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# November 2018

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## UNITER

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

### November 4: *Abundance* Rev. Lyn Cox

In this multigenerational worship experience, we'll imagine a world where people have learned to feed each other. Celebrate love and service, celebrate the harvest, and celebrate abundance by sharing cornbread. The Children's Choir will sing.

### November 11: *Plowshares* Rev. Lyn Cox

The story of Isis and Osiris offers a few ideas for reconstituting our lives and our sense of identity after surviving trauma, witnessing violence, or transforming our lives through service. Communities that hold people in love and help them to come home in mind and spirit, as well as in body, are essential. We'll hear the Isis and Osiris chorus from Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

### November 18: *Reflections on LGBT Justice and Inclusion*

This service will highlight the LGBTQ Ministry at UUCSS. **Jo Paoletti**, **Lucy Harrelson**, and **Elise Turner** will speak about UUCSS's history with regard to justice and inclusion for the LGBT community. UUCSS's long history as a Welcoming Congregation and as a force for achieving marriage equality in Maryland is a meaningful part of our history. The Worship Committee would welcome participation from other congregants who would like to be part of this service. This would involve participating in the set liturgical elements of the service or doing readings. If you're interested, please contact **Veronika Martin** at [goosebeakorango@gmail.com](mailto:goosebeakorango@gmail.com) or call at 202-550-3199 by November 3.

If you would like to participate in hosting a table at the November 18 coffee hour to gauge the congregation's interest in reestablishing our Queer/LGBT Taskforce, (and finding an inclusive name for it), please contact **Veronika Martin** at the above email address or phone number.

### November 25: *Deeds That Beckon* Rev. Lyn Cox

Unitarian Universalist history can give us role models and counter-examples for service to each other and to our world. What do we want to lift up about the lives of UU's from history? What will our lives say to those who follow?



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.

# INSPIRE

## Interim Minister's Column

Dear Ones,

I have been thinking a lot about adaptations, evolution, and loss. What are we willing to risk in service to our mission?



There are two similar readings in the hymnal, intended as covenants. In one, "Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law." In the other one, "service is its prayer." It is interesting to me which one congregations choose to read occasionally, if either. Is service, for this unified community of people, a form of embodied spiritual practice? Are we saying that other forms of prayer are out of place? Is service an axiom, an assumption about how individuals will behave in relation to the community? Or is it the intention of the body as a whole to serve the wider community and to focus its energy and resources toward collectively organizing in service to the world, knowing that individual members will have a variety of gifts and limits to bring to that collective effort?

I believe that the service mentioned in these covenants has to do with a congregational sense of mission, a commitment to say "yes" to putting the core goals of the collective ahead of individual preferences and egos. It is also a commitment to say "no, thank you" to things that no longer serve the mission, are ineffective, that erode respect for human dignity, or that are more tied to individualism than to the health of the whole. Covenants remind us that we are in this together, and that we are part of something larger than ourselves. When we are committed to service, we are on the same team, and we evaluate our tactics based on shared goals and shared connection with the mission.

The Interim period is an excellent opportunity for a congregation to tune up its sense of service to the mission. For some congregations, this involves a revision of the mission statement, but a commitment to shared goals is not the same thing as a set of words. You don't need a wordsmithing process to reconnect with a sense of mission. Through the interviews that brought me here, reviewing your congregational documents, meeting with leaders, and speaking with people individually, I have gathered a sense of what is important to this congregation. I think I am beginning to understand your sense of mission.

I am hypothesizing that love is important to this congregation. You love the world, the green world, and want to take responsibility in your loving relationship with the ecosystem. You want to increase accessibility, because you love each other in your infinite variety of gifts and abilities, as well as the neighbors who have yet to arrive, and you want this community to be open to all who would choose its unique duties and joys. You want to dismantle white supremacy within the congregation and out in the world, because, as Dr. Cornel West says, "justice is what love looks like in public." You love each other and the stranger, and so you want to do even better than you already do in welcoming visitors and in embracing people along their journey from prospective visitor to newcomer to member to mature member to leader. Out of love, you want to be effective and authentic in your care for one another, connecting people with companionship and resources in the congregation in the times of their great turning points and rites of passage; organized in your response to a crisis among you; perceptive in supporting people who may not be as privileged or popular; and compassionately firm in the boundaries that create a space for healing and growth. Your love for children and youth leads you to create places for a sense of belonging, for equipping young people with tools for spiritual growth and responsible decisionmaking, and for celebrating people of all ages just as they are. There is a great deal of love in the congregation as you are, and great aspirations for the love that could flow through the congregation as it may yet become.

