



A recent offering at an ALE Monday. Check out the bulletins inside to sign up for the next one!

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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### The monthly BRUU Newsletter



**March 2: Stewardship Sunday: Forging Our Future** (*BRUU Board*, *BRUU Players*) - Kicking off the annual Canvass! This year we are forging our future. Come for the BRUU Players, enjoy the music, and stay for the Stewardship Stew lunch! All are welcome!

**March 9—Taiko Drumming** (*Mark Rooney*) - What is Taiko Drumming? Join us today with guest speaker Mark Rooney to see and listen to the power of these Japanese Drums. He will share the history of the drums and the interwoven community and spiritual aspects of playing and performing.

March 16—Weaving and Forging with Brigid (*CUUPS of the Crossroads*) - Celebrate the Spring Equinox, explore the interwoven world of spirituality, magick and creativity with Brigid's many faces. A light ritual will be included. All are welcome to attend and participate as they are comfortable with, no previous ritual experience is necessary.

**March 23—Just One More** *(Martha Muirhead)* - Imagine what we could accomplish if we has just one more pledge, one more singer, one more student in RE, one more member, one more family! Together, we are Forging our Future!

**March 30—5th Sunday Social Justice Service** (*Kristin Worthington, DLRE*) - This 5th Sunday Service Sunday will focus on the ways that seemingly small, individual acts add up to a tremendous movement. Learn about and practice ways to have your voice heard!

### From the President's Desk

#### Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

Dear fellow congregants,

Forging Our Future appears to be the perfect expression of our membership's readiness for dynamic stewardship for the year ahead. Until now we have been mostly focused on priorities from the Strategic Plan and the ministerial question: "A Minister: FT, PT or not at all?" Our latest BRUU Blast invites you to an April 6 Congregational Meeting so the membership can vote on recruitment of a minister for BRUU, as well as learn about the possibility of purchasing of a chair lift to make BRUU somewhat more accessible. Please mark your calendar and be sure to stay after that Sunday Service!

I am asking you to consider your role in Stewardship. Members usually make a symbolic pledge upon joining, a promise to provide time, talent, and treasure. Whether you're a Member or Friend, you'll be invited by a BRUU member to talk about your experiences at BRUU and to consider a financial pledge in support of the programs that help us grow and thrive as a beloved community. You will be provided with the Aspirational Budget approved by the Board. If you are a Member, you will get a chance to vote on the final Budget approved by the Board (based on the total pledge amounts received by April 5) at the June Congregational Meeting. If you're a friend, you may feel that you're not ready to join or that you're not a joiner. Yet your presence is noted and enjoyed at BRUU events and activities, and your donations of time, talent and treasure are appreciated. So why not go ahead and join as a member of the BRUU family? It will make a real difference!

It strikes me that perhaps our Aspirational Budget is too modest. It can help us stay the course with what we have now and a little more. However, the visitors showing up lately for Sunday Service and fellowship aren't going to stay if we don't grow the width and depth of our programs and activities. If we want to truly expand and enhance now is the time for us to DREAM BIG.

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### From the President's Desk, Continued

What if we can expand the RE/ALE, Music and Social Justice programs to bring in more visitors, congregants, visitors and community leaders, to actively participate? What if we can add new programs, increase staff hours, and provide better benefits to the wonderful staff we already have (and not just for a minister)? In fact, what if we could give them a much-deserved raise well above the recommended COLA. What if we can support community services and activities that are important to our families and the congregation? Just think what a budget of \$400K or more could do! What if we all give more (the best we can)? With the fulfilled pledges from 100% of the congregation with the best each can give, we can have the best of BRUU for the future.

I'm asking you to forge toward a future vision of BRUU as a vibrant community with great things ahead, to forge a path for the BIG DREAM. Will you join me?

Together for BRUU,

Angie Carrera, President

**BRUU Board of Directors** 



#### The Blanket Exercise—Sunday, March 16th at BRUU

is a learning tool first developed in Canada that leads a group of participants through 500+ years of Indigenous history that highlights our relationship with European explorers, colonial settlers, and the U.S. federal and state governments.

Events tell the story of American history from an Indigenous perspective. Created to bring awareness, understanding, preservation, truth and recognition of Native American culture, traditions, and ceremonies to both indigenous and non-indigenous people.





Sunday, March 16th 1:00–4:00 pm

https://form.jotform.com/Kristin\_Worthington/ale-fellowship-dinner

# RE and ALE, Continued

ALE Monday March 17th Dinner at 6pm—Workshops at 7pm Intro to Zumba! Forging Demonstration! Spring Flower Pots!

