

# October 2018

## UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING

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[www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)



### Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

**October 7: Ancestors**

**Rev. Lyn Cox**



In this multigenerational worship service, we'll reflect on the legacies of our beloved ancestors through story, song, and ritual. You may bring a small memento of an ancestor to place on the altar, or you may write a note or a name to place on the altar during the remembrance ritual. All ages are welcome to worship together for the entire hour. Families of children up to 3 years old may choose to bring little ones to the nursery or to keep them in the service.

**October 14: Green Sanctuary**

**Green Sanctuary Committee**

Air, fire/energy, water, earth—elements critical to all life. Come hear their stories of beauty and struggle at our Green Sanctuary service on October 14th.

**October 21: Winds Be Still** **Rev. Lyn Cox**

The natural world may give us some resources for coping with grief, whether our grieving comes from death or from other kinds of loss. From environmental science to the writings of the Transcendentalists, there are several entry points for finding comfort in our interdependence. *The collection during this will be donated to Deaf Abused Women's Network (see page 9 of this newsletter for details.)*

**October 28: Return, Return, Return**

**Rev. Lyn Cox**

At the Pagan festival of Samhain, when the wheel of the year turns and we honor our beloved dead, we return to the inspiration and transformation of the earth, the water, the fire, and the air.

**Nursery care and religious education for children through grade 12 are offered during the worship service.**

**ASL interpreting is provided during the service. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. followed by coffee hour.**

### New Guidelines for Oral Announcements During Sunday Worship Service

With our new worship format and greater collaboration between the Sunday worship service and RE programs for children and youth, we are more committed than ever to making the best, most sacred use of our time together in worship. This has led to a refinement of the guidelines for oral announcements (otherwise known as verbal announcements) that were issued within the last few years.

Here are the new guidelines:

- As was true in the previous version of the guidelines, other than those aimed at visitors, announcements should regard the whole church community.
- Verbal announcements continue to be limited to 100 words or fewer.
- There will be a limit of three verbal announcements per week, not including the Search Committee. Only the Search Committee will deliver their own announcements; all other announcements will be delivered by the Board member of the week.
- Priority will be given to announcements pertaining to visitors or prospective members, who do not necessarily have access to the weekly email or the *Uniter*.
- The next priority is for events or deadlines occurring that day.
- Events that are more than 3 weeks away (and for which the signup deadline is more than 3 weeks away) are discouraged.
- Verbal announcements repeated more than 1 week are discouraged.
- General appeals for volunteers are not effective in this format and are discouraged.
- The Board member of the week or the Interim Minister may edit verbal announcements for clarity and brevity.

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# INSPIRE

## Column by Rev. Lyn Cox, Interim Minister

Dear Ones,

One of the reasons I was so excited to get to come and work with UUCSS for a year is because of your rich heritage. As a committed Universalist in my theology, this congregation's roots as the last church planted by the Universalist Church in America denomination are very interesting to me, and I look forward to exploring with you how that history impacts you today.



Knowing where we have been makes a difference in understanding where we are, and understanding where we are helps us to point ourselves toward where we're going. The stories we tell (and the stories we avoid telling) from our past affect our worldview, the strategies we use in problem-solving, and our interest in partnering with others for the future.

Heritage is one of five focus points that congregations typically explore during the interim period. (The others are connections, leadership, mission, and future, which we will chat about later.) This focus point can include the deep past of our faith movement's history, and it can include the recent past of events that brought you to the need for a ministerial search. The interim cottage parties you participated in last year with Rev. Keely were an exercise in the heritage focus point, with the main topic being the recent past.

The goal of exploring heritage is not to come to a consensus narrative or to draw conclusions or create action steps, but to experience storytelling together. When we talk about our experience of the past and listen deeply, we find that there is no single story. Even when the meeting place of different versions of history is shrouded in mystery, we still benefit from practicing curiosity and compassion and by lifting up the values that are woven through as common threads in the various stories. We may wonder why something happened; another way to approach the question is to ask what we'd like to learn from the experience.

