
March 2019

UNITER

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



Sunday Worship Services—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.

March 3: *Open the Door* Rev. Lyn Cox

We begin a 2-month celebration of gratitude and abundance (otherwise known as the Annual Budget Drive) with a worship service rooted in the heart of the congregation's sense of warmth and welcome. Members, Rev. Lyn Cox, and DRE Catherine Boyle will speak about what it means to be part of a congregation that opens doors to hospitality, families, spirituality, and the future.

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Evening Vespers Service, March 5, 6:30–7:30

"Come Into the Peace of Wild Things," Wendell Berry invites us. Many in our community are experiencing grief and "the forethought of grief," as the poet describes it. As those who observe Lent prepare for 40 days of reflection, simplicity, and a certain kind of inner wilderness, we gather for a quiet evening hour to seek company for the spiritual journey and a glimpse of grace. This special vespers worship service will be led by Rev. Lyn Cox on Tuesday, March 5, 6:30-7:30, in the sanctuary.

March 10: *From Color Blind to Color Brave* Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)

How can we learn about building relationships for courageous conversations about race? The service will include reflections from members of the congregation who participated in the Color Blind to Color Brave Conversation and a reflection on the evolution of the RJTF. There will be songs, prayers, and readings by people of color and white allies. A special collection will be taken to benefit the White Ally Toolkit project developed by **Dr. David Campt**, who led a workshop at UUCSS in February 2018.

March 17: *Balance* Rev. Lyn Cox

As we turn toward the Spring Equinox, we seek balance between reflection and action, between tradition and growth, between the seasons that mark our lives. The story of Demeter and Persephone will bring us into deeper awareness of the possibilities. School-age children and adults will worship together for the entire hour in this multigenerational service.

March 24: *Coming of Age*

Youth who are completing Coming of Age (9th grade rite of passage) will lead worship and give their testimony about what being a Unitarian Universalist means for them.

March 31: *In Motion* Rev. Lyn Cox

Universalist minister and scholar **L.B. Fisher** wrote in 1921, "Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all. We move." Physics and faith come together as we examine the not-quite-linear motion of spiritual growth, the rotational motion that helps us connect with a spiritual center, and the transformation that converts energy into motion.

INSPIRE

Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox



“To turn, turn, will be our delight, ‘till by turning, turning, we come ‘round right.” The hymn “Simple Gifts” reminds us that sometimes we need a different perspective, or even a reversal, to find our spiritual center. The song has a cheerful approach to change and humility. In practice, this can be uncomfortable spiritual work, though there is also joy and peace to be found in the freedom to be imperfect.

“Turning” is the theme for worship services in March. We’re turning toward the future with the launch of the Annual Budget Drive (ABD), with renewing our commitment to racial justice, with witnessing our Coming of Age youth take leadership in worship. We turn toward spring and toward the embodiment of our spiritual path.

The congregation is turning attention toward the future in other ways as well. Your Ministerial Search Committee is working very hard behind the scenes. The Strategic Planning Task Force is preparing a draft for your consideration that will describe concrete, measurable steps for the next year and solid ideas for the 2 years after that. The Capital Improvements Committee has growing confidence in its assessment of the resources that are available from the capital campaign, and is hoping that the first major improvements will be underway by summer. UUCSS will ordain Ashley Burczak on June 8, and enter more fully into covenant with her as an affiliated community minister. There is so much to look forward to in the future of UUCSS.

In this season where the first new growth of spring bravely pokes its shoots out from the frozen ground, we celebrate positive forward motion. We also give thanks for the quiet season that made it possible. Without winter, seeds that require a cold spell would never sprout. That means no milkweed, no hibiscus, and no lavender, among other things. Without the harshness of ice, we would lose the colors of spring. Seasons give rise to each other.

Interim ministry is, in some ways, a wintry season. A congregation often scales back its public programs and new initiatives. It is a time to see which programs and traditions will grow into new forms, and which ones will be celebrated in their ending as they feed the future like compost. It is not always the most loud and colorful season, yet there is joy and beauty to be found.

