

Volume 35

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July 2017



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

In the Interim....

All That Jazz

I'm writing this sitting in my hotel in New Orleans. My hotel has one of those scenic elevators - you know the kind I mean - it sits on the outside of the building and it's all glass, so you can look out as you go up and down. When you get high enough, there's a great panoramic view of the city (well, at least the part that you can see from this spot).

Being at General Assembly is a bit like taking a step back and taking in that panoramic view. I've been here almost all week (after sorting out the weather delays), meeting first with colleagues, and then with the whole General Assembly. We elected a new President. We made some important changes to the UUA bylaws - to our UUA Covenant, to be specific. We had important and at times difficult conversations about privilege, race, class, and the intersectionality of oppressions. We reunited with old friends, we made new friends, we mourned friends who have passed on.

I hope you got to watch at least some of what happened here in New Orleans. I know that BRUU participated in the Sunday worship via the livestream. It was a powerful service. One of many.

(Continued on page 2)

In the Interim, continued from page 1

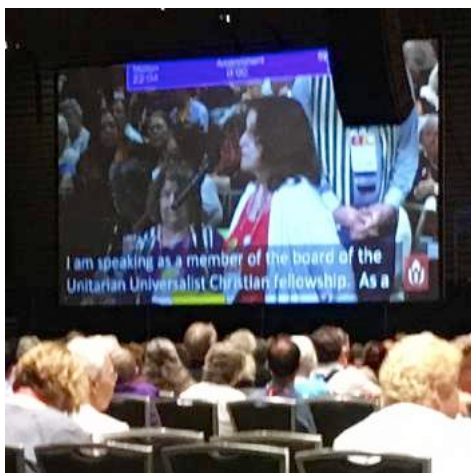
Now the work of this Assembly is done. But that means that the work of the Association and our member congregations is just beginning. We have a new President, Susan Frederick-Gray, who has been called upon to act in her official capacity within hours of being elected. We passed the Study Action Issue of Escalating Inequity, and now that goes back to congregations for deeper work. The UUA Board has committed to raising over \$5M for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), and donors have come forward with a \$1M challenge grant to get that started. We have been challenged to meet the goal.

We changed language in our six sources of faith (in our Covenant), from “the words and deeds of prophetic women and men...” to “the words and deeds of prophetic people...” to affirm that we live in a world where gender need not be binary. Further, the Board will be establishing a Study Commission to re-examine our entire Covenant (the preamble, the seven principles, the six sources of faith, and the final paragraph – all of Article 2 in our bylaws). In a responsive resolution, the Assembly asked the Board to consider the proposed eighth principle, the anti-oppression principle, in doing this work.

We’ve been busy. But this is what it means to be a covenanted community of faith together in congregational polity. We must show up for the work. How will we show up?

In shalom,

Rev. Madelyn



Liturgical Calendar July 2017

- 9 Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
- Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
- 13 Ulambana Obon (Buddhist)
- 13 Obon begins (Shinto)

♪ Notes from Annease ♪



Above - Youth choir members on senior outing, painting pottery. Below - Over 30 BRUUsers gathered outside the Edward Kelly Leadership Center on June 21st to sing in support of the inclusion of LGBTQ in an amendment to Prince William County School's non-discrimination policy. The motion passed 5-3. Several other BRUUsers were inside to speak and observe the proceedings. Great ambassadors for BRUU and UUsm!



Annease Hastings, Director of Music



Worship Services in July

- 7/02 Rev. Pratima Dharm
- 7/09 Rev. Madelyn Campbell "Where Did you Learn This? Lessons from Absalom & Amnon"
A brother turns against a brother. How did this happen? Why did cycles repeat themselves? What can we learn from this sad story from the second book of Samuel?
- 7/16 Rev. Madelyn Campbell
- 7/23 Rev. Madelyn Campbell
- 7/30 Caitlin Muir and Mikayla Harshman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JUNE 2017 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- TRANSITIONS: FAREWELL TO OUTGOING & WELCOME TO INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS
- BOARD BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION
 - *Governance & Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (2nd ed.) by Dan Hotchkiss
- BREAKING NEWS: COMMERCIAL BUILDING FULLY RENTED AGAIN.
 - Thanks to Heather Berthold for shepherding contract negotiations.
- REAFFIRMED BOARD VOTE (DONE VIA EMAIL BETWEEN MEETINGS) ENDORSING ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE AWARD (\$1,500) FOR IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT OF NEW CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE.
- DISCUSSION RE: MINISTERIAL COVERAGE WHILE REV. MADELYN IS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ON VACATION.
- DISCUSSION RE: ANNUAL MEETING.
- NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 11, 2017 (2ND TUESDAY) AT 7 PM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF INCOMING PRESIDENT, ART MUIRHEAD.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns – president@bruu.org

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Directors

WHAT DID YOUR BUILDING VOLUNTEERS DO?

