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# January 2020

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

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Inside this  
issue...

Inspire 1-5

Learn 5-7

Connect 7-11

### 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.

#### **January 5: FIRE CELEBRATION** Rev. Lyn Cox & IDRE Marsha Thrall

We release the old year and illuminate our intentions for the new year in this multigenerational ritual of transformation. Bring courage and commitment, bring what you've gained from learning experiences, be prepared to leave behind old habits.

#### **January 12: OVER THERE, BEYOND THAT MOUNTAIN, IN THAT VALLEY** Rev. Alexa Fraser

What do we own? What is yours? What is mine? What is ours? What do we pay attention to? Perhaps there is a new way to look at the answers to those questions, and in the process look at the world through a different set of lenses. **Rev. Alexa Fraser** is a long-time UUCSS member and was ordained by this congregation a few years ago. She is a graduate of the Starr King School for Ministry, one of only two Unitarian Universalist (UU) seminaries. She has been an interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling and is currently working in a hospital to build her chaplaincy skills. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental studies and worked as a health researcher before her career change. She has been a UU for 20 years and was previously a Quaker.

#### **January 19: INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY** Rev. Lyn Cox & Lay Leaders

On this weekend when we lift up the legacy of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, we remember the Poor People's Campaign that he was working on at the time of his death. Like the 1968 effort, the current Poor People's Campaign calls for a "revolution of values," organizing faith communities and the people who are most affected to dismantle the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. Together with Rev. Lyn, lay leaders who are addressing aspects of these issues in their organizing efforts for justice and compassion will reflect on this legacy and on the work ahead.

#### **January 26: SUPERHERO VALUES** Rev. Lyn Cox

Each of us has to decide how to respond to the past. Individually and as a group, we are faced with questions of power and responsibility. Teaming up with other people is a source of strength, in spite of and perhaps because of our differences. These characteristics of superheroes call attention to our future as a spiritual community.



# INSPIRE

## Interim Minister's Column by Rev. Lyn Cox



Unitarian Universalism is sometimes described as a faith of “deeds, not creeds.” This is a bit of an oversimplification. What we believe matters, because what we believe shapes what we do. It’s true that adherence to a creed is not the center of our faith—there is a wide range of belief among us, and accompanying responsibility for spiritual and ethical discernment—and yet there are limits. For instance, believing that white supremacy is the best and natural order of things is incompatible with Unitarian Universalism.

The heritage of Unitarian Universalism does not provide us with a central creed, but it does provide other riches. The stories and theologies that we draw from the past are important to understanding how we got to where we are. Articulating our faith is not something each of us does in a vacuum, all on our own, absent of the context of our living tradition. We are building on the stories and theologies of the past.

More important than creed, covenant, and right relations are some of the core elements of our faith. The glue that holds us together has to do with the ways we are connected with each other and with the universe. We are who we are as a faith movement because of the people we aspire to become. We are who we are because of the way we aim to co-conspire with the forces that create and uphold life. We are who we are because those forces call us to help bring the world into alignment with values of justice and compassion, to cultivate beauty, and to make it possible for all to thrive.

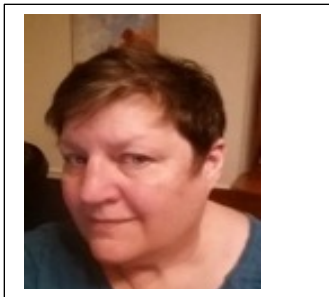
That all sounds great, but how do we know when we’re following that calling? Human beings are notoriously imperfect, and also pretty good at justifying selfishness and other not-so-great choices. As **Reinhold Niebuhr** writes, “no virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own.” Niebuhr says this is why we need hope, faith, love, and forgiveness. I might add that we also need some humility. Holding on to the hope that we (individually and collectively) can be better, holding on to the faith that our choices matter, holding on to the love that keeps us grounded and the Love that will not let us go, and holding on to the possibility of forgiveness for ourselves and others ... hope, faith, love, and forgiveness might be some of the threads that tie us to integrity, which is our theme of the month.

Basically, we need each other, and we need tools that hold us accountable to our communities and to values we hope to grow into. Integrity isn’t a secret ingredient that some of us are born with and others aren’t. Integrity is made possible by a community that cultivates right relationship, by an atmosphere of loving and honest communication, and by determination to face our mistakes and learn from them.