This congregation can be proud of how you have made use of this wintry season. You have faced your grief. There is more healing work to be done, but my impression is that members are ready to do that healing alongside rebuilding a new path. You have sustained excellent programs, especially in religious education and music. You have recommitted to the work of dismantling oppressions and to doing what is necessary for authentic welcome. Your faith in the congregation and your generosity of time, talent, and treasure have made these things possible.

In your turn toward new life, new growth, new ideas, and new people yet to arrive, may your hopes lift you up. In your reflecting back on your accomplishments as a congregation, your journey so far, the lives that have been enriched by this faith, may you be at peace with the love you have given. At this turning point, let us be thankful for what is behind and what is ahead.

Take care,
-Rev. Lyn

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



Welcome to March, or as we should probably call it at UUCSS, welcome to Lobby Days. The Maryland legislature is in session until April, and the Social Justice Task Force and Green Sanctuary Committee are hard at work seeking involvement on issues that affect all of us. If you have the opportunity to go to Annapolis on a lobbying day, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is exhilarating to meet like-minded individuals and talk with our delegates and senators about proposed legislation. If a lobby day doesn't fit into your schedule, look for activities during coffee hour to write letters or call your representatives.

You may have noticed in the December *Unitar* that the board voted to welcome Chaplain **Ashley Burczak** as an affiliated community minister. For those new to the congregation, Ashley was previously affiliated with UUCSS as our membership coordinator. Under her leadership new member orientation and the path to membership process blossomed. Ashley left the membership coordinator position to begin her Ministerial Internship to complete her Master of Divinity program. She has now completed her internship and is a chaplain for the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) Hospice. In this capacity, she offers pastoral care to hospice patients and their families. JSSA Hospice serves families of all faiths. Ashley is called to serve all faiths at JSSA. You may be asking "What is a community minister?" Succinctly, a community minister is a minister who serves in a specialized setting other than a congregation. Chaplains whose ministries are centered in the military, on college campuses, in hospitals or prisons are community ministers. Community ministers within the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) are required to receive endorsement and maintain ties with a UU congregation, otherwise known as affiliation.

Affiliated ministers work closely with the settled minister, or in our current case, our Interim Rev Lyn, to decide on the duties of the affiliate minister. Ashley is not a paid staff member of UUCSS. We get the joy of having Ashley in our pulpit about once a year, some additional pastoral help during the absence of the parish minister, and the opportunity to learn more about her calling. JSSA offers some workshops that may be of interest to UUCSS members, and affiliating with Ashley means we are more likely to know what those resources are and to have a familiar person bring those resources to our campus.

UUCSS responsibilities to Ashley include assisting her with the process of Fellowship renewal. Like all new ministers in Preliminary Fellowship, Ashley will participate in monthly meetings of a Committee on Ministry (in our case, our soon to be formed Committee on Shared Ministry), receive mentoring from a UU minister in Full Fellowship, and complete annual evaluations that will be submitted to the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee. A minister in Preliminary Fellowship receives a "renewal" for each year of successfully completing these requirements and advances into Full Fellowship after three renewals. Being in Full Fellowship is a little bit like being independently licensed for social workers and counselors; ministers in Full Fellowship are not required to be in a mentoring relationship, and the UUA no longer gets involved in the evaluations that the minister and their ministry setting complete for each other. For UUCSS to meet its responsibilities to Ashley, we are convening a Committee on Shared Ministry, which will meet monthly with Ashley to help her reflect on her professional development, and which will assist the Board with completing the annual evaluations that will be submitted to the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee. UUCSS will ordain Ashley Burczak to the Unitarian Universalist ministry on Saturday, June 8th, followed by a reception. We look forward to celebrating the new relationship between Ashley and UUCSS.

