet those arriving for worship, bring patience and compassion to Religious Education. People advocate, agitate, and allocate energy toward justice. I worry that sometimes we minimize the value of our hope in action. Not everyone sees themselves as a social justice reformer, yet the compassion they put into the world matters. Not everyone is called to share musical gifts, yet their time and talent still sustain the congregation.

Manifesting the power of love in the world, leveraging and increasing the power of love, staying connected with the Source of Love: all of these make a difference. We need to team up so that different aspects of doing hope are covered. Social justice reformers need a congregation where they can find renewal and theological tools to continue their work. Families need a congregation where their beauty is celebrated and their caring is shared. Artists need a congregation so that their sense of beauty can find an outlet that connects with meaning and purpose.

UUCSS is giving some thought to your collective hopes. Who and what do you want to be as a people? How do you, as a community, want to channel love into visible, tangible forms? There are many choices, and many ways for people to add their time and talent to that shared direction. UUCSS has the power to lift people out of despair, to bring the good news of acceptance and inherent human dignity to people who have been lied to and told otherwise. UUCSS can do its part to bend the arc toward justice and create sacred space. How do you want to do hope?

# INSPIRE

## Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



January has come with our first snowstorm that cancelled Sunday services. Thanks to everyone who cleaned our church grounds after work and made our walkways safe again. The snow did not interrupt Quiet Day. Quiet Day has become a tradition at UUCSS to wind down and refocus after the rush of the holidays. It's an opportunity to connect with others in a quieter, less hurried manner. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to be part of upcoming adult programs.

UUCSS members also met to discuss *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. This book is the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) common read, and it is a slim volume with less than 200 pages. It is, however, not a quick read. Each subject is discussed and then followed by questions and resources to explore the subject in more depth. A great deal of that exploration is of

ourselves. If you have not yet read it, I recommend it. I'd be willing to loan my copy to anyone that doesn't dogear pages.

The Board has had our own common read. Over the last few months we've read and discussed at length "Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership" by **Dan Hotchkiss**. Our goals were to understand how different governance models work, figure out what governance model UUCSS uses, improve the functioning of the Board, improve communication and member involvement, and improve policy.

UUCSS' governance model appears to be in transition, with elements of both small and medium-sized churches. The Board is charged with policy and oversight like a medium-sized church, but also makes many day-to-day decisions. While the majority of our committees report to either the Board, the Program Council, or the Operations Council, there are still a number of important committees that have no clear connection to a council or the Board. There are also committees that are defined in our constitution or policies that do not exist and in some cases have not existed for many years. This creates considerable confusion over who is responsible for making decisions and empowered to see that they are implemented. This became abundantly clear when the Search Committee needed to provide an organization chart as part of the information for the candidates. How decisions are made and carried out is not always adequately defined in policy or procedures.

Much of what we do on an ongoing basis is effectively OJT (on the job training). Members learn how to be part of a committee by joining the committee and doing the work. Chairs learn by doing. This is a model that is functional for a small church. It becomes less workable as there are more newer members who can't readily see where they fit into the existing structure. There has been significant work to shine a light on how committees work in UUCSS. The *Program Council Handbook* has a wealth of information on how to hold meetings and plan events at UUCSS. There is still work to be done.

After the strategic plan is completed and after we have our new minister, it will be time to start asking the questions to determine what is the best governance model for UUCSS and how should we get there. Until we answer those questions and define clear lines of authority and responsibility, we are unlikely to create those conditions that can foster our growth.

In the upcoming Board meeting, we will be approving the proposed budget for the annual budget drive (ABD) and gathering information to pass on to the ABD team, as well as discussing policy concerning conflict of interest and procurement.

Yours in love, Tamara Bowman

## UUCSS History: Calling James Bank by Jo Paoletti

The 10 years of **Paul Johnson's** ministry were a period of significant growth in membership, straining the capacity of our existing buildings. A capital campaign was launched to raise funds for a new sanctuary, and the planning process seemed to be moving along smoothly. Then, out of the blue, in May 1991, Paul Johnson resigned. He was very open about his reasons and how it had happened, stating in the *Uniter*, "I have not been in the ministerial search process. The Princeton Church searched me out." Though not actively seeking to leave, he became persuaded that this was a good move for his family and good timing for UUCSS.