These are worthy goals. I may have missed some, or misunderstood some, so I will keep listening. During an Interim year, a congregation has an opportunity to try out some new ideas and techniques to see if doing things a different way could be a more effective means of pursuing the mission. When I suggest an experiment or support an experiment suggested by lay leaders, it is for the purpose of helping the congregation achieve the goals you have communicated to me. We will continue to "take chances, make mistakes, get messy" throughout our year together. By the time I complete my ministry with you in June, you will have a better sense of your goals and identity as a congregation, valuable information to bring into the relationship with your next minister.

All of that being said, I am also mindful that the congregation is stepping gingerly into the work of the Interim period, having been through a difficult time. I can see evidence of tremendous healing over the past year, and I hear members asking to move forward, yet I also notice that these forays into recovery take a lot of energy. I had initially understood that leaders were asking for a certain mood and pace to make the most of the opportunity presented by Interim ministry. I am coming to understand that we may need to move more gently and deliberately.

This is where we find ourselves in pursuit of goals related to three things in particular: an effective shared ministry of pastoral care, worship that helps people of all ages experience caring, and opportunities to build depth in relationship among committed members of the community. I understand that these goals are important to you, and that spoken joys and sorrows has seemed like the best answer to these three questions in the past. We have been occasionally trying out other ways of meeting these goals. I can already tell you that pastoral care referrals have more than doubled because

### Interim Minister's Column Continued

people who would never speak in front of a hundred people on Sunday morning have been given a different kind of ritual opportunity to connect. These experiments have also put the joys and sorrows of children on a more equal footing, allowing young people to experience the care of the community in an embodied, worshipful way.

On the other hand, trying something different once a month has been a difficult adjustment for a few people. While I would characterize the things we have tried as alternative methods of practicing joys and sorrows, I can appreciate that the difference may feel like a loss. The congregation's recent history of unexpected ministerial departures has led some members to hold on more tightly to familiar ways of reaching out, especially when a ministerial response is hard to predict. Perhaps the vulnerability of introverts, newcomers, and children is difficult to grasp, or perhaps the concept of centering the needs of the most vulnerable is unfamiliar. When someone is accustomed to their own preferences, needs, and stories being prioritized, it can be very uncomfortable to shift the paradigm so that people whose needs are different can be included. Trying something new may even feel like an abandonment of the core value of warmth and caring, because the people who were not able to access that warmth and caring through the previous methods had been unnoticed.

In light of the tentativeness of the congregation's recovery from multiple ministerial transitions, we are going to slow down the pace of some of our experiments. Here is the new plan:

- At least one worship service each month will continue to be creative in its format, emphasizing embodiment and participatory ritual. Most of the other services will keep the present shape for the time being, though we may try different songs or perspectives within the basic flow.
- Meanwhile, with regard to shared pastoral care, worship, and building depth in relationships:
  - I will continue to work with the Lay Ministers on expanding our capacity for the shared ministry of pastoral care.
  - I will talk with the Worship Committee about alternatives for group spiritual practice beyond Sunday morning. In a few months, when the congregation is stronger, we can give more thought to the most effective ways for UUCSS to reach its goals.
  - I will look for ways to support the leaders of our Inreach and other small groups.

Gustav Mahler writes that "tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." Our UU living tradition has fire left in it, even as the fuel for that fire has changed and evolved from age to age. We are here in service to a mission, a purpose greater than ourselves, greater even than the wider circle of people who have ever been and ever will be members of the church. We are here in service to love. In our discernment together, I hope we can keep this in mind; *We are all on Team Love.*

Take care—Rev. Lyn

### Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President

The first crisp days of fall have finally arrived, and I welcome the change. It is now time for apple picking, apple crisp, carving pumpkins, pumpkin pie, and the changing leaves. The lush green of summer is giving way to the gold, orange, and red of autumn—a time for harvesting and preparing for the months to come. Embrace the change as we move through our church year.

Another way to welcome change is the "Wake Now Our Vision" legacy challenge program from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Wake Now Our Vision proclaims "We are Unitarian Universalists. Together, we can change the world." This is a new program that seeks to encourage legacy gifts to the UUA and UU congregations. A legacy gift is a gift of cash, securities, or other property that is realized after you die, for example, through a beneficiary designation or your will. In order to inspire new legacy gift commitments, a cash match made possible by a grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock will be made for 10 percent of the legacy gift's estimated value (up to \$10,000 per donor.) If no approximate amount is supplied, or if the gift cannot be accurately valued at this time, a flat match of \$1,000 will be given. This only applies to new legacy gifts (those received between January 1, 2017, and June 30, 2020). The congregation will receive the matching funds in 2020. This is an amazing opportunity to support our faith and our congregation. For additional information, you can visit the official website, <http://wakenowourvision.org/>, or contact me, [president@uucss.org](mailto:president@uucss.org), or **Lisa Schumaker**, [finance@uucss.org](mailto:finance@uucss.org). We will arrange a Q&A later in the month for those who are interested.

As always during this time of giving thanks, we will continue to foster a caring community. We will be considerate of others' feelings and expect the same consideration in return. Be mindful that humor can be used to unite or divide. Take a moment to consider what impact your words will have. Assume people mean well and understand and forgive our limitations and the limitations of others. Be friendly and welcome newcomers. Reach out to someone new at coffee hour. Be open to questions. Reach out and thank those who aren't so new to the congregation but continue to support our ongoing mission.

This continues to be a time of change for our congregation. Although much is changing, there remains a constant kernel within UUCSS that welcomes all, seeks justice, and supports our interdependent web. Embrace that constant and the change. Tamara Bowman

## INSPIRE (continued)

### November Greetings From the Search Committee!

Thanks to everyone who answered the congregational survey, participated in a cottage meeting, and came to the data synthesis work session on October 14. The participation was great, with more than 150 people participating in cottage meetings and more than 170 responses to the survey!

Some facts from the survey:

- The most common adjectives people use to describe UUCSS are "friendly," "welcoming," and "caring," and the word "musical" followed closely.
- Nature walks are our most common spiritual practice.
- Our top three outside religious influences are Christianity, Buddhism, and Religious Humanism.
- We asked people to rank the importance of various aspects of a minister's job (being a social activist, a person of character, a facilitator, etc.). Responses were diverse, but by far the favorite answer was being a spiritual leader.

We will share the synthesized themes from the cottage meetings, as well as the data from the survey, in an email to the congregation.

### Next steps: congregational record

The Search Committee is now working on the congregational record. The UUA just launched a brand new system with all new questions, so we had to make adjustments midstream. The congregational record is a compilation of facts and narratives covering our church history, membership and attendance, congregational demographics and beliefs, governance structure and programs, finances, paid staff, and the congregation's strengths and challenges—all you ever wanted to know about UUCSS and more! The Search Committee is gathering factual information from the archives and from knowledgeable individuals. We will draw a great many of our responses from the congregational survey, the cottage meetings held this fall, and synthesis created during the session on October 14.

### Save the date: Beyond Categorical Thinking, December 1, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

The Search Committee will be hosting a workshop entitled "Beyond Categorical Thinking" on Saturday, December 1, from 1:00–4:00 p.m., conducted by trained and experienced UUA facilitators **Mary Esther Johnson** and **Carol Carter Walker**. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair or inadvertent discrimination in the search process for a new minister. The facilitators will also lead worship on Sunday, December 2. Please plan to attend this important workshop and Sunday's worship service. ASL interpretation and child care will be available upon advance request. Stay tuned for registration information coming soon.

As always, feel free to contact us at [search@uucss.org](mailto:search@uucss.org).

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

### Update From the Transition Team

The Transition Team continues to support Rev. Lyn during this interim year. This past month we helped the Search Committee with the logistics for the data processing meeting that many folks attended. Although the data's main purpose is to inform the search process, Rev. Lyn will find some of the information helpful as she plans her work with us. We've also been hosting "Heritage Teas." By the time you read this, we'll have held three of these at which longtime members have shared lovely stories from our long-ago past to help Rev. Lyn gain a deeper understanding of who we are and where we've come from as a congregation. Looking forward, we'll begin planning a "World Cafe" conversation, open to all, where congregants will have small group discussions aimed at helping us focus on what our core values are and how we would like to put them into action. These conversations will be helpful as the congregation works on strategic planning and visioning. Look for more information on these soon!

We're honored to be supporting Rev. Lyn and our beloved congregation. Please reach out if you have any questions. Our email is [transitionTeam@uucss.org](mailto:transitionTeam@uucss.org). Our members are: **Catherine Buckler, Nancy Dougherty, Paul Iobst, Ryan Smith, and Deborah Thornton**.

### Capital Campaign and Capital Improvements Team Update

In early September, in recognition of the changing task needed for the DreamBuilders—namely, moving from a visioning process to an implementation process—the Board reorganized and renamed the committee to Capital Campaign and Capital Improvements Team. **Erik Leaver** is now the chair.

Erik gave two presentations to the congregation in late September on the status of the Capital Campaign. The presentations provided an overview of the campaign results and the current estimated collections, along with the current charge to the team from the Board. Those documents can be found online at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3jn08tx2qk3mceb/Capital%20Campaign%20Committee%20Update-Sept2018.pdf?dl=0>

### Capital Improvements Team Continued

The presentations also included an overview of the work currently being planned with our construction firm, Keller. The planned work includes:

- Replace HVAC equipment in the Sanctuary.
- Replace the roof soffit and fascia in the Sanctuary.
- Replace the membrane roof over the Sanctuary Foyer.
- Caulk the exterior of windows.
- Repair damage to the upper wall over the entry doors.
- Replace and repair the entry doors.

The team is working with the tenants and Keller to schedule this work as soon as possible.

Once this work is underway, the team's next task will be to assess options for improvements to the Community Hall. In the spirit of the charge by the congregation to the DreamBuilders, this work will be done in consultation with the congregation. So be on the lookout for your opportunity to provide feedback this spring!

Questions/comments? Email the team at: [capitalimprovements@uucss.org](mailto:capitalimprovements@uucss.org).

Best, Erik Leaver

### UUCSS History: How to Hire a Minister—Part 2, Rev. Fred Cappuccino by Jo Paoletti

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 upcoming schedule will be:

December: **Howard Oliver, Robert Lewis, and Alice Wesley**

January: **Paul Johnson**

February: **Jim Bank**

March: **Elizabeth Lerner Maclay**

April: **Leon Dunkley**

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

Our first minister, **David Hicks MacPherson**, announced his departure in April 1962. He had guided the congregation from its founding as a fellowship, through the recent merger of the Universalist Church of American (UCA) and the American Unitarian Association (AUA), and finally the initial planning for a permanent building. As a minister whose calling was nurturing and building emerging congregations, MacPherson felt it was time for UUCSS to find new leadership for the next stage, whatever that might be.

The next month, a "Pulpit Committee" was formed to find a new minister: Max Miller (chair), Norma Archibald, Helen Goundry, Abe Piltch, Peg Barney, Alden Weeks, Jim Siena, Ethel Naugle, Lynn Pollock, Nancy Linton, and Horace Booth. The committee was fortunate that the UUA General Assembly (GA) in June was in Washington, DC. They rented a hospitality room in the Statler Hotel, and used it to host initial interviews with "7 ministers recommended by the UUA, and many others contacted at the convention."

The search criteria for "him or her" were

1. Organizational skills
2. Able to handle youth work
3. Good preacher
4. Good grasp of Unitarianism and Universalism
5. Not too old for a growing church nor too young for one with problems. "Middle-aged like the rest of us."

One of the biggest challenges faced by the committee was that the search process was in flux, because the newly formed association was still reconciling the different approaches used by the UCA and the AUA. As was typical of Universalist congregations, MacPherson had been assigned to the fellowship by the Boston office. The Unitarians had followed a more congregationally based process. The *Uniter* descriptions of the process changed over the next few months. In June, the plan was to listen or read sermons from the applicants, and then have one or two visit UUCSS for a week, with two sermons and lots of small group meetings, followed by a congregational vote. By September, the process had been adjusted to the new UUA guidelines, and the committee had observed one candidate in Baltimore and were scheduled to hear two more in "nearby churches," with no mention of meetings at UUCSS.

The search did not go smoothly. Despite meeting a couple dozen ministers at GA and interviewing three of them in September, by November the Pulpit Committee had to report that all of the candidates had already accepted jobs elsewhere. The committee was starting from scratch, amid suggestions from a few parishioners that the search be suspended. Here is where the archives unfortunately skip the regular *Uniter* issue, leaping directly to a special edition in mid-December announcing that **Fred Cappuccino**, a Methodist minister from Illinois, was coming to candidate in January.

### UUCSS History Continued



Cappuccino and his wife were minor celebrities, thanks to a 1960 Redbook article about their “unusual” family, then consisting of two biological children and three mixed-race adopted children. (Fred and Bonnie would eventually be parents to 21 children and would found a nonprofit in Canada, which they are still running.) The Pulpit Committee included an excerpt from Fred’s application in the *Uniter* by way of introduction:

*“I’m so sick and tired of fighting over the evolution battle in every pastorate; so sick and tired of beginning all over again to educate people in such elemental matters as multiple authorship of the Bible; so damn sick and tired of having church school children’s ‘little souls saved from Hell.’”*

The church constitution required a 75 percent yes vote. Fred Cappuccino was approved by an official vote of 100 yeas and one nay. He was in the pulpit for the first time on February 3, 1963. Four years later, the Cappuccinos moved to Canada, in part to shield their sons from the military draft. During his short ministry, he led the congregation directly into the Civil Rights movement, from the 1963 March on Washington, to Selma, to local picketing for fair housing. (A more detailed account of these activities was in the February 2018 *Uniter* (<https://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/UUCSS-Uniter-February-2018.pdf>.) He used the minister’s discretionary funds to help draft evaders move to Canada, a very controversial act, even in a liberal congregation. **Carolyn Savadkin**, who arrived just as Fred and Bonnie announced their departure, recalls, “If there was ever a Unitarian Jesus Christ, it was Fred Cappuccino.” For additional information about Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino, see the [Redbook article](#) (large PDF) ([https://www.dropbox.com/s/tyjd05x76353aoh/Redbook\\_Cappuccino.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/tyjd05x76353aoh/Redbook_Cappuccino.pdf?dl=0)) and the Child Haven International website (<https://www.childhaven.ca/index.html>). A copy of the original Redbook issue has been purchased and is available by request from the archives.

## LEARN

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

#### Growing Grateful Children

In this time of uncertainty and as we edge into the Thanksgiving season, it is more important than ever to maintain your and your family’s well-being, and one way is to remind you and yours of the people, places, experiences, and things you are grateful for. Harvard Medical School released a study in 2011 linking consistent practice of gratitude to a higher reported state of well-being. Gratitude takes our egos away, revealing the interconnected web of life, the multitude of people and places that sustains and nourishes our hearts and minds. Gratitude builds resistance and encourages persistence as the things we are grateful for sustain us.

Here are five activities you can do with your family to practice gratitude:

1. Model thankfulness.  
Children are always watching and listening, even when we think they may not be. Your behavior is a mirror for the way children learn to interact with the world. Tell your children you love them, thank them for being their unique and wonderful selves. Tell other adults, too. All people need reminders of their worth and dignity.
2. Establish a gratitude routine.  
Whether it be at dinner, at bedtime, or even travelling to or from school, ask your child to reflect on the day and name one thing they are grateful for. Be sure to share yours as well. You may find that soon you all will add more and more to the list each day.
3. Play a gratitude game.  
The blog at <https://teachbesideme.com/gratitude-game-pick-sticks> offers a great idea for pick-up sticks based on what you are grateful for. With just some Popsicle sticks or skewers and some colors, you can make a game you can play all year. Bring your game to the holidays for family and friends to celebrate what makes life worth living.
4. Put gratitude right in front of you.  
Make a collage from photos, magazines, and art with your children. Display this in a high-traffic area of the house as a reminder.
5. Create thank-you cards.  
With snail mail being a rarity nowadays, a personalized thank-you card drawn/written by your child means a lot. Does your child have a friend, a teacher, a coach, a neighbor, a family member who means a lot to them? Writing a personalized note to these folks touches their hearts in a tangible way. Younger children who do not know how to write can draw a card, and you can write what they wish to say. The artistically minded child may want to draw and write the entire card.

As the Director of Religious Education here, I am grateful for all of you and the all generations that make up this community that nurtures us and calls us to action to make a better world. Thank you for the abundance of joy, fun, warmth, and compassion you share with me. Thank you for your time, your talents, and your generosity. Without you, UUCSS would be missing a piece of itself.

Enjoy this season of thankfulness with love. Blessed be, Catherine Boyle, Director of Religious Education

# LEARN (continued)

## Religious Education Continued

### Auditions for Christmas Pageant

Auditions for the Christmas Eve pageant will be November 4 in the Chapel at 12:00. Come one, come all, there is a role for everyone!

### Upcoming Sundays in Religious Education

November 4—Multigenerational service, Coming of Age, preschool available

November 11—All religious education classes in session

November 18—Children's Chapel, preschool available, 7th–8th OWL orientation

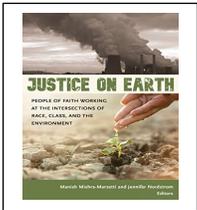
November 25—Art assembly (no preschool available)

### Sack Lunch and Learn: Adult RE

From 12:00 to 2:00 on November 4, join us downstairs in Classroom 3 for a class on Hinduism as part of our adult religious exploration classes. You are welcome to bring a lunch from home or wherever to munch on during the class.

## Join UUCSS in the UU Common Read!

Are you interested in exploring how racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are intertwined? Does your UU faith call you to envision justice for our earth as well as all beings that call it home? Do you enjoy discussions with your fellow UUCSS members and friends? Then join us for the UU Common Read!



The book chosen by the UUA this year is *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). Here's a description from the web site:

"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." <https://www.uua.org/books/read>

The Program Council will be hosting discussions of the book in the first part of 2019. Details to come! In the meantime, you can purchase the book and start reading. If you'd like a 20 percent discount on the book, be part of the UUCSS group purchase by filling out this form to let us know you're interested: <https://tinyurl.com/ydbmfmbd>.

If you'd prefer to purchase the book on your own, you can get it from the UUA's InSpirit book shop. Here's the link: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Justice-on-Earth-P18357.aspx>.

We hope you'll join us as we share a reading and reflection opportunity with our wider denomination. 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.**

# CONNECT

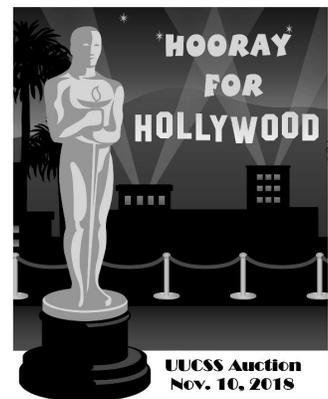
## Church Auction

**November 10, 2018, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

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, <https://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Auction-Catalog-fall-2018-101918.pdf>, or better yet, download it to your tablet or smartphone to be green! A limited number of printed catalogs will be provided.



## CONNECT (continued)

### Auction Continued

#### 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](mailto: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 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 catalog, please contact the Auction Committee at [auction@uucss.org](mailto:auction@uucss.org).

### Justice@UUCSS

#### An Update From the UUCSS Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)

##### Going to the UUCSS auction?

Plan to bid on the following events, which will feature dinner, showing of a movie, and discussion with RJTF members and other UUCSS'ers about the movie.

- Justice@UUCSS: Dinner & Movie Night—Black Panther—Saturday, January 12, hosted by **Charles Alexander** and **Phyllis Ryder**
- Justice@UUCSS: Dinner & Movie Night—Dear White People—Sunday, February 3 (alternative to the Super Bowl!), hosted by **Catherine Buckler**, **Susannah Numa**, and **Deborah Thornton**
- Justice@UUCSS: Dinner & Movie Night—Moonlight—Saturday, February 23, hosted by **Mary Beth Lerner**, **Eli Briggs**, and **Al Nathan**

### Study Circles

The RJTF hosted Study Circles September 29 and October 13. Twenty-five members participated in conversations about race and racism with the support goal of learning how to create greater equity and better engage in racial justice as a faith community. Participants built relationships, examined UUCSS through a racial lens to root out white supremacy, and explored ways our church culture might transform so policies and decision-making are shaped by a more racially and ethnically inclusive worldview. Overall, this session was enlightening and productive. Currently, a second session of Study Circles is planned for the Spring (date TBA).

Submitted by Eli Briggs for the RJTF

Contact the RJTF at [justicetaskforce@uucss.org](mailto:justicetaskforce@uucss.org).

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

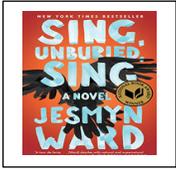
Are you interested in becoming a member of UUCSS? Our next Pathways to Membership class will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on November 10 in the Dolan Lounge. **Rev. Lyn Cox**, Interim Minister, and **Catherine Boyle**, Director of Religious Education, will be joining us. The Pathways class provides an opportunity to learn more about the history and principles of the Unitarian Universalist 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.

### Sunday, November 11 and Sunday, December 9 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!

# CONNECT (continued)

## 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 November 26 to discuss *Sing Unburied Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward.

## MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

After reading the painfully searing prose of Atticus Lish's *Preparation for the Next Life*, we have elected to read, with nostalgia for some of us, the more rational and gentle prose of A. Conan Doyle. We will meet to discuss *A Study In Scarlet*, *Silver Blaze*, *His Last Bow*, and *The Red Headed League* at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, at the home of **Bill Wolf**, 519 Dartmouth Avenue, Silver Spring, 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!



## EVENTS IN BRIEF

**NOVEMBER 3, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon.** Blue Jean Saturday church cleanup.

**NOVEMBER 4, 12:00 noon–2:00 pm.** Adult RE sack lunch and learn, Classroom 3.

**NOVEMBER 4, 1:00 p.m.,** film showing and discussion on right relationship with native peoples, Paint Branch UU Church, Adelphi, MD.

**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.

**NOVEMBER 16, 7:00–9:00 p.m.** Montgomery County 8th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville, MD. Free, but donations are invited.

<https://www.mocopridecenter.org/event-info/2018-moco-transgender-day-of-remembrance>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/485896795243242/>

**DECEMBER 1, 1:00–4:00 p.m.** Workshop: Beyond Categorical Thinking, Sanctuary. Registration information is coming soon.

**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

**UUCSS STEPS UP:** Over the last year, we have collected more than \$10,000 in the Sunday collection plate for Charities of the Month.

**Here's a list of the worthy organizations that have benefitted from UUCSS's generosity:**

- Deaf Abuse Women's Network (DAWN), October 2018
- Suited for Change, September 2018
- TASH, July 2018
- Araminta Freedom Initiative, June 2018
- Girls on the Run of Montgomery County, May 2018
- Anacostia Watershed Society, April 2018
- Montgomery Hospice, February 2018
- WPFW 89.3 FM Washington DC, January 2018
- Beacon House, December 2017
- Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop, November 2017
- Gilchrist Immigration Resource Center, September 2017
- Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, August 2017
- Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, July 2017.

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

**Emily Tien** is the Volunteer of the Month for November. During her 17 years with UUCSS, Emily has been involved in a wide array of activities. The first volunteer activity she remembers is being on the Search Committee for the music director and interviewing Michael Holmes. She has taught mini-courses and middle school OWL and just wrapped up a stint as a YRUU advisor. She joined the Inreach groups when they were formed, served as a facilitator for several years, and still attends an Inreach group, a communal activity she finds very rewarding. She served as an ABD co-chair with Erik Leaver and was one of the original members of the Diversity Committee. She has also been a member of the Board twice, the first time as an at-large member and currently as the VP of Planning. She enjoys her role as the VP because it has defined responsibilities (which include organizing the annual leadership retreat and devising agendas for Board meetings), and she enjoys planning. Currently, she is facilitating the Board's strategic planning taskforce.

When Emily first came to UUCSS, she was searching for a place to expose her sons to religion. She had not been raised within a religious tradition, and she was seeking a compatible community that was not Christian. What drew her to UUCSS initially were **Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay's** sermons—she particularly remembers Liz's first post-9/11 sermon—but she has continued to come, as her sons grew up and ministers came and went, because of the community. For Emily, the community is the heart and the soul of UUCSS. She recommends that new members and others looking to become more engaged seek out social events, such as the auction and auction events, the women's retreat, the men's groups, and Inreach groups to build relationships with other members and friends. The social ties developed in those activities will lead to greater involvement and investment in the community.

## Election day is Tuesday, November 6!

### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

**Reminder: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4. That means we'll turn back our clocks 1 hour ("fall back")—so we'll all get to church on time on Sunday morning!**

**Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator**





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

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)

**Michael Holmes**  
Music Director  
[musicdirector@uucss.org](mailto:musicdirector@uucss.org)

**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)**