
April 2019

UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903
301-273-9745 • 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.

April 7: Stardust (Rescheduled) Rev. Lyn Cox

Everything we are, everything we touch, everything we pass through and that passes through us was once part of the burning heart of a star. Transformation is the way of the universe, and has been the way of the universe since before time began. The assurance of change over time, and our kinship with all matter, may lead us to hope for unimagined possibilities. This service was originally scheduled for January 13, but was snowed out. We honor the work of the a cappella group and other musicians who prepared special material by giving them another chance at stardom.

April 14: Weaving Hope Rev. Lyn Cox

Building a community where hope, grace, and kindness can thrive is not so much an act of engineering as it is a work of collaborative art. As with weaving, it is necessary to soften up, to prepare for twists and turns, and to be open to making repairs. For those following the Christian liturgical calendar, it is Palm Sunday, and an opportunity to consider humility. For those following the Jewish calendar, it's just before Passover, a time when liberation seems both imminent and distant. Whatever your spiritual path, it is a good time to awaken strength and compassion among us and within us. We'll have a commissioning ceremony for the Lay Ministry team to honor their work as peer listeners, and we'll hear the choir embody the mysticism of Hildegard of Bingen.

April 21: Love Remembers, a Multigenerational Easter Service Rev. Lyn Cox

Unitarian Universalists have a wide variety of beliefs and interpretations of stories about the resurrection of Jesus. The way in which the people we care about live on is a mystery. We may believe. We may wonder. Yet we know that love remembers. Stories, movement meditation, and the music of the Children's Choir will lead us to reflect together and to search for our many paths of meaning in the holiday.

April 28: Earth Day Rev. Lyn Cox

Practicing respect for our planet and for the living beings we share our world with is part of our UU faith. We'll celebrate the wonder of the good, green earth and dedicate ourselves to stewardship of our natural resources.

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Please be advised that members who are unable to attend the May 5 or 12 congregational meeting in person to vote on our settled minister will be able to cast absentee ballots.

INSPIRE

Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox

Awakening



Being fully present is a spiritual goal, something that many religious paths cultivate but that few people can manage for more than a breath or two at a time. We prepare ourselves to be fully present to the challenges before us, as well as the opportunities before us and the beauty around us. We follow a spiritual discipline to help us to be fully present to suffering, and also fully present to our calling to relieve suffering whenever possible. Religious tradition and community help us to be fully present and accepting of our whole selves, and of the people around us in all of their wholeness, and of the wholeness of the sacred. With this understanding comes humility and the possibility for

growth. Another name for coming into awareness is awakening.

For some people, spring is a time of awakening. Trees and animals that have slowed down for the winter are renewed in energy and evidence of life. Some calendars place their new year in the spring, when the cycle of life displays the turning of the seasons in fine array. Easter may be a time of awakening for some people, a reminder of the possibility of transformation, reconciliation, and perhaps of a world to come. Passover may be a time of awakening, a time to take a break from the puffed-upness of pride or habit, a time to notice that collective liberation is available if we can journey toward it together. We are washed by the rain, our hearts are melted by the sun, we are moved by the winds of change to notice where we are and where we are going.

Our Western traditions may suggest to us that the purpose of awakening is to set ourselves apart, to be more knowledgeable or more objective or more pure than our peers. Another approach to awakening is that awareness leads us into understanding interdependence and accountability. When we practice awakening, we have more tools and more reasons to notice our impact on other people and on the earth we share. When we practice awakening to our own foibles, we are better able to gently invite others to return to relationship when things go awry. When we practice awakening, we remember the words of George Odell, "All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us."

This approach to awakening demonstrates why this month is an ideal time to honor our Lay Ministry Team. These volunteers offer peer listening to members and friends. We'll honor their service during worship on April 14.

