
June 2020

UNITER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING
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WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ONLINE

Music begins at 10:30 AM / Service at 11:00 AM

Check your email Sunday morning for the online access link.

June 7: PRAYERS FOR TRAVELERS Rev. Lyn Cox

In these times, travel isn't what it once was, yet new experiences, milestones, and transitions continue to be facts of life. We are transported by web conference or YouTube or fiction to other times and places. We may be traveling to different identities or states of being: graduating, retiring, grieving, welcoming children into the world, renaming ourselves, or making other journeys of discovery. There are some people who must move in body, perhaps to start a new job, to care for a loved one, to downsize due to economic necessity, or back and forth to essential work. Our prayers go with all of these travelers crossing thresholds into different places and/or new phases of life. During this service, we'll celebrate a Bridging Ceremony for those who are graduating from Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) and becoming part of the adult community.

June 14: FLOWER CEREMONY Rev. Lyn Cox



The Flower Ceremony is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) ritual dating back to 1923 celebrating diversity and cooperation. This year, we'll be celebrating in a new way, as we share photos of flowers and of people who bring beauty to our community. Just as Norbert and Maja Čapek created the flower ceremony to meet a community's needs in a new way for a new age, we are adapting as a community to share comfort, encouragement, and commitment to our values in ways that fit our times. This will be Rev. Lyn's last service as UUCSS's Interim Minister. Please email InterimMinister@uucss.org with your photos of flowers by June 7. Photos of flowers and people together are especially welcome!

June 21: PRIDE Members of the Rainbow Alliance

Members of the Rainbow Alliance will share their reflections on the power of labels, good and bad, given to us by others and chosen by ourselves.

June 28: ROOTED, INSPIRED, AND READY UUA General Assembly

NOTE SPECIAL TIME: 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Led by Rev. Joan Javier-Duval & Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack

Sunday morning worship at the UUA General Assembly is a powerful communal experience of UUs worshipping together from wherever they are. Music will be led by Benjie Messer. UUs from around the world will be part of a virtual choir. The service will stream on uua.org/ga at 10:00 a.m. EDT and again at 10:00 a.m. PDT. Members of the public are welcome to view the service.



Dear Ones,

I'm so proud of you. Thank you for allowing me to journey with you these past 2 years. I hope we can forgive each other for the times when we fell short of our best selves. I love you. This month, we begin saying goodbye.

I've been re-reading some of the reports and articles from the beginning of our time together. It feels like a different epoch, but it was only August 2018 when I arrived. We imagined what it would be like to have deeper

intergenerational connections. The Lay Ministers were hoping that UUCSS could expand your networks of mutual care. You were expanding your ideas of what it might mean to engage with racial justice, and we wondered if it were even possible to link your justice ministries together in some way. The Board had kind of a vague idea about creating a new strategic plan. Look at what you have accomplished! All of those ideas that were theoretical less than 2 years ago now have teams and task forces, evidence of meeting measurable goals, and renewed energy. UUCSS has blossomed.

Your newfound strength is needed now more than ever, as you adapt to the needs and challenges of the current times. A well-coordinated Lay Ministry team—as well as small groups like Inreach, book groups, and Soul Matters—meant that you were ready to reach out to one another in love and care during the stay-at-home order. We're transitioning to a different phase of the Contact Tree program as the needs of members have changed, yet the connections and the sense that members have of being remembered remains. Staff and volunteers turned on a dime to create online religious education and worship that helps members, families, and friends to transform and strengthen your connections. The quick learning, enthusiasm, and creativity that have brought UUCSS fully online is nothing short of amazing. You followed the advice I relayed from Ms. Frizzle: "Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy!"

It hasn't always been easy over these past 2 years. Congregations are made of human beings, and human beings have a well-earned reputation for being imperfect. As Universalists, we understand that being held by the Source of Love is unconditional, and so we work to be our best and to create a community of joy, justice, and inclusion out of a sense of gratitude rather than fear. It still hurts when we disappoint each other. I'm glad we were able to fit in a workshop with the **Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley** on conflict skills before we moved online. Human beings also have a reputation for our ability to learn. I commit to continuing to do that, and I expect the members of UUCSS will keep learning, too.