### Not sure what to do when you see someone say or do something hateful?

Attend **Active Bystander Training** and learn how to recognize when an uncomfortable or dangerous situation is taking place. Gain simple, effective techniques to respond, depending on the situation. Without making matters worse. Suitable for all levels of physical ability.

Saturday, April 19th 1:00—5:00 pm BRUU Fellowship Hall

Sliding scale fee \$50-\$150.

https://form.jotform.com/242194693833162 Email dre@bruu.org for more info.





Celebrate the Joy and Resilience of trans and non-binary people everywhere by elevating voices and experiences from these communities

Trans Day of Visibility

Saturday, March 29

2:00-4:00 PM



EVENTS AT BRUU,

Hosted with our friends equality Prince William

### March is Stewardship Month at BRUU

Martha Muirhead, Canvass Convener

BRUU's aspirational budget for FY 2025-2026 is \$450,000 with \$351,000 the goal for pledges. That's an 11% increase over last year, but still not back up to our budget of two years ago. BRUU's goal is for 100% of us to donate our Time, Talent and Treasure to live our shared values and all help enable BRUU's work in the world.

BRUU is completely self-sustaining and depends upon all of our pledges to stay open. If most or all of you can maintain or increase your pledge we can pay our wonderful staff and explore looking for at least a part- time minister. Art and I checked the box for a 15% increase since our kids are grown and we have more flexibility in our budget than we used to. Everyone must take an honest look at their income and expenses and look into their own hearts to discern their feelings about our beloved community to determine how much we can pledge while meeting our other responsibilities. We recognize that there are folks among us who are losing their jobs due to the turmoil in Washington. The Canvass can be a way to increase awareness of the need for pastoral care within out community. It's a twoway conversation, and we want to be there for each other.

Susan Sinclair and Dave Feser had the cool idea of giving everyone green ribbons saying Forging our Future (which is the Canvass theme this year) to put on your nametags after your visit with a Canvasser. They're just like the "I'm Going Green" ribbons and Larry didn't mind us copying their idea.

By the time you read this we hope you have received a BRUU Blast with a digital copy of the Canvass Package during the last week of February.

The team wants to canvass everybody this year and all have lists of people to canvass. Please answer their emails and calls so you can set up in-person meetings as soon as possible. We have our work cut out for us. If you don't want to participate in that process this year, please send in your pledge as soon as possible so we can get you your green ribbons and meet our pledge goals early in the month.

I hope you'll all pause to think about how much you care for BRUU and

### Stewardship Month, Continued

Martha Muirhead, Canvass Convener

discern how much you have available to pledge this year. For those of us in our 70s and beyond, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRA's--if you're lucky enough to have them--are like unexpected gifts to our budgets. As a wise woman told me, it's not just about how much you have, but also how much you love BRUU. We're all human and we might not agree with every single thing that happens at BRUU, but all in all our lives are better, and our gifts are leveraged, when we help BRUU thrive as an outpost and beacon of liberal values in Prince William and beyond.

#### Be a part of Forging Our Future at BRUU

Stewardship Sunday is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for March the 2nd. Don't miss the BRUU Players and the Choir in the sanctuary as they kick-off the annual canvass during the morning Worship Service. Then join the congregation down in the Fellowship Hall for a Stewardship Stew complete with bread and desserts! Jessie Thompson is making 4 types of stew and you know it'll be good.

Get the Canvass off to a great start. Together we're Forging Our Future at BRUU!! They'll even be prizes.

The Canvass goes from March 2nd through March 31st. We'd like to canvass as many folks as possible this year, so bring your calendars and set up a time when you can meet with your canvasser to talk about what BRUU means to you and your hopes and dreams for its future.

Volunteer sign-up for desserts and kitchen help for the Stewardship Stew following the Worship Service on 3/2/25:

https://tinyurl.com/BRUU-Stewardship-Stew





### the heart of BRUU

MARCH 23 Sunday

fellowship hall following service

Please join us during coffee hour where the committees can inform you of the ways to deepen your connection to your chosen community. If you are a committee chair, RSVP by text to Nina Lomax or <u>volunteer@bruu.org</u> to reserve your table by 3/16. Prizes for the most creative tables!





#### Body scan - stress reaction in the body

Buddhism has a profound connection to the practice of the body scan, which is rooted in mindfulness meditation. The body scan is a meditative technique that involves systematically focusing attention on different parts of the body, observing physical sensations with curiosity and non-judgment.



This practice aligns with the Buddhist teachings of cultivating awareness and insight into the present moment. It serves as a practical tool for bridging the gap between the mind and body, encouraging self-awareness and spiritual growth. We will explore how we can take this important practice into everyday life.