In this season of renewed awareness of our interdependence, it is fitting to renew our commitments to community. If you haven't already, I encourage you to sign up for a cottage meeting as part of the Annual Budget Drive (ABD) campaign. These meetings are designed to foster deep conversation about our values and connections with the congregation. Through gifts of time, talent, and financial support, we are "Manifesting Our Gratitude." Building relationship is a major goal of this year's ABD campaign. Another goal is supporting a budget that will allow UUCSS to rebuild a relationship to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) through a contribution to the UUA's Annual Program Fund. Just as people can do more together as a congregation than individuals can do alone, congregations can do more together as an Association. Thank you for the time and consideration you are offering to cottage meetings and the ABD, and thank you for all of the gifts you offer to UUCSS and Unitarian Universalism.

May this season bring lovely things into your awareness: beauty, life, and love. For the difficult things this season brings into your awareness, may you have the strength and the companionship to move through them with courage. Let us awaken to our interdependence.

INSPIRE (continued)

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



Spring is here. The daffodils are up, new buds on the trees. A time for new beginnings and to shake off the winter cold. The spring also brings our Annual Budget Drive (ABD), a time to share our abundance, whether that abundance is time, talent, or treasure. As you can see from our budget, we expect great things in this coming church year. We expect to welcome a new minister and invest more in our infrastructure. In addition, this will be the first year in a long time that we will be making a pledge of any amount to the Central East Region (CER) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

For the past several years, we have balanced our budget by not paying any of our obligation to CER/UUA. Our constitution requires that we are an honor congregation. An honor congregation is one that gives the full donation to CER/UUA. The amount of a full donation is determined by the number of members in a congregation. This budget does not meet that full amount, but it does put a stake in the ground so we can move in that direction. UUCSS was an honor congregation for many years and received a certificate from the UUA acknowledging our dedication. That certificate was displayed in the sanctuary foyer; it currently resides in a drawer waiting until we are once again meeting our obligation to our larger faith community.

Besides supporting our larger faith community, CER has supported UUCSS steadfastly even when we have been unable to reciprocate. Many of you have worked with **Rev. Megan Foley**. Rev. Megan is the Regional Lead for CER. She is our main contact and has supported us faithfully as we navigated the last few years. Rev. Megan and others from CER have answered our many questions and provided support via consultation or training. The 3-year rolling strategic plan was started on the basis of initial input and guidance from CER. As UUCSS was navigating a low point, CER was there to help us regain our strength. It is time for us to begin meeting our obligation to CER and the UUA again. Please consider this when making your pledge this year. I look forward to hearing from all of you as we complete our ABD and move forward in commitment and love.

Tamara Bowman

2019 Annual Budget Drive Update

All Members and Friends are invited to participate in this year's Annual Budget Drive (ABD) by joining us for a hosted ABD cottage meeting. These cottage meetings are an opportunity to engage with your fellow congregants in an important conversation about our collective investment in the church and how we are *Manifesting our Gratitude* for our community. To sign up, please use the Sign-up Genius link on the next page.*

Here is a peek at the cottage meeting offerings through Easter weekend:

Date	Hosts/Location	Description
4/5 (Fri)	Catherine Buckler (Catherine & Bob's home)	Evening; light dinner (child-friendly)
4/6 (Sat)	Paul Iobst & Anna Molpus (their home)	Afternoon; light refreshments
4/6 (Sat)	Linda Barrett, Emily Harris, & Emily Tien (Linda & Emily's home)	Evening; light dinner
4/7 (Sun)	Patti Poss & Erica Anderson (Patti & John's home)	Afternoon; light refreshments (child-friendly)
4/13 (Sat)	Robin Moore Lasky (Robin & Michael's home)	Morning; brunch (child-friendly)
4/13 (Sat)	Lynn Cave & Christa Maher (Lynn's home)	Afternoon; light refreshments
4/14 (Sun)	Pat Hulsebosch & Erik Leaver (Church/Dolan Lounge)	Afternoon; light refreshments
4/14 (Sun)	Tina Borrer & Marty Atias (their home)	Afternoon; lunch
4/14 (Sun)	Tamara Bowman & Ron Turner (their home)	Afternoon; light refreshments
4/20 (Sat)	Michael & Madona LeBlanc (their home)	Afternoon; light refreshments (child-friendly)
4/21 (Sun)	Mary Beth Lerner & Elissa Webber (Mary Beth's home)	Evening; dessert

INSPIRE (continued)

Annual Budget Drive (ABD) Update

Your pledges serve as the foundation for meeting our budget goals and securing a solid financial footing for the year(s) ahead. This year's budget drive reflects five key priorities, including:

- 1) Welcoming a new, called minister
- 2) Increasing the salaries and wages of all personnel by 1 percent
- 3) Reconnecting with the UUA
- 4) Maintaining and upgrading our property and grounds
- 5) Sustaining our excellent programs.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's ABD, please contact the ABD co-chairs, **Jean Snell** and **Cynthia Curry-Daniel**, at: abdchairs@uucss.org.