At the January board meeting, we approved the target budget for the Annual Budget Drive (ABD). This budget includes increases in property to bring the budget more in line with real expenses, increases to welcome the new minister, and a portion of our contribution to the UUA/ Central East Region (CER). Please note that UUCSS currently cannot vote at General Assembly because our contribution to the UUA/CER is \$0. We are also in violation of our constitution, which requires we pay the full amount due. Even though we have not paid our fair share, CER continues to support us. The board also discussed policy for procurement and conflict of interest. We began the discussion on the creation of a Committee on Shared Ministry and methodologies for evaluating ministry. We received an update from the Search committee. We have interested and interesting candidates, but the Search committee won't give the board any juicy details either.

For February' Board meeting, we will be discussing the ABD, continuing the conversation on the Shared Ministry Committee, and getting an update from the Strategic Planning Task Force.

Keep warm and safe,

Tamara Bowman

UUCSS History: Finding Rev. Liz by Jo Paoletti

There's no way to sugarcoat our situation in 1998, so I won't try. Since **Paul Johnson's** departure in 1991, UUCSS had experienced a failed search, followed by serious personnel issues with our first interim. Despite the optimism that accompanied our eventual calling of **Rev. Jim Bank** and the dedication of our beautiful new building, all was not well. The cost of the new building, combined with a nationwide recession, resulted in financial pressures that squeezed our operating budget. Some members of the congregation were very pleased with Jim Bank's ministry, but a growing number were not, to the point that an outside consultant was engaged in 1996 to evaluate the situation. Would we find ourselves languishing for years without professional leadership, as we had in the 1970s? Would any minister in their right mind ever accept a call from such a clearly dysfunctional congregation? Signs of decline seemed everywhere; we went from two services to one, and although the Catocin retreat was still well-attended, the spring retreat (a 20-year tradition) was cancelled for lack of interest and volunteers.

Under the leadership of **Ed Johnson**, UUCSS began the recovery process with an unofficial "town meeting" on January 10, 1999, to discuss whether or not to form a search committee. With no funds to call a settled minister for at least a year, and the possibility that we might not even be able to afford an interim minister, the attendees at the town meeting gave the board of trustees the go-ahead to schedule a congregational meeting to prepare for a search.

At the congregational meeting on February 21, members voted not only to approve the search committee (**Larry McAneny, Jim Aldrich, Sally Harris, Cathy Johnson, Jim Paoletti, Carolyn Savadkin, and John Sullivan**) but also to authorize a search for an interim minister and a supplemental fund drive to pay their salary and fill the gap in our operating funds. The interim search committee, formed in April, comprised **Muriel Redifer, Deb Weiner, John Acton, Ron Kendall, and Rolf Grafwallner**. **Rev. Kerry Mueller** was on board by July 1999. A life-long UU, she met many of us for the first time at UU Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) that summer. Her husband **David Hunter**, a DOJ lawyer and seminarian at Wesley, was already known to some of us from his work with the Joseph Priestly District. Kerry turned out to be exactly the interim we needed; warm and caring but also a no-nonsense organizer. She would listen patiently to our fears about being perceived as a "bad" church by ministerial candidates and then move the conversation on to "what next."

Despite a few hiccups (for example, the congregational information forms were almost complete when the UUA switched to an online form that sent the committee scrambling), the *Uniter* reported with delight that 13 names had been recommended as potential matches for our congregation. January was a busy month for the committee, as the packets were exchanged and read, 13 applications reduced to 6, who were interviewed at length by phone, and finally reduced to just 3 precandidates. (The drama was even greater at the Paoletti household; Jim lost an argument with a table saw at IKEA during the first week in January and spent the month in surgery and recovery, when he wasn't in meetings.)

YRUU Pilgrimage to Boston

The YRUU spent six days on a trip to Boston this past week. We were guests of the First Parish Church of Lexington, Massachusetts and their hospitality was greatly appreciated. We had a chance to attend a very nice service given by their assistant minister, Elizabeth Lerner. On Wednesday, April 3, the group attended service at King's Chapel in Boston. King's Chapel is a Unitarian Church that serves as a great reminder of Unitarianism's roots in Christianity. We were surprised to be invited to take communion if we "Loved Jesus and accepted him as our savior." We also visited the UUA headquarters at 25 Beacon Street and met with the people of the Youth Affairs division of the UUA. Everyone involved had a

great time and we learned a lot. Special thanks to the awesome adult leaders Lucy Petty, Miranda Bradley, Rob Dahlstrom and Ed Johnson. We appreciate everything you did for us and all the times you made us laugh. Thanks also goes to all of you who have supported us by buying bagels and doughnuts, trusting us to feed you dinner, and helping us out in many different ways. And hey, if you want to know more about all the nifty stuff we did, just talk to us. We'll be happy to share our stories with you.