In this second, action-packed year of interim ministry, the congregation will be turning more toward the other four focus points. For instance, you will read in the Board President's column that a Strategic Planning Task Force is being created to frame a process for a rolling, 3-year plan. While most of the transition energy will be looking forward, the past is never truly done with us, and we'll have a few small opportunities to reflect on history and heritage. I'll be hosting some afternoon tea gatherings for longtime members this month. We'll honor our ancestors in the October 7 multigenerational worship. You are welcome to make an appointment to speak with me about processing your relationship with the congregation's past. If you have another idea, you are invited to speak with a member of the Transition Team (see article on page 4) about making the best use of this interim year.

Beloveds, there is a lot going on in the congregation and in the world. We have opportunities for healing and repair, justice and kindness, reflection and joy. Hang in there. Stick together. Listen deeply and speak the truth with love. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care, Rev. Lyn

## Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President

It was good to see everyone again at Water Communion. Another year at UUCSS has begun with love, determination, and purpose. The UUCSS church leadership met in the sanctuary September 15. We gathered within our sacred space and celebrated the accomplishments of the past year. We listened and were heard when we discussed the challenges ahead and the plans for the future. With input from all present, we clarified four goals to guide our future. These were the goals that called to our hearts I hope you find one or more that calls to your heart.

1. Foster a culture of abundance regarding time, talent, and treasure. Invite visitors, newcomers, and members to discover, develop, and channel their gifts effectively toward mission, organized for sustainable leadership.
2. Achieve clarity of UUCSS identity and leadership by articulating boundaries, roles, relationships, and authority; grounding this understanding in UU spirituality; and translating this understanding into effective communication, all with an understanding of the impact of white supremacy culture on our understanding of leadership and organization.
3. Connect our social justice ministries (advocacy, direct service, issues education, community organizing) with our UU spirituality and values through dismantling white supremacy, addressing faith development, building relationships with neighboring faiths and UU coalitions, and providing a spiritual grounding for service and activism.

## INSPIRE (continued)

4. Frame and pursue an 8-month process to create a rolling, 3-year strategic plan by May 2019. This process will involve congregational and stakeholder input, an assessment of the assets and limiting factors in the congregation and its environments, and a means for ongoing assessment and renewal each year. The task force for framing and completing this process will include representatives from each of the three leadership bodies (Board, Program Council, and Operations Council), as well as leaders who are not on any of the three leadership bodies.

These goals will guide us in living our UU principles within our congregation and aid us in extending those values into the larger world. Which of these goals calls you to serve? Every step forward by UUCSS is driven by the service of those who responded to the call of their heart: the call to connect with members, new and old, and find what energizes them; the call to communicate who we are and what we are doing and why it matters; the call to work with others inside and outside of our congregation to make a change in the world and ensure the arc continues to bend toward justice; the call to organize, analyze, and identify a path forward so we continue to make a difference; the call to maintain and improve our sacred space; the call to teach and nurture our congregation; the call to minister through music; the call to be welcoming and inclusive by supporting deaf access. These are a few of the ways we are called to serve and live our UU values.

Listen to the call, find the service that speaks to you. There will be many opportunities to be part of a committee or task force, or to serve by doing tasks either small or large. What speaks to you? How can we support you in answering that call?

With love,  
Tamara Bowman

### From the Ministerial Search Committee

### Pledges of Faith and Covenant

During the Water Communion, the congregation engaged in a wonderful ceremony to commission the Search Committee. The Board and congregation pledged to trust and have faith in the committee's integrity, its support for the congregation's mission, and in the committee members' judgment. The congregation also pledged to trust the process, respecting the confidentiality of the participants and the time constraints of the committee in their invitations to their participation. The congregation also promised to interact with the members of the Search Committee according to our congregation's covenant, communicating with them directly and in the spirit of love.

The Search Committee promised to undertake the duties with care, mindful of the confidentiality, responsiveness, and discernment that this process demands. We also pledged to give and receive communication with the congregation, helping members and friends understand the search process and learn about our dreams and our values, and reflecting back to the congregation what we learn.

Thank you for entrusting us with your faith and confidence. We are honored to serve the congregation in this important work.

### Be part of the conversation!

The congregational survey will close on October 6th, the same day as the final cottage meeting. The congregation is invited **on October 14th at 1:00 p.m.** to participate in a session to distill the major themes from the data collected through the survey and cottage meetings. During this meeting, you will be able to see notes from the cottage meetings and the open-ended comments from the survey. These notes will not include any attribution to the person who made the comment. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

### Next steps

All of the information we collect in September and October will inform the Search Committee's completion of the congregational record. This is a very comprehensive online form the search committee will complete and submit to the UUA. Ministers in search will have access to this form through the UUA's online confidential system.

