
November 2017

Uniter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903
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www.uucss.org



Sunday Worship Services

November 5—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Blessed Are They That Mourn Rev. Evan Keely

We understand that loss and grief are painful. Can they also be a blessing?

Daylight Savings Time ends today; set clocks back an hour.

November 12—9:30 & 11:30 AM

The Growing Church Rev. Evan Keely

Churches talk a lot about growth, but there are many ways for us to grow.

November 19—9:30 & 11:30 AM Multigenerational Service

Defending Democracy: Bob Geiger & Catherine Boyle

"...Living out Unitarian Universalism's fifth principle in the age of Trump."

November 26—9:30 & 11:30 AM

Happy Families Are All Alike Rev. Evan Keely

The holiday season is a time for many of us to be with our families, and all the joy and the heartache (often both) that that may entail. But family dynamics can also be a lesson for us in how human organizations work—and don't.

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Nursery Care and Religious Education for children through grade 12 are offered during worship services.
ASL interpreting is offered during the 9:30 service.

Message from Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister



All across our country, when we think of November, we think of Thanksgiving Day, and for millions of Americans, that means getting together with family. What we often rediscover annually at the Thanksgiving table is that our relationships with our families can be very complicated. It's human nature to feel intense love, loyalty, and connection to family members, and there can be immense joy in those bonds. At the same time, family relationships can also be fraught with frustration, disappointment, and pain. Probably every one of us could tell personal stories about love, loyalty, frustration, pain, and a lot of other emotions around the Thanksgiving table. Even those who don't get together

with family on the fourth Thursday in November have their stories to tell about their families and why they're not with them: perhaps stories of disappointment at being too far away or not being able to forsake some other commitment (think of our military personnel overseas, for instance), or stories of loss for those whose family members are no longer living, or stories of hurt from those who don't want to be with their families.

In many ways, congregational life is like that too. In church, we are bound together by love, and by intense feelings of loyalty to shared values. And in church as in our families, we are confronted over and over again with our humanness—our own, and that of those we love—and the ways in which that is such a beautiful blessing as well as a source of frustration, disappointment, and pain.

I've really enjoyed getting to know people at UUCSS and hearing people's stories—stories of love and loyalty, stories of communal commitment to deeply held values, and yes, some stories of disappointment and hurt. No congregation is without these things. UUCSS, like all congregations, is a humans-only club, with all the beauty and all the brokenness of what that entails. What we need to come to terms with in all our human connections—family, church, country, and all our relationships—is the truth about ourselves and those around us: the love that binds us, the values to which we are loyal, and the hope that we can learn from the inevitable disappointments we experience and move forward together in enduring connection.

Letter from the Board President

On October 14, UUCSS hosted a workshop on Being a Strategic Board, offered by the Rev. David Pyle, who is on the staff of the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was a really energizing and exciting workshop that offered a number of ideas on how the Board can maintain more of our focus on strategic planning, discernment of our shared vision for what we want to do in the world as a church community, and what that shared vision calls us to do. I and 4 other members of the Board were able to attend, along with about 25 other Board members from UU churches from across the region. We walked away from a full-day workshop on a Saturday feeling uplifted and with interesting ideas to explore!



We also took an important step forward in October in our work to improve and care for our structures and grounds. After significant review and some negotiation and discussion, we have entered a contract to begin the capital improvement work with Keller Construction Management, which is the contractor recommended by the Dream Builders, based on their review of the responses to their request for proposals.

The work contemplated under the contract is divided into two phases. The first phase is to replace the heating and cooling system in the Sanctuary, repair the leaks in the Sanctuary roof, and address some other emergent issues with our buildings. The scope of work for the second phase is somewhat more open-ended—making repairs and improvements to the Community Hall. Keller will be assisting us in determining the cost of various options identified as part of our Dream Building process to assist us in a discernment process of deciding on the best uses of the funds we raised as part of the capital campaign. As Jim Paoletti, the Chairperson of the Dream Builders, said in his article last month, the Dream Builders will be seeking input from the congregation in determining the work to be included in the second phase.

In faith, John Henderson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Maybe you have already seen them, the harbingers of Black Friday?

SAVE 50%.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME DEAL!

BUY TWO GET ONE FREE!

