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# March 2020

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## UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING

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### 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 1: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER Rev. Lyn Cox & Two of a Kind

In this music-filled service, we will commit to understanding and responding to our connections in the interdependent web. We can and will bring joy and song to our responsibilities to the planet and to each other. We welcome Music Residency guests Two of A Kind (**David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans**) as co-leaders of this worship service.

#### March 8: BRAVE Rev. Lyn Cox

Being authentic takes courage. When we are able to be our whole, authentic selves while staying rooted in our values, we can create space for other people to be their whole, authentic selves as well. We'll draw inspiration from the Biblical story of Queen Esther. The Children's Choir and the a cappella group will encourage and strengthen us for wholeness.

#### March 15: HEART STRINGS Rev. Lyn Cox

In this multigenerational, earth-honoring spring equinox service, we'll explore how different kinds of love help us to find balance in our lives. Staying in relationship helps us to move forward, stay accountable, and find joy as we travel through a universe in motion. The Children's Choir and the Sanctuary Singers will share music about love and respect for ourselves, for our partners, for our friends, and for our community.

#### March 22: LAND OF FUN Chris Lindsley

UUCSS member Chris Lindsley will share what he's learned about life, hard work, and ethics. His reflections are expanded in his book of the same name. *Land of Fun* (the book) is part history and part memoir, based on his six summers operating rides and games at Funland in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

#### March 29: COMING OF AGE Rev. Lyn Cox, IDRE Marsha Thrall, Carey Schneider, Linda Barrett, and Coming of Age Youth

Coming of Age is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) rite of passage for young adolescents. Similar to b'nai mitzvah for Jewish youth and Confirmation for Christian youth, Coming of Age recognizes a new stage of development, responsibility, and belonging in the religious community. For UUs, the responsibilities of this stage include spiritual and ethical discernment and channeling your gifts and talents in community. The seven youth of this year's Coming of Age class will co-lead this service in meditation, music, storytelling, and reflection.

# INSPIRE

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



I have learned a lot from tabletop role-playing games. If you don't play them yourself, you probably know someone who does; these are the games in which players take on characters who are described in part with statistics like charisma or strength, and who use these characteristics to solve problems in the story they are cooperatively creating. I don't get to play as often these days, although my kids and I do enjoy games like No Thank You, Evil; Munchkin; and Mice and Mystics.

In classic Dungeons & Dragons, one of the things I learned is that there is a difference between intelligence and wisdom. Intelligence can help a character figure out how to disarm a trap. Wisdom can help a character figure out a way around it, or even help you realize that being in the trap-infested dungeon is pursuing the wrong goal in the first place. Intelligence might help with recalling knowledge or with speedy completion of a puzzle, yet we need wisdom for putting knowledge in context and applying it to a long-term plan. Sometimes wisdom is about considered choices in our actions or in our refraining from action.

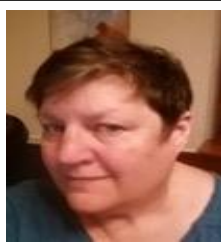
This month, we'll be exploring what some of those wise choices might be in relationship with different contexts. On March 1, music will help us think about wisdom in relationship to action for justice and the planet. We'll find wisdom in bravery on March 8, realizing that being accountable to our community can lead us to courage. The spring equinox will help us find the wisdom of dynamic balance through our love and respect for ourselves, our partners and families, our friends, and our community. **Chris Lindsley** will share his wisdom, gained from six seasons at Funland, on March 22. The big finish will be on March 29, when the Coming of Age youth share the wisdom they have gained from several months of discernment, learning, and mentorship.

Your UUCSS Constitutional Revision Task Force (RevCon) uses both intelligence and wisdom in their research and writing to help the congregation improve your governance. They have great ideas about how to be more effective, responsive, agile, and clear in the way you pursue your mission together. I hope you'll be able to meet with them on March 1 or March 8.

Conflict between people who all care about the same community is one type of occasion that calls for wisdom. UUCSS will be hosting a regional workshop on conflict skills on March 7. This workshop, Conflict Transformation in Congregations, will be led by my colleague, **Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley**, who is currently serving as the Interim Senior Minister at the UU Church of Arlington. There is a cost for the workshop and for the catered lunch, and we need to sign up as a team. If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact **Doneby Smith** ([donebys@gmail.com](mailto:donebys@gmail.com)).

