

What's Happening At UUCSS

Religious Education for Children,
Youth & Adults

Community Building Events

Ongoing Groups

Social Action Activities



Fall 2011

Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
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This brochure is produced by the Adult and Children/Youth Religious Education Committees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring. It includes not only activities sponsored by those committees, but also other events offered by the church to congregation members and friends. Please check our website, www.uucss.org, and our newsletter, the *Uniter*, for more information as well as changes and additions to these listings.

Visitors and New Members

Pathways to Membership at UUCSS

UUCSS belongs to each of us and depends upon each of us. There are many joys, benefits, and responsibilities to being a member of our congregation, including the harmony and grace that come from being a part of the whole in upholding the life and work of this great church.

If you are considering joining our exciting and progressive congregation, our “Pathways to Membership” program is designed to provide you with a comprehensive view of our community and Unitarian Universalism. In the series of four classes, we explore our roots and history, as well as discuss the principles and beliefs that underpin our participation in both this congregation and the movement as a whole. The classes are designed to support you in your personal spiritual journey as you begin to learn more about UUCSS, who we are, what we’re about, and what we offer.

Sessions are held throughout the year, generally on Sundays from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The fall 2011 series of classes will be held:

Session 1 Sept. 25

Session 2 Oct. 16

Session 3 Nov. 13

Session 4 Dec. 11

New Member Ceremony - Dec. 18

If you have any questions about the program or wish to reserve your seat in the class, please contact membership@uucss.org

Adult Religious Education Activities

Crossroads Coffee

When: During coffee hour (between services) on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Where: Triangle Room in the Community Hall

Contact: Esther McBride at emcbride@verizon.net

This is a time for lively discussions on a variety of subjects, led by church members and committees. We welcome congregation members, groups and committees to present a program, question, or social issue for discussion. If you'd like to reserve a date, please e-mail the contact person. Check worship service announcements and the *Uniter* for monthly topics.

Re-Enchanting the Land: A Green Sanctuary Program

This is an Adult and Intergenerational RE Series, created by the Adult RE Committee as part of the UUCSS Green Sanctuary Program. We'll offer different experiential activities throughout the year:

Contact Person: David Miley, 301-949-3509,
dmiley2952@aol.com

Adult OWL (*Our Whole Lives*) Program

When:

Where: UUCSS

To register:

This is the adult version of the highly acclaimed UU *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) course on human sexuality and is open to adults of all ages, sexes, sexual orientations, partnerships & perspectives. It is not a therapy group, but it is a wonderful opportunity to explore one's own sexuality (broadly defined), develop a better understanding of one's sexual history, and create the possibility of healthier and more functional relationships with others. Session topics include themes such as: Sexuality and... values, communication, spirituality, relationships, diversity, family, aging,

and health. Registration is limited, and the class will be taught by Karen Eckert and Jerry Herbers, each of whom is a trained and certified OWL leader and UUCSS congregation member.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

This year our Sunday School theme is: *We Are Unitarian Universalists Exploring...Who We Are and Where We Came From.*

Every month we engage in a variety of activities including: *Source Sunday* (Children's or Intergenerational Worship), RE Classes, and *Principle Sunday* (Social Action). Our middle and high school students also enjoy outings, overnights, youth conferences ("cons") and field trips.

We offer Religious Education and Nursery Care at both our 9:30 am and 11:30 am services during the regular church year. We also offer an RE Program and Nursery Care at our 10:30 am summer service.

All of our RE teachers, team members, youth advisors, leaders and professional staff adhere to the UUCSS Child Safety Policy and are recruited, trained, supervised and supported by our Director of Religious Education and other RE staff members.

We encourage visitors to our Sunday morning RE Program and ask that you fill out a visitor registration form when you come. After participating for several Sundays, we ask that you please register by filling out the form on our website or by sending an e-mail to Sarah Gonzalez at dre@uucss.org.

9:30 RE Program (Sept-June):

Babies and young children—Nursery Care

Where: Lower level of the Admin building

Preschool (3 and 4 year olds)—RE Classes

Where: Lower level of the Community Hall building

Theme: UU Preschool lessons and activities to help our youngest Sunday school students learn about and feel comfortable with their family's chosen church and tradition.