Auction April 20th

Full details on flyer inside this *Uniter*.

Come old and young; come one and all! We need people on Saturday, April 6, to help decorate the community hall in a "Big Top" theme for the auction.

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner was the unanimous choice of the search committee. Raised UU in Newton, Massachusetts, by Jewish and Catholic parents, Rev. Liz (just turned 34) was our youngest minister since our first, **David Hicks MacPherson**. Just one more hurdle remained. When they contacted her inviting her to candidacy, Rev. Liz still had one

more precandidating date with another church, and wanted a week to make her decision. Fortunately for us, she decided to forgo that other visit and come to Silver Spring. During her candidating visit with the YRUU, the high schoolers were delighted to renew her acquaintance. (see the 1999 *Uniter* article, above)

Only one more installment remains in the series: the hiring and calling of **Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley, Jr.** Because this is recent history, I am hoping to hear from anyone involved in the search process.

INSPIRE (continued)

Update From the Search Committee

The Search Committee has been busy reviewing applicants' packets, interviewing applicants, and preparing for preview weekends. It is an exciting time, as we have moved from data gathering, summarizing in the congregational record, and then actually getting to talk with applicants.

Through the process we continue to return to what we heard in the cottage meetings to guide our discernment. Participants in the cottage meetings were focused on our new minister as a partner:

- To collaborate with us in creating a spiritual space to search across our theological spectrum.
- To work with us in nurturing a beloved community that leads us to live out our values more fully in the realm of justice within and outside our community.
- To collaborate with us in creating a shared, cohesive path forward.
- To bring strong executive leadership to our communities, including staff, congregants, and volunteers.
- To help us more fully integrate our children and youth into the congregation through intergenerational programs, religious education, and general connectedness.

We seek a partner who:

- Is both a gifted communicator and deep listener.
- Is passionate and skilled in the areas of racial justice and equity.
- Is present and active with the congregation, building ministerial relationships with members, friends, and families.
- Brings new energy and ideas to enrich and enliven us.

Please mark your calendars for the weeks of April 27–May 5 and May 4–12, as our candidating week will be one of these. We will be able to announce the candidate week in early–mid April.

Any questions? Contact: search@uucss.org

In search,

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

Thank You, Beth

Our beloved Beth Riggs, who died on February 25, was an inspiration to us all with her vibrant, unflagging spirit and lovely singing voice. Beth was a member of UUCSS for 34 years and a member of the choir for more than 30 years. She was a *Uniter* editor for several years. Beth and her husband Drew, who were married for more than 50 years, raised their three sons, Colin, Ian, and Jason, in this congregation, and two of her grandchildren, Noah and Madeleine, are following along behind them. Beth and Drew also have two other grandchildren, Dorothy and Louis.

LEARN

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

Little Cat and Big World by Catherine Boyle

Friends, we enter the month of March; a vital time for our congregation as we gather the resources for the next church year. I promise you this isn't an ask or a testimonial; rather I share with you and your family a story that shows how a little generosity, a little love, can go a long way... maybe even change the world.

This story begins in Japan, where in the middle of the mountains far from the big cities was a train station. Each day the trains rolled in and rolled out, gathering and dispersing passengers.

Most people didn't think of the station as they departed the train into it. One person did though: the old stationmaster. Year by year, he noticed that the flood of people that used to exit the trains turned into a puddle and then a trickle. People moved away from the sleepy country town into the big cities. The trains came a lot less frequently each passing season.

LEARN (continued) From Catherine Boyle, DRE

Soon there were only four trains a day. "Oh dear," said the old stationmaster. "This station's days may be short-lived yet." "Meow."