*The Sign-up Genius link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4daaae2ea13-2019>.

Search Committee Update

We are in the waiting part of the process. Anticipation is high. Here is an opening reading from a recent meeting:

Waiting For Truth by Lilli Janzen

Wait, you say, but I want to know.
Wait, you say, but it's just so slow.
Do I need to live with the questions
Or simply wait for your confession?

Who are you really in your mind?
Is it the key I need to find?
Do I accurately read your face,
Or is your grin quite out of place?

These answers won't just come too soon,
And I just wonder how many moons.
You'll keep me deeply in suspense,
Inviting questions more intense.

You have your reasons, I can tell
But waiting seems a living hell.

But I'm afraid to know the truth,
And knowing this I feel abused.

I know that rushing does no good,
And patience just may prove it would
Help me live with the unknown
Until the truth will then be known.

But truth arrives with revelation
That makes us contemplate our station.
Sometimes it's better just to wait
Till we are fit to change our state.

May Spirit help us in our quest
To hear and understand the rest.
Once we are clear to know the truth
Life will advance and be more smooth.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/waiting-for-truth>

UUCSS History: Vacancies and Opportunities: Hiring and Calling Rev. Leon by Jo Paoletti

There have been so many times, as I researched this series, that I wish I could share everything I read with all of you! Over the last few weeks, I have been poring over the *Uniter* newsletters from 2010 to 2012, reliving the excitement and enthusiasm of those years. Every issue is full of activity, new initiatives, and determination. So bear with me if the resulting article doesn't convey that. After all, this is just a series on ministerial searches: the why, the how, and the who. Oddly enough, this time story takes us into a bit of religious education history.



Since **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay** arrived in August 2000, UUCSS had experienced not only significant growth but considerable staff turnover, particularly in religious education. **Natalie Fenimore**, who had served as Director of Religious Education (DRE) during **Jim Bank's** tenure, left us to pursue a Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary. (She is currently Minister for Lifespan Religious Education at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock.)

INSPIRE (continued)

UUCSS History

Enter **Mandy Keithan**, who served until 2007, when she returned to her career as an aerialist/instructor. (She is still working at the DC branch of the New York Trapeze School.) At that point, the church had just completed its first strategic plan, in which we recognized that our growth meant we needed more professional staff. But what kind, and how much? We had religious education needs, membership coordination needs, and the minister needed help as well. **Jim Paoletti** remembers that the committee discussed the possibility of hiring a Minister of Religious Education (MRE), but rejected the idea as too ambitious for our current budget. In the meantime, **Barbara Stoddard** served as interim DRE as we searched for a permanent replacement for Mandy. (This was a hired, not a called, position, so it required a simpler process and a smaller committee.)



To the surprise and delight of the hiring committee, one of the applicants was someone with ministerial credentials: **Rev. Ellen Jennings**, an ordained United Church of Christ (UCC) minister who most recently had served as DRE for the Interfaith Families Project (IFFP), an independent community of Christian and Jewish families. So she was hired, and 1 year later her position was changed to MRE, as Rev. Liz's upcoming sabbatical would require Rev. Ellen to shoulder more ministerial responsibilities. In 2011, Rev. Ellen was called to be the pastor at the Cleveland Park Congregational UCC, where she still serves. Rev. Ellen's assistant DRE, **Sarah Gonzales**, could step into the religious education role, but could not take on the ministerial tasks. It was time to revisit the strategic plan and carefully consider our next move.