MAC and FAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

You may not know this, not much was mentioned in the annual meeting or elsewhere, but here are a few of our accomplishments, JUST IN THE PAST YEAR!

- Replaced the flooring in the unisex restroom in the basement. (\$1,200)
- Replaced all the floor tiles in the Church Street side (office) stairwell. (\$2,650)
- With Facilities (Mike Freeland) installed insulation in the attic of the sanctuary & office parts of the building (\$7,100).
- Also under Mike installed a tankless hot water heater. As our new unpaid staff person, he does TONS of other stuff too!
- Repaired drainage and replaced the floor in the bell tower (\$5,000).
- In Fellowship Hall fixed the leak in the back wall by building a trench in the floor, weep holes in the wall, and hooked the trench to the sump pump. MAC members removed the wall so work could be done by professionals. Once work was completed replaced the drywall and repaired the floor. Repaired some other damaged tiles in room at the same time. (\$8,400 job)
- Repaired the downspout and overflow holes on the flat roof to mitigate flooding during high volume rain storms. Repaired a leak in the coping over Sexton Music Studio.
- Repaired the plaster after water damage in Sanctuary balcony, the 3rd floor studio, and what's now Muzzin Music Studio.
- Installed motion detector light switches in all of the restrooms. (Go green!)
- Brenda Vann has worked tirelessly to clean, label, sort, and improve the items stored in the storage room and throughout the building! PS check with her if you want to store anything, or if you need supplies. DO NOT buy new supplies unless you have check if we already have them! DO NOT just put things willy-nilly in the supply room!
- Just finished repainting the large mural in room 305. Yeah! A special thanks goes to Michelle Sunda for redoing (painting) the world and hands.
- Landscaping under Amy Hamilton: Besides maintaining the garden, she redid the Church Street side, removing the old Rhododendrons and planting new bushes and plants for a new fresh look.
- With the Capital Planning Committee developed the long range plans for the building into the next five years. FYI: we are hoping in 2019 to have a capital campaign fundraiser to get some large projects done, a year after we have a new settled minister.
- Had **four work days** with many BRUU members lending a helping hand. During work days we painted chairs and stairwells; cleaned the building; touched up paint everywhere, changed out the spot lights, hung fire extinguishers, and did many, many other repair jobs including fixing a hole in the roof! On June 24th we had our first RE workday, where we concentrated on repairs and cleaning the four classrooms. A big thank you to ALL of you who have come to any of the workdays and made maintaining the building possible. Some of the best workers were under 15 years of age.
- In the works now is new flooring for the ladies room and new windows for the commercial upstairs space.
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our next Work Day, Sat., September 9th.
- And I'm sure I'm forgetting something! --Christine Sunda, MAC Chair

July 2017 Crossroads



Artists and clean-up crew at work during Religious Education Workday, conversation over first of the season's Summer Soup for Serve, and beautiful courtyard garden courtesy of Amy Hamilton's nurturing attention. *Photos courtesy of Cathy Ring.*



From the DRE.....

Fairy Godmothers..... Raise your hand if you've NEVER had a moment that you secretly wanted your entire life to shift and suddenly have all the resources you've ever needed to make your dreams come true. Weird, I don't see any hands up.

We recently honored Mary Kadlubowski with a one time only Fairy Godmother award for her unique abilities to support and uplift our children, youth and families. Inside our walls, and out. Lisa Stewart was given the Lynn Scherer award for her interest in each and every child as an individual, and her great efforts to enhance their lives.

And we have many teachers who devote their Sundays (and many many hours per week to preparation) to the guidance of our children and youth.

I want to let you know about something I observed this past Sunday. We were holding the service in Fellowship Hall, viewing live via video the Worship Service at General Assembly. It was an un-usual service for all of us – most were quiet and engaged in the video feed, singing along with familiar hymns or songs, and cheering or teary as the service went on. There were a few side conversations, in the back and not disruptive, and it kinda reminded me of a temple experience I had once where quiet and active all occurred at the same time – but was ultimately a community experience that all walked away from having received exactly what they needed.

I was sitting close to the back, which allowed me to get up for greeting, guiding, grabbing something someone needs..... A woman and her two children came in, a little bit late. And my pointing that out is not to criticize, but to point out that when they arrived, one of our greeters welcomed them warmly, whispering what was going on and providing the children with coloring pages. Later play dough was "snuck" over to them. A lot of attendees that day might not have even noticed them because of their quiet behavior.