He blinked. A response! Now that was unusual to hear. He looked around for the source of the noise. "Meow." Slowly he traced the edge of the platform seeking his mysterious conversation partner. "Meow."

And then, at last, he found the source! It was a tiny calico kitten covered in dirt.

The rest of the day the stationmaster cleaned, fed, and played with his new friend. Soon enough, to his surprise, the last two trains came through! "What luck!" The stationmaster said. "Time flies with a friend!"

"Who is that?" A child said with her father as they walked past the stationmaster's office. She pointed to Tama.

It came to the old stationmaster suddenly. "Her name is Tama because of her coloring. It means marble." The little cat rubbed against him. "I suppose I have a new trainee!"

Tama went home with him that evening, and the next day she returned to the station with him. That evening, children joyfully exited the train, calling for Tama.

"How did you know about Tama?" The old stationmaster asked incredulously.

"Our friend at school told us!" The children said, and soon Tama made more friends than just the stationmaster.

A few days later while eating lunch with Tama, the old stationmaster received a letter from the train company. The station would close next month. Too few people came to it.

"Oh dear." The old stationmaster said to Tama. "What will we do?" He was no longer hungry for lunch. Worry filled his stomach.

Then something peculiar happened. More and more people started filing out of the trains when they did come. "We hear there is a new trainee!" They said, "We want to see Tama before the station closes!"

Soon though, the end of the month approached. The old stationmaster knew it was the last days of the peaceful little station he knew so well. "Ah," he said to Tama, stroking her ears, "We had some good times here, didn't we?"

Suddenly there was the familiar roar of a train. The train doors opened. Out of it stepped a businessman. "Is this Tama's station?" He asked.

The old stationmaster nodded. "Yes, but I am afraid not for long."

"Nonsense," the man said. "I am from the train company. We have seen the amount of people rise up that are coming to this station because of Tama. We are keeping the station open!"

And that is the true story of how one small individual can change things. Tama lived in Kishi station in Wakayama prefecture until her passing in 2015. She left behind three trainee calico cats who watch over the station just as she did. UUCSS' future depends not only on the financial gifts but your time and talent that you donate. Each small action that you offer to the congregation creates a ripple effect into living into our church's values and mission. From my heart, thank you all for all you give to sustaining the vital life of this church. In this season and all seasons, blessed be.

Color Blind to Color Brave (CB²)—Racial Justice Task Force April 6 and 7, 2019 8:50 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

The Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) seeks to support UUCSS's goal of creating greater equity and racial justice in our congregation and community. RJTF will host a 2-day **Color Blind to Color Brave Conversations** workshop, open to up to 30 members and friends, to explore ways our church culture might transform so that policies and decisionmaking are shaped by a more racially and ethnically inclusive worldview.

The workshop will take place on **April 6** at UUCSS and on **April 7** at the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Regional Service Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda from 8:50 AM to 4:00 PM.

To register, visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/QREoXzVgnBclDg2g1>.

LEARN (continued)

UUCSS 2019 Music Residency: West African Drumming Workshop and Concert!

Our 2019 Music Residency Has a World Beat!



Join us **Saturday, March 9** in the afternoon for a West African Drumming Workshop with **Nana Frimpong** and **Romero Wyatt**. They will teach drumming skills, African history and story, African instruments, and meditations for healing the mind and body through drumming.

Students will be guided in a coordinated drum circle and learn the skills to drum well and have fun while doing it. Then join us that evening at for a West African concert featuring the percussive and spiritual music of Kantinka, who will be joined by members of the UUCSS Music Program!

Drumming Workshop 2:15–4:30 p.m.

\$35.00 (\$10.00 Discount with your own drum)

Concert at 7:30 p.m.