A Search Committee was quickly formed and started meeting in June: **Maud Clarke** (chair), **Rob Dahlstrom** (liaison to the interim search committee), **Sally Boeckel**, **Becky Hedin**, **William Hartung**, **Kip Newland**, and **Nancy Shapiro**. The Interim Search Committee went right to work, and within 2 months announced the selection of **Andrea Greenwood**, a birthright UU originally from Massachusetts. (She had once been a lifeguard at Walden Pond!)

## INSPIRE (continued)

### UUCSS History (continued)

The search process in 1991 was quite similar to the one in which we are now engaged, but without the internet and electronic documents. A congregational profile was compiled and sent to the UUA in November, and the next month the Search Committee received 14 applications. Four were eventually invited to precandidate, under the usual “radio silence.” In the February 4 *Uniter*, committee secretary Becky Hedin published a light note about the process.

#### MINISTERIAL SELECTION PROCESS MOVES AHEAD

The Search Committee met at my house one evening last week. Alan and Doug were banished from the meeting area so the committee would have the privacy it needed. When the meeting ended about 11:15, Alan wanted to know what we were really doing because he had heard so much laughter. Between chuckles we were putting the finishing touches on our questions for precandidates and reviewing the details of the schedules for the upcoming interview weekends. I am amazed that the seven members on the Search Committee have met at least weekly since June and every member of the committee has completed “homework” between meetings. Committee members have only missed meetings when they have been out of town. We’ve worked hard, yet we all treasure the experience of serving on this demanding committee. We truly appreciate the support of our families and church friends. We are now ready to meet our precandidating ministers.

Becky

The committee had hoped to schedule candidating week for the end of April, but—ominously—all the ministers they were considering had prior commitments for the dates the committee suggested. This most likely meant that the ministers had penciled in possible candidating weeks elsewhere and would be coming to UUCSS second. (This is sort of what happened, in our favor, when we called **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**. She visited with us first, and then cancelled on another church at the precandidating stage, agreeing to be our candidate.)

The Search Committee invited a minister to be our candidate during the later week, but “were unable to compete with an offer from another church.” Feedback the committee received from several of the precandidates revealed some of the issues, including some beyond our control, such as the cost of housing and opportunities for spousal employment in the area.

But there was also the perception on the part of some of the ministers that we had not completely worked through Paul’s departure, and were looking for “another Paul Johnson.” The committee decided to keep the search open and review more packets. They also decided to maintain the same committee, with one member resigning (Kip Newland) and not being replaced.

Andrea Greenwood candidated and accepted a call at another church in early May, and an Interim Search Committee was formed and quickly identified **Fern Stanley** as our interim minister for 1992–1993. During the fall, the Search Committee engaged in an accelerated process that resulted in inviting **Jim Bank**, the minister at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, to candidate with us in late January 1993. He was called by the congregation with a near-unanimous vote.

During Jim Bank’s tenure, and under his leadership, we completed the Welcoming Congregation process, attempted (unsuccessfully) to offer regular American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, and became more theologically diverse, holding our first Seders and incorporating more earth-based rituals. Yet, for a variety of reasons, membership faltered, and then shrank. As happened in the 1970s, the financial burden of the new building resulted in serious budget problems. For this series, I am focusing on the search process, not the “success” or “failure” of a particular ministry. As we move through the search process this spring, it may help to remember the advice of Rev. Andrea Greenwood, who was herself in search as she guided us along the way:

Despite how it feels at times, the process makes sense. Trust me. Better yet, trust the search committee.

Andrea

### Update From the Search Committee

Shhh... the Search Committee has gone quiet. However, rest assured, we’re not asleep at the wheel. We’ve been working steadily behind the scenes. We’ve reviewed ministerial candidate packets and references, developed interview questions, tested out those questions in a dry run with **Rev. Lyn**, and completed a first round of video conference interviews with interested candidates. At this writing, we are in the process of identifying the “pre-candidates” whom we will invite for in-person interviews and provide with an opportunity to lead a worship service at a “neutral pulpit.” We are honored to be in a position to have these interactions with ministerial applicants and to represent you, our UUCSS sisters and brothers, in this critical role.

## INSPIRE (continued)

### Search Committee (continued)

In early January, we shared with you the synthesized themes from the cottage meetings and the congregational survey. Before the end of January, you will also have received access to the congregational record, the extensive online document that all congregations in search submit, providing a comprehensive overview of our congregation and our hopes for the future. We hope you've enjoyed seeing yourselves and our beloved community reflected in these documents.