We have some opportunities coming up that can move our congregational community closer to that ideal. On January 4, Quiet Day will invite the kind of reflection that allows an honest moral inventory, or at least a chance to breathe. On January 25, the Living and Dying Well workshop, facilitated by UUCSS Affiliated Community Minister the **Rev. Ashley Burczak**, will equip us to have conversations that might be difficult but can also be fruitful and deep. On January 26, a limited number of folks will have a chance to learn about microaggressions, with the hope that we’ll get better at preventing and intervening in hurtful interactions so that our community can be a welcoming place for everyone. On Sundays after the service February 2 through April 5, new member **Evelyn DeNardo** will lead an ethics workshop for adults using the UUA curriculum, “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.” This is on top of the ongoing opportunities for invoking deep thoughts and building relationships, such as book groups, Creative Aging, and social justice activities.

Integrity grows stronger when we cultivate it together, with hope, faith, love, and forgiveness. Let’s show up where and when we can for each other. Let’s practice acceptance of one another as people, and encouragement to be the best we can be in community. May it be so.

## Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



This Thanksgiving we were able to collect food and cash to help out needy families at Francis Scott Key Middle School. Francis Scott Key is local to UUCSS. The cash collection was generous enough to buy more Giant gift cards than we needed for Thanksgiving baskets. We gave them with the instructions to use the extras to best serve their community. I would like to share with you the letter we received from **Nadine Lyons**, the Grade Seven School Counselor.

“Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donations. This has been the second consecutive year the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring has partnered with Francis Scott Key Middle School. The gift cards and the Thanksgiving Baskets you donated have been an absolute Blessing to our needy families.

This year, we will have parent meetings in the community. We hope to increase parental involvement by having meetings in the morning and the evenings off campus in the community. We will plan on using the extra gift cards to increase parental engagement.

Once again thank you for what you have done and continue to do for education.”

As a representative of UUCSS, I was honored to share our generosity with our neighbors. Poverty is felt exceptionally keenly during celebrations of abundance. Francis Scott Key has needs throughout the year. Some are material, such as school supplies and socks. In January they are looking for a volunteer to speak at their careers day. I will share that date when I receive it. Please let me know if you are interested in these and other efforts.

One of the more mundane of our tasks as a Board is the creation, review, and change of church policies. This is one of those tasks that can easily be overcome by more pressing church matters. This past year we have been working to review and fill in gaps in our existing policy. One of the gaps we discovered is that there is no policy on policies. That gap has meant that Board-approved policy additions have not been adequately communicated.

The Board has passed two policies during this calendar year, a policy on Conflict of Interest (COI) and one on the Operating Reserve. The COI policy was passed at the May 2019 Board meeting. That policy gives guidance for handling purchases in which a member of the congregation may have an investment or interest in the outcome. Other states in our region are required by law to have a COI policy. We used their policies to inform the wording and scope of our policy.

The policy on the Operating Reserve (Reserve) was passed at the November 2019 Board meeting. The Reserve was created with funds from the Capital Campaign. This is a fund that is intended to cover unexpected building and property expenses that are unbudgeted but necessary. There was no UUA guidance available for a Reserve fund, so we referenced charitable institutions, balanced with input from the Capital Improvements Committee.

Please look for the full text of these policies in an upcoming all-church email. You can also view the policies in the official policy document available on our public dropbox at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6m0pncsiskos8f4/AAATJHPwQ0WTd3RFSPvKxozBa/Constitution%2C%20Policies%2C%20Procedures>.

As a convenience, our policies are also available for quick reference on the web and the following link: <https://uucss.org/resouces/uucss-policy/>.

## INSPIRE (continued)

### President's Message Continued

The December Board meeting was held early this month due to the holidays. We heard a report from the annual budget drive (ABD) team. The ABD team (**Jean Snell**, **Cynthia Curry-Daniel**, and **Rev. Lyn**) have developed a timeline and have lined up their core volunteers. The Board will be working with them in January to provide the budget information they need. The Constitution Revision Committee (RevCon) has begun meeting with groups directly affected by potential changes to determine what will work best for our congregation. The RevCon plans to begin holding conversations with the congregation in March 2020. The Board also discussed how to communicate policy changes (the policy on policies). The minutes and agenda for the Board are posted on drop box for the benefit of the congregation.