\$25.00/\$20.00 Students & Seniors

Combo Price- \$50.00 (\$10.00 Discount with your own drum)

For tickets visit: <https://bit.ly/2EmL1eM>

Column From the Program Council by Laura Ellis, Secretary

This is the first monthly column of the Program Council, which will be a regular feature in future editions of the *Uniter*. The goal of this column is to inform members, friends, and visitors about the work of the Program Council and provide useful advice on program-related topics, such as how to put on a program, start a committee, and participate in the program work of UUCSS. This month, we introduce the Program Council (council@uucss.org). The mission of the Program Council is to oversee, support, and coordinate UUCSS's programs, such as worship, social justice, religious education, and music. It also allocates the program portion of the UUCSS budget.

The Program Council is led by a Program Council Chair, who is a Board member. The current chair is Gregg Harry. The Council is composed of the Chair, the chairs of various committees that engage in the programmatic work of the church, and a secretary. The current makeup of the Council includes the following committees: Worship (worshipchair@uucss.org), Music (musicchair@uucss.org), Religious Education (REChair@uucss.org), Membership (membership@uucss.org), Green Sanctuary (greensanctuary@uucss.org), and the Racial Justice Task Force (justicetaskforce@uucss.org). The Program Council welcomes and encourages other groups who perform program work at the church to join us. This month a newly formed committee, **the Rainbow Alliance**, had a representative attend for the first time. The Rainbow Alliance's mission is to support all gender and sexual orientations at UUCSS. They intend to provide social events, social justice opportunities, and welcoming activities. Please contact Veronika Martin for more information about the Rainbow Alliance.

Besides the Volunteer of the Month and the Charity of the Month (described elsewhere in this *Uniter*), the Program Council selects and promotes a Program of the Month. The Program of the Month for March is the **2019 Music Residency**, which will be held on March 9th. It will feature a West African drumming workshop with Nana Frimpong and Romero Wyatt in the afternoon. In the evening UUCSS will host a West African music concert featuring the percussive and spiritual music of Katinka, who will be joined by members of the UUCSS Music Program (more about this event at the top of this page). The Music Residency is a program of the Music Committee, which works with the Music Director to provide music for services and sponsors music residencies, workshops, and concerts at UUCSS. The Music Committee is always looking for performers or consumers of music who would like to join the committee.

If you have a volunteer, a charity, or a program you would like to nominate, please submit your nomination to council@uucss.org. Please submit your nomination at least 3 months before your preferred month.

Finally, the Program Council is looking for professional and amateur graphic designers who would be willing to volunteer their skills occasionally, on an ad hoc basis, to design brochures or posters. If you fit this description, please email us at council@uucss.org.

LEARN (continued)

Seeking Recycling, Trash Help

Recently the church has had extra fees assessed on its recycling and waste management hauling contract for contamination and overages. The Green Sanctuary Committee seeks the help of all those who use our church property. **Contamination fees** are assessed any time inappropriate items are put into the recycling dumpster (the smaller one in the parking lot).

The two main contamination problems have been (a) large see-through plastic bags and (b) pizza boxes/plates/crusts. The contents of the plastic bags were appropriate, but the bags themselves are not allowed in the recycling dumpster. Please empty the contents of plastic bags into the recycling containers, saving the clear plastic bags for reuse as liners for the indoor blue recycling bins if they are clean enough or for use as liners for trash receptacles if they are soiled. It is fine to use plastic bags to carry recycling from inside to the outside dumpster, but the bags should never be placed into the dumpster—empty them and carry them away to reuse or put them in the trash. Clean pizza box LIDS are accepted but not BOTTOMS. Anything that has food stains such as the bottoms of the pizza boxes, plates, cups with liquid residue, or food waste is NOT acceptable.

Overage charges are due to overfilling the dumpsters; this is easier to manage if everyone would flatten all boxes prior to discarding. Recycling and trash are currently collected every other week, and we are considering recommending going to every week, though that would be a significant extra cost. The waste management company can no longer accept glass bottles for recycling, so please put these into the trash. Or if you can easily do so, consider taking them home with you for county collection, which still accepts bottles.