Thank you for your patience during this extended quiet phase of the Search Committee process and the confidentiality required. We will continue to keep you apprised of our process as best we can. Be sure to keep the weeks of **April 28–May 5** and **May 5–12** marked in your calendar. We expect one of those 2 weeks will be our **candidating week** when the congregation and our ministerial candidate will have the opportunity to get to know one another. A timeline of the search process is posted on the Search Committee bulletin board in the sanctuary foyer, as well as a few other locations in the church. It is also available online at:

[https://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/UUCSS\\_Search\\_Timeline.pdf](https://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/UUCSS_Search_Timeline.pdf)

Any questions? Contact: [search@uucss.org](mailto:search@uucss.org)

Yours, in search,

**Alice-Ann Beachy, Carol Hamilton, Janne Harrelson, Maggie Hayes, Carl Miller, Susannah Numa, and Colin Riggs**

## LEARN

### Message From Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

#### UU and Who Are You

This month we explore the complex theme of Identity in our worship services. Our identities are complicated vessels, made up of our family of origin, our relationships, our gender, our sexuality, our relationships, our ethnicity, and our faith; these serve as just some of the facets of the diamond that is who we are. Like all things in life, our identity is often mutable, changing as we grow or other factors come into our lives— whether that be a new relationship, a change in job, or a move. We cannot delve into everything that makes us who we are this month (there are not enough Sundays in the year to cover that topic!), but we hope to give you some food for thought as you consider: “who am I and what does that mean for my faith as a UU?”

YRUU is kicking off the month with their annual service on February 3, which focuses on mental health. Their service, filled with music and connection, promises to be unique and fulfilling. You just may leave with a song stuck in your head and a little more levity in your step to get through the final dreags of winter. This service also kicks off the YRUU's fundraising campaign for their Boston 2020 trip.

For years, according to stories that include the **Riggs boys, Maria Paoletti, Paul lobst, and Anna Molpus**, the high school youth have traveled to Boston and deepened their identities as UUs. Since the last Boston trip in 2016, the former fundraising mainstay of selling chalice jewelry has ceased, since the jeweler has gone out of business. While we still have chalice jewelry for sale (check the bookstore), the YRUU now is exploring other pathways to ensuring that every youth who wants to gets to go to Boston in 2020. The youth have set up a Faithify (a UU crowdfunding platform), will host a tea party in February, and will hold t-shirt and bake sales.

This is more than a trip for the youth but is a pilgrimage to one of our faith's holy cities. Going to Boston means not only walking down the same streets as Channing and Emerson did but as the generations of other UUCSS youth have. It means not only visiting the UUA HQ but also the many Boston churches that served as seedbearers for the faith as it headed west centuries ago. It means not only eating the New England staple of Dunkin Donuts but eating in the houses of UU intentional communities like the Lucy Stone Cooperative (I promise—the youth will eat much more than just donuts!). It means having the opportunity to meet fellow young people practicing Unitarian Universalism and deepening their understanding of what it means to be UU. It reminds them they have a home in the UU faith no matter where life takes them after high school.

I hope you will give generously to the YRUU for this trip. If you have a Boston story (whether you were a UUCSS youth or not), I'd love to hear it.

Take care, Catherine

# LEARN (continued)

## Message From DRE continued Mini-Courses

Come one, come all! Mini-courses are just around the corner. If you have an interest or passion and would like to lead a mini-course (from 1–3 weeks long) in May for the children and youth of UUCSS, contact Catherine at [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org)

Past courses have included dinosaurs, public speaking, photography, crafts, science experiments, and more.

**OWL Training:** Would you like to be trained to teach Middle School OWL? This vital program is a core ministry of our church. There is a facilitator training for Middle School OWL in Auburndale, MA, from Friday, May 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m. EDT to Sunday, May 5, 2019, 3:00 p.m. EDT. UUCSS pays for the cost of training, travel and lodging. If you are interested, email Catherine at [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org).

### YRUU Boston Tea Party Fundraiser on February 24th, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

You are cordially invited to an afternoon of pomp, circumstance, and fancy dress in the Sanctuary.

Join the YRUU for scones, biscuits, and a nice cuppa.

All proceeds go to fundraising for the YRUU Boston Trip in 2020.

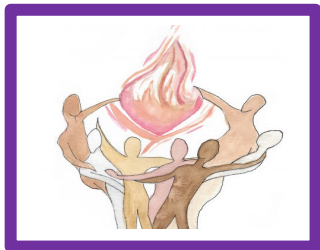
## UUCSS 2019 Music Residency: West African Drumming Workshop and Concert!

