#### EXPLORING THE USG ARCHIVES

Among the largest collections in the USG Archives is that of the Orders of Service, the simple flyer which orients the visitor to the Sunday service. These have been collected over the century and a half of USG's history, sometimes more conscientiously than others. They provide a small window into that service, that week, that month, that year, that minister's tenure. We hope you will enjoy this sampling of small glimpses into our past.

In compiling this display, we were forced to acknowledge that small brochures, standing behind glass, are difficult to read and appreciate. We hope that this website display of images of the Orders of Service with commentary will allow better perusal and accompanying reflection on content.

#### THE ORDERS OF SERVICE COLLECTION

The Archives Committee is midway in its resurrection and cataloging mission. What comprises our collection is not yet entirely known. However, here is a preliminary reckoning of the Orders of Service.

An early method of archiving the Orders of Service was to bind them into books. Our bound volumes cover the years from 1928 to 1963.

The loose brochures are more patchwork. We hold annual collections for the years:

- 1965-1968
- 1984-1987
- 1997 2008
- 2010 2017

We would welcome contributions from members of the congregation who might find Orders of Service among their papers, especially covering the gap years. Contact Susan Bockius (sbockius43@gmail.com) or Kay Weiser (kweiser7825@verizon.net).

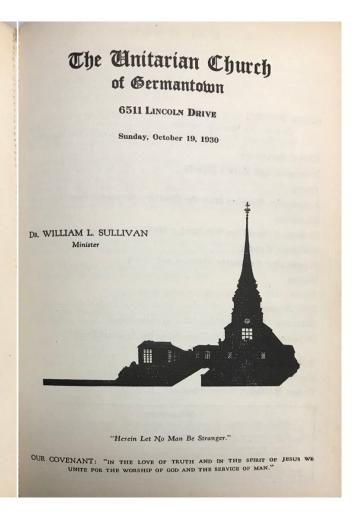
# Or. Sullivan's Words of Dedication of the Curtis Window Mosaic

This morning, dear friends, for a minute or two allow me to call your attention to the completing of a new adornment to this building—the gold mosaic round the chancel window. This house of the spirit we have tried to make beautiful, but with the beauty of simplicity. There is not in it, and there will not be, any over-elaboration which would depart from the simplicity all round, in spirit, in principles, and in worship to which the whole enterprise is dedicated. But this addition to the church exquisitely harmonizes with this conception of our purpose. Its symbolism of winged angels and lifted cross only indicates outwardly what inwardly we aspire to achieve here. They are external signs of loftiness of spirit, of unconquerable aspiration, and of that immortal heroism represented in the cross raised once on Calvary and else in this building set forth in stone and wood and pictured glass, but suggest and embody the cause which we gather here to serve.

In your name then I express our gratification at this completed work and our gratitude for the generosity which bestowed and for the artistry which produced it. It is a rare and particularly moving satisfaction to us that one of our own congregation designed and achieved this addition to the church's simple loveliness. From our own company are both giver and artist.

The chancel window is a memorial to Eleanor Pillsbury Pennell whose shortened life left a gracious remembrance. Now this remembrance is mingled with our history and our purpose, a witness that both the living and the dead unite in the beauty of holiness for the confirming of our faith and the inspiring of our hope.

Finally a little homiletic conclusion which you will not resent: beauty speaks a summons to us. If there is outward graciousness in this house, its highest and purest graciousness will be not in matter but in spirit, in the lives that are helped, in the nobility that is taught, in the freedom that is consecrated here. Thus from symbol we pass to substance, and from forms that please the eye to ideals that fortify the soul. Both minister to us here, the symbol and the symbolized. To strive through the one to reach the other will be our generous answer to their call



### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1930.

This Order of Service dates from the tenure of the Reverend Doctor William Laurence Sullivan.

(BACK PAGE) DR. SULLIVAN'S WORDS OF DEDICATION OF THE CURTIS [ALTAR] WINDOW MOSAIC. "This morning, dear friends, for a minute or two allow me to call your attention to the completion of a new adornment to this building—the gold mosaic round the chancel window." Dr. Sullivan further comments: "It is a rare and particularly moving satisfaction to us that one of our own congregation designed and achieved this addition to the church's simple loveliness."