They're not just in our spheres but also in the world of our children and youth. As we draw closer and closer to the winter holidays, merchants and marketers encourage us to spend money to show our love for one another with huge sales. Right after Thanksgiving (sometimes on the day itself), shops open their doors and beg us to open our wallets. It is no wonder, then, that at this time of year people all over this country get anxious. Spiritually, we enter into winter, a time of rest and renewal for ourselves and our relationships for the year to come, while societally we are sent into a frenzy of buying.

Take your family's mind off the material must-haves and back into the sacredness of this time of year with gratitude rituals.

Gratitude centers our minds on what we have and cherish. Gratitude is re-engagement with the goodness in your own life by recognizing it. Gratitude also connects us to others that make and shape our lives.

Some suggestions:

- a) Try to have a meal together as a family at least once a week. At that time, go around the table and name three things you are grateful for. Ask questions and find out why these things are wonderful for the people you love.
 - b) On your own at the end of the day, write a gratitude list. What are three things that you are grateful for?
 - c) Make it a point to say thank you to people, whether that is the barista at the coffee shop who makes the best mochas for you or the postman or the cashier at the grocery store.
- Gratitude spreads joy.

With thankfulness, Catherine

Upcoming RE Dates

November 5th RE Classes

Christmas Eve Pageant
tryouts:

Come take part in the
most magical service at
UUCSS! Parts for all, big
and small.

November 12th RE classes

November 19th Multi-
generational service (No RE
classes)

November 26th Chalice Chapel
(No RE classes)



REPORTS

THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN

At the October 15 service, our DRE Catherine Boyle shared Rev. David Hicks MacPherson's recollections of our congregation's first worship service. It was held in a classroom at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, and at the end of the service everyone in attendance signed the membership book—all 13 of them. The "founders" included Rev. Dave, his wife Dottie, and 11 others: Lee and Louise Conant, Maxwell and Alice Louise Miller, Joseph and Margaret FitzPatrick, Albert and Margaret Dewis, Gerald and Coral Pollock, and Eugene Miller (son of Maxwell and Alice Louise).

The next time you are in the sanctuary, look at the quilts. You'll find the Conants, Millers, and Dewises there. In that first year, Lee and Louise Conant served in six volunteer positions: co-treasurer, Adult RE representative to the RE committee, and co-treasurer (Lee), chair of the church decorations committee (Louise), and both taught RE. Lee had run away from home and joined the Marines as a teenager in the 1930s and served in Central America during the "Banana Wars" that supported the interests of American fruit companies.

The Miller Room in the main building was named in honor of Maxwell and Alice Louise. Some old-timers still refer to it as the "new Miller Room"; the "old Miller Room," dedicated in 1980, is in the basement of the Community Hall. Max Miller not only drove to Boston and back in a day to deliver the check that bought the property, but also chaired the steering committee, taught RE, and represented the RE teachers at the RE committee. Alice Louise was the ubiquitous volunteer—no committee meetings or leadership positions, but she shows up again and again in photos and volunteer lists.

Al Dewis was the property chair and also on the planning committee that eventually led to the building of the first sanctuary (now the Community Hall); his wife Peggy taught RE and was vice president of our chapter of Universalist Women. I have posted the complete 1952–53 list between the doors in the Community Hall. If you have information and memories about our "pioneers," please let me know. Jo Paoletti



Adult RE class, February 1953 (l to r: Max Miller, Alice Louise Miller, Marian Golian, Al Dewis, Bill Perry, Margaret FitzPatrick, Joe FitzPatrick.)

Next month: Our CIA Connection!

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

UUCSS has a history: 65 years of dreams, successes and failures, comedy and tragedy. And it has an "archive": a closet full of old newsletters, reports, and clippings—not to mention hundreds of photos, most of them unlabeled. It's an "archive," but not a real archive—an organized, accessible collection we can use to research and tell our history. I will be mining the collection to tell a few stories during this anniversary year, but also hope to turn the "archive" into an Archive. In the months and years to come. But not alone! I need help—people to scan photos, to identify the people and events in them, to organize and label sub-collections, and eventually to catalog everything and create a user guide. Interested? Jo Paoletti jo.paoletti@gmail.com, or catch me at coffee hour.