K thru 5th Grade—RE Classes

Where: Lower level of the Sanctuary building

Theme: *Who We Are and Where We Came From*. Activities include: worship, social action, and traditional classroom lessons grouped by grades. In April and May we'll offer a series of fun and experiential mini courses on a variety of topics.

11: 30 RE Program (Sept-June):

Babies and young children—Nursery Care

Where: Lower level of the Admin building

PreK thru 5th Grade—RE Classes

Where: Lower level of the Sanctuary building

Theme: *Who We Are and Where We Came From*. Activities include: worship, social action, and traditional classroom lessons grouped by grades. In April and May we'll offer a series of fun and experiential mini courses on a variety of topics.

6th – 8th Grade—RE Classes

Where: Lower level of the Sanctuary building

Theme: *Who We Are and Where We Came From*. Activities include: worship, social action, and traditional classroom lessons. In April and May we'll offer a series of fun and experiential mini courses on a variety of topics.

9th Grade—Coming of Age Class

Where: Lower Level of the Community Hall building

Theme: *Coming of Age* (COA). Coming of Age rituals around the world celebrate the time when young people are ready to begin making their own decisions and to start taking responsibility for those decisions. Our Unitarian Universalist COA Program

encourages young teenagers to begin identifying and defining what they believe and to determine what actions follow from those beliefs.

Note: The COA class meets most Sunday mornings at 11:30 and also participates in a number of “off campus” activities such as a ropes course and social action projects. It concludes with a ceremony attended by the entire congregation on February 12th. After their COA Ceremony, the 9th Graders are welcomed into YRUU (our teen group) as official members.

10th through 12th Grade—Teen Group (YRUU)

Where: Fellowship House

Theme: Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU).

YRUU meets most Sunday mornings at 11:30 and also gets together for overnights, youth conferences, social action projects and fun social events.

Summer RE Programs (10:30 am):

Our 2012 summer theme is still to be determined. We will be looking for a Summer RE Coordinator later in the year.

Babies and young children—Nursery Care

Where: Lower level of the Admin building

Pre-K thru 5th Grade—RE Classes

Where: Lower level of the Sanctuary building

Middle and High School Youth are invited to attend the worship service or assist with the RE Program.

Additional RE Programs:

Our Whole Lives (OWL)—OWL is a comprehensive UU program on human sexuality for teens. This program requires pre-registration. Please contact Sarah Gonzalez at dre@uucss.org if interested.

Note: OWL teachers are required to attend a fifteen-hour training and be certified by credentialed trainers before teaching an OWL class.

Intergenerational Services (Intergens)—Multi-age services are held at least six times a year for the entire congregation. These include: *Water Communion, Blessing of the Animals, Flower Communion, Circle of Life*, and some interfaith and holiday services. The Nursery and Preschool Classes remain open for babies and young children on most Intergen Sundays.

Art Assemblies—These multi-age events are held several times a year on holiday weekends. Children and youth have the opportunity to work with a local artist in smaller groups on art projects and activities.

Spring Mini Courses—These classes are offered each April/May with special themes such as “Live Action Video” and “For the Love of Dogs.” It’s a fun way to end a great RE year!

Children/Youth with Special Needs:

At UUCSS we welcome and include people of all ages with special needs. Please contact Sarah Gonzalez at dre@uucss.org so that we can work together to create the supports your child needs to have a wonderful RE experience.

Ongoing Groups

20/30s Connections

When: varies

Where: Homes, restaurants, parks etc.

Contact: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUCSSYA/>

Members of 20/30 Connections meet regularly for member-led activities (e.g. potlucks, movies) for the purpose of strengthening the bond between 20 and 30-year old UUs at UUCSS.

Day Trippers

When and where: to be announced

Contact: Marcia Joiner, 301-946-5349 jschreib@juno.com

Are you free during the day? Would you like to be out and about with fellow UUCSSers? Consider being a "Day Tripper." Beginning this fall, once a month UUCSSers will come together to visit a museum, perform community service, or commune with nature. The outings will be free and open to all who are available on week days. We are planning to share a brown bag lunch before or after most events. Look for details in the *Uniter* and on the list serve.

Inreach Groups

When: 2-hour meetings, twice/month, day determined by group.