May your spiritual path, your passions, the people you love in many ways, and the young people in your life inspire you with wisdom. May this wisdom lead you to live your values in the world, and to return to UUCSS with stories to share. See you soon.

## Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



Our Annual Budget Drive (ABD) has begun. Look for your steward to contact you in the coming weeks. While we are crossing the Bridge to the Future, take a moment to discuss with your steward what UUCSS means to you. What is it you want to bring with us across the bridge? What new things are you anticipating on the other side? Our aspirational budget asks a great deal. We are preparing to welcome a new minister. We will continue to offer great programs and increase money for building maintenance. We appreciate everyone's commitment to UUCSS.

The table at the end of my message shows expected ABD pledges, other income, and expenses as of February 19, 2020, along with the total collected for the Capital Campaign and the current balance.

## INSPIRE (continued)

### Message From Board President Continued

As some of you are aware, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has presented an 8th Principle. Unitarian Universalism is not a static religion built on an inflexible creed. Our Principles allow us to change and do better once we've learned better. That happened in 1985 when the 7th Principle was adopted, and we have the opportunity now to deepen our work dismantling white supremacy with the 8th Principle.

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

I would like to be clear that we're not asking the congregation to adopt the Principle yet, but rather to allow us to begin examining what it means and to make a plan for how to get there. That takes a different kind of education—opening the space for us to explore and figure out what the 8th Principle would mean to UUCSS. How would it affect our decisions developing good, just policies? Look for opportunities to learn more in the coming months.

Help Green Sanctuary meet one of its strategic plan goals while you help the planet. We need just five more households to switch to renewable energy for their electricity to make the goal. Switching your electricity source from fossil fuels to renewables has a big impact on carbon emissions. Wind electricity generation alone has a potential impact 30 times that of household recycling. What have you been waiting for? Signing up for wind power is easy, and you can even save money. (Right now, AEP Energy rates for wind power are lower than Pepco rates! See <https://enroll.aepenergy.com/acquisition/offers>. If you need help, want to discuss options, or have other questions, contact **Doneby Smith** ([donebys@gmail.com](mailto:donebys@gmail.com)) or **Maureen Malloy** ([malloymo@aol.com](mailto:malloymo@aol.com)), or any Green Sanctuary member.

The agenda for the February Board meeting will include updating goals for the strategic plan, discussion with the Nominating Committee, and continuing discussion of the changes to the constitution. The minutes and agenda for the Board are posted on our dropbox for the benefit of the congregation.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your President.

	Expected Income	Year-to-Date Income
Pledges—ABD	\$398,514	\$293,758
Other income	\$141,800	\$108,702
Expenses	\$528,393	\$272,529

Capital Campaign	Total Collected	Current Balance
	\$1,442,098	\$1,213,456

### Annual Budget Drive

All Friends and Members of UUCSS are invited to help build a **Bridge to the Future** by engaging with this year's Annual Budget Drive (ABD) through initiating or renewing your financial commitment to our church community. The Board has proposed an ambitious budget for 2021, which includes a competitive salary and transition package for a new settled minister, increased investment in property maintenance and repairs, and sustained excellence in programming and staffing. The season of stewardship is an important opportunity to both reflect back upon how this church has enriched our lives in the past year and to imagine what is ahead for our congregation.

We hope that you will all take advantage of the opportunity to meet with a steward through the month of March. Stewardship visits are being scheduled by the ABD team. If you haven't received an invitation for such a visit, please contact the ABD co-chairs at [abdchairs@uucss.org](mailto:abdchairs@uucss.org) for assistance. You can also make a financial contribution online at [uucss.org/abd/pledge](https://uucss.org/abd/pledge). Alternatively, you can donate on your mobile phone through the "GivePlus" app from Vanco Payment Solutions. Please contact [collector@uucss.org](mailto:collector@uucss.org) with any questions or feedback about the app.

## INSPIRE (continued)

### Annual Budget Drive (ABD) Continued

Please visit our ABD website to review the proposed budget for 2020–2021 or to review this year's brochure, which includes a message from the Board of Trustees as well as the ABD co-chairs, at <https://uucss.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ABD-2020-online-brochure.pdf>. You can email **Jean Snell** or **Cynthia Curry-Daniel** with any questions or concerns about this year's financial campaign at [abdchairs@uucss.org](mailto:abdchairs@uucss.org).