I wish everyone the joy and peace of the season and as always, it is an honor to serve as your President.

### Annual Budget Drive: Bridge to the Future

Your Annual Budget Drive (ABD) co-chairs, **Jean Snell** and **Cynthia Curry-Daniel**, have been working hard and planning for the launch of our 2020 ABD Campaign: Bridge to the Future. The public launch of the campaign will be at the February 16 Stewardship Sunday, but there is plenty to do before then. All who are interested in helping out with ideas and volunteering for the ABD this year are invited to a meeting after the service on January 5 in the Dolan Lounge. If you would like to volunteer as a Visiting Steward, please mark your calendar for a training session either January 26 or February 2. Exciting things are happening at UUCSS, and we want to do our best to inspire generosity of time, talent, and treasure so that we can journey into the future with confidence.

### Search Committee Update

Your 2019–2020 Search Committee brings you these updates on where we are and what's ahead:

#### Documents Packet

We recently submitted the Congregational Record, so our focus has turned to the "Documents Packet." While the Congregational Record consists of our responses to a list of questions, the Documents Packet includes documents such as our church constitution, budget, congregational covenant, Board meeting minutes, policies, organizational chart, photos of the church, and sample newsletters and orders of service. We are finalizing the packet now and have submitted it to our UUA Transition Coach for her review.

#### Applications and Interviews

We will be receiving names and information about potential ministers in early January. Our first round of interviews will be conducted via Zoom (videoconferencing software) in mid-to-late January.

We look forward to sharing with the ministerial candidates what we love about UUCSS, and we look forward to sharing another update with you next month.

As always, please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns at [search@uucss.org](mailto:search@uucss.org).  
UUCSS Settled Minister Search Committee,

**Katie Kirk Haag, Steve Hirsch, Jeremy Holt, Anna Molpus, Beverly Schnetzler, Lisa Schumaker, and Sharon Snyder**

## INSPIRE (continued)

### Musings by Music Director, Michael Holmes,

Our “Happy New Year” will be full of “the struggle and the power” as we are “gathered here” to carry on as history watches us. That sentiment has been on my mind lately. Every January 1, I always have renewed vigor as a result of the real body rest that I try to get after the holidays. In the coming year, I hope to witness more focus and clarity, both personally and through this church. I will do my part! The annual service honoring the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, will be on January 19, and our choir will have some stirring spiritual arrangements by the great **Rollo Dilworth**. Some choir members remember Rollo from a big UU community sing that was held at All Souls Unitarian Church in DC 3 years ago, when he was guest clinician. I consider him the most gifted spiritual and Gospel composer/arranger working today.



On January 5, our wonderful ukulele ensemble, the UUkes, will sing in the New Year with our second annual fire service. On January 12, some soloists will support **Rev. Alexa Fraser’s** message entitled “Over There—Beyond That Mountain, In That Valley.” And on Jan. 26, **Steve Leete** and I will be joined by guest tubist **Jared Denhard** for some brass trio arrangements of Superhero music to accompany Rev. Lyn’s service about...you guessed it...Superhero [Values]! Onward 2020!

## LEARN

### Message from IDRE Marsha Thrall



In his sermon titled “Quests for the Human Spirit—Integrity,” The **Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman**, a theologian, philosopher, prominent civil rights leader, and mentor to the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, defined integrity as “the alignment of self-image with the facts, or, the truths concerning a person. It is the ‘creative synthesis and wholeness inside the person’” (See <https://thurman.pitts.emory.edu/items/show/20>). Thurman believed that integrity allows humans to take a stand and possess humility. January reminds us that as UUs we are a people of integrity; and as this new year begins, examining integrity, and what it means to be a people of integrity, will help in my role as religious educator, to discern with the congregation what direction Religious Education

can take at UUCSS, as we go forward. Doing the communal work that is the mark of Unitarian Universalism requires deep, introspective reflection, a commitment to education, and an ever-evolving sense of personal and social ethics. Religious Education provides a foundation to cultivate integrity not only within our littlest UUs, but within “grown-up” members, as well.