Signs summarizing what may and may not be recycled are posted near the blue recycling collection bins inside our buildings and also on the lid of the recycling dumpster. Please help us all respect and love the earth by being careful about recycling. Thanks to everyone for this collective effort. Green Sanctuary Committee

CONNECT

March Volunteer of the Month Steve Wilmarth

Steve Wilmarth first came to UUCSS with his former wife, **Jenny Kelley**, in search of a good religious education program for their kids Bryan and Ellie. At his first service he read the Seven Principles on the back of the Order of Service and was amazed, as he had never seen anything like it before. **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay** preached an amazing sermon. The first person he met was **Beth Riggs**, who gave him a copy of a photo directory to help him get to know people. He joined the Sunday Support Team and was a member of Jean Sickles' team for years. It was a great way to get to know people at UUCSS. He also joined an InReach Group, whose members included the beloved **Joan Lorr, Carol Hamilton, and Lorraine Sorrel**. Lorraine was his gateway to becoming a UUCSS musician—when an accompanist was unable to accompany **Deb Thornton** on guitar one Sunday, Lorraine suggested Steve substitute in. Shortly after that, Steve joined the recently formed house band. His first time performing lead electric guitar for the band was playing “Let the River Run” for Water Communion. Steve remains a member of the band to this day. Steve and Jenny also were co-chairs of the ABD one year and were active in Families LUUV.

In 2017, Steve was asked to finish out the last year of **Doug Weisberger's** Board term. UUCSS was experiencing challenges following the departures of Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley and Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, and Steve knew it was time to “step in or step out.” He chose to step in and finish out the term. Steve discovered that he loved serving on the board. He loved the intelligence, incisiveness, and care with which decisions were made and all viewpoints brought in and considered. He enjoyed the camaraderie among the members. At the end of his 1-year term, he asked to be nominated for a full 3-year term. This year as a member of the Board, he serves as the Chair of the Operations Council, which is composed of the four operations committees. Based on his work with the Board, Steve is now optimistic about the direction of UUCSS. He is very excited to meet our new minister and see what UUCSS does next.

March Charity of the Month White Ally

The Charity of the Month for March is the White Ally Toolkit project of Dr. David Campt, who presented a workshop at UUCSS in February 2018. The White Ally Toolkit has set a huge goal: to flip the 55 percent/45 percent split of white people who think that racism against whites is as big a problem as racism against people of color to a 45 percent/55 percent split by 2025. The White Ally Toolkit focuses specifically on helping white folks have more effective encounters with white friends, co-workers, and family who are skeptical that racism is a problem.

CONNECT (continued)

Church Cleanup Day—March 2

Please join us on **Saturday, March 2, at any time from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, for a Saturday church cleanup!! Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, and we'll get a good day for working outside. We will have some projects in mind, or choose your own activity with many tasks to choose from: weeding, pruning, caulking, painting, window washing, dusting, cleaning, closet organizing, etc. Cleaning supplies, tools, and yard-waste bags will be provided, as well as a yummy Lunch--feel free to bring a side dish, or just bring some energy!

Let's make our church sparkle!

Hope to see you there! John Henderson, UUCSS Property Committee Chair

Solar Power Opportunity—March 3

Learn about the benefits of adding solar to your energy source mix even if you are on 100% wind powered electricity now. Come to a short Neighborhood Sun info session this Sunday, March 3 at noon in the Sanctuary to learn about the benefits (including 5% lower cost) and how to sign up. Questions ahead of the presentation? Email Doneby Smith at donebys@gmail.com

UUCSS 101 for UUCSS Visitors—March 10

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!

Kickoff Meeting of Rainbow Alliance—March 17

The Rainbow Alliance will have its kickoff meeting on March 17th, 2019! We are excited to share our vision and objectives for 2019 and seek your support, input, and participation in our upcoming programs and activities supporting our queer community.

Join us 12:30–1:30 (Room TBA).

Healthy snacks will be provided to tide you over until lunch.