I love you. You are dear to me, individually and as a group. Your care for one another, the love in your hearts that gets expressed in music and food and art, your curiosity, and your somewhat higher-than-average per-capita tie dye adornment are just a few of the things I appreciate about you. I will miss you.

This month, we begin saying goodbye. The last time I will preach as your Interim Minister will be June 14. I'll still be on duty for the rest of June, but focusing my attention on professional development and attending virtual General Assembly. In July, I'll be on vacation, and though my family will probably not go to the beach or tour museums in a far-off city, some rest will help me reset my brain and get ready for the next interim. That being said, I'm still your Interim Minister in July, and the Lay Ministers will be able to reach me in case of a pastoral emergency that can't be handled by volunteers.

On that note, I'd like to encourage you to live one day at a time in terms of your ministerial transition. **Rev. Kristin Schmidt** will begin her time as your Minister in August, and we all hope for many, many happy years for your ministry together. Until then, please give her the space to say her goodbyes to her current congregation and to move her family across the country. There will be plenty of time for meeting and planning later. It can be tempting to try to cover up anxiety by planning ahead or trying to nail down certainties during an uncertain time. (Believe me, I know this strategy well.) Rather than trying to skip over the uncomfortable transition, let's sit with the ambiguity, feel our feelings, and slow down during this turning point in the congregation's life.

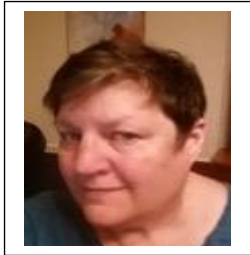
INSPIRE (continued)

Rev. Lyn's Column continued

In early July, I'll begin to step back from social media engagement with people who know me primarily as their Interim Minister. Because Maryland inside the Beltway is actually a small town pretending to be a metropolitan area, there are a few people in the congregation who knew me first in another role, some of them even before I became a Unitarian Universalist in 1997. For people who first met me after August 2018, I will disconnect on Facebook, at least for the time being. I'd like to be clear that this isn't something anyone else is making me do, this is a boundary I set, because this is how I get used to the idea of not being your minister anymore. If we run into each other in the comments section on a mutual friend's post, or in a Zoom workshop run by our regional staff, or in line at Aldi's someday when scientists have caught up with this virus and we can establish a new normal, it's fine to say hello. We still live in this small town of the DMV and in the small world of Unitarian Universalism, and we can be courteous and amicable when we see one another in passing.

Thank you again for being you, and for being a people always striving to be the best version of yourselves. May we part in peace, and may you return to one another in love.

Message From Tamara Bowman, Board President



We have come to the end of another church year. The big news for this year is, we have welcomed **Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt** as our new minister. She and her family will be moving over the summer, and Rev. Kristin will officially start at UUCSS on August 1. Rev. Kristin is currently focused on coordinating moving cross-country. When she arrives, she will need a welcoming committee to help her get to know UUCSS and answer her questions about the area. If you are interested in being part of the welcoming committee, please email president@uucss.org.

At the congregational meeting on June 7, we will be voting to approve the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws (renamed Bylaws in accordance with state law and UU practice) proposed by the Bylaws Revision task force (RevCon) Our Constitution hasn't undergone a major rewrite since its creation in the 50s. The RevCon task force studied UUA guidance and recent bylaws from other UU churches, and met with UUCSS committees to modernize the bylaws. The proposed bylaws reflect best practices and what UUCSS is now.

We will also vote to form a task force to study how adopting the 8th Principle would affect UUCSS. The 8th Principle reads, "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."

Following UUA guidance, we will continue to have virtual services throughout the summer. We are monitoring the situation but will be cautious about reopening the church. It is preferable to continue in a virtual format rather than risk exposing members to COVID-19.