As we move through this process, we do this with the understanding that none of us can control the outcome, but we can each choose to engage with the process faithfully, respectfully, and in accordance with our UU values.

You are welcome to write to us at [search@uucss.org](mailto:search@uucss.org)

Thank you for your support and engagement in this journey.

UUCSS Settled Minister Search Committee—

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

### Update from the Transition Team

The new church year is off to a great start with our new Interim Minister. Like last year, the board appointed a Transition Team whose members this year are **Catherine Buckler, Nancy Dougherty, Paul Iobst, Ryan Smith, and Deborah Thornton**. Rev. Lyn has asked us to support her in various ways as she leads the congregation in what we expect to be this final year of our interim period. We've already begun meeting and are looking forward to serving the congregation during this exciting church year.

The work of a first year in interim ministry often focuses on grieving and healing, and that was certainly true for us. Now that we are feeling more centered, it's time to move our focus toward strengthening our connections and planning our future. What is our heritage at UUCSS? How do we connect with each other? What is our mission and vision? Is our organization structured in the best way for our current needs? What gifts can we bring to the world? These are the kinds of questions we will be asking ourselves this year in the congregation under the ministerial leadership of Rev. Lyn. You may notice that some of these questions overlap with the ones we are asking as we start our search for a settled minister. For that reason, the team's first major task is to support the Search Committee as they conduct cottage meetings, surveys, and all-church discussions on their way to producing the Congregational Record that will serve as the "job announcement" for our called minister search. Some of the information from these activities will inform Rev. Lyn as she helps us answer questions like the ones mentioned above.

You'll hear directly from Rev. Lyn throughout the year about what else we'll be doing as a congregation around the interim ministry themes of heritage, connections, leadership, mission, and our future. The Transition Team will meet regularly with her to bring context to some of what she's observing and support her leadership, as she desires.

The Transition Team can be reached at [transition@uucss.org](mailto:transition@uucss.org).

**New Committee Members Wanted!** The **Worship Committee** seeks new members to strengthen its work. That work can include being a Worship Associate, which entails assisting during services and supporting and planning our services with guest ministers and member speakers. Very importantly, the Worship Committee works with our Minister, our Religious Education Director, and our Music Director in the conduct of our services by both being a sounding board and providing guidance on the shape and nature of our worship services.

The committee generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month. For any member who wishes it, there is training for the upfront work of being a Worship Associate. Worship Committee work is a wonderful way to contribute to the life of the congregation and also develop new skills. Please contact either **Preston Mears** or **Jeffrey Noel-Nosbaum** (Worship Committee Co-Chairs) at church or via: [WorshipChair@uucss.org](mailto:WorshipChair@uucss.org)

### UUCSS History: How to Hire a Minister—Part 1, Rev. David MacPherson by Jo Paoletti

As we embark on our search for a new minister, I've become quite curious about how that process has changed in the last 66 years. For my history series this year, I am going to take a journey through the arrivals of our nine settled ministers. There's much to learn in these stories, particularly how the denomination has changed and how we have changed as a congregation. The schedule will be:

October: **David MacPherson**  
November: **Fred Cappuccino**  
December: **Howard Oliver**,

**Robert Lewis**, and **Alice Wesley**  
January: **Paul Johnson**  
February: **Jim Bank**

March: **Liz Lerner Maclay**  
April: **Leon Dunkley**

I will be delighted to talk to anyone with memories or questions.

This church was founded in 1952 as an outreach from Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC. (Merger with the Unitarians was nearly a decade away.) By Rev. David MacPherson's account, the "search" process was breathtakingly brief. As an "extension" church that was not yet formed and had no members, much less a Search Committee, the process was completely at the denominational level. A proposal from UNMC went to the Universalist Church of America's extension office in early summer; in July the director of that office, Mrs. Clinton Scott, discussed the potential fellowship with recent seminary graduate MacPherson. (Pardon the archaic and sexist form of her name; that was the 50s!) He has no idea if the position was discussed with anyone else, or why he was chosen. On August 9, MacPherson got a phone call suggesting he look at the Silver Spring area. He and his wife visited the Washington church September 5–9 to speak with potential leaders of the new congregation and "tour the countryside." The Universalist Church of America Department of Extension met on September 24 and approved Rev. MacPherson's assignment to Maryland; he and his wife Dotty arrived on October 3, staying with Max and Alice Louise Miller until they could find and move into their own place. On October 12, 1952, the minister and a small group of adults and children gathered for worship at Rolling Terrace Elementary School.

