

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community – Please Join Us!

April 2018

Our Sunday Schedule

Childcare 10:00 am - 12 noon
Worship and Church School 10:30 am

April Sermons

Roll Away the Stone

Rev. María McCabe

April 1

In the oldest Gospel account of the death of Jesus, Mary, the mother of James, Mary Magdalene and Salome wait until the end of the Sabbath and they come to the tomb of Jesus to anoint his body with oils. They ask: “who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” They know it is big stone. When they arrive however, they find the stone has been moved aside and the tomb is empty. In this service we will honor the ancient feast of Easter, and it’s story of resurrection. Is there a heavy stone blocking our own path to a new life?

Guest Sermon

Speaker to be announced

April 8

The Worship Committee is in the process of confirming a speaker for this Sunday. Be sure to check the website, the nUUwbytes and the preceding week’s order of service for details. It’s sure to be great, as usual.

Today’s Social Justice Collection

Supports the Homeless Shelter.

A Potluck luncheon follows the service.

Guest Sermon

Rev. Naomi Leapheart

April 15

Pastor Naomi Leapheart is currently serving as the Faith Work Director for the National LGBTQ Taskforce. Previous to the task force she served as a suburban community organizer for POWER, a multi-faith, multi-racial network of congregations working to shift power, change public policy, and do justice for the most vulnerable in the Philadelphia Metro Area. As an anti-oppression consultant, Naomi delights in facilitating difficult and transformative conversations about race, gender, sexuality and faith. She is a member of the Philly Threshold Choir, a community whose mission is

to sing for with those at the thresholds between life and death.

The Road to Healing

Rev. María McCabe

April 22

Poet Amy Lloyd asks us if we are willing to ‘expose our wounds, old and new.’ It must be done, she says, and calls it ‘the broken road to healing’ because it can be so very painful. Yet, it is a spiritual axiom in many traditions, including today’s 12 Step programs that we cannot move forward with life in a healthy way until we embrace the pain of recovery.

Toward Beloved Community

Rev. María McCabe

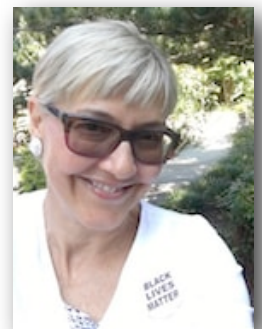
April 29

Prophetic voices from the margins of our contemporary society and our own Unitarian Universalist movement urgently call us to deepen our commitment to radical love and inclusion, to a vision of Beloved Community where violence, racism, economic oppression and gender based inequity no longer prevail. And yet, many among us vehemently resist change and seek to roll back progress. What is at stake for religious liberals and is Beloved Community an impossible dream?

From Our Minister

“...keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.”

- Henri-Frederic Ariel



ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, my husband Mike and I decided to plant sunflowers in our garden.

You may have discerned by now that sunflowers are among my absolute favorite flowers. I love how cheerful and bright they are, and I love how they attract small birds and bees. Plus, sunflower seeds are insanely delicious! What can I say, they make me smile.

As in many other areas of our lives, Mike and I came to gardening with very different perspectives. He is a careful and thorough planner. He works hard every season with his helpers to create symmetrically pleasing beds. Nothing goes into the ground without the requisite combination of compost, and other soil enrichment. You might say he falls into the formal French garden school of yard work.

As for me, well, I enjoy a bit of chaos and I love English cottage gardens, where masses of flowers battle with each other for pride of place. I'm a fan of extravagant color and lots of it. And I make sure he's not watching when I plant things, because, well, I don't always include every necessary element that is recommended for soil enrichment.

As you might predict, it didn't take us long to recognize that our styles of yard work were completely incompatible. In order to maintain marital (and garden) harmony, we divvied up our areas of cultivation. I ceded the front (and pretty much the most visible) spots to him and I took the rear deck and the small garden area next to our back door.

Except when it came to the sunflowers.

We sprinkled lots of seeds from lots of varieties in every nook and cranny in the front of our house. Two months later, we had the most beautiful and riotous explosion of sunflower colors everywhere we looked. Big and small, from deep brown to pale yellow, it was amazing. I think you could see our sunflowers from outer space.

And here's the wonderful thing. Over the years, they have kept coming back but they have intertwined genetically and nowadays we have our own unique blends. Neither one of us could have imagined how much joy these flowers would give us. Every spring we wait to see what will grow this year. We wait to welcome the tiny finches and the monarch butterflies and the honeybees that seem to know they too will find what they need in our front yard.

Our spiritual theme for April is emergence. How will you make room for the universe's unexpected guests this year?

-Warmly, Rev. María



From Our President

The month of April brings the most anticipated event of the year—the Serendipity Auction! On April 21, we will be jivin' to the music and era of Saturday Night Fever! You don't want to miss the chance to bid on silent raffle baskets, eat and drink with some fabulous friends and bid on live auction items, facilitated by a real auctioneer.

Not only is the auction a fun, fun event, it provides important financial support for our UUFHC budget. 10% of our budget relies on fundraising and the auction is 7% of that fundraising budget. It is a win-win for all involved—a fabulous night of fun and laughter, the opportunity to bid on events and items that last the whole year and the chance to financially support the growth of our Fellowship. Mark your calendar!

As we near the end of our church fiscal year, I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank those Board members that will be leaving their post. Allison Ehrman, Natalie Gallagher and Emily Knowles will be moving on to other volunteer opportunities and I want to thank them for all of their time, energy, ideas and commitment. Being a member of the Board involves more than just attending a monthly meeting—it can involve extra meetings, lots of e-mails, emotionally charged discussions, thinking and acting as the voice of the congregation, planning for the future, hiring staff and trying to do the best for everyone that cares and loves our congregation. It is a serious, but extremely rewarding position. Thank you for all that you have done, Allison, Natalie and Emily!

*- Diana Rudolph,
Board President*



Religious Education

On Thursday, March 8, Harford County Public Schools students brought home a letter from Superintendent Barbara P. Canavan (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/harford/egis/ph-ag-student-walkout-0309-story.html>). The letter acknowledged the March 14 walkout being organized by the Women's March Youth Group EMPOWER (<https://www.womensmarch.com/enough-faq/>). The walkout is scheduled for 10:00 am and will last for 17 minutes, in honor of the 17 students and teachers whose

lives were taken a month earlier at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

While Superintendent Canavan is sympathetic to the “raw emotions among our students,” she stated, “We cannot condone students leaving class during the instructional day to participate in this activity. It presents, paradoxically, a threat to student safety, as word of the walkout has been widely disseminated and students who go outside could become more vulnerable. We do not have adequate staffing and resources to supervise students who leave the school building to participate in a walkout.”

Superintendent Canavan continued that it is the wish of the HCPS staff to keep students safe while giving them a space to share their feelings regarding the recent tragedy. Therefore, instead of supporting the walkout, HCPS will offer an alternative “learning module” at 10:00 am on March 14.

My son responded by tearing up the letter. He wasn’t committed to the walkout until HCPS forbade it. Frankly, he saw the letter from the superintendent as insulting and now he was steamed. I interrupted his anger, “Before you make any decisions, you need to research the walkout to see if it’s something you agree with. Is it worth the consequences? Then, you need to go to ACLU.org to make sure you know your rights.”

With determination, he went upstairs to consult his laptop. About thirty minutes later, he returned saying, “I have a right! I’m walking out! I don’t care what anyone says!”

Once again, I asked him what he will do if the students are being escorted into an assembly at 10:00 am? What if he starts walking towards the exit and a teacher or other staff member asks him where he’s going? I suggested he make a plan for these things. I told him that he will most likely be escorted to the principal’s office upon his return. He said he didn’t care. This cause matters to him and he won’t be swayed. I told him I understood and that the decision was his to make, and that I hoped it would be an informed one.

Since this article is being written in early March, I cannot tell you what happened. I can tell you that there has been a shift in this particular social justice cause and it’s because of the students. Their energy and commitment is giving me hope. Thank you, young people everywhere!

This month in Religious Education:

April 1: During the Easter Sunday service on April 1, we have an Easter Party for Pre-K through 5th Grade. The students will spend the service rotating through different rooms to learn about Easter, International Spring Holidays, and the Spring Equinox. At 11:30 am (weather permitting), they will head outside for the egg hunt. Parents should join their children for this part of the celebration. JYG and the Youth will assist in preparing the eggs and hiding them. **Please RSVP** if your children will be attending the party so we can have adequate supplies! dre@uufhc.net

April 8: Children’s Worship for PreK-3rd Grade: Children’s Worship provides an opportunity for students in preschool through 3rd grade to interact through music, stories, games, and crafts. **Young Leaders for 4th – 5th Grade:** Young Leaders is an opportunity for makerspace and service activities. **JYG (6th-8th Grade):** Junior Youth Group is a chance for middle school youth to build community through different activities. The **Youth (9th-12th Grade)** will attend the service. Classes end at 11:30 am.

April 13: Parent Support Group: will meet from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm. We will share a light dinner of pizza, salad, and dessert. After dinner, the kids will go with babysitters to the RE Wing and the parents will talk. The cost is \$5 per family—unless you’d like to bring a salad or dessert, and then there will be no charge! Please RSVP dre@uufhc.net.

April 29: 6th through 12th Grade students will head to St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Forest Hill. They will leave from UUFHC at 8:30am and return around 11:30 am. This is another experience that is part of our Neighboring Faiths curriculum.

Stay tuned for more fun events!

*Be well,
- Stephanie Kalka, DRE*



Corner on Finance

The Finish Line

A long time ago I was a runner. I belonged to a running club called the Harriers, whose logo was, appropriately, a snail with a lightning bolt flashing through its shell. From this experience I discovered the fun of belonging to a social group and the joy and camaraderie that is

experienced after a hard run when the finish line was in sight.

I thought recently that this was a good analogy for the end of our church fiscal year. Most of you have been contributing regularly towards your pledge all year long, keeping our cash flow in the church healthy. Now, with only a month to go, the finish line is in sight! If you have already completed your pledge for this year, thank you. If you still have payments to make, please take the necessary steps (pun intended) to cross the finish line and join your fellow comrades in closing out our fiscal year in the black.

The new church year begins on May 1. It doesn't matter if you are a snail that pays slowly and consistently or a lightning bolt that pays the entire pledge in one big flash. In either case, we will experience the exhilaration of joining together after crossing the finish line.

Get ready to start the new fiscal year. On your mark, get set, **Go!**

- Rob Lieb, Treasurer



Serendipity Auction! April 21!

Mark your calendar! It is auction time! What you need to know:

- Saturday, April 21
- Doors open at 5:30 pm
- Bring an entrée or side dish to share
- Entry fee is \$5 (what a deal!)
- Silent raffle baskets available for bidding
- 50/50 raffle
- Live auction items auctioned off by a professional auctioneer
- Dress in the era of 1977 (if you want!)
- Be ready to eat, laugh and socialize with friends



What will make our evening a success? You and your willingness to financially support our Fellowship in a fabulous and entertaining evening!

- Diana Rudolph

Volunteer of the Month

This month, the coveted parking spot belongs to a hard-working couple—**Tanya Tag and René Varela!** We are so appreciative of the hours of planning, mailing, organizing events and helping all of us at UUFHC realize how important the Stewardship drive is to fulfilling our budget and moving us forward as a congregation. We appreciate your commitment to our Fellowship and absolutely love having you as part of our UUFHC family. Thank you for all that you do, Tanya and René!



- Diana Rudolph

March and Marches

Our Rev. María McCabe told us about African-American Frances Ellen Watkins Harper who was born in Baltimore in 1825 and who endeavored to do what was necessary in abolishing slavery, securing civil rights and working toward women's rights, especially to vote, by writing, speaking out, and becoming politically active. She spoke out for temperance; that is, no alcoholic beverages.

From the Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography, contributing author Janeen Grohsmeyer wrote that after moving to Philadelphia in 1870 Harper joined the First Unitarian Church. She worked with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton until they disagreed about the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments because they gave the right to vote to black men but not to any women. She recognized that "with the ever-present danger of lynching...the African-American community needed an immediate political voice...with that would come the possibility of securing legal and civil rights."

The marches for the right to vote are historic. America's story is built upon citizens' rights to petition the government for grievances (First Amendment). Marches for civil rights are a given in the 21st century just as they were in the 19th and 20th centuries.

March was National Women's History Month. We can thank the women who suffered for the right to vote with imprisonment in the 19th century. And the men and women who continue their marching and who have

inspired their children to speak out peacefully by marching. May they all walk proudly in the hidden footsteps of women like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

*Respectfully submitted,
- JoAnn Macdonald*

Upcoming Events

Serendipity Auction - Saturday, April 21 at UUFHC: Come and support our Fellowship at this most important (and fun) event of the year! See the article in this newsletter! New this year—theme baskets on the silent auction table. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish for a potluck dinner and dress in your best 70s disco clothes.

Annual Meeting - Sunday, April 22: Don't stay up too late after the auction. All members are strongly advised to come to the Annual Meeting, which begins promptly after the service. We need a quorum of members to approve the budget and the slate of new members. Plus hear inspirational reports from our Minister, our DRE and some committee chairs.

Journey Within: A Retreat at the Virden Retreat Center in Lewes, Delaware, Friday, May 4 and Saturday May 5. This is an annual retreat. Come join us for a weekend away from day-to-day distractions with kindred souls seeking wisdom from our life experiences through movement, meditation, discussion, and creative mediums. The cost is \$125 for double occupancy or \$170 for a single room. Meals during the retreat are included. An option for an extra night is available. See Cindy Curry worship@uufhc.net for more information. **Registration deadline is April 20.**

Save the Date:

Sunday, May 20, 9:30 am for the annual **Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk** on the Ma & PA trail in Bel Air. Join UUFHC friends and walk to make a difference in the life of congregant Liam Gallihue and others that suffer with this life shortening disease. More information can be found at <http://fightcf.cff.org/goto/LiamGallihue>.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support! Suzi Gallihue

Installation Ceremony for Rev. María McCabe - Sunday, June 3, 4:00 pm

Annual Picnic - Sunday, June 10, immediately following the service.

RE Culture Camp - July 16-20.

Use and Control of Front Door Access Code

As we move forward in our quest to make our building as safe as possible, the Board recently passed a policy regarding the use and control of the front door access code. The Board may direct our Church Administrator Karen Kurrle to release the code to:

- All members of the Board
- All committee chairs
- Any committee members identified by the committee chairs
- Special project persons
- Paid employees
- Custodial contractors
- Representatives of renters of the church building

The access code will be changed at least once a year and those authorized to have the code will need to sign for it, acknowledging their responsibility for use and safeguarding of the code.

If there are any questions regarding this policy, please see Diana or Nelson.

- Diana Rudolph

General Assembly Registration Begins Kansas City, MO, June 20 to 24

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2018 General Assembly will be June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kansas City Convention Center.

If you decide to attend General Assembly this year, contact Rev. María or a Board Member. You may be able to represent UUFHC at GA!

Registration and Housing Open March 1: Go to www.uua.org/ga/travel.

The GA Theme this year is “All Are Called.” Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, “How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices,

dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.

About Kansas City: The City of Fountains is practically overflowing with adventure. Whether it's the scent of smoldering BBQ luring you to a plate of ribs, the sweet echo of jazz welcoming an evening of entertainment or the spray of fountains inviting you to kick off your shoes and make a splash, you'll sense inspiration in the air – and find it along every boulevard.

As America's most centrally located major metropolitan area, Kansas City's location is a huge advantage for travelers. In fact, more than 55 million Americans can get to Kansas City in less than a day's drive. And flying there is even easier—as Kansas City International Airport is just a three-hour flight away from each coast.

UUA's General Assembly provides excellent programming: GA will offer more than 175 programming selections over the course of five days. Major worships this year will be lead by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Rev. Sofia Betancourt. More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available: The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to www.uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates—particularly those from marginalized groups—and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration). Check with our treasurer, Rob Lieb to find out if scholarship funds are available from UUFHC.

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice



Climate Justice Month and Earth Day: Again this year, UUSJ will co-sponsor the “Write Here! Write Now” nationwide letter-writing campaign to raise UU voices in support of environmental/climate justice. UUSJ's Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps volunteers will hand-deliver the letters to Congressional offices on May 8. UUSJ has a free tool-kit to make the campaign more effective. Contact advocacy@uusj.org for more information.

March for Science, Saturday April 14: Join UUSJ on the National Mall for a teach-in rally and march. There are also marches at other locations. Go to <https://www.marchforscience.com> for further information and a place to enter your zip code so you can find the nearest march. Scientifically-minded people will build on the momentum of 2017 to hold political leaders accountable for passing equitable, evidence-based policies that serve all people and communities. If you plan to attend the DC march, you can meet up with like-minded UUs. Contact info@uusj.org to let them know you'll be there.

Unite to End Racism – Awaken – Confront – Transform: Tuesday through Thursday, April 3-5 in Washington, DC. Join in solidarity and fellowship with the National Council of Churches, the Conference of Black Churches, the African American Clergy Network, and Sojourners for one or all days. A Service of Worship is scheduled for April 3, a rally on the National Mall is scheduled for April 4, and a Day of Action and Advocacy on Capitol Hill is set for April 5. Email info@uusj.org for more information.

April Birthdays

Leigh Faunce	April 1
Robert Groff	April 15
Lisa Nickerson	April 15
Maureen North	April 17
Alison Rainey	April 17
Paul Seadler	April 21
Richard Saucier	April 26
Andy Whaley	April 26
Katrina Hunnell	April 28
Diane Ditrick	April 29

Remember to Support Chalice Lighters

It's official! The recently unified Chalice Lighter Grant Program now serves the unified Central East Region (CER) and will assist congregations in the former Joseph Priestley, Ohio-Meadville, St. Lawrence, and Metro New York Districts.

However, the latest call supports a neighboring congregation, UU Society of Mill Creek in Delaware. This fast growing congregation is looking to increase their Director of Religious Education to full time, and the Chalice Lighter grant will help make this possible.

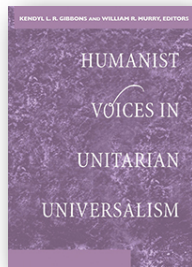
The purpose of the Chalice Lighter program is to help grow UU Congregations and make our movement stronger. This program was founded by the Joseph Priestley District back in the 1980s and UUFHC was the first beneficiary of a Chalice Lighter grant. We've received several other grants since the original grant to call a full-time minister.

Why don't you become a member? For as little as \$20 three calls per year, you can help grow our movement and help make stronger congregations. Check out the [chalice lighter website](#) or contact Andrea Lerner and chalicelighters@cerguua.org to add your name to the list of supporters.

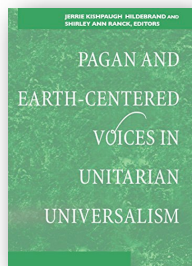
Skinner House Books, the UU Publisher

There are two UU book publishers: Beacon Press, which publishes general interest books, and Skinner House, devoted to UU topics. We know there are different theologies within Unitarian Universalism, and Skinner House gives voice to UU Christians, UU Buddhists and other theologies. Here are two books featured in the recent Skinner House catalog.

Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism, by Kendyl L. R. Gibbons and William R. Murry, editors. In this dynamic collection, 21 contributors discuss the meaning of Unitarian Universalist Humanism in their personal lives and provide the basics of UU Humanist history, theology and spirituality. (232 pages, \$14.)



Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism, by Jerrie Kishpaugh Hildebrand and Shirley Ann Ranck, editors. Prominent leaders in Unitarian Universalist Paganism bring Pagan and Earth-centered thea/ology to life for a new generation. The essayists describe a broad array of practices, including Wiccan traditions, Neo-Pagan rituals and celebrations, worship of the divine feminine, and nature-based beliefs and practices. (256 pages \$14)



Go to www.uua.or/bookstore and browse through the many topics and types of books: including UU History,

Worship and children's books. You can find UU gift items also at InSpirit, the UU Book and Gift Shop.

History of Our Building

We opened up and dedicated our present location for services in September, 1995, so we have been here almost 23 years! But we were deep in planning 25 years ago. One of UUFHC's most common, shared stories is about how our minister, the Rev. Alice Blair Wesley, saw Walter Banks and inquired about the property here on Route 22. This story is [available on our website](#) if you hadn't heard about a true UU miracle.

We had a Building Committee, chaired by Dyrck Van Dusen to initiate planning, and some present members were part of that committee including Rob Lieb, Glenn Brown, and yours truly representing Religious Education. One of the first tasks was to invite the UUA to conduct a feasibility study, to see if it we were ready, willing and able to take on a large building project. The results were borderline, but the UUA did finally approve us for a low-cost building loan for a large portion of the project and we got a bank loan for the rest. We paid the UUA loan off early, during my term as treasurer.

The Building Committee interviewed three architects, compared prices, and pared back our original plans to fit our financing. Unfortunately, a couple of RE classrooms were cut so we had to use the present library/Board room as a classroom. Another cutback was to our kitchen. It's actually just a "servary." We can't officially prepare meals in our small kitchen but we can bring dishes from our homes and heat them up there.

Finally we decided on color schemes and decor and construction began. We were actually able to have a wedding in July, before the official opening (Charles and Judy Harris were the first couple married here). The sanctuary didn't have carpeting or other finishing touches, but it ready enough for the ceremony.

Another way to save money was with "sweat equity." Most of us came in on weekends to spackle and paint, but a few members really put in time and talent. Joe Wesley, Rev. Alice's husband, and Glenn Brown built most of the cabinets and the audio case in the back of our sanctuary along with other wood finishing. Charles Harris commenced our initial landscaping.

A few years later we acquired the house and school property, mainly as a way to claim the neighboring land in case we needed to expand in the future.

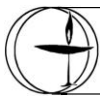
- Kay Saucier

The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Harford County
2515 Churchville Road
Churchville, MD 21028

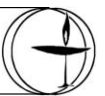
Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, April 8, 2018



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
Director of Religious Education:	Stephanie Kalka
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours: TBA
Mon: Weekly Sabbath Time
Tues & Wed: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Thurs: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Fri: Writing & Research Day

Director of Religious Education Office Hours:
Mon: Day Off
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Fri: Day Off

Office Phone:	410-734-7122
Office Email:	office@uufhc.net
Minister Email:	minister@uufhc.net
DRE Email:	dre@uufhc.net
Newsletter Email:	newsletter@uufhc.net
Webmaster Email:	webmaster@uufhc.net
Website:	www.uufhc.net

Wayside Pulpit

Look at everything as though you were seeing it
either for the first or last time. Then your time on
earth will be filled with glory.

– Betty Smith