Meet Our New Members
May 2023

Gerre Alderwick



The prodigal daughter has come home. When I left the congregation some time ago, I had thrown a temper tantrum. By the grace of God, I was still working at Belmont Marketplace. I would see old friends and familiar faces as you came in to buy groceries, that was very good. I kept in touch with you all. You continued to feed my soul. Then I left Belmont and lost touch with you. Occasionally I would return for random services in our Sanctuary. As time as passed I have been missing you all more and more. The time has come for the mountain to come to Mohammed. It is so very good to have this home to come back to! I won't leave you again.

Sarah Dinklage



By becoming a member of the UUCSC, I am making a commitment to join an inclusive, compassionate community that promotes freedom of thought, interconnectedness, and the search for truth. I respect that there is no creed, dogma or doctrine in Unitarian Universalism but rather the promotion of eight principles to use as a guide for how to live in this world. I love the eight principles and have always lived by them even before I knew they serve as the moral compass for Unitarian Universalist congregations. I am committed to sharing my talents, my love of singing and eventually more of my time with the UUCSC.

Sharon Ellery



The reasons why I want to become a member of UUCSC begin with your commitment to handicap accessibility: the new accessible cobblestone walkway from the handicap parking in front of church that leads to the ramp with great railings, the push button door, and the handicap seating arrangement. Next, the greeters, who are so eager to greet you and introduce themselves! Our choir and music director, keyboard player, Michael! I hear music and every voice with delight. Members are caring, kind, and thoughtful! Lastly, Rev. Denis, provides intelligent, thoughtful, joyful, and knowledgeable spiritual sermons. There are fun sermons and many on a large range of diverse subjects. He is delightful.

Sandra Messano



I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Reverend Denis, the membership committee and congregants old and new for your warm welcome these past seven months.

My feet are firmly planted and my heart fully open when I say that the acceptance of one another and the encouragement to spiritual growth; and the love and respect that I have witnessed have brought me here today.

I freely step forward into the future and join with you as an active member of the UUCSC community.

Nancy Richman



When I arrived at UUCSC just over a year ago, I found an amazing congregation, full of loving, welcoming people committed to seeking justice, service to others, and growing spiritually. Within a month I had joined, and pledged soon after that. Now I chair the Racial Justice group, serve on the Social Justice Advisory group and the Worship Committee, have co-planned and co-led several services, and I am working with Betsy and Trish to plan the Dining for Dollars Plus fundraiser. Just last month l became a member of the Board of Directors. I just love this community!

Kelly Shinners



I've actually been a UU and a member of UUCSC for a long time, but I'm glad I can participate in the New Member Ceremony and in a way renew my membership in this congregation. I first learned about Unitarian Universalism from my late father, who was himself a UU, and a seeker. A community of people on different journeys but who respect the journey of others—and helps them along their way— is so important, and especially these days, pretty rare. My journey is always changing, going through different twists and new path—I'm very much an eclectic spiritually. I really like the idea being a member of a community that will support me in such a meandering path. So now I'm coming home, and I thank you all for making me feel welcome. And yay for the opportunity to merry meet again!

Dennis Skidds



Several years ago, my youngest child, Saylor, and I began looking for a more inclusive, accepting church to attend. At our very first UUCSC, I was struck by how warmly we were welcome before we even took our seats. When some of the first words of the service that we heard were, "No matter who you are, no matter whom you love, you are welcome here," I began to feel hopeful. And by the time we got to that beautiful covenant, I knew we would be back. Since that time, I've watched Saylor flourish in the Religious Education program, and I've come to see my own values reflected in the core principles of UU. I wish to join UUCSC in order to more fully contribute to the positive impact that the congregation has on its members, the local community, and the world at large, and in some way give back for all that UUCSC has given us.

Saylor Skidds



A few years ago, my father and I were looking for a new, welcoming religious community. From our first visit we have been greeted with enthusiasm and interest. I knew that we would be returning again after hearing the covenant and reading through all of the wonderful principles on the order of service. I was so happy to return to services in person after attending virtually for so long. Since then I have also joined the Religious Education program and begin participating in Our Whole Lives classes. In both areas I have made good friends. People are always happy to see me and I am happy to see them. I want to join UUCSC to contribute to all of these programs and to further the welcoming spirit of the congregation.

Bethany Sorrentino



I am happy to already feel so comfortable at UUCSC. Becoming a member is the recognition of what I already feel is in place. The alignment of values I have with this congregation and the broader UU world is a joy to experience, and I look forward to growing deeper in relationships and commitment to creating the world we want to see. Much love to you all!