With the help of a Chalice Lighter Grant from the district, we were able to engage a membership coordinator/ministerial assistant for the 2011–2012 year, and we also had the resources to hire an interim assistant minister, the able and affable **Kären Rasmussen**, who has gone on to found No Child Goes Hungry, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to the elimination of childhood hunger.



Whew! So many vacancies and opportunities in a single decade. It's wonderful to note that all of the people I named left UUCSS to pursue their own dreams and possibilities. But we were still left with a complicated list of work to be done and, even more important, a determination to become a "a fully multicultural, multiracial faith community" (Rev. Liz, October 2011 *Uniter*). This determination had been growing throughout Liz's ministry, as she organized a diverse group of members to advise her on how to make UUCSS more inclusive, connected **David Smith** of the Tulsa UU church to our music program for annual residencies, and encouraged church leaders and members to participate in local and national racial justice events. In her *Uniter* article, Rev. Liz stated, "We have committed ourselves to hire a person of color into that position as part of our journey". A search committee was formed (**Dee Atwell, Barbara Eyman, Sherri McGee, Kubby Rashid, and Emily Tien**) to recruit, interview, and hire an Assistant Minister. Less than a year later, the congregation voted unanimously to call **Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley, Jr.** as Associate Minister.

Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley, Jr. was a birthright UU and a recent graduate of Starr King seminary. He was no stranger to Rev. Liz, who had met him at national ministerial gatherings, or to the seven lay members of UUCSS who had gone to Unity Church in St. Paul in 2010, where Rev. Leon was serving as Director of Community Life. **Jim Paoletti** and **Barbara Eyman** attended his ordination in St. Paul soon after his hiring was announced, to bring greetings from the Silver Spring congregation. Rev. Leon arrived in August 2012, with this message in the *Uniter*:



"What learning we have before us!! What beauty!! What absolute joy!!
So we begin...and so, we begin!!!"

LEARN

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

No Planet B—Youth Climate Action

Dear friends, In March, youth all around the world went on strike from school to protest the global system of ignoring, dismissing, and sometimes outright denying climate change. These young people are heirs to our shared planet earth, which will be unlike any earth you or I or any previous generation ever has experienced in the coming decades. While many youth are well-versed on the topic, climate change can be a difficult and complex topic to talk about with kids. As we enter into April with our focus on the Seventh Principle—respect for the interconnected web of life—I want to lift up a few ways you can talk to the younger folks in your life about this important subject.



LEARN (continued) RE Column

Keep It Short: Got only 5 minutes and a kiddo with the wiggles? National Geographic for Kids puts out a great short video on the topic at

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos/spectacular-science/#climate_101_causes_and_effects.mp4. It covers what climate change is, what causes it, and how it is changing the world and our lives.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle : Put the Seventh Principle in action by explaining that reducing the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere happens by cutting down our waste through recycling, upcycling, and reducing what we use. Join UUCSS families for our Earth Day Service Day along with other UU families and the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice toward the end of the month for a cleanup project. Details on the date and time will be released in the all-church email and the RE Newsletter.

Upcycle! Got any old jeans or clothes? We'll be having a Craft Night on April 20 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. to make reusable bags out of old jeans and clothes.

Another idea to reduce waste is to limit the plastic bags your family uses. While you may already have a reusable grocery bag (or you will when you come to the Craft Night), plastic is ubiquitous in many areas of our lives. Consider using beeswax wrap to protect sandwiches and food, along with reusable and washable zip bags made from bamboo.

Small Voices, Mighty Actions: Don't let your child's size limit their potential. Small voices from children can cause big results and teach children how to interact with the public square. Teach little activists how to reach out to public officials with this letter-writing lesson:

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/dam/kids/photos/articles/Homework%20Help/letter_writing.pdf

Remember, little actions ripple into big changes. Thank you for fighting for a greener world. Blessings, Catherine

YRUU Faithify Campaign: Help ensure all youth enjoy the UUCSS tradition of traveling to Boston by donating at <https://faithify.org/projects/uu-church-of-silver-spring-yruu-boston-trip-2020/>. All funds go to the 2020 YRUU trip to Boston. Thank you for your support!