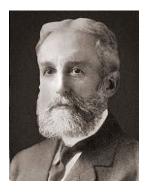
That congregational member was Nicola Goodwin D'Ascenzo, Jr. (1905–1958), son of Nicola D'Ascenzo (1871-1954) and Myrtle Dell Goodwin (1864–1954). Nicola, the father, married Myrtle Goodwin, a long-time USG member, in 1894.



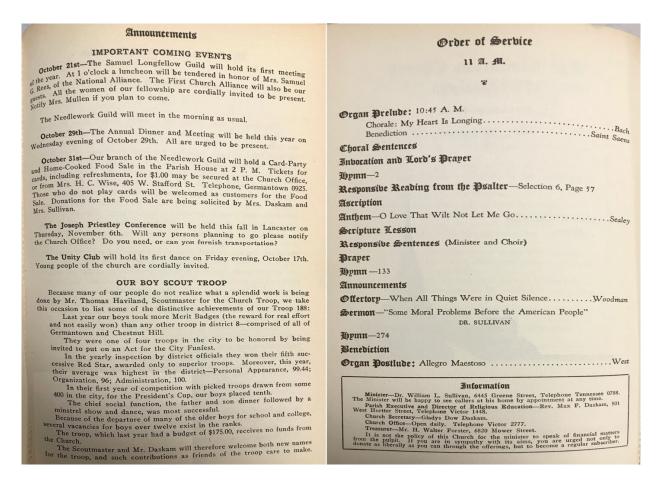
Nicola, the son, left; father Nicola right

Father D'Ascenzo was a nationally known stained glass artist and creator of the greater portion of USG's stained glass. His son started a studio for the making of mosaics in America. This was considered a bold move, as mosaics for centuries had been made almost exclusively in Italy. USG is the fortunate recipient of one of son-D'Ascenzo's handsome mosaics.

Sullivan goes on to say, "The chancel window is a memorial to Eleanor Pillsbury Pennell whose shortened life left a gracious remembrance." Sullivan doesn't tell us, but research reveals that Pillsbury Pennell was the daughter of Cyrus Curtis' second wife, Kate Stanwood Cutter Pillsbury Curtis, and that this daughter died at the young age of 28. As the stained glass window which the mosaic surrounds is the gift of Cyrus Curtis, Philadelphia publisher, long-time USG member and benefactor, the window and mosaic form a linked family statement.

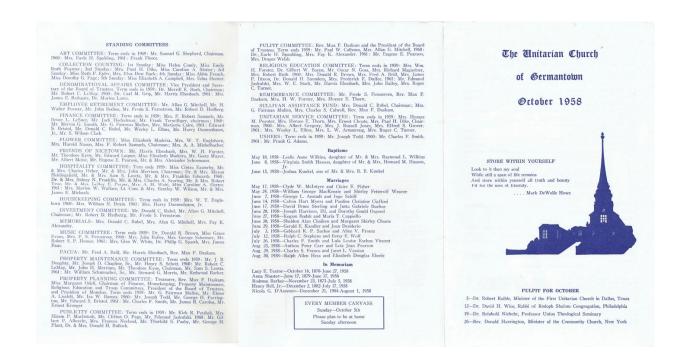


# Cyrus Hermann Kotzschmar Curtis (1850-1933)



# **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1930 (continued)**

(INSIDE). ANNOUNCEMENTS: "OUR BOY SCOUT TROOP." USG sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, as those who saw the film of USG's dedication at the Annual Dinner last spring may remember. In the Order of Service, we have a recitation of the Troop's accomplishments, which were many. We note with sadness that one of the entertainments at the annual father and son dinner was a minstrel show.



**OCTOBER 1958.** In this period, an Order of Service covered the entire month. Hymns and titles of readings and talks were announced on the individual Sunday.