Annual Women's Retreat—March 22

It's time for the annual UUCSS Women's Retreat. You've saved the date; now it's time to get registered. Please join us March 22 through March 24 at the Claggett Retreat Center in Buckeystown, MD. Hot meals are provided in the dining hall, plus the cabins have a small kitchen for our snacks and drinks. Vegetarian and vegan options are available. Lodging is in simple, heated cabins with shared bathrooms and showers. Linens are provided. There is always optional, group programming that allows for reflection and for connection with other retreaters. In addition, we've been known to dance, craft, nap, create art, go on walks, and make music together. You can choose to spend time alone, too. Register online using the following: <https://goo.gl/forms/TwnXV0HjF7V63XMw1>

If you have questions or want to help out with logistics, please e-mail womensretreat@uucss.org or call Cynthia Curry-Daniel at 314-910-0605.

God: The One-Man Show!—March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Sponsored by the UUCSS Music Program

Presented by Rich Potter, "God: The One-Man Show is a comedic hurricane that leaves audiences pondering the mysteries of the universe between laughs."

DC Metro Theater Arts. Tickets: \$25 General Admission, \$20 Student/Senior. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/yausl7na> or the UUCSS webpage.

CONNECT (continued)

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.

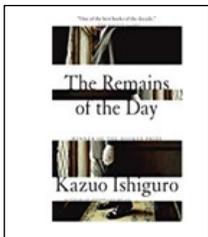
PREPARATION

- 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

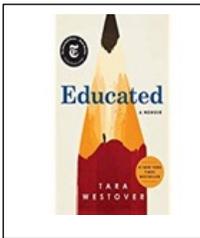
- Polystyrene without the #6 symbol
- Packing peanuts
- Straws
- Lids
- Plastic wrap
- Trash

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 March 25, we will discuss *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP



The Men's Book Reading Group is reading *Educated* by Tara Westover, described as an "astounding memoir" by the *New Yorker* and as one of the 10 best books published in 2018 by *The New York Times*. We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 24, at the home of **Jerry Herbers**, 1215 Highland Drive, Silver Spring, MD. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Richard (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendars! Save the Date!

The FELLOWSHIP DINNER is **Saturday April 27, 2019**. This annual potluck style dinner event is one of UUCSS's best and is a great way to celebrate being together. Details coming soon!

Saturday, April 6 Pathways to Membership Class

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 entails. For more information and if you're interested in attending, please contact co-chairs **Jean Snell** and **Dina Radley** at membershipchairs@uucss.org. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

MARCH 2, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Church cleanup day.

MARCH 3, 12:00 noon. Neighborhood Sun info session, Sanctuary.

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

CONNECT (continued)

MARCH 9, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Racial Justice Allyship Workshop, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard, Parlor (Room 13/15). For registration and other information, contact alexandraziehm92@gmail.com.

MARCH 9, 2:15.–4:30 p.m. West African Drumming Workshop with Nana Frimpong and Romero Wyatt, Sanctuary.

MARCH 9, 7:30 p.m. West African Drumming Concert, Sanctuary.

MARCH 10, 11:45 a.m. UUCSS 101 for UUCSS Visitors, Triangle Room.

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

MARCH 17, 12:30–1:30 p.m. Kickoff meeting of Rainbow Alliance, Room TBD.

MARCH 22–24, UUCSS Women's Retreat, Buckeystown, MD. See article in *Unitarian* for registration information.

MARCH 23, 7:00 p.m. "God: The One-Man Show," Sanctuary. For tickets visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yausl7na> or the UUCSS webpage.

MARCH 31, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Recycling Sunday, Community Hall.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

APRIL 27, 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner, Sanctuary.

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.)

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

As you might already know, the UUCSS Administrative Building has a new phone system, which can be accessed by calling our old phone number: 301-434-4050. Currently, there is a shared Voice Mailbox for Rev. Lyn Cox, our Interim Minister, Michael Holmes, our Music Director and me, your Church Administrator. However, if you need to reach Catherine Boyle, our Director of Religious Education (DRE) - you may call her directly at 202-670-6596.

Regards,

Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator



UUCSS

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

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FIRST CLASS

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Catherine Boyle

Religious Education Director

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Michael Holmes

Music Director

musicdirector@uucss.org

Melinda Yalom

Church Administrator

administrator@uucss.org

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