#### Musings by Michael Holmes, UUCSS Music Director

As we enter March and the coming of spring every year, my own personal musical consumption (or diet) tends to personify a certain sigh of relief and sense of expansiveness derived from having survived yet another introspective winter. Almost overnight, my obsession with deep and dark music morphs into more optimistic and hopeful preoccupations. One of the centerpieces for March will be the beautiful choral piece “Fill My Life With Spring,” by **David N. Childs**. Our choir will sing music that is based on themes of love and friendship for the March 15th service that precedes the actual spring equinox. Our Children's Choir will have its final performance of this year on that same Sunday, but will perform also for the

service observing Purim on March 8th, together with a smaller version of our a cappella group. The Soul Matters theme for March is “Wisdom,” and as I reflect on this, I think immediately about what our church has endured in the past few years. Perhaps this passage from “Resilience” (February theme) to Wisdom is completely apropos of our natural process of new birth. **Rev. Lyn** mentioned to me recently that she considers UUCSS quite ready for its next chapter in its own ministry and identity. I found that very encouraging, and it made me feel validated that the hard work we've done together as a congregation has been worth all of this rugged perseverance. Honestly, I've felt very good about this year as a whole, and that we are all healing. May our musical offerings continue to be catalysts for our continued health and growth as a community!

## LEARN

### Message From Interim Director of Religious Education (IDRE) Marsha Thrall



Here, in UU world, March is a time for contemplating the ideal of wisdom, and what wisdom can mean within congregational, contemplative, and of course, religious education (RE) spaces.

Sometimes, a conflation occurs that confuses intelligence with wisdom. Intelligence is the fuel driving the mentality that working more than 40 hours per week to complete all tasks given is the smart thing to do. Wisdom recognizes that processes can be streamlined, questions the necessity of each and every task, and works to find a way to limit the amount of time dedicated to professional work

to 40 hours per week. Intelligence finds comfort in the way that “things have always been done” because it's “smarter” to not deviate from the norm. Wisdom examines situations, contemplates outcomes, and weighs the entirety against the benefits of embarking on new things that hold the potential to be more enriching and more spiritually satisfying—new things that signal growth and cultivation of wisdom. This cultivation of wisdom is a cyclical, spiritual act.

One of the Soul Matters Theme Practice Statements for the month of March suggests that wisdom is “the practice of untangling yourself from what you've been taught.” These 10 words seem to neatly encapsulate what the role of the Interim professional is within the Unitarian Universalist (UU) context.



## LEARN (continued)

### Message From Interim Director Continued

As the Interim Director of Religious Education, my role is not to be a placeholder of “how things have always been”; rather, my role is similar to the role of doula; I’m here to encourage and hold every hand that grasps as the congregation untangles itself from what it’s been taught, in regard to religious education, by RE professionals past. And this birth process, like every birth process, is sticky and messy. But in the end, something new and beautiful is born. And within this newness and beauty is hope—hope that as UUs we can continue to be wise and relevant agents of change in a sticky and messy world.

**Purim Art Assembly:** On March 8, all PreK through Middle School youth will participate in a Purim-themed art assembly in the Community Hall, following the Time For All Ages portion of Sunday worship. This art assembly will be organized by **Liska Friedman**. If you’d like to help organize this art assembly, or if you have items that could be donated to help make this time a fulfilling learning experience for the children and youth at UUCSS, please contact Liska at [liska67@gmail.com](mailto:liska67@gmail.com).

**Families LUUV Group Book Read:** On March 20, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Community Hall, Families LUUV will be hosting a potluck and discussion group centered on **Peggy Orenstein's *Girls and Sex***. The book is available on Amazon and at public libraries in the area. Though this is an event sponsored by Families LUUV, all are invited. Please use this link to sign up, and indicate how many members of your family will attend and if you will bring a dish to pass:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ADAC28ABFC1-girls>.

**RE Supply Procedures:** Just a gentle reminder that the process for requesting supplies for RE classroom activities is as follows:

1. Email IDRE **Marsha Thrall** to confirm that supplies aren’t on hand in other RE storage spaces. If the supplies are on hand in other spaces, I will make sure that the RE closet is replenished.
2. If we do not have the supplies on hand in other RE storage spaces, I will notify the requester and give the requester the option of being able to pick up the needed supplies themselves. All receipts for RE supplies should be submitted to me for reimbursement processing.