Where: At church or in members' homes, decided by group

Contact: Catherine Stephens, 301-949-6688 Inreach@uucss.org

Inreach Groups have formed for discussion, insight and connections among us. Each group is led by a facilitator who is trained and supported by our Senior Minister, Rev. Liz, or our Interim Assistant Minister. The groups of 10 meet twice monthly for an opening reading, check-in, discussion of a topic, and a closing. The range of topics include: personal, spiritual and contemporary issues, such as: Sense of Gratitude, Sacred Places, and Sibling Rivalry. Each group member makes a commitment to attend as regularly as possible for a year. The groups are open to new members throughout the church year. The goal is to get to know each other better and to share personal insights that will extend our spiritual and community experience beyond Sunday morning. There is always a place for you in an Inreach Group!

Creative Aging Groups

When: Tues evenings or Wed mornings (two groups)

Where: Dolan Lounge

Contact:

Our new *Creative Aging* groups are, essentially, Inreach groups for adults in the "second half of life." If you're interested in exploring questions of identity and purpose unique to this stage of

life, one of these groups may be for you! New members are welcome at regular intervals and a one year commitment is requested. There are two groups; the evening group meets once a month and the morning group meets twice a month.

Marriage Enrichment Group

When: Meets monthly on the second Sunday in the evening.

Where: Usually meets in the Old Miller Room (Community Hall)

Contact: Steve Leete, 301-920-1458 swak.leete@gmail.com

Our Marriage Enrichment Group follows guidelines put out by the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME, www.bettermarriages.org). Groups consist of 3-5 couples – ours is currently five couples. This group has been meeting for several years, with gradual shifts in membership, and new members are added subject to agreement of all current participants. We rotate the duties of leading the program according to a regular schedule. Meetings generally consist of a topic and marriage-building exercise led by that month's lead couple. The core activity is "dialoguing," in which the couple faces each other and discusses a topic, following guidelines such as "using 'I' statements," which promote clear and productive communication. If there is interest, we would be happy to facilitate forming of one or more additional groups, which could meet at the church or elsewhere. Our group would consider addition of a couple, with the caveat that any new couple must be accepted by all current members of the group. A MEG (including our current group) can include any couple in a committed relationship, regardless of sexual identity or legal status. Membership in MEG groups does not require the approval of the ACME organization.

Men's Group

When: Every Monday evening (except for some holidays) 7:30 to 10:00pm, formal meeting starts at 8:00

Where: Dolan Lounge

Contact: Rob Dahlstrom, 301 384-9667 Dahlstrom@comcast.net

This is a group for fun, fellowship and discussion, as participants search for some of the answers to problems confronting men

today. Humor, bonding and support are a few of the benefits of membership. We have been meeting for some time and tend to focus on issues of older men, but young men are welcome to join us either to broaden the scope of our discussions or to let us help in spinning off a group of their own. Those considering joining are encouraged to call Rob for details.

Monday Night Yoga

When: Monday nights, 7:30 -9:00 pm
Where: Community Hall of UUCSS
Contact: Jane Jackson, 301-681-6319
jane@brahmaviharayoga.com

This is a basic *hatha* yoga class that includes warm-ups, yoga postures, breathing practices, restorative yoga, and deep relaxation. The class is offered on a continuing basis, with beginners (including folks who have never done yoga before) welcome to start any time. The usual level of the class is around what most local studios would call "level 1-2". Class is taught by Jane Jackson, and occasionally by John Acton. Jane and John are UUCSS members. They are graduates of the yoga teacher training program at Willow Street Yoga Center, Anusara-inspired™ yoga teachers, and Registered Yoga Teachers through Yoga Alliance. To learn about their approach to yoga, go to www.BrahmaViharaYoga.com .

**This class is offered on a *dana* (donation) basis, with half going to the teacher and the other half to the church to cover the cost of using the space.

UUCSS Ladies' Night Out

When: Second Friday of the month, starting around 7:30 pm
Where: Sometimes people's houses, sometimes a local restaurant
Contact: Melissa Hampton (mhampton@MLSi.net), Elissa Webber (elissaandsteve@gmail.com), and Kathryn Leete (kathryn.l@gmail.com)

Women friends and members of the church gather for local social events on the second Friday of each month. Sign onto the yahoo

group and join in the conversation to suggest events and find out where/ when others are gathering. See the Yahoo group page: UUCSS-ladies-night-out@yahoogroups.com

UUCSS Gentlemen's Club

When: Last Friday of each month from about 8-11 p.m.