Mini-courses! Mini-courses! Mini-courses! Spring is just around the corner, and for UUCSS that means mini-courses. Do you have a passion or talent that you wish to share with the children and youth of UUCSS? Sign up to lead a mini-course in May by emailing **Catherine** at dre@uucss.org. Past courses have included photography, public speaking, dinosaurs, art, and much more! Have a topic but don't know where to start? We will design lesson plans with you.

UUCSS Has a New Phone Number

As part of our upgrade to a modern VOIP phone system, the main switchboard number for UUCSS has changed. The new number is 301-273-9745. When you dial this number, whether or not the office is open, you will reach an auto-attendant. That means you can press a number to reach a different staff person. The old phone number, 301-434-4050, is now a direct line to the Church Administrator, **Melinda Yalom**. The old phone number still belongs to UUCSS, but callers will not be able to transfer from this line back to the main switchboard and leave a private message for another staff member from that line. Instead, callers should dial the new number to reach other staff members directly. Alternately, callers may leave a message for another staff person in the Church Administrator's voicemail box on 301-434-4050, and Melinda will be happy to pass it along during her office hours

Please note that emailing InterimMinister@uucss.org is the best way to reach Rev. Lyn.

When you call the new switchboard number, 301-273-9745, here are the current menu options:

Press 2: Interim Minister, **Rev. Lyn Cox**

Press 3: Director of Religious Education, **Catherine Boyle**

Press 4: Music Director, **Michael Holmes**

Press 5: Church Administrator, **Melinda Yalom**

Many thanks to the IT Committee, led by **Steve Leete**, especially to **Ken Iobst** and **Rob Dahlstrom**, for all of their work on this upgrade. The staff are very happy with features available on the new system. Achieving this feat required many hours of negotiation, research, and technical work. Please join the staff in appreciating the IT Committee and enjoying the reliability of the new phone system, and remember to change your address book to reflect the new phone number for UUCSS: 301-273-9745.

LEARN (continued)

Program Council Column: Lifting Up the Worship Committee by Laura Ellis, Secretary

"Sundays keep coming at us." This is the reality that the members of the Worship Committee face every month. People—members, friends, visitors—come to Silver Spring every Sunday expecting to attend a service with a message, whether it be in the form of a sermon, a play, songs or a led meditation, a time for reflection, and music. The Worship Committee is the body charged with working in partnership with the minister to ensure that this happens every week in a meaningful and inspirational way, 52 weeks a year, year after year.

The Worship Committee's responsibilities are twofold. First, they reflect and provide insight on the structure of the service. They look at what UUCSS does during the service, at what elements are helpful and what does not seem to be working so well. As part of this work, the members of the Worship Committee work closely with the minister, the Music Committee, the music director, **Michael Holmes**, the RE Committee, and the Director of Religious Education, **Catherine Boyle**. This year, in collaboration with **Rev. Lyn Cox**, the Worship Committee has been trying new ways of doing elements of the service, moving elements of the service around, rotating elements or ways of doing the elements over the weeks, and trying different ways of making the service accessible. One very visible example of this is the different ways in which Joys and Sorrows have been practiced. **Preston Mears**, the current Worship Committee chair, reports that working with Rev. Lyn on this has been useful and deepening for the committee.

Second, the Worship Committee works to fill the pulpit on the Sundays that are not filled by the minister or other members of the staff. This is generally one Sunday a month, fall through spring. They work with groups within the church to highlight the work that the groups are doing, as in the recent Racial Justice Task Force's service on Color Blind to Color Brave, the YRUU's (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists') service in February, and the service on March 24th of the Coming of Age Class. They also find area ministers and seminarians to fill the pulpit, including our own **Ashley Burzak** (soon to be Rev. Ashley Burzak), whose ordination we will be sponsoring later this year, and **Rev. Alexa Fraser**, whose ordination we cosponsored with River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation last year. The Worship Committee is also responsible for eight services every summer while the minister is on vacation and study leave. Recently, the Worship Committee's summer themes have focused on the congregation, asking members of the congregation to lead a service and share something of themselves. The seven members of the Worship Committee also serve as worship associates each Sunday, helping the service to flow and allowing the minister or leader of the service to focus on the areas of the service they most feel called to contribute to.