Thank you so much for your attention to these procedures, and for all that you do to make religious education meaningful here at UUCSS.

**UU Ethics Workshop:** The UU Ethics workshops, facilitated by **Evelyn DeNardo**, have begun!

The UU Ethics Workshop group will be meeting through April 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Dolan Lounge.

Remember—attendance for each session is not required to participate in the workshop series. Whether you attend one workshop or all of them, the only requirements for participation are a mind ready for the learning experience and a willingness to ask questions.

If you have any questions about the workshop series, please feel free to contact me at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com) or the workshop facilitator, Evelyn DeNardo ([denardo.evelyn@gmail.com](mailto:denardo.evelyn@gmail.com)).

### Children and Youth Religious Education Planning Workshop

Mark your calendars! A workshop to discuss the direction of Children and Youth Religious Education will be held on March 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Community Hall. This workshop is intended to discuss Children and Youth Religious Education only. Please sign up [here](#) if you plan to attend. Also, if you’d like to help plan this workshop, please contact IDRE Marsha Thrall at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com).

### Adult Religious Education—Call for Action

Attention, those who are interested in helping to grow adult religious education at UUCSS. I am currently looking to develop an Adult Religious Education Task Force that will work on developing a sustainable model of adult religious education at UUCSS. If you are interested in serving on this task force, or have ideas that can be cultivated into learning experiences for adults, please contact IDRE Marsha Thrall at [IDREUUCSS@gmail.com](mailto:IDREUUCSS@gmail.com).



## Love, Laughter, and Hope

### Songs to help us through difficult times

Join us on **Saturday, February 29**, for a special afternoon and evening of music and advocacy with Philadelphia-based musicians **David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans**, who form the successful duo Two of a Kind.

David and Jenny's 7:30 pm evening concert—Love, Laughter, and Hope—features songs to help us through these difficult times. The UUCSS Sanctuary Singers will provide choral support for several songs.

Concert tickets are \$25 (\$20 seniors/students) at <https://uucss.yapsody.com/event/index/525576>.

**FREE AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**—In addition to the concert, Two of a Kind will present two free workshops on Saturday afternoon for children and adults.

#### **Kids' Instrument-Making Workshop (1:00–2:00 p.m.)**

Participants will make their own instruments from recycled materials and will have an opportunity to play them during the session (and at the Sunday morning worship service).

#### **33 Revolutions Per Minute: Music and Social Justice (3:00–4 :00 p.m.)**

This workshop will explore social justice music of a variety of topics, eras, and genres. David and Jenny will invite participants to sing along and engage in discussion.

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### Climate Emergency

#### Help Green Sanctuary/Help the Planet

Switching your electricity source from fossil fuels to renewables has a big impact on carbon emissions. You recycle, right? Wind electricity generation alone has a potential impact 30 times that of household recycling. It's time to go big! Green Sanctuary has a goal of increasing the number of UUCSS households on renewable source electricity. Please join the 58 of us already on renewables. To meet our goal, we need 5 more households to make the switch. Signing up for wind power is easy, and you can even save money. (Right now, AEP Energy rates for wind power are lower than Pepco rates—go to <https://enroll.aepenergy.com/acquisition/offers>). Need help, want to discuss options, or have other questions? Contact **Doneby Smith** ([donebys@gmail.com](mailto:donebys@gmail.com)) or Maureen Malloy ([malloymo@aol.com](mailto:malloymo@aol.com)), or any Green Sanctuary member.



### Concerned About Climate Change?

#### Write your legislators in Annapolis.

Your Green Sanctuary Committee urges you to write your Maryland senator and delegates to support four bills that are pending in this legislative session. (Unsure of your legislative district and your legislators? Look them up on-line at "MDelect;" all you need is your home address.) Here is a model for a letter you can write to your Senator and/or your House of Delegates member:

## CONNECT (continued)

### Write Your Legislators in Annapolis Continued

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ or Dear Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

*I urge you to support these four important climate bills this session: 1) Senate Bill 926 or House Bill 1425, Climate Solutions Act; 2) SB 315 or HB 561, Community Choice Energy (CCE); 3) SB 560 or HB 438, Ending Subsidies for Incineration; and 4) SB 656 or HB531 Public Service Commission (PSC) Climate Test.*

