

Volume 35

Edition 5

May 2017



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

In the Interim....

Being Healed

A religious community is a place we often turn to when we face difficulties. At it's best, it ought to be a safe place where we can bring our entire selves. A place where we can be challenged because we know we're among people who will support us and help us when we stumble.

But churches are made of people, and we are imperfect beings. And since the beginning of religious communities, we've struggled with how to be in community together. And sometimes we mess up. Sometimes we actually do harm to one another. So what then?

Well, we're still the church. So if we're serious about being the church, we recognize what we've done, and we work at coming back together and making ourselves whole again. It's simple and it's complicated.

We're doing this work at BRUU and in the UUA now. Does it seem like a lot? Maybe. But one thing I've learned about you at BRUU is that you're a strong, committed bunch of folks. You're committed to one another and to the church. And you want to make it work. We can do this.

Continued on page 2

May 2017 Crossroads

In the Interim, continued from page 1

So we will. We'll participate in the UUA's teach-in on white supremacy. That means examining our own complicity in this, and it might be uncomfortable, but healing usually means a bit of discomfort. If we really want to repair the wounds and make things healthier, we have to do the work.

And we'll continue to do the healing work of this congregation. That means continuing to face our own history, and continuing to ask questions. And it means coming together for the covenanting workshop on May 13 to craft our congregational covenant – our holy promise to one another – our way forward together.

Let's examine ourselves carefully. We can do this work. We'll be stronger for it in the end. I can't wait to see how you bloom.

In shalom,

Rev. Madelyn



Liturgical Calendar May 2017

- 1 Beltane (Wiccan/EuroPagan)
- 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 4 National Day of Prayer (Interfaith)
- 10 Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
- 12 Lailat al Bra'ah (Islam)
- 14 Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
- 27 Ramadan Begins (Islam)
- 31 Shavuot Begins (Jewish)

Spring Work Day - Saturday, May 20 9:30 AM – 3 PM

We've have a long list of indoor and outdoor projects we need YOU to help us with! We have everything from handyman jobs, to cleaning, to (of course!) painting. Tasty snacks and lunch will be provided. Point of Contact: Christine Sunda, 703.631.3291, sundas3@aol.com

♪ Notes from Annease ♪

Evensong service May 12 at 7:30 - "Mothers' Prayers"

On this Mother's Day weekend, join us as we reflect on what mothers pray for their children. All over the world, parents want their children to be safe, healthy and loved. We pray that they find courage to follow their dreams and friends who accept them for who they are. Through music and words, we will offer our prayers for all children of the earth.



What does a 250 voice choir singing for racial justice sound like?

On Saturday May 6, 2017, listeners can hear over 250 singers from 14 Unitarian Universalist congregations in the greater Washington, DC/Baltimore area as they join with composer/conductor Rollo Dilworth to present **America, the Dream: Singing for Racial Justice**. The 3:30 P.M. service at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC will include the world premiere of "America, the Dream," commissioned from Mr. Dilworth by our UU church choirs; a performance by West African drumming ensemble, Akoma, from All Souls Church; social justice sing-along hymns; remarks from the Revs. Abhi Janamanchi and Nancy McDonald Ladd; and a reflection from Mr. Dilworth. Admission is free. A good will offering will be taken in support of [#blacklivesdmv](#). Join us for an inspiring afternoon of music.



SEDER REMEMBERED...

(Photos courtesy of Cathy Ring and Nina Lomax)



Fellowship – Activities Corner

Save the Date! June 10, 2017 **BRUU Annual Picnic** It will be held June 10, 2017 from 3pm-10pm. (POC: Christine Sunda)

BRUU BOARD OF DIRECTORS: APRIL 2017 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- BOARD BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION
 - *Governance & Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (2nd ed.) by Dan Hotchkiss
- DISCUSSION RE: BUILDING USE COMMITTEE CONCERNS WITH MURIELLE MORRIS
- DISCUSSION RE: BRUU SAFETY POLICY WITH BRUCE ROEMMELT
- DISCUSSION RE: ONGOING PERSONNEL TASK FORCE WORK
- DISCUSSION RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ENDOWMENT GRANT
 - Average Sunday attendance = 120 counting Worship/RE
- NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2017 (2ND TUESDAY) AT 7 PM

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns – president@bruu.org // 703/894-8067 (cell)

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Director



SPRING 2017 ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT CLASS

Genetics & the Future – the Science of Genetic Engineering

Tuesdays, May 2 and 9 @ 7:30 – 9:00 PM – Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Frank Gregorio

Earth Day Service, April 23, 2017

Presented by the Green Team



From the DRE.....