Green Sanctuary Committee

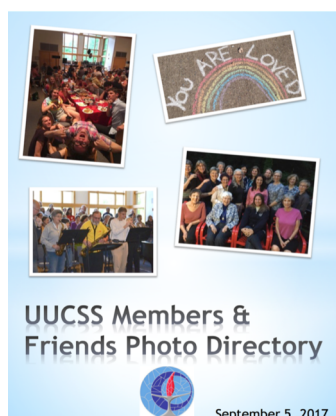


Only one quarter of Unitarian-Universalist churches have achieved Green Sanctuary accreditation—and UUCSS is one of them! Our Green Sanctuary Committee works to implement our congregation's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental justice through a variety of projects.

Goals for this year include:

- ❖ “Greening” events at the church through policies and classes, policing our own recycling bins, collecting hard-to-recycle items such as Styrofoam, advocating environmentally sound decisions by the Dream Builders, organizing the Earth Day service in April, and telling members and friends about the benefits of being a vegan or vegetarian.
- ❖ In the larger community, supporting legislative proposals such as the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative; working with the UU Social Justice climate group; and coordinating with UU-UNO on a project sponsored by the UN Foundation and others, to set up a U.S. fund to channel private donations to the UN Green Climate Fund. We'd love to have your help on these and other initiatives (suggestions welcome). Contact greensanctuary@uucss.org if you'd like to join the committee (which meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm), or if you're willing to work on a particular project without joining.

From the Membership Committee, A New Photo Directory



The Membership Committee will soon produce hard copies of the UUCSS Photo Directory, which will be available in exchange for donations to cover the cost of printing.

While we will accept photos at any time for the ever-evolving electronic version, we will be able to include photos submitted by November 5 for the printed copy. Send your pictures to photos@uucss.org, along with an identification of the people portrayed.

The Committee expresses our deep gratitude to Carl Miller and Andrea Tanner for their technical know-how, creativity, and hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

November Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to Charles Alexander, November's Volunteer of the Month. Check out the weekly order of service or all-church email to learn about Charles' involvement in and service to UUCSS.

Inreach for New Members

Are you new to the Church and wanting to get acquainted with other UUCSSers in a small group setting? If so, the Daytime Inreach Group has a few openings. If you're free on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, you might give us a try. Contact Bev McGaughy, coordinator, for details (phone: 301-565-0895 or email: bnbmcsaughy@verizon.net).

UPDATES

Racial Justice Task Force

Did you know UUCSS has a racial justice listserve? With so much going on in the world, it can be hard to keep up. This listserve is maintained by the UUCSS Racial Justice Task Force and provides notices of upcoming events, articles, and websites that may be of interest. As we strive to live our principles in a complex world, it is important to have support from others. This is another function that the listserve can provide. To join, or for more information, contact Eli Briggs at elibriggs2@gmail.com.

Disaster Assistance: Brian Beard has recently been hired by the Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Disaster Assistance, as a Public Affairs Specialist. After a 3-day training in Atlanta during the last week of October, Brian will be deployed to a hurricane-affected area and will liaise with local officials, news outlets, church groups, and community organizations to spread the word about low-interest loans available from the SBA for rebuilding homes and businesses damaged or destroyed by the recent hurricanes. His temporary appointment will last up to 6 months, and he will likely be deployed to Florida to begin with, and then possibly move on to Puerto Rico. Brian has promised to keep us posted on his activities.



Program Committees

We intend to continue describing the work of our program committees in this and subsequent issues of the *Unitier*. In the meantime, this list of the committees and contact information may inspire you to find out more about one that interests you. Many of our committees need active members; UUCSS needs U!

Adult RE: OPEN

Administrative Office: Rob Dahlstrom rkdahlstrom@gmail.com

Audio: Rob Dahlstrom rkdahlstrom@gmail.com

Childcare (no chair): Andrea Waters, contact coritakate@gmail.com

Deaf Access: Angela Conant uucssangela@icloud.net

Dream Builders: Jim Paoletti jim.paoletti@gmail.com

Green Sanctuary: Doneby Smith donebys@gmail.com

Membership: Maggie Hayes and Jean Snell, contacts hayesmf@gmail.com; jsnellgray@gmail.com

Music: Tina Borrer tina@atscomms.com

Outreach: OPEN

Property: Jimmy Schreiber, co-chair winkfix@yahoo.com (while Brian Beard is away, we are looking for a substitute co-chair)

Racial Justice/Diversity: Eli Briggs elibriggs2@gmail.com

Religious Education: Gregg Harry gharry24@gmail.com

Sunday Support: Deb Weiner dweiner04@gmail.com

Web: Daniel Clark and Andrea Tanner djc8660@gmail.com; andrtnnr@mac.com

Worship: Carey Schneider clschneids@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

[The creator of this column, Beverly McGaughy, included an introduction that we inadvertently failed to include in the October issue. We are adding it here.]