Our 2019 Music Residency has a World Beat! Join us Saturday, March 9, in the afternoon for a West African Drumming Workshop with **Nana Frimpong** and **Romero Wyatt**. They will teach drumming skills, African history and story, African instruments, and meditations for healing the mind and body through drumming. Students will be guided in a coordinated drum circle and learn the skills to drum well and have fun while doing it. Then join us that evening for a West African concert featuring the percussive and spiritual music of Kantinka, who will be joined by members of the UUCSS Music Program!



Nana Frimpong was introduced to the colorful traditional ceremonies of the Ashanti people in his native Ghana at an early age. By the time Nana was 10 years old, he had become a fixture in the folklore group of the palace of his home town in Effiduase, Ghana, where his grandfather, the late **Nana Frimpong Mposo**, was a revered traditional ruler. He is the founder of the West African Group Kantinka. Nana has performed in a variety of venues throughout the Washington, DC, area, including the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, and a number of outdoor concerts celebrating the rich history of West African music. Romero Wyatt, a professional percussionist/producer/recording engineer/singer, and owner of Drumtalk39 Entertainment LLC and Trusounds Recording Studio, has performed with numerous groups throughout the DC area, including with Bassist **Cheikh Ndoye** at Blues Alley and with Kantinka.

## CONNECT



### Sunday, February 10, 2019 UUCSS 101 for UUCSS Visitors

If you are a visitor who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCSS in particular or about the process for becoming a member, please join us at our monthly UUCSS 101 for an informal gathering with folks from the Membership Committee. We meet following the service in the Triangle Room, which is adjacent to the Community Hall where coffee hour is underway. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and bring your questions. We look forward to seeing you!

### Mark Your Calendars! Save the Date!

The FELLOWSHIP DINNER is **Saturday April 27, 2019**. This annual potluck style dinner event is one of UUCSS's best and is a great way to celebrate being together. Details coming soon!

## CONNECT (continued)



We are looking for a few good people to support the church with their skills in bookkeeping and budgeting. The Board of Trustees will need a new Finance Chair in June, and there are several other volunteer positions that require confidentiality and comfort with budgets and finances. All volunteers are part of the church finance team (which includes a bookkeeping contractor), so you won't be on your own.

You can let us know of your interest, or nominate someone by talking with one of us, emailing us at the address below, or by completing this online form: <https://bit.ly/2FRGJ0d>.

(Not a numbers person? There are many other opportunities to be of service. The Nominating Committee will try to help everyone who's interested to find work that fulfills them and helps create a beloved community here at UUCSS.)

**UUCSS Nominating Committee:** Cynthia Curry-Daniel (Chair), Robin Moore Lasky, George Meekins, Phyllis Ryder

Group email: [nominating@uucss.org](mailto:nominating@uucss.org).

## UUCSS Music Program Presents

God: The One-Man Show!

Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the  
UUCSS Sanctuary



In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light," but first!... join His Greatness, moments before The Big Bang, and he'll perform miracles for your entertainment. Get ready to be created!

Presented by **Rich Potter**, "God: The One-Man Show" is a comedic hurricane that leaves audiences pondering the mysteries of the universe between laughs." DC Metro Theater Arts

Tickets: \$25 General Admission \$20 Student/Senior For tickets visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yausi7na> or the UUCSS webpage

### Welcome to New Members of the Lay Ministry Team!

The Lay Ministry Team is proud and happy to introduce three new lay ministers. **Natasha Barden, Jiwon Kim,** and **Jim Paoletti** join **Charlene Davis, Marcia Joiner, Beverly Schnetzler,** and **Gretchen Wiederrecht** as members of the Lay Ministry Team.

The new lay ministers will begin meeting with the team in February and will be ready to serve after a training on February 23. All the lay ministers, new and continuing, will be honored at a commissioning ceremony during the worship service on April 14.

The Lay Ministry Team offers peer listening to help UUCSS members to know they are not alone in times of change.

The Lay Ministry Program at UUCSS offers person-to-person pastoral care to all adult members of the church community. Lay ministers will listen to your fears and concerns. Members call on lay ministers when they are facing a wide range of difficult situations and transitions such as illness, divorce, caring for aging parents or troubled children, substance abuse, or the death of a loved one. All contacts and conversations are held in confidence by the Lay Ministry Team and the Interim Minister, unless someone is in imminent danger of harm.



## CONNECT (continued)

### Lay Ministry Team (continued)

Please note that lay pastoral care, in which members of the congregation support one another, is not the same as pastoral counseling, which is a specific skill offered by qualified professionals. Lay ministers are not professional counselors, but rather a small group of members who have been trained by and work with the minister to provide compassionate care.