### For Adults

As a congregation, cultivating integrity through restful reflection will begin in the first week of the New Year, through the annual Quiet Day event. Facilitated by **Jo Paoletti**, Quiet Day is a low-key morning of post-holiday restoration. This year the program will take place on January 4, 2020, and is open to adults, youth, and children aged 9 and up. Childcare and ASL services will be provided, and registration is required. Contact Jo Paoletti at [jo.paoletti@gmail.com](mailto:jo.paoletti@gmail.com).

Next, as we prepare as a congregation to engage in acts of integrity by recognizing the Poor People’s Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington, scheduled for June 20, 2020, we will examine the history of the Poor People’s Campaign, as envisioned by the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Join me on January 19, 2020, for a screening of the film “King in the Wilderness,” which will be held in the sanctuary, after the service. “King in the Wilderness” follows the last 18 months of Dr. King’s life, including the experiences King had that led him to envision and launch the Poor People’s campaign in 1967. The screening will be followed by a short talk on one of King’s final speeches titled “The Other America.” Discussion to follow. Feel free to bring snacks to share. For more information, contact IDRE, Marsha Thrall at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com).

## LEARN (continued)

### IDRE Message Continued

Integrity in sexual education has long been a core value of UU parents and caregivers. Beginning this January as a pilot ministry in adult education, adults will explore their roles as the most important sexuality educators the children in their care will have. Authored by **Robin Slaw**, “Parents and Care Givers as Sexuality Educators: Small Group Ministry” is a 10-session small group ministry that will invite parents and caregivers to explore their role as the primary sexuality educators of their elementary through teenage children. The 90-minute sessions use a small group ministry format to engage adults in topics including Gender Identity, Relationships, Social Media, and Consent. Our pilot group will be facilitated by **Elissa Webber**; however, we are in search of a co-facilitator for this program. If you are interested in participating as an adult learner or co-facilitator, please contact IDRE Marsha Thrall at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com).

### Save the Dates: UU Adult RE Workshop on Ethics Sundays February 2–April 5

“What we Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists” is a 10-session workshop designed by the **Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti** and the **Rev. Amber Beland**. This participatory, reflection-based workshop will be facilitated by member **Evelyn DeNardo** on Sundays after the service, February 2–April 5. The UUA’s course description is as follows: “Development, clarification, refinement, and expansion of our ethical thinking often occur in the midst of crisis or in response to an event or relationship that calls our world view into question. However, this program offers an intentional process of engagement with others in examining ethical concepts, dilemmas, and questions to help participants clarify and expand their ethical understanding independent of a personal crisis. Participants examine how they have arrived at ethical positions that they hold dear. They explore new perspectives, identify areas for further questions and exploration, and perhaps more fully embrace ethical positions they reach through careful discernment. This program will deepen and expand participants’ knowledge and skills for a process of ethical reflection that is central to living our Unitarian Universalist faith.” To register, visit the SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44adac28abfc1-course>.

**Children** Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 4th and 5th grade UUs will begin at the end of January. We are still in the process of working out scheduling details; however, we anticipate that OWL classes for this age group will begin on January 27, 2020. For more information, please contact IDRE Marsha Thrall at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com).

I am excited for all of the ways both new and old, that UUCSS is working to actively engage within the congregational community and the greater community as people of integrity. To those reading this, I hope that you will be able to join in during these upcoming events, as we live and grow together into the faith practices and principles that are Unitarian Universalism, while working towards “creative synthesis and wholeness inside the person.” Peace.

### Adult Workshop: Living and Dying Well

January 25, 9:30am–12:00pm, led by the **Rev. Ashley Burczak**

Join the Lay Ministers and our UUCSS Affiliated Community Minister, the Rev. Ashley Burczak, for a half-day workshop the morning of January 25 in the sanctuary. This class will cover some important things to know about the differences and overlaps between palliative care and hospice, as well as important things to consider to ensure good care for yourself or loved ones at the end of life.

Many people think of hospice care as something that’s only used within the last few weeks of life, and imagine that palliative care is synonymous with hospice care. They may also imagine that care planning such as a living will is something for those who expect to die soon. These misconceptions can greatly reduce our quality and even length of life. The information in this workshop will help families focus on what’s most important at the end of life.

Gathering will begin at 9:30am with light refreshments, with the workshop beginning promptly at 10:00am. For questions or to register, please contact [layministers@uucss.org](mailto:layministers@uucss.org).