Signs of the season include rain showers, baseball games, emerging flowers and annual reports! Reflecting on the past year, the Religious Education Committee has quite a bit to be proud of. Some highlights are:

- A positive and productive winter retreat, during which the REC updated and affirmed the committee Vision, which states **"The BRUU REC fosters a safe community for children and youth to develop open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts. We support the children and youth as they seek in their personal and spiritual journey. We will do this in a safe and loving environment for all with Collaboration, Consensus and Support."**
Look for the full text on the website soon.
- Weekly attendance in Religious Education classrooms is regularly 25 children and youth. A total of 14 adult volunteers facilitate the RE classes. We are so happy to welcome several new families, which resulted in 12 new children and youth registrations.
- RE completed a curriculum focused on Unitarian Universalist Identity, and are planning our World Religions pillar for 2017-2018.
- Teachers participated in web trainings with Katie Covey, curriculum author for three current teaching teams; CPR/First Aid/AED training for members of each teaching team.
- Working with BUC and MAC to creating welcoming and comfortable RE environments.
- Hired 3 Child Care employees, implemented cleaning and responsibility expectations.
- Created Safe Congregations Procedures for RE Program, and working with BRUU's Safety committee to develop Physical safety procedures.

In 2017-2018, RE looks forward to welcoming NEW MEMBERS, who want to help with:

- Visiting and learning from the area faith community
- More teacher trainings, including classroom enhancement, sexual boundaries and incorporating fun!
- Holding emergency evacuation (fire) drills
- Implementing OWL classes for K-2, 4-6, and young adult age groups.
- Resuming the Coming of Age program, for young adults from age 13-17.
- Work with Fellowship to create more social programming for younger RE participants (informal gatherings, camping, etc.).
- Develop Family Ministry events: Popcorn Theology, circle suppers, etc.
- Expanding our Youth Group program with greater youth leadership and social events.

Please Thank Helena Kennedy, Chair, Owen Davies, Randy Earl, Jennifer Malos and Nina Lomax for their outstanding work this year! Blessed be, Kristen

(continued page 8)

From the DRE, continued from page 7

Register NOW for Summer RE! Bring your friends, too!

“Summer in the Garden” Kindergarten - 5th grade.

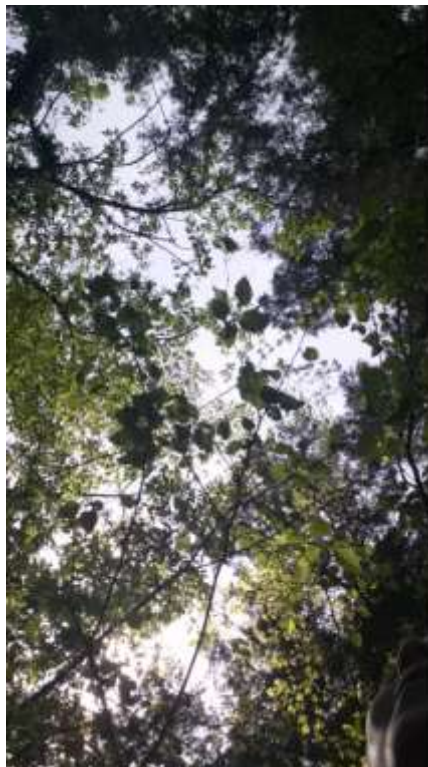
Participants will plant, tend, grow and harvest a Salsa Garden. Along the way, we’ll create a Bug Hotel, a Grass Home, a Worm Habitat, and find lots of other ways to get dirty and enjoy the sunshine.

“Mime Camp” Junior and Senior High

Participants will play with various forms of performance: building confidence, body consciousness and community.

See Kristin for more information and to register.

The “Seekers” classroom recently enjoyed an Earth Day Scavenger Hunt:



May 2017 Crossroads

Newly insulated sanctuary wing attic!
Long-term comfort and utilities saving
capital improvement investment!
Project oversight and photos courtesy of
Christine Sunda and Mike Freeland.



Star and Janette Muir
providing music for Earth
Day Service.

Photos from Earth Day
courtesy of Tom Miller

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2017

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|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | UupBeats, 12:45 P
Genetics ALE, 7:30 P | 15 | NuuNers, 11:30 A |
| 3 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P | 16 | UupBeats, 12:45 P
PFLAG, 7 P |
| 4 | Transition Team, 6 P | 17 | LGBTQ, 6 P |
| 7 | Social Justice, 9 A
Coffee with Minister, 11 A
Fellowship Com, 11:15 A
RE Discussions, 11:30 A | 19 | USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Search Committee, 5:30 P |
| 8 | SASS, 1:30 P | 20 | MAC Work Day, 9 A |
| 9 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Board Meetings, 6:30 P
Genetics ALE, 7:30 P | 21 | Program Council, 11:15 A
RE Discussions, 11:30 A
Adult RE, 11:30 A
Meaning of Life, 7:30 P |
| 10 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P | 23 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Worship Committee, 7:30 P |
| 12 | Evensong, 7:30 | 24 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| 13 | Covenant Workshop, 1 P
New Member Dinner, 6 P | 28 | Soup for Serve, 11 A
RE Discussions, 11:30 A |
| 14 | Pine Ridge, 11:15 A
Finance Committee, 11:15 A
RE discussions, 11:30 A
BRIC, 11:30 A
Pastoral Care Team, 7 P | 31 | LGBTQ, 6 P |
- Note: ALE = Adult Life
Enrichment, Formerly Known as
Adult Religious Education Class**

View from My Corner of the World: Choices, Choices, Choices

It's a rainy afternoon and I'm taking a break from grading discussion posts and final papers for the undergraduate course I teach for George Washington University to put fingers to keyboard to "pen" this column.