We may need to remain physically distant, but we can still socialize virtually. If you have a church meeting scheduled, please contact me at president@uucss.org to coordinate use of the UUCSS Zoom account. Plan for some time at the beginning of the meeting to work through tech issues and introduce everyone to how to use Zoom. If you have your own Zoom account and want some pointers, please send me an email and we can set up some time for Zoom 101.

INSPIRE (continued)

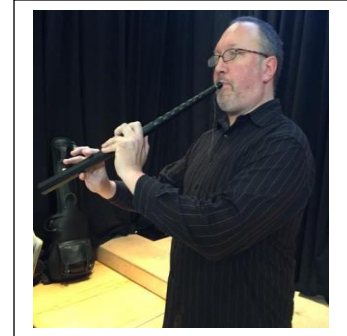
Message From Board President continued

The agenda for the May Board meeting includes an update from the ABD co-chairs, finalizing the budget for next year, discussing the charter for a communications committee, and discussing how to sign the membership book during COVID-19. The minutes and agenda for the Board are posted on dropbox for the benefit of the congregation. Look for updates on what the Board accomplished over the summer from Board President Carl Miller in September.

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

Musings by Michael Holmes, UUCSS Music Director

I often feel that I am one of the luckiest UU music leaders in the movement. I get to work with some really amazing people who industriously plow through new challenges with solid commitment, helpfulness, cooperation, style, and grace. As we face the possibility of maybe 1 year of virtual worship, it feels as though we are laying a firm foundation for something really wonderful. Our past month of virtual music projects have been so fruitful and enriching for me, and I'm told...for many.



With the arrival of our new minister **Rev. Kristin Schmidt** in the summer, and the church in a healthy place, I am sensing a wave of resilience in this church. There are so many people to thank for this, especially **Rev. Lyn**, who always has looked forward to prepare us for these challenges; and when the quarantine happened in March, the transition to our new lifestyle felt for me to be rather smooth. Not only were we prepared for what to do, but also how to grieve and to care for one another.

Some churches have not been so fortunate, for one reason or another. Whether they suffered losses of congregants from COVID-19, or witnessed a huge chasm in volunteer and/or financial resources, the ripple effect is now all too real. No one hasn't been affected by this point in some way.

Over the past 10 weeks, I have been doing a lot of soul-searching and dreaming about how UUCSS can utilize its resilience to help heal this ailing world through its values. My dream now is that this year and in the coming years, UUCSS will become a model of inspiration and total ministry for UUs worldwide through online connection. I now feel more ready than ever to spend my energies toward this end, and when we come together again in person and get closer to that goal, I think that we will have put a solid outreach infrastructure in place. That is my dream.



LEARN

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



The programming that has been accomplished during my time as IDRE at UUCSS could not have been possible without the help of members who have tirelessly volunteered to facilitate class time, step in as emergency volunteer teachers, helped to execute the Christmas pageant, perform the duties of "DRE of the day," facilitate Our Whole Lives (OWL) and parent programming, or any other task asked that helps the religious education (RE) program run smoothly. To those of you who have been steadfast in your commitment to RE

at UUCSS, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Your love and dedication is so demonstrative of being UU, and I am truly grateful for you.

LEARN (continued)

Message From Interim Director of Religious Education continued

As we move into our next season of RE here at UUCSS, there is opportunity to be part of the movement towards a lifespan RE program that works to holistically incorporate UU values and worship into a faith-building experience for every member of UUCSS. Please be on the lookout for more information, coming soon, that will explain how there is space for any person to volunteer and serve, meaningfully, in the evolution of RE at UUCSS.

This Summer in RE

The final Sunday for formal RE at UUCSS will be Sunday, June 14, 2020. We are still looking for volunteers to help facilitate easy small group ministry for children and youth during the prelude of Sunday service. If you have a special skill that you feel will creatively engage children and youth at UUCSS, and are you willing to invest a Sunday or two this summer to share your creative talent, please consider signing up to facilitate a small group creative ministry for children and youth. From June 21, 2020, to August 30, 2020, we will be looking for adults who are willing and able to share their creative talents with the youngest UUs at UUCSS. Please contact IDRE **Marsha Thrall** with questions at IDREUUCSS@gmail.com. If you have something to share, and are ready to sign up, please use this [Google sign-up](#) to schedule workshop facilitation. Thank you so much for all of the ways in which you support RE at UUCSS!