The class & meditations led by Ann will start at 7:00 PM and will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive several minutes before the start time of 7:00 PM. If you have not attended a prior BRUU Sangha gathering, please send an email to <u>Sangha@BRUU.ORG</u> to express your interest in attending and to get necessary information for access to the building.

A dana basket will be there for generosity to the Sangha. Online generosity can be expressed at Zell using <u>bookkeeper@bruu.org</u> or Paypal using the following link <u>https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BullRunUU</u>. In the memo lines note BRUU Sangha.

If you want additional information, send an email to <u>Sangha@BRUU.ORG</u>.

BRUU Sangha, Randy Earl

# **UUA General Assembly**



### UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

It's time now to register for UUA General Assembly, where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the association through democratic process.

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

This year we gather in Baltimore – right in our backyard! On off time, explore Charm City's nearly 300-year-history is dotted with significant achievements, from architectural marvels to social justice reform. In 1955—five years before the Greensboro, NC sit-ins—Morgan State students staged the country's first successful lunch-counter sit-in when they refused to leave a Read's Drugstore. Today's Baltimore is a vibrant community where you can immerse yourself in the arts at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the American Visionary Art Museum or the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Spend a day of learning at the National Aquarium or Maryland Science Center, or exploring neighborhoods and cultural sites.

#### Programming

GA will offer dozens of outstanding programming selections (featured speakers, workshops, panel discussions, worship services, and other presentations) over the course of five days. Programs will provide attendees with concrete and usable tools to

## UUA General Assembly, continued

further the work, and the balance needed to explore multiple identity-based and theological perspectives.

#### Worship

Like Unitarian Universalism, GA offers a wealth of theological diversity. A variety of worship choices are offered throughout GA. The Service of the Living Tradition is where we commemorate fellowshipped and credentialed religious leaders, those who have died, those who have completed active service, and welcome those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. Sunday Morning Worship at GA is a powerful, communal worship experience and is the largest annual gathering of UUs in Worship.

#### Youth

Attending the annual General Assembly as a high school aged youth (grades 9-12 in the preceding school year, or the equivalent for home-schooled youth) is an incredible experience. Not only do you get to worship, witness, learn and connect in a multigenerational continental community, you can get to know hundreds of other youth and participate in making an impact on the Association through the democratic process.

#### Delegates

The General Assembly is the annual business meeting of the denomination. General Assemblies make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the association and direct and control its affairs. Voting at business meetings is done by accredited delegates from certified member congregations. **Your participation is important to represent the perspectives of BRUU**. Speak to Kristin (<u>dre@bruu.org</u>) if you would like to become a delegate.

Please see <u>https://www.uua.org/ga</u> for schedule, housing information and more!

### **VOICE Amplifies BRUU's Impact**

BRUU has joined with 45 other congregations and groups in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince William County to magnify the impact of our social justice advocacy. Through Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), we share an "organized people, organized money" approach.

VOICE started in 2008. Focused efforts back then got New York financial institutions to contribute \$300,000,000 to mitigate the mortgage crisis. More recently, VOICE was key to getting Prince William County to invest \$5,000,000 annually in the Housing Trust Fund. You can read more in the 2024 Impact Report – <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/17viSGpmeidlXX50VU3yNN6ij9OoUVkF-/view?emci=bbodbd40-f3f2-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=2cf3125f-90f3-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=17363338</u>

Eight BRUU members attended the VOICE Annual Meeting on February 23. The widely-different faith communities adopted two shared priorities for 2025: affordable housing and mental health. We are building on success.

One recent "yay!" was getting the funding to construct Virginia's first Crisis Receiving Center in Woodbridge. CRC's are alternative care centers that offer mental health services; police officers no longer have to take someone to jail or an overcrowded emergency room. Governor Youngkin supported the initiative after attending a high-energy VOICE action meeting – getting 1,000 people in a room demonstrated the community commitment successfully.

The Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) is scheduled to open in August. To ensure awareness, BRUU is co-sponsoring with the Manassas Church of the Brethren an awareness/outreach session on March 22. Event will be held at 10047 Nokesville Road in Manassas, 9:30-11:00am.

Know anyone who works in the schools, in health care, emergency services, or other fields where the CRC is going to be a new solution to an old problem? Encourage them to register now –

https://secure.everyaction.com/ <u>3</u> v4LO3vES1vnJOChQpYg2

# VOICE, Continued

# VOICE CRISIS RECEIVING CENTER INFORMATION SESSION

Join The Manassas-area community & VOICE for an information session on the soon-to-be-created Prince William County behavioral health Crisis Receiving Center.