The Worship Committee looks forward to working with the new settled minister, getting to know the new minister, sharing their knowledge of UUCSS and where the committee thinks the church is headed, and beginning a new partnership. The Worship Committee will be working with our new minister to establish priorities and direction as UUCSS moves forward on our congregational journey.

The Worship Committee is currently considering expanding the body of worship associates beyond the committee members. Being a worship associate is a position of responsibility and service that requires training and commitment. The Worship Committee would also welcome additional members. If you feel called to serve our community by participating in the work of the Worship Committee or serving as a worship associate, or if you have other questions or thoughts about worship at UUCSS, please contact Preston Mears at worshipchair@uucss.org

CONNECT

Recycling Sundays—March 31, April 7, April 14

The Green Sanctuary Committee will be accepting polystyrene for recycling during coffee hour in the Community Hall on Sunday, March 31, Sunday, April 7, and Sunday, April 14, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

ACCEPTED: All foam with the #6 symbol, including: Foam cups and "to-go" containers, egg cartons, ice chests, rinsed meat trays, protective packaging foam (frequently used to protect electronics during shipping), and other foam with the #6 inside the chasing arrows triangle.

PREPARATION

Place foam in clear, sealed bags

Place packaging foam and food service containers in SEPARATE bags

Food service containers MUST be clean and rinsed

NOT ACCEPTED

Polystyrene without the #6 symbol

Packing peanuts

Straws

Lids

Plastic wrap

Trash

CONNECT (continued)

Pathways to Membership Class—April 6

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 April 6 in the Dolan Lounge. **Rev. Lyn Cox** 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 entail. For more information and if you're interested in attending, please contact co-chairs **Jean Snell** and **Dina Raley** at membershipchairs@uucss.org. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3.

UUCSS for UUCSS Visitors—April 14

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!

Gather in Gratitude—April 27

Please join us for the annual UUCSS Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy good company, good food (potluck style), good music, and dancing!

Signup closes April 14. See **Dina Raley** at nmo76@hotmail.com with any questions.

Sign up link: <https://goo.gl/forms/UvJMv3cUzPjLsjN93>, or click the link on the uucss.org website.

Make sure to hit SUBMIT at the very end.

Calling All Social Media Mavens

Are you a Social Media Maven? Do you know your way around Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and others? The UUCSS Music Committee Dinosaurs (MCDs) need you to help spread the word to a wider community about upcoming events.

Also, If you have ideas for events you would like to see at UUCSS, or if you would like to help plan or coordinate events such as concerts, residencies, shows, music for summer services, etc., the MCDs would love for you to join them as an MCJ or MCM! Contact: Music@UUCSS.org.

JAZZ@UUCSS Presents



THE SHACARA ROGERS TRIO

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

4:00-5:30 PM

Shacara Rogers, vocals; Amy K. Bormet, piano; Michael Bowie, bass

Howard University alum **Shacara Rogers** has been performing since the age of 5. Winner of the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival Vocal Competition and first runner-up in the 2014 Sarah Vaughan International Vocal Jazz Competition, she received a Downbeat award for her performance as lead soloist with Howard's renowned vocal ensemble, Afro Blue.

Michael Bowie is an internationally recognized bassist and jazz educator. A recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Jazz Studies, he trained with Betty Carter and Keter Betts and has performed around the world, including Carnegie Hall, the Newport Jazz Festival, and Montreux.

Amy K. Bormet is a prolific pianist, composer, and vocalist, and the founder and executive director of the Washington Women in Jazz Festival.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10 (\$5 STUDENTS/SENIORS) CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

For tickets visit: <https://uucss.yapsody.com/event/index/386711/jazzuucss-the-shacara-rogers-trio>

Our Voices, Her Song



On Friday, May 10, at 8:00 p.m., explore the songs that give voice to individuals and cultures overlooked in our society today and throughout history as part of the Strathmore Bloom Program. Strathmore Artist-in-Residence **Cecily Bumbray** contributes her own compositions in stunning performances that bring people together to celebrate speaking out for what is right. This performance features choirs from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring and Voix De Femmes and will be held in the UUCSS Sanctuary. See <https://www.strathmore.org/bloom/programs/ourvoiceshersong/16605> for more information.