Links to RE Programming Via Weekly RE Zoom Links

Pre-K Through Second Grade (Sundays at 10:00 a.m.)

Every week, May 24 through June 14

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98625149934>

Meeting ID: 986 2514 9934

Third Grade Through Fifth Grade (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.)

Every week, May 24 through June 14

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95582300428>

Meeting ID: 955 8230 0428

Middle School (Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Every week, May 24 through June 14

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92262683224>

Meeting ID: 922 6268 3224

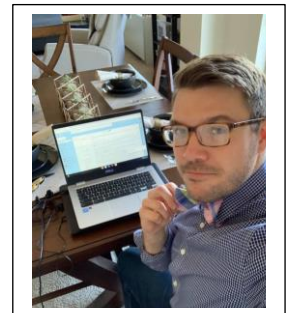
YRUU Virtual Check-ins are scheduled by Michael Knaapen.

Mike K. will forward Zoom information to the YRUU group prior to virtual YRUU check-ins.

Saying Goodbye Michael Knaapen

No one expects a part-time job to make a permanent impact, but that is what serving as UUCSS's Youth Ministry Coordinator and RE Assistant since 2016 has done for me—what *you* have done for me—and I thank you.

I am sorry to say that I am leaving UUCSS after June, and I feel that I am taking more than I have given. In my haul are memories of countless conversations, from committee meetings to trainings to rehearsals to sleepovers to classes. I am taking my memories of my time with the children and youth of UUCSS, who have taught me a lot about being kind, being open, being brave, and being true. I am taking an abiding gratitude for the parents and other adult members of UUCSS who have stepped up time and again to teach or lead or play or do whatever was needed to make RE possible and—usually—delightful. I would be remiss not to especially thank the advisors of the YRUU who have made that program so special, so strong, and so much fun.



LEARN (continued)

Goodbye From Michael Knaapen continued

The families of UUCSS have trusted me with their children, stepped in to support RE, and demonstrated UU values in the face of many challenges inside and outside the church with grace and humor. It has been a rare and unforgettable privilege to witness the bridging of your seniors, the credos of your freshmen, and the thousand revelations of your children each Sunday about their own worth and value, and the beauty and truth in the world around them. It has also been a privilege to teach by your sides and support your work, and the selflessness of so many RE volunteers will remind me always of what wonders can be accomplished when communities step up.

UUCSS is a community of individuals with different ages, experiences, backgrounds, interests and ideas. So long as each one continues to bring their whole selves to the church—its sanctuary, its classrooms, its committees, its projects, its leadership—then I know UCSS will continue to be a beacon of UU values for years to come.

I hope you are as proud to be part of UUCSS as I have been proud to serve you.

With Love and Gratitude— Michael Knaapen

Moving Forward

Erica Anderson

Chair of Children and Youth Religious Education Committee

When I joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, I was more than thrilled with the RE program. Then I worried about it. Then I took some ownership. Then I floundered. Then I hoped. I continue to hope.

As with most things in life, my thinking about RE at UUCSS has evolved. Each step—signing up my son for his first RE class, teaching for the first time, winding my way through the changes when Sarah moved on, Catherine joined us, Catherine moved on, and Marsha joined us—has brought palpable shifts in thinking. During that time, I evolved as a teacher, I evolved as a mom, and I evolved as a committee member and committee chair. None of this has been perfect. Actually, it's been messy. I haven't had any spectacular revelations, and it has been downright hard at times.



But I see something forming that gives me great hope. It is a shared vision for learning and exploring together that holds each and every one of us within it.

When one big change happens, we can usually go back to the way things were pretty easily. When one thing after another changes and we see no end in sight, we evolve and adapt. That evolution will surely land us in a different place, and we might even recognize it.

“We can do hard things,” says Glennon Doyle, in her newest book (and in every interview she gives to promote it). Truth! This mantra has helped me get through this pandemic and so much more.