One of the things I do to close out each semester is to ask my students the "what if" question: What if you were teaching this course next semester? What would you keep? What would you change? Usually the feedback to these questions focuses on the volume of reading and writing that accompanies my online course or some specific topic that we covered that they particularly liked or disliked. Today I was pleasantly surprised to see that one of my students commented on the social contract in my welcoming announcement.

"In order to create a community of learners where each of us is free to speak our minds, explore new ideas, and our truths, this is the social contract (AKA rules of engagement) for our time together:

- *We will be respectful of each other's opinions, experiences and backgrounds.*
- *We will be supportive of each other – some topics may bring up difficult issues or painful memories.*
- *This course is not simply about using your mind, but also your heart.*
- *This course requires self-reflection and critical thinking to discern the influences of culture and society on health, illness and patient-provider relationships.*
- *If you do not understand something, ASK! I am never farther than an email away.*
- *A deadline in another course is not an acceptable excuse for missing a deadline in this course."*

This particular student is a Special Forces medic who has been deployed with his team in an unidentified, "I'm not at liberty to say ma'am" location throughout the semester. He said "it would be a very different world if everyone followed your rules of engagement." Coming from someone whose daily life is governed by military rules of engagement in a combat setting, this really touched my heart.

The social contract with and between my students is not unlike a covenant. The term "covenant" is of Latin origin (*con venire*), meaning a coming together. In the October 2016 issue of Crossroads, I shared highlights of the Board retreat that included the covenant that we created to affirm how to be and work together to honor our commitment to this community.

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On May 13, Reverend Madelyn will be facilitating a covenanting workshop for BRUU. I hope to see you there. Until then, stay safe and continue to take good care. Thanks for all you do for BRUU.

Questions and/or concerns should be sent to president@bruu.org

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Directors
23 April 2017

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND EVENTS IN OUR AREA

May 1 and 8– *“The Best Annual Budget Drive Ever” Webinar Series*, UUA Central East Region and Stewardship for Us. Three 90-minute webinars designed to help Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Central East Region apply stewardship best practices to improve the effectiveness of their annual budget drives. The webinars will be held in the Spring to provide a springboard for effective planning for Fall 2017 and Winter/Spring 2018 drives. While each webinar is stand-alone, participants are strongly encouraged to attend all three. April 24, May 1, and May 8, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EST. \$30 per connection per session; scholarships available. Session 1: Vision, Planning, and Organizing. Session 2: Talking About Money. Session 3: 21st Century Stewardship and Best Practices

Rev. Alma Faith Crawford *“Sanity While Black: Enduring Racial Trauma without Losing Our Damn Minds”*
Sunday, May 7, 4:00 PM

Greater Baltimore Unitarian Universalist congregations gather each May to remember the 1819 visit of Rev. William Ellery Channing to Baltimore to preach the sermon “Unitarian Christianity.” This year our Festival Service will hear a challenge from Rev. Alma Faith Crawford, former Professor of Worship Arts at Starr King School for the Ministry (Berkeley, CA) and founding pastor of Church of the Open Door on Chicago’s south side. Crawford shares how racism generated her clinical depression, anxiety disorders and PTSD—and how medical treatments and activism both help and hinder her recovery. First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, 10 W Franklin St, Baltimore, MD. Free admission. Free on-street parking and Reduced rate parking (\$5) at 15 W Franklin St Garage. Reception follows. Doors open at 3:30 with a concert program by orchestra & combined choirs.

UU Racial Justice Gathering, Northern Virginia Cluster 2017 Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Sponsored by [Central East Region of the UUA](#), [UU Church of Arlington, Arlington, VA](#)

We invite you to engage with UUs from the Northern Virginia Cluster as we explore UU multicultural ministries. We are being called to address White Supremacy and diversity in our movement. Together we will share the stories and photos from our own congregations and begin to strategize around skills and actions for growing our multicultural ministries and partnerships. We encourage you to make sure your congregation is represented for this event to help further our racial justice work in the Northern Virginia Cluster and beyond.

Cost is \$15.00 for lunch. Scholarships are available upon request to by emailing Paula Cole Jones at pcolejones@gmail.com (If requesting a scholarship, do not register online). Registration deadline is May 11th. Please contact the registrar, Paula Cole Jones at pcolejones@gmail.com to register after the form closes if space allows. *UU Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22204*

June 21-25 – General Assembly 2017, New Orleans, LA. Planning has begun for General Assembly 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130. Presidential election.