CONNECT (continued)

Actors Needed for a Staged-Reading of the Play, SWEAT

The Social Justice Players, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Program, and in coordination with the Chalice Theatre at the UU Church of Arlington (UUCA) and the UU Church of Silver Spring (UUCSS), will be presenting the Pulitzer-Prize-winning play SWEAT, by **Lynn Nottage**, to be directed by **Bruce McConachie**.

There will be six staged-readings of the play in the DC area in October 2019—October 12–13, 19–20, and 26–27.

We are holding open auditions at both UU churches to cast the nine characters in the drama in May of this year.

Here is Nottage's brief description of each character:

EVAN, African-American male, 40s.

JASON, white American male, 21–29.

CHRIS, African-American male, 21–29

STAN, white American male of German descent, 50s

OSCAR, Colombian-American male, 22–30

TRACEY, white American female, 45–53

CYNTHIA, African-American female, 45–53

JESSIE, Italian-American, 40s

BRUCIE, African-American, 40s–mid 50s

Because the play occurs in two different time periods, 2000 and 2008, most of the actors will play characters who age 8 years over the course of the action.

Set in Reading, PA, the play follows two families, one white and the other African-American, whose mothers both work in a local factory, and whose sons (like their mothers) are close friends. When the company running the factory turns to union-busting, friendships fray, long-buried racism emerges, and the sons pick a fight with a Hispanic worker temporarily hired at the factory. Stan is badly injured in the fight, and the sons go to jail. Eight years later, both sons emerge from jail to find that one of their families has fallen apart and the other one is barely holding on. SWEAT dramatizes the personal costs of national policies in our era of union-busting and deindustrialization. We look forward to lively discussions after all performances.

Audition Times and Places:

Tuesday, May 14: 7:30–9:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 18: 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Arlington

Tuesday, May 21: 7:30–9:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 25: 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Silver Spring

For more information, write or call Bruce McConachie, bamcco@pitt.edu, 412-519-5681.

April Volunteer of the Month Sharon Snyder

In 1997, a good friend's mother told Sharon she needed to join a UU church or a synagogue because she needed a community. At that time UUCSS was advertising its services in *The Washington Post*. Sharon saw that **Rev. Jim Bank** was preaching a sermon on the book *The Shipping News*, which she had read. She came to the church, liked the sermon, and stayed. Shortly afterwards, she went to her first women's retreat up in the mountains of western Maryland, where she got to know UUCSS women like **Maud Clarke**, **Janet Coffin**, and **Hank Dahlstrom**. She continued to attend women's retreats and was on a small committee that organized one. She has helped with the auction, led Suite Treat with **Carey Schneider**, and 4 years ago she joined the choir, which has been an absolute joy. Sharon would recommend that anyone who is interested in making music speak to our choir director, **Michael Holmes**.

Sharon has given of her organizational expertise and interest to the church in several vital ways over the years. She served on the Personnel Committee in the early 2000s. Subsequently, in 2015 **Kathy Lorr**, who was then the VP of Personnel, persuaded Sharon to join the Board in that role. Serving as the VP of Personnel was a great way to get to know **Rev. Liz Maclay** and **Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley** and other staff; serving on the Board led to getting to know other members of the congregation that she might not otherwise have met. While her term on the Board came during a difficult time for the church and it was a lot of effort, it was also very rewarding. Sharon is glad that she was able to be on the Board at that time and provide some continuity when other Board members had to step away. During her term, she was on the team that hired our two interim ministers, **Rev. Evan Keely** and **Rev. Lyn Cox**, as well as our DRE, **Catherine Boyle**. Now Sharon leads the negotiating committee as part of our search process for a settled minister. Sharon believes it is an honor to be able to serve UUCSS. She believes that everyone should raise their hands when the time comes.