Dear UUCSS Members and Friends,

It has occurred to me that many people do jobs around the church that most people don't know about. They should be recognized and thanked, so I proposed this "Did You Know" column for the *Uniter*. I'll be happy to write it if people feed me the basic facts—either about your own contributions or someone else's. Email me at bnbmccaughy@verizon.net.

For this month:

Did You Know that Linda Barrett, Brian Beard, Dorothy Hale, Sally Porter, Patty Poss, Carolyn Savadkin, and Sara Tarr gave time, energy, creativity, and personal donations to make our precious meeting rooms, the Dolan Lounge and the Triange Room, attractive and a place of peace and tranquility?

Did you know that Dorothea (Dee) Atwell made generous donations of beautiful furniture for the Interim Minister's Office, the Dolan Lounge, and the Triangle Room, as well?



The Deaf Access Committee (DAC) of UUCSS has a mission to reach out to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to offer access to our Sunday services and special events by providing ASL interpreters and assistive listening devices. DAC does **not** require previous skill with sign language nor deep knowledge of deaf culture. We would welcome people to provide administrative and outreach efforts; coordinating with the RE program to plan for Deaf/HH children who may attend RE classes, and assisting DAC with new initiatives. If you are interested, please respond to deafaccess@uucss.org. Angela Conant.

How important is sharing Unitarian Universalism to you?

You can support UUCSS' mission, programs, members, and visitors when you help to ensure that everyone can hear our message of love and equality.

The UUCSS audio visual team is an essential part of every service and event and needs people!

What would it be like to sit in a worship service and not be able to hear what's going on? YOU can help to ensure that doesn't happen (because it can)!

Youth, teens, and adults are encouraged to participate.

Contact **Marty Atias**

audio@uucss.org 301-754-2871

WANTED Eco Cops

Eco Cops are needed to keep recycling on track at UUCSS by monitoring blue bins and recycling dumpster. They can be any age, but must be dedicated and able to read (or paired with someone who can). Several positions are open. Badges will be issued. Please apply to Doneby Smith, donebys@gmail.com, Chair of Green Sanctuary, for details.

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 for additional details.

Our next meeting is November 27; the book is *Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren.

November Charity of the Month

Our November charity of the month is Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop (www.freemindsbookclub.org). Free Minds uses books, creative writing, and a peer support system to awaken DC youth incarcerated as adults to their own potential. Through creative expression, job readiness training, and violence prevention outreach, these young poets achieve their education and career goals and become powerful voices for change in the community. Since its inception in 2002, Free Minds has reached more than 1,000 youth through their continuum of services.

Winner of the 2015 Aspen Ideas Award, Free Minds is the only organization working with these young men throughout their entire incarceration and when they return home. In 2016, only 5 percent of Free Minds members who had been released from jail or prison re-offended within the calendar year, and 76 percent obtained employment, enrolled in school, or participated in vocational programs that will lead to employment. Free Minds hosts a monthly *On the Same Page: Write Night*, where community volunteers (including UUCSS members) gather alongside Free Minds Poet Ambassadors home from prison to provide feedback on the writing of Book Club members still incarcerated. Write Night is a simple, yet powerful, way to support members' processes of self-awareness and change while reading great writing and meeting other volunteers.



The next Write Night will be held on Wednesday, November 15, from 7:00–8:30 pm at Seeker's Church in Takoma Park. **Please be generous and donate to Free Minds during the service on November 12, 2017.**

A GREEN SANCTUARY PETITION

In retrospect, I should have known better. At Coffee Hour on October 22, I set up a table in the Community Hall to invite UUCSS congregants to sign a petition addressed to Maryland legislators that would advance our Green Sanctuary Committee's agenda for clean energy in Maryland. I posted a sign on the front of the table that read "Green Sanctuary PETITION." While I did collect a few names that Sunday, I wondered what it was that had turned most UUs off to looking at a petition that most of them likely agreed with.