But I saw many individuals notice them. Maybe she had to use the restroom, but the first woman left her seat and walked by the group and stopped to admire their artwork, which I can only guess by the pointing and smiles. Then a guy passed by and gave a thumb's up. Someone else brought over more coloring pages. And then another person complimented the play dough sculptures.

And, this was all done silently. It warmed my heart to witness how much children really mean to our members. Absolutely none of the above adults were asked to do what they did. Each one stopped to acknowledge these two little boys just because they wanted to. And I thank you for that.

Each one of you that take a moment to share your self with another is a Fairy Godmother .

Blessed Be, Kristin Worthington

Director of Religious Education

Write Here! Write Now!

Many of us have been vocal in our support and opposition of political stances. We are guided by our faith as well as our political views to speak truth to power. Advocating for what we believe in gives voice to our UU Values.

Write Here! Write Now! is a letter writing initiative of Unitarian Universalists Social Justice. The small group seen below met at Ellen Percy Miller's house to launch this effort at BRUU. We discussed the components of effective advocacy letters. While email advocacy can be useful, there is added value in personal hand-written letters that are focused on one issue, that speak from the heart to describe personal experience, and that include specific action requested. Letters from concurring constituent members of the congregation are another avenue under consideration. They would not be official BRUU sanctioned positions, but letters reflecting opinions held by many members and friends. They would go through Social Justice approval prior to going forward for Board approval. Any such letter would reflect relevant UU principles and clearly state something like this:

"We, the undersigned members of Bull Run Unitarian Universalists of Manassas, VA" in accord with the principles of our faith, believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large, as well as justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We are guided by our faith to believe that ____ "

We're interested in knowing what issues have sparked your activism. Please lend your voice to our political process and contact Ellen Percy Miller or Gretchen Almstead if you're interested.



FALL ADULT RETREAT OCTOBER 27-29, 2017

The Fellowship Committee (BRUU-FC) has been able to reserve 21 rooms at the Cacapon State Park Lodge (PARK). The scenic PARK is located 8 miles from Berkeley Springs, WVA. The BRUU-FC started the lodging quest at the end of March 2017. We recognized that there was high demand for PARK facilities. Quick action was required to obtain an October 2017 date with rooms in the PARK Lodge. So, we acted and have reserved the LAST 21 rooms.

Your BRUU-FC facilitators, the Muirs and Shermans, have been at the PARK and are quite impressed with the facilities, and what the PARK has to offer an Adult Retreat Group. Briefly, the PARK has 6,000 acres of exciting getaways. It provides golfing, lake activities and hiking opportunities. Along with a first class lodge and restaurant, there are lounges, meeting rooms, shelters with cabins, and so forth.

In order to cover costs, the BRUU-FC has come up with a \$250 cost per room for the 3 day retreat. This will cover lodging, a meeting room, a shelter, GROUP BUFFET Saturday evening, with soft drinks to include coffee and tea, and a variety of snacks. Each room accommodates at least two folks.

YOUR JOB;

1. Visit Cacapon State Park WVA online and view the many pictures of the facilities along with applicable narratives. You will discover that the PARK is a little under 2 hours driving time from BRUU in Manassas.
2. Send our Treasurer, Henry Hastings, a \$125 deposit to reserve your place, along with a note stating "Adult Retreat Room Deposit." Please specify Single, Two Singles (with names), or Couple. The room balance of \$125 will be due by August 31, 2017. If you so desire, you can pay the full \$250 up front.
3. We hope to be able to accommodate single folks without a roommate, by finding other BRUU singles for room mating.

We have to operate on a first come, first served basis. So, we have room for 42 BRUU folks, and possibly a few more. We have a mixed group of rooms, which we can allocate when we know who will be coming.

We feel that this will allow us to spend quality time together, and enjoy memorable moments. We believe it to be a very good value. Please join us. We are going to have a GREAT TIME October 27,28 and 29! For folks new to BRUU, the Fall Retreat could be a good way to meet fellow BRUU folks.

We will have at least one follow-up meeting for interested parties to discuss details, TBD.

Some Facts about the Paris Climate Accord Withdrawal

Much of what President Trump said in his speech announcing withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord was inaccurate and misleading.



The facts about the Paris Climate Accord:

- 1) The Agreement imposes no requirements on participating countries. It's non-binding.
- 2) Each country submits its own plan for emissions, and can change its plan at any time.
- 3) There are no penalties if a country fails to meet its plan
- 4) There are no enforcement provisions.
- 5) Any funds a country decides to donate to the Agreement's Green Climate Fund are voluntary. No requirements are imposed by the Agreement.
- 6) China has launched a massive program to build out its solar power generation infrastructure. To date, they have installed more solar generating capacity than the rest of the world combined.
- 7) The Indian government has forecast that it will exceed the renewable energy targets set in Paris last year by nearly half, three years ahead of schedule. India plans to produce nearly 60% of its electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2027.
- 8) The Agreement is not a Treaty; it's an 'Executive Agreement', as defined in US Law, as are most US International agreements, and does not require Senate ratification.
- 9) The US is bound to the Agreement until the day after the 2020 presidential election; Trump cannot pull the US out until then.
- 10) The US is joining Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries in the world that aren't in the Agreement.