## LEARN (continued)

### Understanding, Identifying, and Interrupting Microaggressions Workshop

Sign-up is now available for this workshop, which will be held on Sunday, January 26, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the UUCSS Sanctuary and led by **Charles Alexander**. Space is limited to 30 participants. (Please note that lunch is NOT provided.) Go here to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ACA62AABF49-understanding>.

Racism and white supremacy are easy to identify when the purveyors of it wear white hoods, swastikas, and even MAGA hats. However, these expressions of racism only scratch the surface of how racist and white supremacist ideologies, institutions, and systems are perpetuated and maintained. The problem is much more nuanced and subtle. This workshop will offer insights into how racism and white supremacy persist, even in an environment where such ideals are rejected, and will offer participants strategies and skills that interrupt the effects of subtle acts of oppression.

## CONNECT

Greetings, Fellowship Dinner Friends,

Mark your calendars for our annual dinner celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

In preparation for this event, we need assistance to make sure this event takes place and is as great as always! If you are interested in helping with any of the items below, please send an email by February 15 to **Dina Raley** at [fellowshipdinner@uucss.org](mailto:fellowshipdinner@uucss.org).

1. Be the assistant chair for the event and help take care of the activities that are not being delegated/outsourced. Duties may include helping to come up with the theme, marketing the event, setting up and cleaning up, and assisting with table assignments.
2. Help create and manage the sign-up document on Google docs or another platform.
3. Help coordinate and obtain volunteers to work the sign-up table during coffee hour on five Sundays: March 8 to April 5.
4. Help run the coffee and dessert tables in the Community Hall, including set-up, clean-up, and coordination with Green Sanctuary with regard to compostables.
5. Be a clean-up captain, which includes helping break down and putting away the folding tables, taking care of trash and recycling, managing the tablecloths, vacuuming, and making sure that chairs are replaced for church services the next morning.

Your assistance makes this event possible and is greatly appreciated. We look forward to another successful Fellowship Dinner.

### More on Quiet Day

Registration is open for Quiet Day on January 4! Consider this your invitation for a low-key morning of post-holiday restoration. This year the program is open to adults, youth, and children aged 9 and up. Find the complete program schedule at

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wVuiFOKGLrJzgE78ydbA9celnU08NnSoClxZp\\_2Xak/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wVuiFOKGLrJzgE78ydbA9celnU08NnSoClxZp_2Xak/edit?usp=sharing).

Childcare is available.

Please submit a registration form at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6vRYQQtlksiPiGjMNfGFOrpvPI3Loekoz-G2I7geEtADhvg/viewform> for each participant (this includes workshop leaders!)

The form was sent to the UUCSS Yahoo group and also posted in the Facebook group. If you missed it, see Jo Paoletti at coffee hour or email her at [jo.paoletti@gmail.com](mailto:jo.paoletti@gmail.com). *If you need ASL or childcare, the deadline for requests is December 28.*

## CONNECT (continued)

### UU the Vote—Official Launch: National Call Webinar, January, 12, 2020

The national launch for UU the Vote will take place on January 12 (<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e4220064-ca90-4c64-af9a-278e2676e117&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e5158b53-2eb3-40cb-bd07-9f2319ff912f>). UUA hopes for thousands to join the online national call and that UUs will help host watch parties at your congregations and homes and will spread the word. This is an excellent opportunity for social justice committees and ministries focused on related issues. Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Om5EM67ITvS10tpRzbiSgQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e5158b53-2eb3-40cb-bd07-9f2319ff912f](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Om5EM67ITvS10tpRzbiSgQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e5158b53-2eb3-40cb-bd07-9f2319ff912f).

### Sunday, January 12, 2020 UUCSS 101

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!

Jazz@  
UUCSS



*jazz@uucss presents*

**Selma, Soweto, Bethlehem: Jazz Reflections on Freedom Struggles**  
featuring the **Harry Appelman Quartet**  
Sunday, January 19, 2020, 4:00–5:30 p.m., UUCSS Sanctuary

Join us on Martin Luther King weekend for jazz interpretations of music associated with the U.S. civil rights struggle, South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, and the ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom and human rights. This powerful program includes compositions by South African pianist **Abdullah Ibrahim**, **John Coltrane**, and Lebanese oud player **Marcel Khalife**, as well as arrangements of an African American spiritual, South Africa's national anthem, and Palestinian and Israeli songs.