Now there's a whirlwind search!

Rev. David MacPherson  
& Dotty MacPherson



## INSPIRE (continued)

During Rev. MacPherson's 10-year tenure, The Universalist Fellowship of Takoma Park and Silver Spring became the Universalist Church of Silver Spring and finally the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring. We grew in numbers and in activity, participating in demonstrations and lobbying in support of school integration and fair housing. In 1961, Rev. Dave felt it was time to move on; his calling was as a "church builder," and he was off to Towson to help grow the congregation there.

Next: Fred Cappuccino, and our first real search.

## LEARN

### Message From Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education

#### Well-Being and Religion in Children and Youth

This fall, as leaves fall and the air chills, we as a congregation are looking toward the theme of Heritage—to borrow words from Paul Gauguin and our grey hymnal, who we are, where we came from, and where are we going.

It is the last one that this article concerns. As we explore our relationships and traditions with our ancestors, what does it mean for the next generation? What does engaging in these reflective and spiritual practices mean for our children and youth?

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health wondered the same thing, and this September they published the results of their inquiry into religion and well-being in children and adolescents in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. This study of over 5,000 youth between the ages of 8 and 14 found that young people involved in spiritual practices like daily prayer or meditation or attending weekly religious services were less likely to use illicit drugs, smoke, or have sexually transmitted infections, and showed a greater resilience to depressive symptoms, as well as being more likely to volunteer.

The study raises questions: their cohort were primarily white middle class, so more research is needed with more diverse populations and how parents influence their children's spiritual decisions, but this study clearly shows that spirituality is beneficial to well-being.

One reason religion may be beneficial to children is that it increases their social connections. Teens struggling with depression may have increased social support in their religious community to connect them to mental health resources and provide them emotional support. In regard to making wise sexual decisions, our OWL (Our Whole Lives) graduates are equipped with the knowledge to do so.

This October, as we reflect on the past, take a moment to cherish the present and the community at UUCSS for the connections that make our future generations more resilient.

Blessings,  
Catherine

#### Mementos and Photos for October 4 Service

On October 4th, we start our exploration into the theme of Heritage with a multigenerational service on ancestors. At this service, we will have an altar set up to honor our loved ones who have passed. Please bring photos or mementos of these beloved people to place on the altar. Remember to retrieve these items after the service.

#### K-1 OWL Starts on October 21 at 10:30

All parents and students will start together with an orientation in the Chapel. To register your child for OWL, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QGJ59NF>

**Lunch and Learn: Religious Education Classes for Adults:** This year we are offering classes on the theme of World Religions to match our children and youth's exploration of the same topic. We start in the fall with in-depth classes on three of the world's major religions and continue in January with a comparative religions approach. These classes will be in the Chapel and led by **Catherine Boyle**, DRE. Please bring a brown-bag lunch.

ALL CLASSES ARE FROM 12 NOON TO 2 P.M.

Oct 7 & 21 *BUDDHISM*  
Nov 4 and 18 *HINDUISM*  
Dec 2, 16 & 21: *ISLAM*

Jan 6 & 20, Feb 3 & 17, Mar 3 & 17, Apr 14  
*COMPARATIVE RELIGION*

For additional information or questions, email Catherine at [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org).



## LEARN (continued)

### Sp-UU-k-tacular Halloween Party: Saturday, October 20, 5 to 9 p.m.

Through the dark arts of the spirit world, you are summoned once again from the webbed and dusty halls of the dreary day-to-day to join the creatures of the night in eerie festivities and sp-UU-ktacular fun. Shed your earthly guise, unlock the mental cage that holds back your fairy soul, and don the mask and vestment of your subterranean self. Join us at the Second Annual Sp-UU-k-tacular Halloween Party, Saturday, October 20, from 5 to 9 p.m.! Or you'll regret it. Mwaahaahaa! All are welcome! Bring friends! Come in costume!



Please look for an email with a signup for potluck and volunteer activities, OR see **Michael LeBlanc** or **Catherine Boyle** during coffee hour to sign up there.