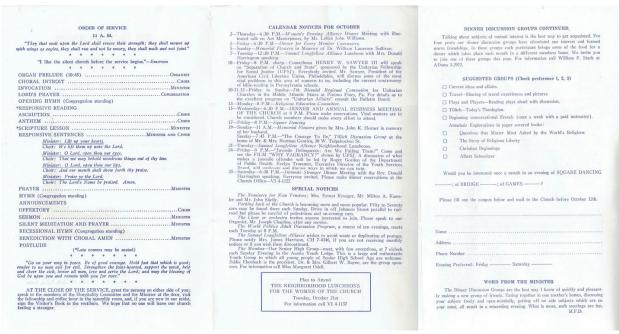
PULPIT FOR OCTOBER: Among anticipated speakers for the month was Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor at Union Theological Seminary, and noted liberal religious and political figure of mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century America. He spoke at USG frequently during USG's Ecumenical Pulpit. Until I looked him up, I didn't know that he was the author of *The Serenity Prayer*.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference.

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, IN MEMORIAM. This monthly Order of Service also acts as a registry of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths for the year. We note under deaths that 1958 was the year in which the maker of the altar mosaic (see prior entry), Nicola G. D'Ascenzo, passed away.

STANDING COMMITTEES. Listed in the monthly Order of Service are the Standing Committees of the Church with their membership. We note members also known for their contribution of stained glass windows:

- Mr. H. Walter Forster, on the Employee Retirement Committee; donor of nave window L-1 (see diagram at the end of the article).
- Miss Elizabeth Madeira, Flower Committee; donor of Clerestory window L-106.
- Friends of Nicetown included both Mrs. H. W. Forster and Elizabeth Madeira.



## **OCTOBER 1958, CONTINUED**

CALENDAR NOTICES FOR OCTOBER: Events for the month were a combination of social justice concerns (the President of the ACLU was scheduled to speak on Friday October 10), and fun (on the 17<sup>th</sup> there would be square dancing).

SPECIAL NOTICES: There was a World Politics Adult Discussion Group, which met on ten Tuesday evenings, as well as an open invitation to participate in the Choir and Orchestra.

DINNER DISCUSSION GROUPS CONTINUED. This was a pot-luck in members' homes once a month. One could choose from among suggested topics when signing up—a delightful array from "Current Ideas and Affairs" to "Albert Schweizer."

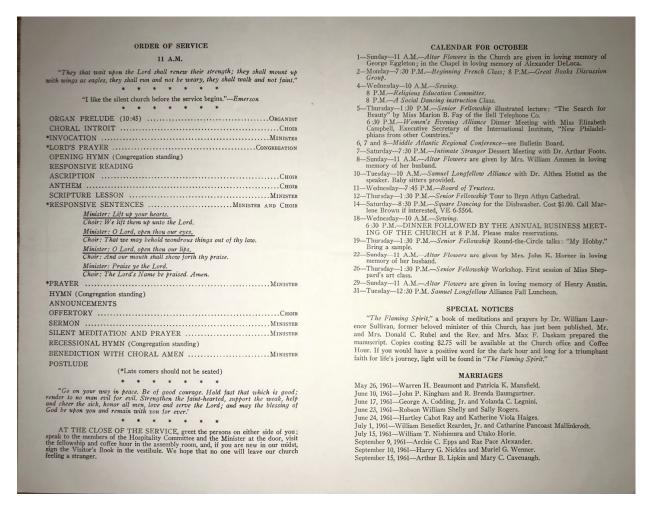
WORD FROM THE MINISTER at the bottom of the page. MFD (that being Max F. Daskam) gives a ringing endorsement of the Dinner Discussion Groups as a way to make new friends.