CONNECT (continued)

April Charity of the Month The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP)

<http://pepparent.org/>

This month UUCSS is donating its charitable collection to an organization dear to my heart, the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP). PEP is a local nonprofit educational organization established in 1982 that provides classes, events, and other educational resources to parents and all who care for children, toddlers through teens. Many UUCSS members have benefited from PEP's programs, and I am also a volunteer leader for many of its classes and workshops.

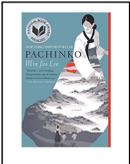
PEP was founded in 1982 by **Linda Jessup** as a community of parents dedicated to building strong, harmonious families. What started in Linda's living room has grown into an organization serving thousands of families each year. In addition to offering programs that people can access directly through the organization, it also partners with PTAs and other community-based organizations to support their efforts to support the families they serve. PEP also offer periodic talks by nationally known authors of well-regarded parenting books. In the last couple of years, PEP has expanded its ability to reach a wider range of families by partnering with Linkages to Learning, an organization that offers services to immigrants through Montgomery County schools. Many people say that PEP is a lifesaver for them as they navigate the complex waters of parenting in today's dynamic world.

PEP is rooted in psychological theory that humans are social beings who want to connect with and contribute to their communities in confident and courageous ways. As our first community, our families teach us a lot about how to do this. A church community like UUCSS is also an important place where we learn and practice productive ways of honoring our interconnection and acting to promote dignity for all. My membership in both PEP and UUCSS help support me as I think about how my own behavior models our UUCSS principles to my growing daughter. I could not be doing this without both organizations!

I hope you'll give generously to this organization that is vital to so many. And, to those of you helping to raise the next generation of UUs, consider taking a class! Feel free to ask me any questions—I'd love to tell you more.

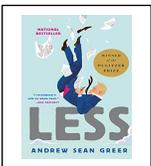
Catherine Buckler

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 for additional details. At our meeting on April 22, we will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. The April meeting will be at the home of **Tina Borrer**, 10602 Pinedale Drive, Silver Spring.

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP



We are now reading *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer. *Less* is a satirical comedy that won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Greer is a self-described gay atheist who grew up in Rockville attending a Unitarian Church.

We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 at the home of **Bob McGaughy**, 4 Springvale Lane, Silver Spring.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

EVENTS IN BRIEF

APRIL 6, 8:50 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Color Blind to Color Brave Workshop, Sanctuary.

APRIL 6, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Pathways to Membership class, Dolan Lounge.

APRIL 6, 9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Church cleanup.

APRIL 7, 8:50 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Color Blind to Color Brave Workshop, Bethesda/Chevy Chase Regional Service Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD.

CONNECT (continued)

Events in Brief

APRIL 7, 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. Recycling Sunday, Community Hall.

APRIL 13, 2:00 p.m. Memorial service for Beth Riggs, Sanctuary.

APRIL 14, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. UUCSS Annual-ish Children's Clothing Swap, New Miller Room.

APRIL 14, 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. Recycling Sunday, Community Hall.

APRIL 14, 11:45 a.m. UUCSS 101 for UUCSS visitors, Triangle Room.

APRIL 14, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Trash Talk With Lori Hill: Tips for Living a Low-Waste Life, Sanctuary.

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

APRIL 20, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Craft Night, Community Hall.

APRIL 27, 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner, Sanctuary.

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

APRIL 28, 4:00–5:30 p.m. JAZZ!UUCSS presents the Shacara Rogers Trio, Sanctuary.

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.)

MAY 10, 8:00 p.m. Our Voices, Her Song, UUCSS Sanctuary.

JUNE 24–28, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. UU summer camp for rising grades 1 to 8, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, 4880 Elmer Derr Road, Frederick MD. \$126 for one child and \$106 for each additional child. Register at https://frederickuu.org/learn/UU_Summer_Camp.php.

Administrative Update

Happy Spring to All!
Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator





UUCSS

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

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FIRST CLASS

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Interim Minister

interimminister@uucss.org

Catherine Boyle

Religious Education Director

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Michael Holmes

Music Director

musicdirector@uucss.org

Melinda Yalom

Church Administrator

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Tamara Bowman

Board President

president@uucss.org

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

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.

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