*With several “one hundred year” floods in Ellicott City, disappearing islands in the Chesapeake, and five of the ten warmest years on record having occurred since 2000, we know Maryland is vulnerable to climate change. The science tells us that we have just 12 years to cut emissions in half globally. The Climate Solutions Act will bring Maryland in line with the science by cutting its greenhouse emissions 60% by 2030. With Community Choice Energy, clean energy can become the default rather than the state’s current default, which relies heavily on fossil fuels. There is nothing “green” or “clean” about trash incineration, which produces more carbon dioxide, mercury, particulate emissions, and dioxin per unit of energy produced than burning coal; we must stop subsidizing it. All state agencies should be considering climate change, but it is particularly critical that the PSC consider climate change in its regulation of the electricity sector.*

*Climate change will not wait; we need to pass these bills now!*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address with zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### Capital Improvements Update

**Background:** UUCSS’ 2012–2017 Strategic Plan outlined the need for building improvements and a Capital Campaign to support those improvements. The Dreambuilders Committee was formed to guide the vision, and a Capital Campaign Committee was formed to raise the funds. After a successful campaign that raised four times our annual budget, the Capital Improvements Committee was formed in the fall of 2018 to guide our work in three areas: evaluating finances, focusing current work, and planning future work.

**Evaluating Finances:** In September 2018, the Capital Campaign Chair completed a review of all current financial commitments and provided an update to the congregation through two in-person meetings and electronic communications. After this review, we were very confident that \$1.465m will be collected. With most of the cash in hand, the congregation is now in a secure position to engage in construction contracts.

**Current Work:** The first phase of work focuses on immediate needs: repairs to the sanctuary, including replacing the foyer roof; replacing the HVAC system; replacing the exterior doors; and repairing the outer envelope.

The committee has encountered many challenges over the past few years in planning and executing this work. Our original architectural firm, Studio 27, recommended a contractor whom we expected to work with. However, when this work was put out for competitive bid, the contractor declined to bid.

Seeking to reduce costs, the committee began a design/build bidding process. After reviewing several bids, the committee selected Keller CM in late 2017. However, in the summer of 2019, there was a breakdown in communications with Keller.

As the committee re-engaged with Keller, there was a substantial increase in prices that the committee deemed to be higher than rates of inflation. After several meetings with Keller, and after review and consultations with the Board, the committee decided in January 2020 to undertake a second round of bidding, which is currently in progress. Our goal is to select a new firm by the end of March.

**Planning Future Work:** After the scope and cost estimates of the first phase are completed, the committee will work with the Board to approve a budget for a second phase of work. Given the current needs and expected budget, this phase will focus on improvements to the Community Hall. Following the precedent set by the Dreambuilders, we will engage with the congregation in an inclusive and collaborative manner to plan and seek approval for this work.

## CONNECT (continued)

### UUCSS 101 Sunday, March 15, 2020

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!

### Pathways to Membership Class on Saturday, April 4

Are you interested in becoming a member of UUCSS? Our next Pathways to Membership class will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 4, in the Dolan Lounge in the Administration Building. **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 **Dina Raley** and **Mary Beth Lerner** at [membershipchairs@uucss.org](mailto:membershipchairs@uucss.org). Please RSVP by Saturday, March 28. We look forward to seeing you!

### Greetings From the Membership Committee!

We are halfway through the church year, and we thought it would be a good time to follow up and reflect on the committee's recent article in the October *Unitarian* about our new initiative to make our visitors more visible with a GREEN name tag, remind everyone of our shared value of welcoming all visitors, and let the congregation know what we have been up to.

The Membership Committee has continued its tradition of offering monthly UUCSS 101 classes, a welcome/membership table at every coffee hour, biannual Pathways to Membership classes, and biannual New Member Recognition services. We also have been hosting biannual brunches for new and prospective members at our homes; we started working at the visitor table to help Sunday Support in welcoming visitors before the Sunday service in the lobby; and we have created a mentor program for new members, as well as posted photos of our new members on our bulletin board next to the elevator. In the fall of 2019, we welcomed 12 new members into our congregation, many of whom have gone full steam ahead with their integration into our community—which brings me to our second point.