### Join Us!



Saturday March. 22nd 9:30am -11:00am





Manassas Church of the Brethren, 10047 Nokesville Rd, Manassas, VA 20110



RSVP

# In Search Of: Crossroads Writers

Got something to say, but don't want to offer a Sunday Service or Adult Life Enrichment (ALE) class? Consider writing an article for the monthly newsletter that you are now reading, so Crossroads becomes richer in content each month.



Articles can be informative ("what's happening at the Food Pantry?"), thoughtprovoking ("how to view the immigration issue, based on UU values"), or entertaining ("what I discovered on the last Second Sunday hike").

Did a Sunday Service or ALE class stimulate your thoughts or feelings? Compose a few paragraphs for Crossroads and share your perspective.

Pictures are encouraged; they are worth 1,000 words. If you don't have a full article to write, how about sharing a picture and a paragraph?

For assistance and more details: <a href="mailto:communications@bruu.org">communications@bruu.org</a>

#### Got an Extra Space for Your Auction Event?

Life happens. Occasionally someone who bought a seat at the BRUU Auction for a dinner or other event can't make it.

Consider inviting one of the newer members of BRUU to fill the slot, especially if they did not have a chance to engage in the auction. We build community by fun and food, as well as by getting together on Sunday mornings.



# **BRUU's Legacy in Pictures**

What's worth 1,000 words? You know the answer – pictures.

The Communications Team is collecting BRUU photos and putting them into an image library on Flickr at <u>https://www.flickr.com/photos/bullrunuu/</u> The hunt is on now for pictures of BRUU in the "good ol' days" dating back to 1981 – and pictures of whatever happened today.

We'll use the pictures for social media, weekly RoundUp, monthly Crossroads, BRUU news releases, celebrations, etc.



Pictures show our heritage. The BRUU building is nearing its 100th birthday. What's happened since 1999, and what's happening today, also could be part of BRUU's upcoming 50th anniversary...



### "Creating Digital Paintings" Demo at BRUU -RESCHEDULED to March 3rd



Spend an evening with BRUU Member Peter Smolens as he discusses digital art based on his book "Creating Digital Paintings," at BRUU on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2025, at 7 PM. Like the book, the visual demo shows how to create digital paintings using your computer, a graphics tablet, and Adobe Photoshop.

"I'm finally fulfilling an auction item back from 2019." (Thanks, Covid.)

The "Creating Digital Paintings" Book Demo will be held in the Fellowship Hall, and there will be refreshments.



#### **Never-Ending Yard Sale....HAS ARRIVED!!**

The Never-Ending Yard Sale is Open for Business and conducted 100% online Updates for the Never-Ending Yard Sale aree posted in Crossroads, Round Up & Facebook.

- Use Auctria to replicate the function of Facebook Market Place
- Donors submit yard sale items, using a form (similar to Auction donation)
- Auctria auto-generates Yard Sale Catalog (100% Online)
- · Items remain with donor, buyers coordinate pick up w/donor
- Set Up & Tear Down Fellowship Hall is not involved
- Accounts are settled via Auctria...all proceeds routed to BRUU

Check the website frequently to see what is available! <u>https://auctria.events/BRUUOnlineYardSale</u>



#### Second Sunday Hike: Flat Branch on March 9, 1-3 pm

On March 9, 1:00-3:00pm we will gather at Ben Lomond Regional / Splashdown Park and walk down to Lomond Drive and back. That hike will be about 2 & 1/4 miles. For some added interest and distance, we will then walk up to Bull Run and look at the confluence with Flat Branch. That's a potential boat launch site, and has been used as a ford for vehicles when the water level is low.

This trail is along the route of the now-cancelled Route 28 Bypass. Please register at <u>https://tinyurl.com/e27h4m8s</u> to get details, including the location of the starting point. Registration will allow us to notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions.



### BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays

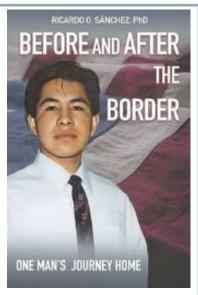


- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two! 10am-11:30am every Wednesday on Zoom. Feel free to drop in at any time. Contact Gordon Ward for links at <u>wardge@icloud.com</u>.

#### Join the BRUU Book Group!

Our next book club meeting will be on Monday, March 17th at 3:30. We will be discussing "Before and After the Border: One Man's Journey Home" by Ricardo Sanchez.

New members welcome, including people who are not members of BRUU. To get the Zoom invitation, contact us at <u>bookgroup@bruu.org</u>.