Grammy-award winning pianist and educator **Harry Appelman** has performed on five continents. His quartet includes **David Jernigan** on bass, **Eric Kennedy** on drums, and **Todd Marcus** on bass clarinet.

*There is no doubt that music plays an important part in all of these struggles. Music is a natural human response to pain. It can provide hope and help sustain the will to act for change. In some cases, music directly expresses themes of liberation, maintaining dignity under repression, and the desire for peace. In others, it's a symbol of cultural identity, which can be a source of pride and inspire people to keep up the struggle for freedom and self-determination. We can, if we all do our part, make sure that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. As **Frederick Douglas** and others after him have said, "None of us are free if one of us is chained." ~ Harry Appelman*

Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). More details and a link for tickets are at <https://uucss.org/events/jazzuucss-january-19-2020/>.



## CONNECT (continued)

### EVENTS IN BRIEF

**JANUARY 4, 9:00 a.m.–noon.** Annual Quiet Day.

**JANUARY 5, 11:45 a.m.** Initial ABD volunteers meeting, Dolan Lounge.

**JANUARY 11, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** Annual Legislative Kick-Off, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland, UU Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD. Register at <https://uulmmd.salsalabs.org/legislativekickoff1-11-2020/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=76984941-3da3-4161-ad75-dddf5a28562a>.

**JANUARY 12, 11:45 a.m.** UUCSS 101, Triangle Room.

**JANUARY 12.** UU the Vote, National Call webinar. Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Om5EM67ITvS10tpRzbiSqQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e5158b53-2eb3-40cb-bd07-9f2319ff912f](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Om5EM67ITvS10tpRzbiSqQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e5158b53-2eb3-40cb-bd07-9f2319ff912f).

**JANUARY 19, 11:45 a.m.** Screening of “King in the Wilderness,” Sanctuary.

**JANUARY 19, 4:00–5:30 p.m.** jazz@uucss presents Selma, Soweto, Bethlehem: Jazz Reflections on Freedom Struggles, featuring the Harry Appelman Quartet, Sanctuary.

**JANUARY 25, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon.** Adult workshop by Ashley Burczak on Living and Dying Well, Sanctuary. For questions or to register, contact [layministers@uucss.org](mailto:layministers@uucss.org).

**JANUARY 26, 11:45 a.m.** ABD Visiting Steward training session, location TBD.

**JANUARY 26, 12:30–4:30 p.m.** Understanding, Identifying, and Interrupting Microaggressions Workshop, Sanctuary. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ACA62AABF49-understanding>.

**JANUARY 29.** Mass meeting to prepare for the Poor People’s Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington. Go to <https://actionnetwork.org/> for more information.

**FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, and 23, 11:45 a.m.** “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists,” Sanctuary. Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44adac28abfc1-course>.

**FEBRUARY 2, 11:45 a.m.** ABD Visiting Steward training session, location TBD.

**MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 11:45 a.m.** “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

**APRIL 5, 11:45 a.m.** “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

## CONNECT (continued)

### EVENTS IN BRIEF CONTINUED

**APRIL 18, 5:30 p.m.** Fellowship Dinner, Sanctuary.

**APRIL 24–26.** 14th annual Revolutionary Love Conference, All Souls Unitarian Church, 1500 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC. Go to <http://revolutionaryloveconference.com> for more information.

**JUNE 20.** Poor People’s Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington. Go to <https://actionnetwork.org/> for more information.

#### JANUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

A representative of the LWV will speak at the service on January 26. Donations will go to the LWV Education Fund, which is a separate 501(c)3 organization; the LWV is a 501(c)4, so we cannot donate to them.

#### JANUARY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

#### JOHN HENDERSON

**John Henderson** grew up UU in Des Moines, Iowa, and then later in the Princeton, New Jersey, UU church. Like many college students, he wandered off from UUism through college and law school. When he and **Patti Poss** moved to the DC area, they briefly attended All Souls but quickly found UUCSS to be a comfortable fit.