Once when I was making a big decision about a career choice, a friend asked me if taking a different job would move me closer to something I wanted or farther away from something I didn't want. What a fantastic question.

Are we moving toward something together, or are we moving away from something we don't want? I feel that moving toward a lifespan RE model at UUCSS will bring us all closer together, allow us to learn from each other, and continue to evolve within this spectacular community of which we are all a part.

Now, I see and feel the possibility of a full lifespan RE program. So many people have contributed to making that happen, and I am grateful for how each and every one of them challenged us, believed in us, made mistakes with us, and guided us.

What is the worst thing that can happen?

LEARN (continued)

Erica Anderson, RE Committee Chair continued

As we move out of the 2019–2020 church year, and into a new church year, we will have much to celebrate—including a new settled minister, and 1 more year of work with our Interim Director of Religious Education (IDRE), who will move us further into the direction of establishing a lifespan RE program at UUCSS. But we can only continue this forward motion with the help of the full UUCSS community. As we, as a group, move into the summer, please consider volunteering within the RE program at UUCSS in a way that you feel will best suit your time and talents. Let's all work together to bring possibility to life.




Rainbow Alliance

Happy June, everyone!! We hope this finds you safe and healthy as we go through these crazy times. As we're sure most of you already know, June is Pride Month! So of course Rainbow Alliance will be hosting many events to celebrate. We will have a Rainbow Alliance breakout room at coffee hour on June 7th, 21st, and 28th, where anyone can join us for discussions on various LGBTQ+ issues, as well as commemorating some of the many Days of Observance that occur this month. We will be sharing the possible topics of discussion every week in the all-church email, so keep your eyes peeled! If you would like to suggest a topic, feel free to email us at rainbowalliance@uucss.org.

On June 21st we will be leading Sunday's service focused on the power of labels, good and bad, given to us by others and chosen by ourselves. Humans have a need to fit people into categories and label those categories. When someone or something doesn't fit into one's accepted categories, that person or thing tends to get labeled as bad or wrong. That's just labels that are put upon us by others. There are also labels we give to ourselves, like parent or lover or explorer, that help us express our self-identities. With the help of a few speakers, we will look at the power labels have in our lives.

For our service, we have two requests for all of you! First, if you are willing, we would like folx* to send in a picture of themselves with labels that they give themselves around it. This picture could be as simple as writing your name with the labels around that on a piece of paper, or it could be a digital photograph with words edited in (which can also be pretty simple on most smartphones!) We love the idea of seeing the power people give themselves in giving themselves their labels. Secondly, we have been feeling stuck in our little bubbles with this quarantine, and we're pretty sure you have, too. We can lose sight of all the diversity in our world when we're all stuck in our homes, so we'd like to know how everyone is spending their isolation, and see all the different things people are up to! The quick survey below (just four questions y'all) asks about some of the things folx are doing in their lockdown, like go-to music and Netflix binges. It should only take a couple of minutes, and we'd like to hear from all of you: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCF2DSR>.

Finally, here is a little bit of info on some of the special days in June that make it Pride Month! We really look forward to hearing from everyone, and we hope to see you in our upcoming celebrations of the LGBTQ+ community!! □□□□□□

-  Pulse Night of Remembrance—June 12: The anniversary of the awful shooting that happened at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people on June 12, 2016.
-  U.S. Marriage Equality—June 26: On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court officially made same-sex marriages legal in all 50 states.
-  Stonewall Riots Anniversary—June 28: One of the most influential days in LGBTQ+ history; the Stonewall Riots in 1969, started by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, are widely considered the beginning of the movement toward LGBTQ+ equality and justice.

*And yes, folx is the correct spelling. It is spelled that way to include support of non-binary gender and acceptance of the use of 'x' to make things non-binary-inclusive, such as latinx and womxn

LEARN (continued)

THE 8TH PRINCIPLE AND YOU

At the Annual Meeting this June, the Board will put forward a resolution to use the coming year to engage in deep study and mindful reflection about what adopting the 8th Principle means for our congregation. If the resolution passes, we all would commit to working with an 8th Principle task force to explore how adopting the 8th Principle could strengthen our unique church structures, cultures, and processes, with the goal to bring the 8th Principle to a congregational vote in June 2021.