Questions? Email **Michael LeBlanc** at [mlebl001@gmail.com](mailto:mlebl001@gmail.com) or Catherine Boyle at [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org).

## CONNECT



### This Year's Theme: Hooray for Hollywood!

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.

#### 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.

#### Childcare is available; reserve your spot today

Childcare is available. Reserve a space via e-mail to [auction@uucss.org](mailto:auction@uucss.org). Be sure to include:

- ☐ Names and ages of children
- ☐ Information on allergies or other special needs

#### The deadline to sign up for ASL interpretation is October 20

Email [auction@uucss.org](mailto:auction@uucss.org) to sign up.

#### 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](mailto:auction@uucss.org).

#### Dress up for the Hooray for Hollywood auction!

Theme-related clothing/costumes are encouraged, and are part of what makes this such a special event. Come as your favorite actor or movie character! 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](mailto:auction@uucss.org).

## CONNECT (continued)

### HISTORY TEA GATHERINGS

Our Interim Minister, the **Rev. Lyn Cox**, will be organizing a series of tea gatherings on select Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in October to meet with long-term members and learn more about their lived experience of the history of the congregation. If you have been involved at UUCSS for 25 years or longer, whether as a member or as an RE student, and would like to participate, please contact Rev. Lyn at [interimminister@uucss.org](mailto:interimminister@uucss.org), or **Deborah Thornton**, [dthornton1120@gmail.com](mailto:dthornton1120@gmail.com).

### MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE—SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & DEADLINES

Be part of the conversation!

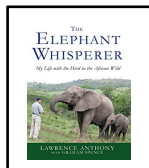
- **COTTAGE MEETINGS**—Continuing **through October 6**. Sign up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dabaf2aaaf94-uucss>.
- **CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY**—Closes **October 6**. If you did NOT receive an email with your personalized link to the survey, immediately contact [uucss.survey@gmail.com](mailto:uucss.survey@gmail.com).
- **Every voice matters!** We want your perspectives included in this survey!
- **CONGREGATIONAL DATA ANALYSIS**—**Sunday, October 14, 1:00–5:00 p.m.**  
Participate with the search committee in an afternoon session to distill the major themes from the data collected through the congregational survey and the cottage meetings. This is your chance to see what we're learning from one another through this massive input gathering process!

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

### Pathways to Membership Class: Saturday, November 10

Are you interested in becoming a member of UUCSS? Our next **Pathways to Membership** class will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on November 10 in the Dolan Lounge at the church. Rev. Lyn will be joining us. The Pathways class provides an opportunity to learn more about the history and principles of the UU faith and about UUCSS in particular. You will also learn about the privileges and responsibilities becoming a member entails. For more information and if you're interested in attending, please contact co-chairs **Jean Snell** and **Dina Radley** at [membershipchairs@uucss.org](mailto:membershipchairs@uucss.org). Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 7.

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

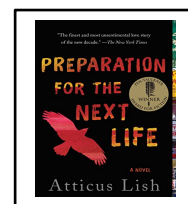


The Women's Book Group is an informal group that meets on the fourth Monday of each month. It was formed at UUCSS in 2000, but there is no long-term obligation, and all interested readers are welcome to attend. Please contact **Deborah Weiner** at [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com), or speak with other book group participants for additional information and directions. The group is meeting on October 22 to discuss *The Elephant Whisperer*, by Lawrence Anthony.

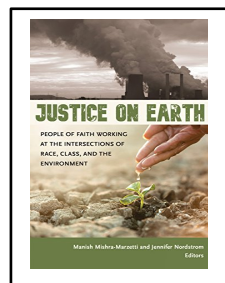
### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *Preparation for the Next Life* by Atticus Lish, which won the PEN/Faulkner award for fiction in 2015 and the Grand Prix de Littérature Américaine in 2016. The New York Times called it "The finest and most unusual love story of the new decade."

We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 21, at the home of **Bruce McConachie**, 7231 Windsor Lane, Hyattsville, MD. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** ([rlorr4@gmail.com](mailto:rlorr4@gmail.com)), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!



### Join UUCSS in the UU Common Read!



At this year's leadership retreat, we articulated four broad themes to guide us in our work as a congregation this year. (See Tamara's President's message on pages 2 and 3.) One of those themes calls us to "connect our social justice ministries... with our UU spirituality and values...and to provide a spiritual grounding for service and activism." This year's UU Common Read is a perfect book for diving deep into this area.