Where: Local bar or restaurant

Contact: John Robinette at JohnR@starpower.net or Doyle Rice at dsrice@verizon.net for more information or to join.

The UUCSS Gentlemen's Club is a monthly gathering of UUCSS men. Social and highly informal in nature, the Club usually meets the last Friday of each month from about 8-11 p.m. at a local bar or restaurant to discuss current events or sports. Past activities have also included pool and bowling. The Gentlemen's Club has also sponsored a group outing to a Washington Nationals game as an auction event.

Women's Book Group

When: Fourth Monday of each month—but the date can change, so check first!

Time: 7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Where: Deb Weiner's home—call for directions

Contact: Deb Weiner, 301-807-9117 weinerd@georgetown.edu

We are an informal group of interested readers and we read a book each month selected from an evolving list of book titles. We read mostly fiction but not exclusively. Each participant can add titles to the list at any time. We hold a wide-ranging discussion about the book and we identify issues from the book for discussion in an informal atmosphere that includes a dessert to share among everyone. We identify titles to read two months in advance and we try to make sure that all books are available at county libraries, that they are usually available in paperback, and can be ordered as used books to reduce costs. The Uniter carries a monthly reminder in the calendar section. All interested readers, especially new members to the church, are encouraged to join us at any time without an extended obligation!

Social Action Groups

Deaf Access Committee

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at a member's home

Contact: deafaccess@uucss.org

To request interpreters, contact: interpreters@uucss.org

The Deaf Access Committee ("DAC") supports the church's welcoming environment for the Deaf community. DAC works in collaboration with outreach, worship, diversity, music committee and other units of the church to help create full access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing members and friends. DAC coordinates the sign language interpreting at Sunday services and will arrange for interpreters other church meetings and events as long as there is advanced notification. We welcome and need new members to DAC. You do not need to know sign language to be involved!

ESOL Task Force

This group is currently inactive. Please contact Bob Geiger if you'd be interested in helping to reactivate it.

Contact: Bob Geiger, 301-593-3319 bobandcath@prodigy.net

The ESOL Task Force has provided a service to immigrants in our surrounding area who are seeking to improve their English skills. We have partnered with local community organizations, taught classes, and held conversation groups.

LGBTQA Equality Task Force

When: 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Contact: Cindy Scharf, 301-625-5077 lgbtqchair@uucss.org

Please contact us to join our separate list serve e-mail group.

The LGBTQA Equality Task Force advocates for non-discrimination, marriage equality and related LGBTQA issues at the federal, state, and county levels. The task force partners with other LGBTQA advocacy groups, and has worked with congregation members to contact their lawmakers in Annapolis and DC towards one goal: equal protection in all matters governed by civil law.

The task force educates UUCSS members about ways we can become even more welcoming allies to the LGBTQA members of UUCSS & the wider community, which include participation in events outside the church. The task force is also the UUCSS liaison with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) with respect to our church's commitment to the "Welcoming Congregation" program and other LGBTQA initiatives and programs of the UUA.

Green Sanctuary

When: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm

Where: UUCSS

Contact: Bob Geiger, 301-593-3319 bobandcath@prodigy.net or Doneby Smith, 301-949-3509 dmiley2952@aol.com

We seek ways to help UUCSS members address climate change in their households, in our congregation, and in the wider world. This year our congregation voted to become part of the UUA's *Green Sanctuary* Program. As part of this process, we'll promote energy efficiency in members' households and within our church, we'll sponsor workshops, talks and other educational events, we'll create worship experiences that celebrate our earth and all her creatures, and we'll lobby lawmakers in Annapolis and DC to fight global warming at the state and national level.

Shepherd's Table

When: 3rd Sunday of the month, 4:45-7:30

Where: Silver Spring

Contact: Bob Hirshon, bhirshon@gmail.com

UUCSS takes a turn every month to help feed the hungry in downtown Silver Spring. Contact Bob if you're interested in helping out.

So Others Might Eat (SOME)

When: First Saturday of the month

Contact: Emily Tien, emilytien@verizon.net

SOME is a soup kitchen down on Capital Hill in DC. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to over 300 people per day. UUCSS members are needed to consistently donate either \$10 worth of fruit, green vegetables (preferably canned), or coffee. There are three groups of volunteers. Two groups drop off food every other month for 6 months each year. The third group consists of drivers who collect the food at the church and drive it to SOME. A 'driver' on average will drive once or twice a year. This is a family friendly volunteer effort, as children of all ages can wash fruit or "help" deliver food. UUCSS has generously participated for over 20 years. Volunteers bring food to the church once a month which is then transported downtown.