#### **Pastoral Care**



One of our strengths as a congregation is how we care for one another.

Please reach out to us at pastoralcare@bruu.org and let us know if there is a need within our community, so that we may coordinate with caring volunteers within BRUU.



SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025 7:30 PM

# JILLIAN MATUNDAN

A UNIQUE SINGER-SONGWRITER AND MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST WHO CONTINUES TO WIN OVER AUDIENCES WITH HER WARM, RESONANT VOCALS. HER SONGS TELL STORIES THAT ARE RELATABLE, WHILE HER UNIQUE GUITAR-STYLE, AND INVITING STAGE PRESENCE DRAWS HER AUDIENCE INTO EVERY PERFORMANCE.

BULL RUN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS 3950 MAIN STREET, MANASSAS VA 20110



CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS

### Chrysalis Concert Series

#### FRICTION FARM - 10/12/2024

Friction Farm combines storytelling, social commentary, and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and guirky observations.



#### NOTHIN' FANCY - 12/7/2024

After 30 years together, Nothin' Fancy continues to grow in popularity performing at festivals all across the United States, Canada, and Norway.





#### LARA HERSCOVITCH - 2/1/2025

Lara's songs are soulful, poetic treasure maps that point to the wisdom, grit and joy of underdogs & misfits, connection & courage, love & loss, hardship & hope, resilience & transformation.

#### JILLIAN MATUNDAN - 3/15/2025

Jillian Matundan is a unique singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who continues to win over audiences with her warm, resonant vocals. Her songs tell stories that are relatable, while her unique guitar-style, and inviting stage presence draws her audience into every performance





#### KRAY VAN KIRK - 4/26/2025

A fine finger-style guitarist with a precise baritone, Kray Van Kirk has a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska, but he set science aside to write songs, tell stories and summon heroes.

#### KIYA HEARTWOOD - 6/28/2025

Kiya Heartwood is a modern-day American troubadour. She scours the nooks and crannies of history to find interesting tales of romance, injustice, danger and death. It's a simple show but it packs a powerful punch.





#### SAM ROBBINS - 10/17/2025

Often described as an "old soul singer songwriter," Sam is a Boston-based musician whose music evokes classic 70's singer songwriters like James Taylor and Neil Young, adding a modern, upbeat edge to the storyteller troubadour persona.



BULL RUN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS 9350 MAIN ST. MANASSAS, VA 20110

### **See Something? Report It!**



Notice anything in or around the BRUU building that needs maintenance or repair? Please report it by using this link:

www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form

This will provide a quick opportunity for you to contact the Building & Grounds folks and alert them to the situation that needs attention.





To better serve the BRUU community, late submissions for BRUU publications **will not be accepted,** except in extreme circumstances. Please note the following deadlines for BRUU publications:

Round-Up: 11:59pm on Tuesday night

**Crossroads:** 11:59pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month

**Order of Service items (incl. announcements on the back):** 11:59pm on Wednesday night

Items received after these deadlines **will not be included**, except in extreme circumstances.

Please contact <u>office@bruu.org</u> or <u>president@bruu.org</u> with any concerns. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

### From the Treasurer's Office

Links for donating to BRUU



BRUU can receive online charitable donations via Zelle, Stripe or Paypal. You can use these services for your pledge payment (supporting our operational expenses), food pantry or community assistance donations, capital fund contributions, Sunday and split-the-plate, or any of our special collections and fundraisers. When donating online, you may use the comments section to specify your designation.

If you have questions or concerns just send us a note. Thanks!

Terrie McClure, Treasurer, <u>treasurer@bruu.org</u> Robin Fegeas et al, Bookkeepers, <u>bookkeeper@bruu.org</u>

#### BRUU

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#### **BRUU Board of Directors**

**President** Angie Carrera-Earl (2023-25) president@bruu.org

*Vice President* Josh Rachford (2024-26) vicepresident@bruu.org

Sandra Fox (2024-26) secretary@bruu.org

**Treasurer** Terrie McClure treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large Allan Curlee (2024-26) Michelle Fegeas-Foster (2024-26) John Sunda (2023-25) director@bruu.org

> Youth Director Sashka Visnevski (2025) director@bruu.org

**Program Council** Art Muirhead (2023-25) programcouncil@bruu.org

#### BRUU STAFF

Director of Lifespan Religious Education Kristin Worthington dre@bruu.org

Director of Music David Maley music@bruu.org

**Office Administrator** Taylor Johnson office@bruu.org

> Sexton George Monroe sexton@bruu.org

#### **BRUU OFFICE HOURS**

M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm