

# December 2018

## UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING  
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903  
301-434-4050 • Fax 301-434-4051  
www.uucss.org



### Sunday Worship Services—10:30 AM

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.

#### **December 2: *Beyond Categorical Thinking***

**Mary Esther Johnson & Carol Carter Walker**

Special guests **Mary Esther Johnson** and **Carol Carter Walker** will co-lead this service, following up on the *Beyond Categorical Thinking* congregational workshop held the day before.

#### **December 9: *Dedication* Rev. Lyn Cox**

The word “Hanukkah” means “Dedication.” The story of the re-dedication of the center of Jewish life and identity during a war with an occupying world superpower 2,200 years ago shows that strength, resources, and hope can surprise us. The UUCSS Klezmer Ensemble will play.

#### **December 16: *The Shepherd’s Prayer* Rev. Lyn Cox**

During the holiday season, we consider stories of surprise appearances and unexpected reversals. These legends of awe and wonder lead us to consider courage, love, and sincerity.

#### **December 23: *Winter Solstice* Rev. Lyn Cox**

The astronomical facts of the winter solstice are connected with many of the winter holidays that originated in the northern hemisphere. Celebrating both the nurturing, dreaming dark and the turn of the year toward the growing light is a spiritual pursuit in earth-honoring traditions. We welcome special musical guest Jennifer Cutting and the Ocean Trio for this service.

#### **December 30: *New Year’s Service* Sandy Dwiggins**

Transforming the old year into the new year is a spiritual task, ripe for mystery and ritual. Member Sandy Dwiggins will lead this service of memory and determination.

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#### **December 24, 6:00 pm, Christmas Eve Family Service**

Come on a journey to remember hospitality, awe, and wonder as themes for the Christmas season. Enjoy the Christmas pageant, Children’s Choir, Sanctuary Singers, and celebration of babies born in the community over the past year. Between the two Christmas Eve services, stick around for a cookie reception.

#### **December 24, 8:30 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Christmas is a time for old traditions and new rituals, old stories and new friends, music and poetry from across the centuries that touch on the concerns of the world today. Carols and sacred text related to the Nativity story help us frame a larger understanding about the rebirth of hope.

# INSPIRE

## Interim Minister's Column

Dear Ones,

As I write this, I have just spent the afternoon at a museum with my brother, who called one of the modern art installations\* “simultaneously comforting and disruptive.” I immediately recognized the appeal. “That’s my whole life,” I said. Faith and art have a lot in common.



Unitarian Universalism embraces both comfort and challenge. When we concentrate on a defined mission, such as connecting with the sacred and bending the arc toward justice, we may surprise ourselves at the choices that are necessary and at the feats of which we are capable when we collaborate in pursuit of that mission. We may be surprised at the treasures of friendships and wisdom that come with that journey, and we may be surprised at the old habits or assumptions we have to give up if we put love and justice first.

Surprise is the theme of the month for our worship services, and it’s a natural occurrence throughout the winter holidays. On December 2 (and at the workshop on December 1), our Beyond Categorical Thinking facilitators will ask the congregation to be open to surprise about who the Ministerial Candidate will be, and to be open to surprise about what it might mean to have a minister with an unexpected identity. For our service on December 9, we’ll remember the surprise of victory in the story of Hanukkah, and gather courage for our own encounters that go against the odds. On December 16, we’ll be surprised by angels, wondering what messages we could be receiving already if we are ready for them. The Winter Solstice, which we’ll celebrate on December 23, is about the worry, hope, and surprise that come along with the return of the light. Details about the December 30 service are still coming together; it’s a surprise.

Whether you are decorating an evergreen tree with twinkle lights, cupping your hand around the shamash on the way to lighting the Hanukkah menorah, inviting the return of the sun with a candle at your window, or lighting the night with your witness for peace and justice, may this be a season of surprises that transform our lives and bring us closer to bending the arc toward justice.

Take care,  
-Rev. Lyn



\*The installation in question was “Woldgate Woods, Winter, 2010” by David Hockney at the Toledo Museum of Art. The artist set up nine different video cameras, not quite in sync with each other, and recorded the visual experience of a trip through a snowy forest. The effect is of a shared journey from nine perspectives that don’t match.

## DECEMBER UNITER UPDATE—SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search committee is in the process of finalizing our submission to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), known as the congregational record. We are also compiling documents that will be part of our online “packet” (actually a shared folder online) that includes things like budgets from the last 5 years, our bylaws and constitution, recent issues of the *Uniter*, annual reports, and photos of the congregation and grounds.

Thank you to all of you who participated in cottage meetings, filled out the survey, and helped us synthesize the data. A large group of educated, passionate, and creative ministers will spend December looking through our submission and all those from other churches in search.

Come to the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop!

“Will the new minister connect with me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of an “ideal minister” may come to mind, perhaps categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and/or sexual orientation. With this picture in place, it can be easy to exclude ministers who either don’t fit our preconceived ideas or who fall into certain categories. At times, if we get caught up in comparing candidates to our “picture,” we can even forget what it is we actually hoped for in a minister.

For the past several weeks, you’ve been hearing from the search committee about the upcoming Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. This workshop is a VITAL part of the search process. It will help us all:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns we have for a new minister,
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

In the workshop we will consider how to step beyond any preconceived notions—explicit or implied—that might arise during the search process. The workshop promotes inclusive thinking and helps prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister.

The UUCSS search committee invites ALL congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

**Date: Saturday, December 1**

**Time: 1:00-4:00pm**

**Place: UUCSS Sanctuary**

Two UUA-trained and experienced facilitators—**Mary Esther Johnson** and **Carol Carter Walker**—will conduct the workshop. They will also lead worship the next day, Sunday, December 2.

Clearly, the selection of a minister is significant in the life of a congregation. Beyond Categorical Thinking provides us with a chance to explore our values more deeply and to open our hearts to all the ministerial talent and creativity that are available to us. At the same time, it is a way to demonstrate our responsiveness to the UUA and our welcoming outreach to ministerial candidates, who are likely to want to know how many people participated in the workshop. We have faith that UUCSS will answer that call!

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/search12-01>

**Please come even if you have not had a chance to register!**

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

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

## INSPIRE (continued)

### Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President

We started the holiday season with a wonderful act of generosity. With only 2 weeks' notice, UUCSS was able to create nine Thanksgiving baskets for needy families from Francis Scott Key Middle School. The school was reaching out to churches in the area, and we were able to respond. They originally asked for seven baskets, but everyone was so generous that we were able to provide two more baskets. Thank you to all those who provided donations and time to get everything together and delivered. I am looking forward to doing this again next year with a bit more lead time and a great deal more organization.

While putting together the baskets for this year, I discovered that creating Thanksgiving baskets was a UUCSS tradition under Reverend Banks. The entire church was involved, with as many as 50 baskets created for those in need. I am hoping we can reinvigorate this tradition and connect more with our neighborhood community.

At the October Board meeting, we heard an update from the search committee on their continued hard work gathering information and following the process to identify our new minister. We also discussed the planned seminar *Beyond Categorical Thinking* and the need for congregational participation. The Board reviewed the draft ministerial contract. As part of the contract discussion, the Board took on the task of defining a ministerial review process by March 2019. We began the discussion to create the model budget for the upcoming Annual Budget Drive (ABD). We are starting early to attempt to gather all the inputs to inform the budget and the ABD. Members of the Program Council and the Operations Council should have already received requests for input. While these inputs will guide us in creating the proposed budget for the ABD, it is not a promise of funding. Funding will be determined by the outcome of the ABD. The Board voted to join in fellowship with our DRE Catherine Boyle and to affiliate with Ashley Burczak to support her in her community ministry.

On the agenda for November's Board meeting are continued discussions on the budget, policy concerning emergency funds, and recognition of our church staff. We have a task from the Strategic Planning Task Force; more on that in next month's *Uniter*. We will also be deciding on possible members for the ABD team, Capital Improvements Committee, and a working group for evaluation of the minister and ministry. If you are interested in any of these committees or would like more information, please contact any Board member.

May your holidays be filled with love, warmth and a deep feeling of belonging.

### UUCSS History: A Tale of Three Searches: Howard Oliver, Robert Lewis, and Alice Blair Wesley 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:

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. Please contact me if you were on the search committee for any of these ministers! (jo.paoletti@gmail.com)

#### 1967–1969 Howard Oliver

In the fall of 1966, **Rev. Fred Cappuccino** announced that he was accepting a call from a church in Canada. During his brief ministry—not quite 4 years—the congregation had finished both a sanctuary (now the Community Hall) and the administration building, increased its activism in civil rights and antiwar efforts, and attracted many new members. A search committee was formed early in 1967 and was busy surveying the congregation and screening candidates. The search went quickly, by modern standards; the committee announced the candidacy of Howard Oliver in the April 5 *Uniter*, about 2 months after they began their work.

## INSPIRE (continued)

Oliver came to us from the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, where he was the Associate Minister. A Massachusetts-born lifelong Unitarian, Rev. Oliver had degrees in political science and religion from Harvard, UCLA, and USC. He was also an ex-Marine and a labor contract negotiator with the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA). He was interested in returning to the East, and the UUA Department of Ministry had taken the rather unusual step of bringing him out from California at its expense for a tour of “nearly a dozen” congregations, including ours. At the special Friday-night congregational meeting, he was called with a nearly unanimous vote, “except for one unmarked ballot.” He led his first service the following September.

A highly intellectual writer and speaker and an effective organizer, Howard Oliver is remembered warmly by the few members who remain from that time. However, his tenure turned out to be extremely brief: in May 1969, he announced that he had accepted a call from the 1st Unitarian Church of Berkeley and was moving back to California. By early June he was gone. At that time, the church was approaching 300 members, more than a third of them added during the scant 2 years of his ministry. But despite its growth, the congregation was also facing increasing financial stress due the cost of the two buildings and the corrections and repairs they already demanded. Financial matters dominated the next 15 years of our history.

### 1969–1973 Robert Lewis Search

A search committee was quickly assembled, comprising **Mel Harris, Daphne Holden, Doe McCarren, Ed Powers, Dave Reamy, Anne Riley, Charles Schnetzler (chair), Barbara Steckel, and Steve Zilikiacus.** Anne Riley and Ed Powers remember flying to Boston with some of the other search committee members to interview a few candidates at that year’s General Assembly, but nothing came of it. Only one minister was pre-candidated (brought to a neutral pulpit for an audition): Robert Lewis, former minister at River Road Unitarian Church. He was known to many members as the brother of **Donna Barash**, the church accompanist, and through local denominational activities. He came to candidate at UUCSS from September 7th to the 14th, with a vote taken immediately after his second service. The vote was 110 to 1; he started officially 2 weeks later. The search was not the only aspect of his calling that was unusual; his contract contained an annual renewal clause, at his request. Each spring there was a vote at the annual meeting whether or not to retain the minister.

Under Lewis, the worship services and adult programming at UUCSS took an inward turn, to applications of emerging psychological theories and practices. Membership continued to grow, though more slowly, but financial pressures mounted. The cost of the administration building had added to the church’s debt, and repairs to the sanctuary building, especially the signature glass walls, were becoming burdensome. The paid religious education administrator left in early spring 1970, and in the new budget, the amount for religious education was listed as a package, rather than a salary, with the understanding that the RE committee was free to “make it work.” The result was a completely volunteer-run RE program for several years.

To say that Robert Lewis was unorthodox is putting it mildly. During the year between his time at River Road and being hired at UUCSS, he had begun a PhD program in psychology at Catholic University, with an eye toward a more counseling-focused ministry or even a possible career change, according to his wife, Sylvia, in a recent interview. Certainly, these interests fit in well with the climate in much of white, middle-class, liberal America at the time. A more detailed history of these times will have to wait for later, however.

Many of you have probably heard that Robert Lewis left when the board eliminated the minister’s salary from the budget, effectively firing him. The real story is more complicated. In November 1972, the *Unitarian* reported that 45 member units had refused to pledge, “with resignations expected from 14 of them.” The congregation was faced with a choice between the buildings (mortgage, maintenance, repairs) and the minister, and in March, they approved a resolution that “because of insufficient funds to carry on the present church programs, the contract with the minister be terminated as of September 2, 1973.” The vote was 72 yeas, 20 nays, and 4 abstaining. Instead of a search committee, a planning committee formed to manage without a minister.

## INSPIRE (continued)

But Robert Lewis did not disappear. He continued in the pulpit until his contract ended, and was a regular guest minister for years afterward. His wife, **Sylvia Lewis**, was ordained by UUCSS in June 1973, and both Robert and Sylvia officiated at weddings and funerals of their former congregants. They still live in Greenbelt; Robert Lewis has Lewy body dementia and no longer remembers his career as a minister and counselor, but Sylvia is still very active in her community.

### 1977 Alice Blair Wesley Search

The years without a minister had mixed results. Membership numbers stagnated, and so did pledges as the economy was rocked by inflation, recession, and an energy crisis. But many members stepped up to provide administrative leadership and either plan or offer worship services. Most important, the urgent repairs to the buildings were funded and finally completed by 1977. On October 11 of that year, a congregational meeting was held “to consider in next year’s budget ‘a line item of up to \$6000 for ministerial services’.” Two amendments were made: the first to use the term “a professional person who would function in a ministerial capacity”; the second proposed a funding level of “at least \$6,000.” The congregation was ready to hire a minister.

A ministerial search committee was formed: **Lucile Rowe, Alan Hedin, Ed Greene, Janet Coffin, Daphne Holden, Kristen Gerlach, and Frank Robbins**. Their first task was to determine exactly how much minister we could afford: could we call a part-time minister and hope to gradually increase them to full time? Perhaps we could share a minister with another congregation? Their decision eventually was to work with the UUA to hire someone under a special program in which the UUA selected the candidates, who were paid in part by the UUA and in part by the congregation, and who were limited to a 3-year non-renewable contract. (This appears to be a form of interim ministry that predates the current system.)

The May 9 *Uniter* announced that the selected candidate would be visiting over Memorial Day weekend, May 26–28. Alice Blair Wesley had been recently admitted to preliminary fellowship, and did her ministerial internship at the Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston. She was serving two congregations in Texas, but her husband was being transferred to Delaware. She told the UUA she would be willing to take part-time work within 2 hours of the Wilmington/Newark area and UUCSS “made it just under the wire.” On Tuesday, May 30, the congregation voted unanimously to call her.

She replied, “...You have called; I shall come. With faith in your good purposes, gratitude for your confidence, hope for the significance and life enhancement of our enterprise, and joy, I pledge myself to your service and companionship.”

## LEARN

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

Every morning I have a winter moment. That is the moment before the coffee pot goes off in the morning. A moment of stillness before the rush to life begins. As the poet Mark Neppo says before the emails begin flitting and the phone starts ringing, it is that tangible moment of silence. Winter is stark. Winter is quiet. Winter is the season of calm before all things spring to life. Winter is when we nestle into our spirits and contemplate. This is not the time for running and rushing but a time for reflection and preparation. Our ancestors put away the plow, all vegetables were canned and pickled, meat was salted, and now there was nothing left to do but think. Sometimes in the course of human history, this time of stillness was taken literally into actual hibernation. In 1900 the British Medical Journal described cases of hibernation among Russian peasants in the northwest part of the country.

The report stated: “At the first fall of snow the whole family gathers round the stove, lies down, ceases to wrestle with the problems of human existence, and quietly goes to sleep. Once a day everyone wakes up to eat a piece of hard bread, of which an amount sufficient to last six months has providently been baked in the previous autumn. When the bread has been washed down with a draught of water, everyone goes to sleep

## LEARN (continued)

### Director of Religious Education (continued)

again. The members of the family take it in turn to watch and keep the fire alight. After six months of this reposeful existence the family wakes up, shakes itself, goes out to see if the grass is growing, and by-and-by sets to work at summer tasks." This period of respite was called *lotska*.

But in this day and age, it is so hard to set aside time to rest, time to think, time to contemplate, even as our environmental and internal cues push us to. It is no wonder that a couple of weeks after this longest night, people started thinking of new year resolutions, plans for the year to come. Once they made those plans, they did not rush into it, not like us who decide this is the year I will take up running and sprain my ankle at the gym January 2nd. Winter is not the time for rushing, it is stillness, it is waiting, it is letting the frost melt off of you naturally and bursting into spring. Cultivate this gift of the season to get in touch with your spirit, to rest and listen to your heart speak. In the hustle and bustle of the season, breathe. The presents will be wrapped, the candles will be lit, the food made. Just as the seeds must take time to grow roots into the ground, to unfurl and stretch, so must we as humans if we are to get the work done that the season of hope insists we do.