Smart Sacks Program

When: Every Friday evening

Contact: Kelly Kleine kellykleine@aol.com

For the 2011-2012 school year, UUCSS is partnering with Manna Food Center, Montgomery County's main food bank, to provide food to hungry students through Manna's Smart Sacks program.

The Smart Sacks program partners community organizations (like us) with a local elementary school to provide students at risk of hunger with "smart sacks" of kid-friendly, nutritious food **every Friday** to ensure that they have something to eat when there are no school meals to sustain them. This program benefits 1,500 students each week, and UUCSS will be helping 48 of these students at our partner school, Arcola Elementary School.

You can help by attending a "packing party", weekly get-togethers where the 48 smart sacks (bags containing 12-13 food items provided by Manna that eventually go in student backpacks) are put together. The beauty of this service opportunity is that it is appropriate for volunteers ages 4 and up, making it a great way for families, church committees, youth groups, etc. to serve together. Folks may sign up to volunteer on an occasional basis or as often as once a month.

Community Building Events

Catoctin Weekend

When: September 30th-October 2nd

Where: Greentop, in the Catoctin Mountains near Thurmont

Contact: Susan-Marie Stedman, 301-890-8398 smsted@juno.com

Each fall, UUCSS members and friends retreat to the beautiful Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, Maryland. We enjoy hiking, reading, talking, playing games, working puzzles, napping, exploring, and just having free time in this lovely park. The camp features a large dining hall where meals are prepared and served communally by assigned groups. The dining hall is also where we gather to socialize and play.

There is a separate recreation hall that has been used for dancing, talent shows, paper bag dramatics, and worship services. Sleeping accommodations consist of unheated cabins, each with ten single beds.

Volunteer Fair

When: October 23rd, Coffee Hour

Where: Community Hall

Contact: Phyllis Ryder, 301-445-6996 phyllisryder@comcast.net

This is a fun and festive coffee hour with displays from the many different committees and groups that support and celebrate our congregation. Find your own niche in our community—and enjoy some great treats at the different booths as well!

Auction

When: Saturday Evening, November 5th

Where: UUCSS Sanctuary

Contact: Patty Bryan-Taff, 301-622-0560 auction@uucss.org

During this annual fund-raising and church social event we bid on objects, services, meals, outings, parties, lessons, etc. offered by other church members and friends, filling our calendar with fun

activities for the entire year. Be sure to put this date on your calendar for a fun and exciting evening!

Craft Fair

When: Sunday, December 4th; 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Where: UUCSS Community Hall

Contact: Susan-Marie Stedman smsted@juno.com

Join over twenty crafty UUCSS members as they display and sell their wares: tie-dye, quilts, jewelry, baked goods, knitted clothing, artwork, and more. It's a fun and festive event!

Other Family Activities

Babysitting Coop

When: As needed

Where: Your home

Contact: Nicole Levesque, 301-592-1665 nlevesque@verizon.net

UUCSS has a babysitting coop to provide babysitting services to members by members.

Families Living Unitarian Universalist Values (Families LUUV)

When: Bimonthly

Where: UUCSS

Contact: Alexa Fraser 301-315-6309 frasera1@westat.com

This is a support group created and sustained by UUCSS families. We meet at the church on designated dates, starting at 4:45 and going through a potluck dinner. While the kids have play time with watchful babysitters, the grownups discuss their child rearing successes and challenges in the past month. There is usually a brief semiformal presentation on a topic like "teaching your child about tolerance and differences in people" or "raising non-materialistic children in a materialistic world." Families LUUV attendees have children from newborns through 5th grade, though we welcome those with older children as well.

UUCSS Staff and Lay Leadership

- Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Senior Minister
minister@uucss.org
 - Sarah Gonzalez, Director of Religious Education
dre@uucss.org
 - Michael Holmes, Music Director musicdirector@uucss.org
 - Melinda Yalom, Church Administrator
administrator@uucss.org
 - Juan Vargas, Sexton sexton@uucss.org
-
- Jim Paoletti, Board President president@uucss.org



Please visit our web page, www.uucss.org, to confirm dates and times and for more information about all upcoming events.