	The second secon
DINNER DISCUSSION GROUPS  Talking about subjects of mutual interest is the best way to get acquainted. For seven years our Dinner Discussion Groups have stimulated our interest and formed warm friendships. In these groups each participant brings some of the food for a dinner which takes place each month in a different member's home. We invite you to join one of these groups this year. For information call Larry or Peggy Angel, at CH 7-6924.  SUGGESTED GROUPS (Check preference 1, 2, 3)  Travel—sharing of travel experiences and pictures.  Plays and Players—reading plays aloud with discussion.  "Introduction to Religion Existentialism" — Kierkegaard, Berdyaev, Marcel, Tillich, Bultmann, and Buber. This is a home study course of the University of Chicago and will entail some expense.  Our Atomic Age Problems of  Science and religion	The Unitarian Church of Germantown October 1961 RELIGION HAS WINGS
☐ Questions that matter most asked by the world's religions. ☐ Square dancing ☐ Bridge.  Please fill out the coupon below and mail to the Church before October 8th.	Liberal religion differentiates between the demonstrable, the factual, on the one hand, and the imaginative, fanciful, symbolic and poetic on the other. We are free, at last, to use the arts again in religion. When we leave this world of demonstrable knowledge, we know that we have left it, and can enjoy our winged flight. And we will not come back to try to persuade others to believe that our particular way of flying is the only one and that it you fly any other way you are sure to crash.
Name  Address  Phone Number  Evening Preferred: Friday  WORD FROM THE MINISTER  The Dinner Discussion Groups are the best way I know of quickly and pleasantly making a new group of friends. Eating together in one another's homes, discussing your subject freely and open-mindedly, getting off on side subjects which are on your mind, all result in a rewarding evening. What is more, such meetings are fun.  MAX F. DASKAM  BAPTISM  May 28, 1961—Christopher Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Anstadt. June 25, 1961—Valeria jo Baldwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Baldwin. September 10, 1961—Clarence, Jeffrey, Steven and Philip Smart, children of Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Smart.	It is extremely important for us that our religion has wings. We know that our religion has incorporated all that science has produced, and we are greatly devoted to science. But let us not forget the wings, because man's reach exceeds his grasp. Truth, for us, is not a stopping place, a final and once-for-all definition of life, but a way to address ourselves to life.  For us the great truths are two produced to the produced pr
N MEMORIAM	<ul> <li>1—Rev. Donald Harrington, Minister of the Community Church in New York.</li> <li>8—Dr. Arthur Foote, Minister of Unity Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.</li> <li>15—Rev. Charles M. Jones, Pastor of the Community Church of Chapel Hill, N. C.</li> <li>22—Dr. John F. Hayward, Asst. Professor of Philosophical Theology at the University of Chicago.</li> <li>29—Dr. Allan W. Watts, formerly Dean of the American Academy of Asian Studies in San Francisco.</li> </ul>

**OCTOBER 1961.** The practice of a single Order of Service for the month continued, as did "Dinner Discussion Groups" and the listing of Baptisms and Deaths.

Under "In Memoriam" we note the passing of George Nitzsche, donor with his wife of the L-5 and R-5 stained glass windows in the Sanctuary (see diagram at the end of the article). Nitzsche was also the creator of a remarkable autograph collection of famous Unitarians, gifted to USG as a teaching tool, and now housed at the Massachusetts Historical Society. See <a href="https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0304">https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0304</a>, where the collection is held in Nitzsche's name. Its contents may be viewed on line.

Planned for the October 29 pulpit was an address by Dr. Allan [sic] W. Watts. Alan W. Watts (1915-1973) was a noted cultural figure in the 1960's. This interesting English-born scholar and religious man was a cultural bridge for the Western-born to the concepts and practices of Zen Buddhism. His book, *Nature, Man, and Woman,* was published in 1958. There are more than 70 of his recorded lectures currently available on YouTube.



# **OCTOBER 1961 (continued)**

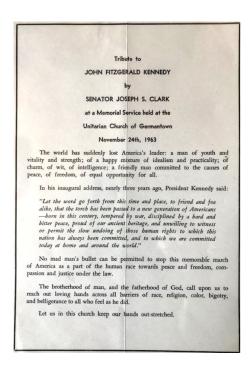
CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER. On Tuesday, October 10 at 10 AM the Samuel Longfellow Alliance (the women's guild of USG) hosted speaker Dr. Althea Hottel. It was Dr. Hottel who, during her Presidency of the American Association of University Women, worked to have racial restrictions on membership removed. This was achieved in 1949.



Dr. Althea Hottel.