Courtesy of Larry Underwood



Many thanks to Christine and John Sunda for hosting the event and sharing these photos. Good food, company, music, conversation and fun in a beautiful lush setting!



Play Volleyball!?!

Mark & Ann Hempen are continuing their summer tradition of holding an intergenerational volleyball game and potluck supper at their B&B home & yard – open to all. Arrive at 9311 Prescott Avenue, in old town Manassas (only a few blocks from BRUU), on Monday evenings, any time after 6:30pm. The Hempen's provide the volleyball, the net, picnic tables, and table settings. Everyone else brings a prepared dish to share (to feed the number in your party/family + 2 servings) and some drinks.

The first game will begin as soon as there are a minimum of 3 players on each side of the net, which is set up in the side yard. The number of games played is only limited by how hungry everyone gets or sunset (petty it is not a lit court...). Volleyball skills are not required, neither is playing for that matter. Just bring a good sense of community & humor with fun folks.

Reservations not necessary, however call 703.216-7803 when the weather is "iffy."

Book Group II Recruitment Ad

Eight mature women seek 2 to 3 men who read books to round out our discussions, at 3:30pm every 3rd Monday of the month. Past titles have included News of the World, Outliers, Being Mortal, I Should Be Happy in Your Company, Girl on the Train, and Fifty Shades of Grey (no actually, not that one). However we are really open to all genders, but the one guy in our group would appreciate some male company. Contact Cherie Romanek (romanek.cheryl3@gmail.com) for our next title and meeting location.

Unity in the Community Upcoming Event Scheduled

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Sunday, September 24, 3-6pm

The next regular open meeting will be **Sunday , July 16th**. The topic will be continuing the Compassionate Life Program. Venue TBD. Contact Frances Barlas (fbarlas@gmail.com) with Social Justice for more details.

July 2017

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|----|--|----|--|
| 2 | Social Justice Committee, 9 A
Fellowship Committee, 11:15 A | 11 | Board Meeting, 6:30 P |
| 5 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P | 12 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| 6 | Transition Team, 6 P | 18 | PFLAG, 7 P |
| 9 | Membership Committee, 11 A
Finance Committee, 11:15 A
BRIC, 11:30 A
Pastoral Care Team, 7 P | 19 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |
| 10 | SASS, 1:30 P | 21 | USDA Food Pantry, 12 P |
| 11 | Food Pantry, 9:30 | 23 | Soup4Service, 11 A |
| | | 25 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Worship Committee, 7:30 P |
| | | 26 | LGBTQ Meeting, 6 P |

July 2017

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
												1	
2		3		4 Independence Day		5		6		7		8	
9		10		11		12		13		14		15	
16		17		18		19		20		21		22	
23		24		25		26		27		28		29	
30		31											

View from My Corner of the World: Gratitude

Another year and another annual meeting is in the rearview mirror; how quickly this church year has flown by. In my State of BRUU remarks, I cited examples to underscore the progress that we've made over the past year, but as is often the case, when seeking to recognize the contributions of some, there are others who don't get mentioned. Not because the contributions are not noteworthy but simply because I forgot. My apologies to those who were overlooked. So that I don't overlook someone else, I urge you to read the 2016-2017 Annual Report <http://www.bruunet.org/page/june-4-2017-congregational-meeting> so you can see for yourself all of the amazing work members of this congregation do.

It has been a humbling privilege to serve president to this congregation for the past two years. I've learned as much about myself as I have about BRUU, human nature, governance, and church polity. I've been lucky to work side by side with smart, passionate, committed people who want BRUU to be its best self even as we individually strive to be our own best selves. I've had frank, sometimes uncomfortable conversations. I've laughed and I've cried. I've been the grateful recipient of your encouraging words and support.

Thank you for all you do for BRUU. Stay safe and continue to take good care.

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

Beth Roemmelt
President, BRUU Board of Directors
24 June 2017

Art Muirhead, elected as incoming President effective July 1st, speaking at BRUU Annual Meeting. *(Photo courtesy of Bev Reusser)*



Submissions to Newsletter (Photos, articles, upcoming events, etc)

- ✓ Send to newsletter@bruu.org
- ✓ Due by 25th of month
- ✓ Articles of 300 words or less
- ✓ No children's last names since newsletter is publicly accessible

- ✓ BRUU announcements only
- ✓ Subject to editorial review