We find ourselves aware of this prolonged wait of winter stretching slowly into the horizon of spring, feeling like Persephone trapped in Hades awaiting spring, wondering if it will ever come. The season affects our minds as well as our bodies as we feel more lethargic. Frost and snow and grey days and darker nights, the chill of the season makes discontent that so easily permeates the air. S-A-D they call it, seasonal affective disorder. Sometimes vitamin D is not enough. And sometimes it is not SAD, sometimes it is the time of the year, or the post-holiday gloom, sometimes the only companion one can find in winter is the cold itself. At this time, we can feel like the only human on the planet. We must remember like our brothers, sisters, our human family before us, that the spring will come again.

This is a natural cycle, and by observing it, we observe the own seasons within ourselves. And more so, we recognize we are not alone, as our ancestors did, that we exist in this season together. It is up to us as Unitarian Universalists to be there for each other, not only to be candles in the darkness but hands we can hold on to. Social support protects against depression. We must not only perform self-care for ourselves but care for all of our siblings across this beautiful faith. Be shoulders we can lean on, a family we can talk to to go through this experience together. Sing songs together. Make hummus together. Moan on Facebook. Cry through a text message. Call. Talk. Listen. Sit with. Hold each other. Be together in this, because together we will come out of this into the summer. So this season, hold on to the hope of the season, cultivate it and share it with each other. Blessed be. Happy Holidays, Catherine Boyle

### Lunch and Learn Religious Education Classes for Adults

This year we are offering classes in the theme of world religions to match our children's and youth's exploration of the same topic. We started 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. For additional information or questions, email Catherine at [dre@uucss.org](mailto:dre@uucss.org)

December: Islam

December 2: 12:00–2:00

December 16: 12:00–2:00

January: Comparative Religions

January 6: 12:00–2:00

January 20: 12:00–2:00

February: Comparative Religions Continues

February 3: 12:00–2:00

February 17: 12:00–2:00

March: Comparative Religions Continues

March 3: 12:00–2:00

March 17: 12:00–2:00

April: Comparative Religions Continues

April 14: 12:00–2:00

April 28: 12:00–2:00

# SERVE

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

### Deb Weiner

Deb and her partner **Janne Harrelson** first came to UUCSS in 1997 when their daughter **Lucy** was 3 months old, looking for a place that would provide a foundation for ethical thinking and behavior where they would feel welcomed and accepted as a lesbian couple. Although UUCSS was going through a period of crisis at the time, it had just been accepted as a Welcoming Congregation by the UUA, and Deb and Janne felt very welcomed. They were attracted to the music program and the children and youth in the congregation, and decided to join the church. Deb's first involvement as volunteer came 2 years later when she joined the interim minister search committee. The committee members had a great experience, and after the committee's work finished, they formed the Women's Book Group, which continues to meet at Deb's house (and welcome new participants) to this day. Deb has served as an at-large member of the Board and a member of **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay's** Ministerial Relations Committee, taught elementary-age RE classes, and has been a member of the Deaf Access Committee since the early 2000s, where she helps to ensure that we have an interpreter each Sunday and at all-church events. Currently, Deb leads the Sunday Support teams, which provide ushers, greeters, coffee setup, and other support to enable our services to run smoothly. Deb encourages new friends and members to consider joining a Sunday Support team as an excellent way to meet people.

In March 2010, Deb and Janne were one of the 10 couples who got married at a ceremony in DC sponsored by UUCSS and the Universalist National Memorial Church on the first day same-sex couples could get married in DC. Deb is immensely grateful that the church made it such an amazing event for her and Janne. Deb also feels that it has been a privilege to raise her daughter at UUCSS, which was there for Lucy every step of the way. For Deb, UUCSS is and has been a community that provides her with connections to diverse group of fellow thinkers, explorers, and seekers.

## Information From the Green Sanctuary Committee

Power your house with solar! No roof needed!

Electricity—we all use it.

- 94 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States come from fossil fuel combustion
- Residences use 37 percent of the electricity generated.
- 57.7 percent of Pepco standard service electricity comes from fossil fuels.
- Using Pepco standard service, the average Maryland household accounts for 966 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per month, or 5.8 tons per year.

You can now power your house with solar without putting panels on your roof! Neighborhood Sun is offering subscriptions to solar-generated electricity in our Pepco area. They are building solar arrays in our region, the first one over a brownfield in Fort Washington (Prince George's County). The solar arrays will feed electricity into the grid, so subscribers will get credit on their Pepco bill as though they had solar panels on their roofs. A Silver Spring-based company, Neighborhood Sun is a B corporation, meaning that the Maryland government recognizes them as providing a community benefit. They are establishing a Solar Neighbor Benefit Fund from their gross revenues to subsidize low- and moderate-income subscribers. Neighborhood Sun requires a 5-year contract, and their rates will fluctuate with Pepco rates, but their rates are guaranteed to always be 5 percent lower than the Pepco standard electricity price! Neighborhood Sun will provide at least 70 percent of your electricity needs based on your past usage, and up to 100 percent of your electricity needs based on their technical capacity.

## SERVE (continued)

### Green Sanctuary Information (continued)

You may already be subscribed to wind power for your residential electricity, and that's great! However, Neighborhood Sun is a local company providing local jobs. Besides that, local solar arrays are more efficient and more distributed than large, distant wind turbines. And guess what? You can have both. If you subscribe to Neighborhood Sun, solar power will take precedence, but any electricity needs not met by Neighborhood Sun can be supplied by other sources, including wind-sourced electricity from WGL or other suppliers. So between the sun and the wind, your residential electricity can be 100 percent fossil-fuel free!

All information is available at [www.neighborhoodsun.solar/armando](http://www.neighborhoodsun.solar/armando)  
Contact Armando Gaetaniello, cell 301-256-5948, email [armando@neighborhoodsun.solar](mailto:armando@neighborhoodsun.solar).  
**Doneby Smith**, Green Sanctuary Committee

## CONNECT

### 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!

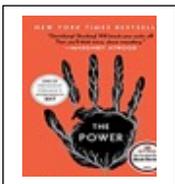
### Save the Date: January 5, 9 a.m. to Noon for Our Annual "Quiet Day" Program

Consider this your invitation for a low-key morning of post-holiday restoration. I am also looking for a few folks willing to organize an activity (in the past, these have included meditation, yoga, coloring, a quiet walk on the grounds, etc.).

I am also hoping to use this event to jumpstart some activity and religious education offerings for the coming months. In addition to the Quiet Day activities, we will have a display of science-fair style posters advertising existing and proposed opportunities. If you would like to offer a workshop or short course in the coming months, send me an email or chat me up at coffee hour. More information will also be coming via the Yahoo and Facebook group.

Jo Paoletti [jo.paoletti@gmail.com](mailto:jo.paoletti@gmail.com)

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

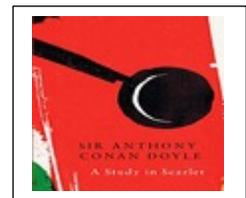


The Women's Book Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month. We are an informal group that has been meeting since 2000, and we are open to interested readers; there is no long-term obligation. Please contact [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com) for additional details. We will not meet in December because of the holidays. At our next meeting on January 28, 2019, we will discuss *The Power* by Naomi Alderman.

### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

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!



## CONNECT (continued)

### EVENTS IN BRIEF

**DECEMBER 1**, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Workshop: Beyond Categorical Thinking, Sanctuary. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/search12-01>.

**DECEMBER 2**, 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. UUCSS Holiday Bazaar, Community Hall.

**DECEMBER 2**, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn, Islam, Chapel.

**DECEMBER 9**, 12:00 noon, UUCSS 101 for UUCSS visitors, Triangle Room.

**DECEMBER 16**, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn, Islam, Chapel.

**JANUARY 5**, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Save the date for Quiet Day!

**JANUARY 6**, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

**JANUARY 20**, 12:00 noon–2:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn, Comparative Religions, Chapel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

The rest of the UUCSS Staff members join me in wishing all our UUCSS members, friends, and visitors a very joyful Holiday Season!

Melinda Yalom  
Church Administrator





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

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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.

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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)**