To reach a lay minister, contact the **Rev. Lyn Cox** at RevLynCox@gmail.com or 240-847-4003. You may also email the Lay Ministry Team directly at layministers@uucss.org. We want to help, and sometimes just talking to someone can lighten the load.

If you announced a joy or sorrow during a service and want to let the community know how it was resolved, the Lay Ministry Team will include it in our new *Continuing Stories* column.

### The Wake Now Our Vision (WNOV) Collaborative Campaign Legacy Challenge Concludes Early with Tremendous Success.

As you may recall, UUCSS Board President **Tamara Bowman** announced in the Nov. 2018 *Unitarian* that the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY, had made \$4.5 million available to UU congregations and organizations as matching funds (at 10 percent of the legacy gift amount, up to \$10,000) if church members would promise to leave assets to their churches or UU organizations in their wills. This means if one promised to leave say \$100,000 to UUCSS in his/her will, the church would receive matching funds of \$10,000 immediately. The intended campaign period extended through the end of 2020; however, the full \$4.5 million dollars in matching funds was allocated by the end of August 2018. The Challenge generated more than \$92 million dollars in new legacy gift intentions across Unitarian Universalism.

According to the UUA's Legacy Gifts Office, "a collaborative Legacy Challenge of this scope has never been attempted before in the world of philanthropy. We Unitarian Universalists have been breaking new ground, and there are many nonprofits watching us and hoping to learn from our example."

We have been informed that legacy gift intentions to UUCSS generated \$4,000 in matching funds. One donating family, **Anne and Tom Thorward** (long-time members now living in California), gave permission to share their name and also introduced us to the challenge so we could encourage others to participate. Others may also have participated without choosing to share their names.

Since we learned of and promoted the challenge near the time it ended up reaching full allocation, some submissions naming UUCSS may have been received after that. The Challenge is keeping all submissions on file. Should any earlier submissions be removed, the next submission will move up in line.

The UUA Legacy Office offers information on legacy giving online. For more information, visit [www.uualegacy.org](http://www.uualegacy.org).

#### Donate to UUCSS From Your IRA

Church contributions can help you save on income taxes, even if you do not itemize deductions. If you have an IRA and have reached the age when you must take Required Minimum Distributions, you can legally avoid taxes on that money by having it sent directly to a charitable organization. For more details, contact your tax advisor. Visit this site for more information: <http://plannedgiving.uua.org/ira-charitable-rollover>.

#### Volunteer of the Month

**CATHERINE BUCKLER**

Catherine attended the UU Congregation of Rockville as a young child. From then on, she considered herself a UU but did not have a church. When her daughter **Sophia** was born, she and husband **Bob Geiger** had heard good things about UUCSS and it was nearby, so they came to visit while church-shopping. Catherine felt UUCSS had a good spirit about it, so there was not much more shopping. Catherine jumped right in by attending the congregational meeting to write a member-to-member covenant and then joined the covenant writing team.

## CONNECT (continued)

### Volunteer of the Month (continued)

Since then, Catherine has been involved in many things—she chaired the ABD for a year, served as Program Council co-vice-president for a year, sings in the choir, and, with **Brian Livelsberger**, she developed the current Coming-of-Age curriculum and co-led the Coming-of-Age classes for 7 years, until it was her daughter's turn to join Coming of Age. But the work that draws Catherine most deeply is exploring how we as members of UUCSS relate to one another. To that end, she served on the Right Relations team and was on the group leading the development of the first and second strategic plans, one year chairing the group. She served on the Diversity Team and co-taught the Building the World We Dream About class. She has attended the Revolutionary Love Conference twice. Currently she is a member of the Racial Justice Taskforce and frequently represents the Taskforce at Program Council meetings.

Catherine is compelled by her own deep values to work on exploring and deepening the member-to-member connection. She feels that volunteering for this work allows her to help people become spiritually grounded. At UUCSS she has been most able to be the most fully herself. She finds there are not many places where you can openly express your spiritual self and have all parts of yourself be present. Catherine hopes that we can offer this possibility to the people who come to UUCSS in search of a spiritual home.