Not all new members or visitors feel comfortable making the first move or taking the first step. It is up to us, to you—the seasoned folks, the elders, the members, the friends, the committee members, the coffee drinkers, and everyone in between—to help visitors and new members feel welcomed and connected, whether spiritually or socially. Please remember that visitors are identified by their GREEN name tag that says, "HELLO MY NAME IS..." . These are the people you (yes *you*), need to approach and ask how they heard about us, what interests them, and what are they looking for in a spiritual home. Let them know about what's going on, such as the upcoming Fellowship Dinner, book clubs, choir practice, UUCSS 101, Pathways class, or Defending Democracy meetings (to name a few). Don't just tell them to contact so-and-so; help them make the connection. Offer to send an email to the committee person with their contact information, or physically make the introduction right there at coffee hour. I guarantee they feel more awkward than you do.

Last, the Membership Committee is currently working on our Strategic Plan for the next few years, which includes ideas about Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) and the photo directory. We welcome any ideas and suggestions at [membership@uucss.org](mailto:membership@uucss.org).

Let's all do our part to live our UU values. In fellowship, **Dina Raley**, Membership Chair  
**Mary Beth Lerner**, Membership Assistant Chair



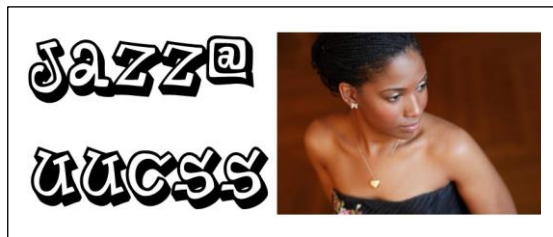
### Sunday Support Needs More Folks

Sunday Support teams are looking for a few more folks. Every week a team of approximately 8–10 people do tasks that include greeting at the entrance to the Sanctuary, inviting visitors to the welcome table to provide information, assisting with nametags, ushering at the Sanctuary doors to hand out the Order of Service, taking attendance and handling the weekly collection, and assisting with coffee making and various duties for coffee hour. Each team is on duty every 5 weeks throughout the calendar year. Full teams of 8–10 people can more easily absorb absences over the long term. YRUUs and older people alike, new members or familiar faces—you are welcome to be part of the Sunday Support effort. Please send word to [sundaysupport@uucss.org](mailto:sundaysupport@uucss.org).

Thank you very much,

**Deb Weiner**

### Save the Date!



Join us April 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the UUCSS Sanctuary when vocal powerhouse **Integriti Reeves** sings the music of **Joni Mitchell**. Her “Modern Vintage” style exists at the crossroads of jazz music, embodying the past, present, and future of the genre.

Integriti served as an Artist-In-Residence at the prestigious Strathmore Hall Arts Center in 2013. Integriti

is perhaps best known for her performances with Afro-Blue, Howard University’s award-winning vocal ensemble. The group advanced as finalists in the third season of NBC’s The Sing Off competition.

For tickets visit <https://uucss.yapsody.com/event/book/530951/30528931>.

### EVENTS IN BRIEF

**FEBRUARY 29, Two of a Kind. 1:00 p.m.**, Workshop for children and youth, Sanctuary; **3:00 p.m.** Singing Circle, Sanctuary; **7:30 p.m.**, Love, Laughter, and Hope concert, Sanctuary.

**MARCH 1, 12:00 noon.** Presentation of draft UUCSS Bylaws, Sanctuary.

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

**MARCH 8, 12:00 noon.** Presentation of draft UUCSS Bylaws, Sanctuary.

**MARCH 15, 11:45 a.m.** UUCSS 101, Triangle Room.

**MARCH 15, 12:00 noon.** Rainbow Alliance, Children’s Chapel.

**APRIL 4, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon.** Pathways to Membership class, Dolan Lounge.

**APRIL 5, 4:00–5:30 p.m.** jazz@UUCSS presents **Integriti Reeves** singing the music of **Joni Mitchell**.

**APRIL 5, 19, 11:45 a.m.** “What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.”

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

**APRIL 19, 12:00 noon.** Rainbow Alliance, Children’s Chapel.

## CONNECT (continued)

### Events In Brief continued

**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.** Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington. Go to <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/> for details and registration.