The book is titled *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, 2018).

## CONNECT (continued)

“At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, **Justice on Earth** explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action.”

For more information on the Common Read program, follow this link: <https://www.uua.org/books/read>.

Several of us from the leadership retreat, working with DRE Catherine, will be planning ways for us to come together to discuss the book later in the church year. The UUA is producing a discussion guide that may help us direct those discussions. Watch this space and others for more information.

The book is available in print from InSpirit (<https://www.uuabookstore.org/>), the UUA book shop, and other vendors. (A digital version is also available.) There is a 20 percent discount on the print version from InSpirit for orders of 10 or more copies. If you would like to order the book as part of a UUCSS bulk order, please fill out a form at <https://tinyurl.com/ydbmfmbd>.

We hope you will join us in this opportunity to broaden our understanding of the intersections between critical social justice issues of our time and to explore how we as individuals and as a community are called to respond.

For more information, contact **Catherine Buckler** at [bucklercath@gmail.com](mailto:bucklercath@gmail.com) or see one of the following folks at coffee hour: **Catherine Buckler, Christa Maher, Preston Meers, Jeffrey Noel-Nosbaum, Doneby Smith.**

## EVENTS IN BRIEF

**OCTOBER 3, 4, 5, 6**—Final COTTAGE MEETINGS. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dabaf2aaaf94-uucss>.

**OCTOBER 1-6**—Last chance to participate in the CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY. Questions? Contact [uucss.survey@gmail.com](mailto:uucss.survey@gmail.com)

**OCTOBER 4, 5:30–8:30 p.m.** Third night of UUCSS phone banking to support Voting Restoration Amendment 4, Sanctuary.

**OCTOBER 14, 1:00–5:00 p.m.** All-church gathering with the Ministerial Search Committee to review the cottage meeting and survey data, and identify key themes and priorities. Questions? Contact [search@uucss.org](mailto:search@uucss.org).

**OCTOBER 14** UUCSS 101 with the Membership Committee in the Triangle Room following the service.

**OCTOBER 14, 2:00 p.m.** Presentation on “Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: A Continuum of Struggle, Hope, and Triumph,” by Prof. Terry Anne Scott of Hood College’s African American Studies Department, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, 4880 Elmer Derr Road, Frederick, MD. Free.

**OCTOBER 20, 5:00–9:00 p.m.** Second Annual Sp-UU-k-tacular Halloween Party, Community Hall.

**NOVEMBER 10, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon.** Pathways to Membership class, Dolan Lounge.

**NOVEMBER 10, 5:30–10:00 p.m.** Save the date for the annual church auction.

**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.)

## SERVE

### Phone Banking for Democracy

Florida is one of only a few states in the country that bars convicted felons from voting for life. Current law will prevent 1.4 million people from ever participating in our democracy again in this most basic way. That could change on November 6, and you could help change it. Voting Restoration Amendment 4 would change the state constitution to allow convicted felons who have served all their time, including parole, to regain their eligibility to vote.



Come join us on Thursday, October 4, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. for the third night of UUCSS phone banking to support this amendment. The event is sponsored by UUCSS Green Sanctuary, Racial Justice Task Force, and Defending Democracy. We will be using the Hubdialer platform, which was so helpful during our very successful July phone banking evening. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary until 7:00 and then in the lower level of the Sanctuary building after that. Please bring a computer and a cell phone.

For questions or more information, please contact **Bob Geiger** at [bobandcath@prodigy.net](mailto:bobandcath@prodigy.net) or 301-593-3319.

## MUSINGS ON THE UNITER

The first issue of our church newsletter was published on January 7, 1953. It was entitled *The Silver Spring-Takoma Park Universalist Fellowship*. Early newsletters read more like newspaper life-style sections of yesteryear, using old-fashioned titles for individuals—examples are Mrs. Maxwell Miller, Miss Jane Stubbs, Mrs. Rosemary Hilberg, Mr. Eugene Miller.