What's the 8th Principle?

The 8th Principle was Introduced at the 2017 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly and goes like this:

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. (See also <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.)

Learn more at <http://tiny.cc/8PTF> or email racialjusticetaskforce@uucss.org.

CONNECT

Safety Committee Update

Thank you to a generous UUCSS member who has donated funds anonymously for the purchase of an AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) and storage cabinet for the church. It will be onsite in the Foyer outside of the Sanctuary. The AED has been registered with the Maryland Emergency Services as required by law. John Henderson, Property Committee Chair, will be the AED Coordinator, and Dr. Jerry Herbers will be the UUCSS reporting physician.

Maryland Presidential Primary Election

The Maryland Presidential Primary is underway! By the end of this week, everyone should have received their ballots in the mail. Ignore the April 28th date on them; the Board decided to save your taxpayer dollars and not reprint them all just to change the date, since everything else on them is correct. Note that you must fill out your ballot with black or blue ink and that you don't need to add postage—the envelope that came with the ballot has postage paid. Please do fill out your ballot and return it as soon as possible, but no later than June 2, Election Day. Don't forget to sign the oath!

If you did not receive your ballot, please call your local board of elections for assistance: https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html.

Information for Voting Instructions and Vote Centers: Please use the post office to return your ballot unless you need to vote in person for a specific reason. The voting centers are intended for individuals who are unable to vote by mail, and they will become overwhelmed if people default to them instead of to the postal system.

Volunteer of the Month

Jake Ryder



Jake does not remember a time growing up when he wasn't attending UUCSS. Children and Youth Religious Education, OWL, Coming of Age, and YRUU were all tucked away before starting at Rochester Institute of Technology. While pursuing degrees in networking and cyber security, he developed a real interest in criminal justice, particularly concerning the unequal treatment of minority groups.

When Jake returned to this area, that interest coalesced around our Racial Justice Task Force, where he has become a contributor. Jake says he joined the RJTF sort of by accident—one of their monthly meetings was hosted by his mother, **Phyllis Ryder**, who's been a "kickass activist" for as long as Jake can remember.

CONNECT (continued)

Volunteer of the Month

Jake had recently returned from college, where he'd minored in criminal justice, and the task force was happy to have him join their discussion on how to dismantle the subtle and overt pressures of white supremacy, both inside and outside our faith community.

Jake put a lot of effort into the May 17 service on Beloved Community that the RJTF co-hosted with Rev. Lyn. The RJTF has also been focusing on ways to meaningfully incorporate the proposed 8th UU Principle, and engaging with the congregation about what this would entail. Before too long, the RJTF would also like to provide comprehensive antiracism learning opportunities to the congregation, especially with the 2020 election cycle looming.

A few weeks before the pandemic lockdown took hold, Jake started helping our tech team. In the weeks following the lockdown, he worked with us first with Zoom and then in collaboration with Cedar Lane UU church to manage our services through YouTube. In addition to ironing out all the technical details, Jake constructs our weekly services from lots of contributors. When asked what he finds most rewarding, he said it was "the feeling at the end of the day that I accomplished something worthwhile." When asked about what he'd like to say to the congregation, it was first to thank the congregation for the opportunity to serve and "there's a lot of room on the tech team for volunteers." We're very lucky to have Jake back with us.



Casa Ruby's vision is to create a world where transgender, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people pursue their dreams and achieve success in their lives without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence due to their sexual orientation and or gender identity/gender expression.

Casa Ruby is the only LGBTQ bilingual and multicultural organization in the Washington, DC, metro area that provides social services and programs catering to the most vulnerable in

the city and surrounding areas. The idea behind the formation of an organization run and led by transgender women of color came about 30 years ago when Ruby Corado arrived in Washington, DC, and there were no services to support her needs as a young transgender Latina immigrant.