#### Volunteer of the Month Middle School Religious Education, Elise Turner & Jamie Jorgensen



Rarely do we think of middle school religious education (RE) as a place of beauty, and in that we would be wrong. Along with the chaotic energies that comes with this age are creative energies striving for a place in the world and a place as a UU. In this we are blessed with the teachers and students of our middle school RE. The outer part, what the congregation sees, is a beautified bulletin board with cockatrice, the holiday giving tree, and the December art assembly. The inward grace is a community ecosystem that learns and explores together.

Partly it is **Elise Turner**, young enough to remember this age and her own path to adulthood. Partly it is **Jamie Jorgensen**, whose engaged patience models a spiritual practice in and of itself. And partly it's the kids themselves finding outlets for their innate creativity and a desire for meaning within a heavily academic curriculum. And over all is the commitment to being open to each other and open to possibilities. In this they model

what it means to co-create the beloved community, and from them we can learn a great deal.

I've been interpreting at UUCSS since 2002. From the myriad of amazing worship experiences throughout that time, one of my absolute standout favorites will always be the service put together by **Amy Polk**, in which she shared the stories of giving birth to her sons and the importance of caring and compassionate prenatal and childbirth options. Growing up, my mother was a Lamaze teacher, so these issues have always been a part of my life. And Amy's passion for this work was spirit-deep inspiring.

#### Charity of the Month Mamatoto Village

Then, a couple of years ago at an MLK day event, I learned more details about the depth of the disparity in access to medical care for people who live east of the Anacostia in DC's Wards 7 and 8.

< <https://ggwash.org/view/43061/in-dc-access-to-medical-care-really-depends-on-where-you-live>>

< <https://www.streetsensemedia.org/article/with-limited-access-to-hospital-resources-in-wards-7-and-8-local-clinics-are-bridging-the-gap-in-health-care/#.XISPESVOnYU>>

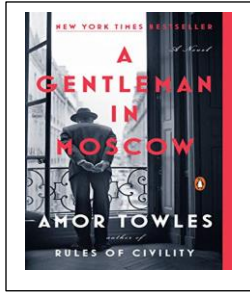
So when, during this past Christmas Eve sermon, **Rev. Lyn** called our attention to the mother in the story being away from her people and probably not having access to culturally appropriate childbirth support, Mamatoto Village immediately came to mind.

Mamatoto Village, located in Ward 7, is a local black-woman-led nonprofit organization that provides community-based, culturally grounded prenatal and childbirth support for women of color in Southeast DC. Additionally, they provide training opportunities for women from Wards 7 and 8 to become midwives, lactation consultants, and perinatal health workers. Mamatoto Village believes that "the right to health and self-preservation according to one's own will is a basic human right; therefore, if women, due to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or citizenship status, lack access to the information and tools they need to preserve their lives; the lives of their children; and long-term interests, then it is considered a violation of their rights as humans. Mamatoto Village is dedicated to acting towards the cause of reproductive justice in the best capacity possible. Additionally, we believe that women can be strengthened by other women from their communities to give rise to a more cohesive and supportive environment for childrearing and family wellness."

< <https://www.mamatotovillage.org/about.html>> **Miako Villanueva**

## CONNECT (continued)

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



The women's book group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. for a casual gathering and book discussion. No long-term obligation is required. All interested readers are welcome to join us. Please contact **Deborah Weiner**, [dweiner04@gmail.com](mailto:dweiner04@gmail.com), for additional information and directions. On March 23, we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by **Amor Towles**.

### MEN'S BOOK READING GROUP

We are reading *The Book Thief* by **Markus Zusak**. We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, at the home of **Bob McGaughy**, 4 Springvale Lane, Silver Spring.



Our next book is *The Topeka School* by **Ben Lerner**. We will meet to discuss the book at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, at the home of **Jerry Herbers**, 1215 Highland Drive, Silver Spring. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** ([rlorr4@gmail.com](mailto:rlorr4@gmail.com)), get the book, and come to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

I want to show appreciation to our Property Committee and their weekend "Church Cleanups" (a.k.a. "Blue Jean Saturdays"). The landscaping and the church building exteriors are really looking nice these days—and I know it's the hard work of folks like Brian Beard and John Henderson of the Property Committee and their band of merry men and women who have made a real difference. Thanks to all of you.

**Melinda Yalom**  
Church Administrator



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring**  
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FIRST CLASS

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

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

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: 12 noon–3 p.m.**

**Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

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