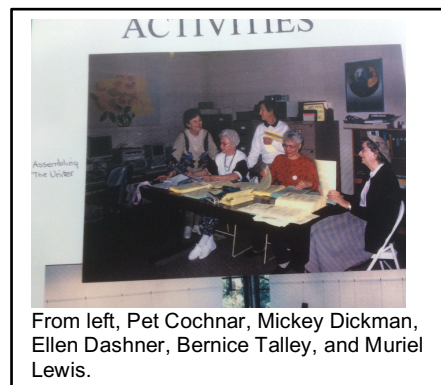
The name changed to *The Uniter* in the September 1956 issue. In that issue, monthly profiles of members began to be included.

The first editor to receive credit was **Marion Golian** in 1956. Other old-timers included **Sally Boeckel**, **Jean Nichols**, and **Sammy Schnetzler**. The editor typed up the entire newsletter back then. Closer to our time, **Jeanette Fast**, **Becky Hedin**, and **Beth Riggs** were the editors for several years, from the late 1990s well into the 2000s.

Editors since then include **Natasha Barden**, **Pat Cassimatis**, **Sandy Dwigins**, **Deborah Ferrenz**, **Eric Kelderman**, **Sally Porter**, **Kathy Rushing**, **Regina Simms**, **Diana Stewart**, **Kathy Wright**, and now **Jane Larrick** and **Stephanie McConachie**. Special kudos go to Kathy Wright, who was the sole editor from January to September 2015!

A *Uniter* “crew” of mostly women met in the Administration Building to assemble and label the copies of the newsletter for mailing. Howard Wyatt ran the mimeograph. Someone from the crew took the newsletter to the post office for mailing. According to **Jan Greene**, there were many more people in the *Uniter* crew than are shown in the accompanying picture, and they were a close-knit bunch who went out to lunch, went on outings together, and celebrated birthdays and Christmas.

These days, only a few copies of the newsletter are mailed out; most are sent by email.



## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

### DAWN (Deaf Abused Women's Network)

DAWN is a Deaf-run community-based, nonprofit organization that provides domestic violence and sexual violence services to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind survivors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

DAWN envisions a diverse community whose members interact free of fear and violence in all aspects of their lives. By providing survivors of abuse with the help they need to heal and by educating Deaf and hearing communities about issues of abuse, DAWN aims to promote healthy relationships and end abuse in the Deaf community of the Washington, DC, area. The collection during the service on **October 21** will be donated to DAWN. Checks should be made payable to UUCSS, with “DAWN” in the memo line. Please give generously.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

**Steve Leete** is October's Volunteer of the Month. Steve first came to UUCSS in 1991, before he married **Kathryn Leete**, looking for community. He came because his sister had told him a UU church would be friendly to atheists, and he had heard WAMU advertising concerts sponsored by the House of Musical Traditions at UUCSS. The first time he came, he mentioned something about singing, and the following Thursday he was at choir practice. He joined that year and quickly became actively involved in the church. In those early years, before becoming a father, he was the chair of the Social Action committee, a member of the Board, and UUCSS's representative to the UU Affordable Housing Committee. He also was heavily involved in installing UUCSS's first digital phone system, drawing wiring diagrams and learning to use punch tools.

More recently, after his children grew up, Steve became active again in the choir, and is a regular soloist and member of various acapella and small groups that provide music on non-choir Sundays. He has given several sermons, including one most recently about his undergraduate thesis advisor, Gerard O'Neil, and Professor O'Neil's work on space colonies. Steve also recently agreed to chair the IT committee. The IT committee performs the necessary, largely unsung work supporting the wifi, website, email, computer network, and phones. Steve also enjoys participating in all-church work days. He recommends all-church work days to those looking to get more involved, because it is an easy way to meet others at the church and talk to them.

## **REGISTER NOW AND VOTE IN NOVEMBER**

If you have moved or have folks in your neighborhood who recently moved in or otherwise may not be registered to vote, please note (and publicize) these deadlines:

- The deadline to register online is Tuesday, October 16.
- The deadline for registering to vote by mail is Tuesday, October 16.
- The deadline to register to vote in person is Thursday, November 1.

**Election day is Tuesday, November 6!**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

The UUCSS Staff wants to thank and express our appreciation to Rev. Lyn Cox, our new Interim Minister, for her dedication and hard work. We've welcomed her organizational skills and guidance. She's been a motivating force and inspiration for us all.

Regards,  
Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator,  
Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education,  
Michael Holmes, Music Director



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

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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)**