I didn't come up with an answer until later that day when I got online to review some email. After reading and erasing a few invitations to sign my name to endorse this or that, it hit me. The flood of email and social media in the last few years asking for political support for yet another "good cause" had certainly gotten to me and was likely changing the political behavior of all of us. Like many others, I no longer take the time to try to distinguish among those petitions and messages that might make some difference in our political future as a state and nation and those that will not. But here I was, asking church members to sign yet another PETITION!

So, what's the difference between most online petitions and the current petition from the Green Sanctuary Committee? The primary difference is potential political effectiveness. Our petition, sponsored by the Maryland Climate Coalition, invites legislators to vote for laws that will be considered in the upcoming General Assembly of the State. In brief, we are petitioning our elected representatives to:

- 1) increase the percentage of electricity generated from wind and solar
- 2) not count polluting trash incineration as a source of renewable energy, and
- 3) fund clean energy workforce development for women and people of color.

In addition, the petition asks for your name and street address, so that petitions can be sorted by Assembly districts and delivered to the desk of your representative in Annapolis.

I or another representative from the Green Sanctuary Committee will be sitting behind a **table with the same sign during the first two Sunday coffee hours in November, the 5th and 12th.** If you'd like to know more about this potential legislation and may want to sign our petition, please stop by.

Bruce McConachie

Church Auction

November 4, 2017, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

The annual UUCSS auction is one of the church's most enjoyable events, as well as a terrific fundraiser. It is an evening of great fun and fellowship at which donations made by UUCSS Members and Friends are auctioned off to others within the church family.

You will find everything from terrific things such as paintings, pottery, and other artistic creations to homemade baked goods made for sale the night of the auction or promised for a later date. Many Members and Friends offer special dinners or outings, or offer services or lessons. Each donated event offers more opportunities to get to know fellow Members and Friends better.

Auction Catalog Available Online!

Print out the [catalog](#), or better yet, download it to your tablet or smartphone to be green! A limited number of printed catalogs will be provided.

Get Your Raffle Tickets!

You can increase your chance of winning a place or two at auction events or even win cash! Purchase raffle tickets between the services or at the auction.

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to set up for, run, and clean up after the auction. With enough volunteers, everyone will have plenty of opportunity to participate in and enjoy a well-run event. Let us know if you can help with an email to auction@uucss.org.

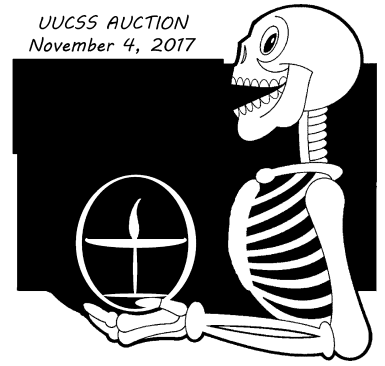
Dress up for the Auction!

Theme-related clothing/costumes are encouraged, and are part of what makes this such a special event. Come as a skeleton, zombie, or in your favorite Hallowe'en costume! Be creative!

Questions?

For more information and answers to any questions about this year's auction, or for a copy of last year's auction catalogue, please contact the Auction Committee at auction@uucss.org.

UUCSS AUCTION
November 4, 2017



A Common Read With Local Connection

Each year, the UUA selects a book or two to be the [Common Read](#). This year, one selection includes a chapter by Reverend Dr. Susan Newman Moore of All Souls Church, Unitarian. [*Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*](#), edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017) centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of UU religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in UU communities. The book aims to offer help with the inner work of today's Unitarian Universalism.

Administrative Office Update

Melinda is happy to be back and so pleased with the way church volunteers have really improved two of our precious meeting rooms—the Dolan Lounge and the Triangle Room.



UUCSS

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

10309 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

Rev. Evan Keely

Interim Minister

interimminister@uucss.org

Catherine Boyle

Religious Education Director

dre@uucss.org

Michael Holmes

Music Director

musicdirector@uucss.org

Melinda Yalom

Church Administrator

administrator@uucss.org

John Henderson

Board President

president@uucss.org

Submissions to the **Uniter** are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to uniter@uucss.org.

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.

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

Church Office Hours

Monday: 3–6 pm

Tuesdays–Thursdays: 9 am–6 pm

Church Website: www.uucss.org