Casa Ruby's programs include housing services, preventive health, support services for victims of violence, social services, and Latino and Immigration services. The Housing Services Program provides stable living arrangements for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their homes; services vary from shelter for a night to more stable housing, including subsidized rent for up to 6 months. The Preventive Health Program ensures that clients receive the most scientifically sound information on prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections to promote a healthy lifestyle. The Victims of Violence Program provides therapeutic and mental health support for victims of violence, whether sexual, physical, or emotional; it includes one-on-one case management and counseling services. The Social Services Program offers a support center with intensive case management and social services from diverse non-clinical social workers. The Immigration Services Program provides assistance for LGBTQ immigrants transitioning into a new country; this is a unique program that meets the needs of LGBTQ immigrants from around the world.

Casa Ruby did not close their doors during COVID-19 because they are the home and support for many without other options. They are especially in need of our support now.

CONNECT (continued)

Goodbye and Hello

As most of you know already, we are stepping down after publishing the *Uniter* for three church years; maybe you didn't know that two terrific new people are stepping up!



Lynn Cave, a long-term and active member of UUCSS, will focus on soliciting and tracking contributions and editing content.

Becca Stucky, who joined UUCSS last year, has led a marketing team and will take over the layout and design.



Working on the *Uniter* has been a very fulfilling experience for both of us, and we're so glad we were able to do it. The *Uniter* will be on vacation in July and August and will see you again in September.

With love, Jane and Stephanie

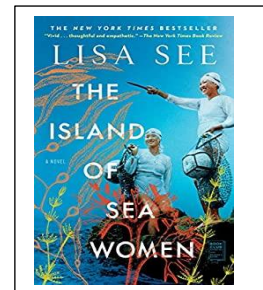
Short Survey About the *Uniter*

New editor Becca Stucky had the great idea of putting together a short survey to find out what people enjoy and value most about the *Uniter* and what else they might like to see. Please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts.

<https://forms.gle/XV5RBEBUq5LKw16y9>

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

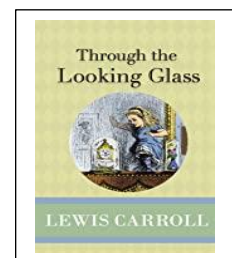
The women's book group is continuing to meet in a virtual environment, thanks to Zoom and to **Tamara Bowman**, who has connected us to the church's account. Please join us in an informal gathering where we check in and then discuss the book we have read for that month. Long-term obligation is not required. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. **Deborah Weiner** will send out the Zoom link to the Women's Book Group distribution list closer to the date. Contact Deb at dweiner04@gmail.com. On Monday, June 22, we will discuss *The Island of Sea Women*, by Lisa See.



Men's Book Group



We are reading *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll. The meeting to discuss the books will be held on Zoom on Sunday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Richard Lorr** (rlorr4@gmail.com), get the book, and you will receive the Zoom url. Hope to see you there!



CONNECT (continued)

EVENTS IN BRIEF

JUNE 7, 12:00 noon. Coffee hour in Rainbow Alliance Breakout Room.

JUNE 7. Congregational Meeting. Details to follow.

JUNE 14, 12:00 noon. Coffee hour in Rainbow Alliance Breakout Room.

JUNE 20. Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington. Go to <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/> for details and registration for more information and on how the event will now be held online.

JUNE 21, 12:00 noon. Coffee hour in Rainbow Alliance Breakout Room.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

The Church buildings are closed during this pandemic, and the Church Administrator is working remotely from home for the near future but is able to answer church emails and phone calls remotely when you use the usual email address (administrator@uucss.org) and phone number (301-434-4050).

Church mail may be picked up in the Foyer of the Administration Building. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Looking forward to summer, some warm—if not hot—weather, and seeing UUCSS folks again. Wishing everyone a great summer season!

Melinda Yalom Church Administrator





Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
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FIRST CLASS

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Submissions are due by the 20th of the prior month.
The next issue of the **Uniter** is in September 2020.
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 website: www.uucss.org