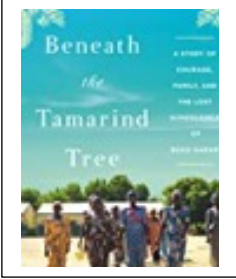
The things that drew and sustained John and Patti were **Rev. Liz’s** sermons, friendships with UUCSSers, and the children’s RE program that **Rev. Ellen Jennings** created. A strong feeling of community evolved, which led John to the Diversity Team. Believing we are strengthened as a community by our variety, he became a member of the Diversity Team in part to grow his own understanding. In

2012 he joined the Board because “no one can say no to **John Robinette**” and because of the great team already assembled. After rolling off the board in 2015, he worked on the Nominating Committee and then became Board President to fill the rest of **Barbara Eyman’s** term. John now serves as Property Chair, perhaps one of the hardest jobs in the congregation.

When asked why he volunteers, John says “Community doesn’t just happen. It takes us all to consciously create community.” John has done this through leadership, personal growth, and the hard work of keeping our buildings safe and welcoming.

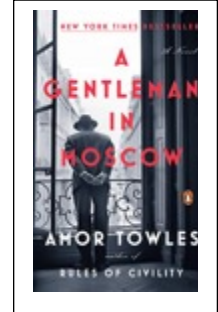
## CONNECT (continued)

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

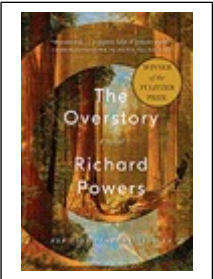


The women's book group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 pm for a casual gathering and book discussion. No long-term obligation is required. Please contact **Deborah Weiner** at [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com) for directions and additional information.

January 27, 2020: *Beneath the Tamarind Tree: A Story of Courage, Family, and the Lost Schoolgirls of Boko Haram* by **Isha Sesay**  
February 24, 2020: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by **Amor Towles**.



### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP



We are reading *Overstory* by Richard Powers, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2019. The novel is about nine Americans whose unique life experiences with trees bring them together to address the destruction of forests.

We will meet on Sunday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Bill Wolf**, 519 Dartmouth Street, Silver Spring. If you are interested in attending, just tell **Richard Lorr** ([rlorr4@gmail.com](mailto:rlorr4@gmail.com)), read the book, and come to the next meeting. See you there!

### Update from Melinda Yalom, Administrator

I want to offer a special “thank you” to those loyal volunteers who helped me with this year’s December and Christmas orders of service (and with orders of service over the years!): **Rachel Vanarsdall**, **John Sullivan**, and **Brian Beard**. You always make it fun!

And—Happy New Year to all from the UUCSS Staff!

Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator  
Marsha Thrall, Interim Director of Religious Education  
Michael Holmes, Music Director



### Holiday Office Closure

Please note that the office is closed and most staff are on vacation through January 3. Should you encounter an urgent pastoral concern during this time, please contact the Lay Ministers ([layministers@uucss.org](mailto:layministers@uucss.org)), who will know how to contact the Interim Minister if necessary.



UUCSS

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring**

10309 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

FIRST CLASS

**Staff and  
Board President**

**Rev. Lyn Cox**

Interim Minister

[interimminister@uucss.org](mailto:interimminister@uucss.org)

**Michael Holmes**

Music Director

[musicdirector@uucss.org](mailto:musicdirector@uucss.org)

**Marsha Thrall**

**Interim Director of  
Religious Education**

[idreuucss@gmail.com](mailto:idreuucss@gmail.com)

**Michael Knaapen**

Religious Education

[REassistant@uucss.org](mailto:REassistant@uucss.org)

**Melinda Yalom**

Church Administrator

[administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org)

**Tamara Bowman**

Board President

[president@uucss.org](mailto:president@uucss.org)

Submissions to the *Uniter* are due by the 20th of the prior month. Send information and visuals to [uniter@uucss.org](mailto:uniter@uucss.org).

Format guidelines for submissions: Text must be in a form that it can be edited, either in a Microsoft Word file or in the body of an email that can be copied and pasted. Graphics must be in a format in which they can be repositioned and resized—jpeg is greatly preferred.

The newsletter is published September–June by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

Co-editors are **Jane Larrick** and **Stephanie McConachie**.

To receive a PDF email version of the newsletter, contact the church office at [administrator@uucss.org](mailto:administrator@uucss.org).

To receive a mailed copy of the *Uniter* for the year, please send **\$24 to UUCSS, Attention: Collector**.

**Church office hours**

**Monday: 1–4 p.m.**

**Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**Church website: [www.uucss.org](http://www.uucss.org)**