### Charity of the Month: Orphanages of Child Haven International

#### Special Collection at February 17th Church Service

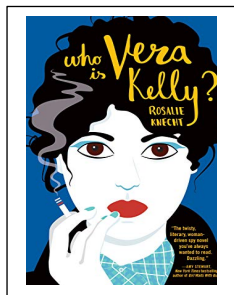
Child Haven International was founded and is directed by **Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino**. (Fred was the second minister of UUCSS.) Bonnie, (in her 80s) still spends a good part of the year working in the orphanages she established.

“We try not to Westernize the children, but rather attempt to raise them according to the highest ideals of their own cultures. We respect the heritage of each child, whether Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, secular or other. Girls and boys are treated equally, and without regard to race, caste, color, religion, or culture.” Living is simple and meals are vegetarian. Child Haven has nine homes. Six are in India, one in Nepal, one in Tibet in China, and one in Bangladesh. Their homes accept children who are disabled, parentless, or from socially disadvantaged situations, and who are destitute, i.e., do not receive even one good meal a day. Child Haven International is a registered charity founded in 1985. It assists children and women in developing countries who need food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, and emotional and moral support. Make your check out to UUCSS with Child Haven International in the memo line. If you can't make it to church on February 17th or if you are on vacation, send your check to the collector at UUCSS.



### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The 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.



Our selection for our meeting on February 25 is *Who Is Vera Kelly?* By Rosalie Knecht.

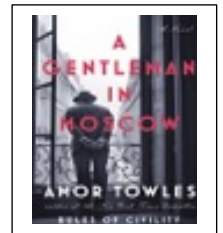
Please contact [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com) for additional details.

### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles, described by many as “delightful,” “brimming with humor,” and “a salve” for our “disordered world.” We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 3, at the home of

**Richard Lorr**, 302 Windsor Street, Silver Spring, MD.

We are now reading *Educated* by Tara Westover, described as an “astounding memoir” by the *New Yorker* and as one of the 10 best books published in 2018 by *The New York Times*. We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 24, at the home of **Jerry Herbers**, 1215 Highland Drive, [Silver Spring, MD](http://SilverSpring.MD). If you are interested in joining the group, contact Richard ([rlo4@gmail.com](mailto:rlo4@gmail.com)), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!



## CONNECT (continued)

### EVENTS IN BRIEF

**FEBRUARY 2, 2:30–4:30 p.m.** UUSJ discussion of immigration priorities till 2020, River Road UU Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD.

**FEBRUARY 2, 7:00 p.m.** A Musical Presentation on Race in America, Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, 9350 Main Street, Manassas, VA. For more information, go to [www.deeperthantheskin.com](http://www.deeperthantheskin.com).

**FEBRUARY 3, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**FEBRUARY 10, 12:00 noon.** UUCSS 101 for UUCSS visitors, Triangle Room.

**FEBRUARY 17, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**FEBRUARY 24, 12:00 noon–3:00 pm.** YRUU Boston Tea Party Event Fund-Raiser, Sanctuary.

**MARCH 3, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**MARCH 9, time TBD.** West African Drumming Workshop with Nana Frimpong and Romero Wyatt, Sanctuary.

**MARCH 17, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**MARCH 22–24,** UUCSS Women's Retreat, Buckeystown, MD. Registration information is coming.

**MARCH 23, 7:00 p.m.** "God: The One-Man Show," Sanctuary.

**APRIL 14, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**APRIL 27,** Fellowship Dinner, Sanctuary.

**APRIL 28, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m.** Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**APRIL 28–MAY 5, 2019.** Candidating Week—Final ministerial candidate preaches at the worship service on April 28, meets with congregants and staff throughout the week, and preaches again on May 5. Congregational meeting on May 5, vote on the motion to call the candidate. (Hold May 5–12 as backup.)

#### Administrative Update

Because of the changes in Volunteer availability, weekly Order-of-Service (OOS) information and all announcements are now due at the Administrative Office **by 9 a.m. on Tuesdays.**

If you are interested in becoming part of the OOS Production Team (the OOSPT), please contact me at [administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org).

Thank you!

**Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator**



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring**  
10309 New Hampshire Avenue  
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FIRST CLASS

**Rev. Lyn Cox**  
Interim Minister  
[interiminister@uucss.org](mailto:interiminister@uucss.org)

**Catherine Boyle**  
Religious Education Director  
[dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org)

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Music Director  
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**Melinda Yalom**  
Church Administrator  
[administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org)

**Tamara Bowman**  
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.

The newsletter is published September–June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Co-editors are **Jane Larrick** and **Stephanie McConachie**.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at [administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org).

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

**Church office hours**  
**Monday: 1–4 p.m.**  
**Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**  
**Church website: [www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)**