On October 14, one could "square dance for the dishwasher." (!)

SPECIAL NOTICE. *The Flaming Spirit*, a book of meditations and prayers by Dr. William Laurence Sullivan, edited by Max Daskam et al, was announced for sale. (It is still available on Amazon for \$4.98.)



### November 24, 1963

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas TX. The Unitarian Society of Germantown held a Memorial Service on November 24. USG member and U.S. Senator Joseph S. Clark, Jr. provided meaningful leadership during this shattering event. The text above is excerpted from Senator Clark's remarks.

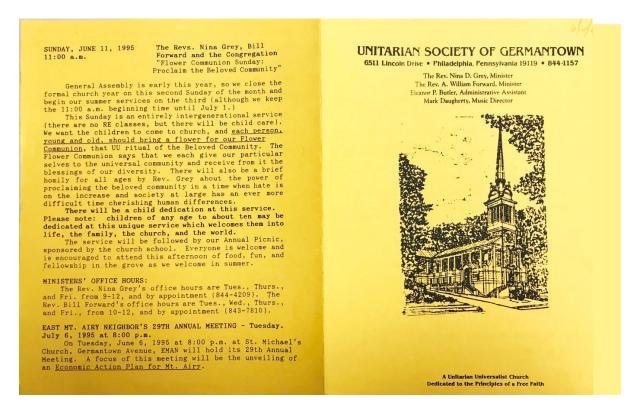
The Clark family were long-time members of USG. Their stained glass window gifts go back to the first church at Chelten and Greene, windows R-102 and R-103,

imported from the English firm Heaton Butler and Bayne, and moved to the new Lincoln Drive Church in 1930.

Joseph Jr. was raised in Germantown and Chestnut Hill. Educated for the law and a former WWII Army Colonel, he went on to be elected Mayor of Philadelphia (1951 – 1955), heading a reformist Democratic Party. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1956 and again in 1962. His defeat in 1968 is generally ascribed to his support for gun control and opposition to the Viet Nam War.

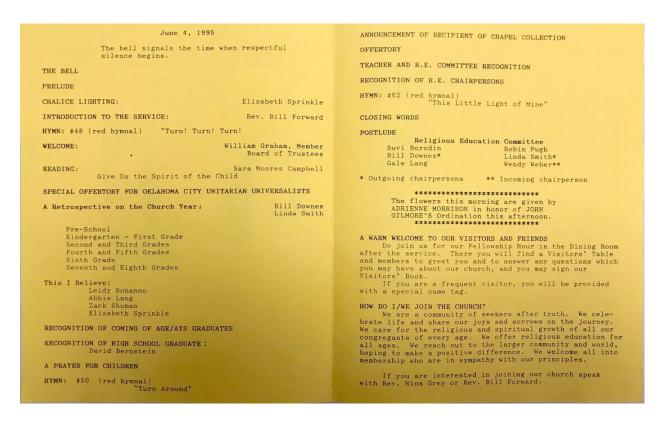


Senator Joseph S. Clark, Jr.



**JUNE 4, 1995.** The Rev. Nina Grey and the Rev. A. William Forward were our ministers. Mark Daugherty was Music Director.

*Back Page.* The Flower Communion would be celebrated on June 11, in recognition of beloved community. And, speaking of community, the East Mt. Airy Neighbors annual meeting is announced here.



This June 4 service was a celebration of the completion of the Religious Education Program year, with co-chairs Linda Smith and Bill Downes providing a perspective. A youthful Beth Sprinkle lit the chalice. David Bernstein's graduation from high school is noted.

Several young adults presented their credos (see the heading, "This I Believe"). Leidy Bonanno was one of those young adults. We note with sadness that Leidy's life was tragically cut short eight years later, in 2003. Her mother, Kathy Sheeder Bonano (1956-2017), would write of the painful loss in her 2009 award-winning book of poetry, *Slamming Open the Door.* Kathy went on to establish "Musehouse,... a haven for writers" in Chestnut Hill. (Chestnut Hill Local).







Kathy Bonano

# **REFERENCE**

**USG Stained Glass Windows.** 

