



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

May 2024
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Crossroads



Photo courtesy of Tom Miller

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter

May 12: Bridging Service

May 12, 2024: Bridging Service

(Kristin Worthington)

“A public celebration is a rope bridge of knotted symbols strung across an abyss. We make our crossings hoping the chasm will echo our festive sounds for a moment, and the bridge begins to sway to the rhythms of our dance.”

– Roland Grimes

This annual service celebrates the graduating Senior Youth. Not only do we recognize their growth and accomplishments, we as a congregation confirm our continued support of these amazing young people as they journey forward, and possibly back.

The 2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate is for Moms Demand Action.





Minister's Column

Shared Ministry

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann

The “UU World” is the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA); BRUU is a member congregation of the UUA. Every person who is a member of a UU congregation receives the “UU World” as a benefit of membership. Recently, BRUU members should have received the Spring/Summer 2024 edition of the magazine.* This edition focuses on the topic of shared ministry. Therein, you will read about two dozen stories about a wide array of shared ministries.

Kristen Cox Roby, the new executive editor of the magazine, lifts up an understanding regarding religious professional collaboration that “In shared ministry, we work together to bring out the best in one another.” She continues that while this central message remains true, ...the concept of shared ministry has blossomed. Shared ministry is about the partnerships and collaborations we form as we hold each other in mutual care and respect, live our core values, and continue our interconnected work even in the most challenging and uncertain times. It unfolds in congregations and in the public square. It nurtures our spiritual community.

Roby also writes that shared ministry “reflects how shared work is also the foundation for cultural change.”

Shared ministry takes many forms. Within our BRUU congregation, each of us in one way or another is participating in shared ministry. What are the ways that we at BRUU enact shared ministry? How do you, individually or as a family,

Minister's Column, Continued

participate in shared ministry? What are the shared ministries that BRUU offers to the larger community of which we are a part? How do we and will we sustain these shared ministries during the 2024-25 fiscal year and the years beyond that?

Blessings for our shared ministries,

Rev. Charlotte

* If you are a BRUU member and are not receiving the UU World, please let the BRUU Office Administrator, Taylor Johnson, know and she will make sure that your contact information is up-to-date and in the myUUA.org system. If you'd rather not receive the magazine, that can also be arranged through the BRUU Office contacting myUUA.org, or you can do that yourself.

From the President's Desk

Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

Over the past few months, I've been very interested in ways in which to improve my own work as President and pave the way for future presidents to access more effective tools and process in this role. These ways include: participating in UU Presidents ZOOM meetings offered by UUA to learn from others who serve in this role and signing onto Nonprofit Leadership Lab, to learn processes and tools for better communications and efficiency. I also have great conversations with BRUU leaders at all levels that lead to things related to working with volunteers and some staff on the following:

- Developing Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) for critical operations currently not known or written down anywhere so they can be filed in KnowledgeBase.
- Establishing "Seconds" to secure that more than one person knows how to performing key operations (such as issuing door codes, key management, etc.), so this work can be performed if the primary person is unavailable.
- Updating historical information on large on-going projects (like BRUU's Pantry) for KnowledgeBase.
- Drafting a sample Dashboard to empower the Board to have access to current and readily available data to use as make more effective decisions.
- Exploring the inclusion of an experienced facilitator for the Board Retreat already scheduled for July 13 to prepare new and remaining board members for an innovative and inspiring retreat.

By April 23rd, our Treasurer reported income from 121 pledges as \$302,421.08. There remain four autopay pledges most likely to be withdrawn due to personal circumstances (-\$2,830). At the April 18 board meeting we discussed the impact of this budget shortfall and determined to meet by email to consider other options for a revised budget. (See Board Matters.) The congregation will be notified prior to the Town Hall being arranged for May 12 after Sunday Service (see announcements BRUU BLAST or ROUNDUP) so you can be prepared to vote at the Congregational Meeting on June 2nd.

Annual Congregational Meeting June 2nd is almost around the corner.

From the President's Desk, Continued

Besides encouraging you to attend and vote, I also invite you to consider serving on the Board or a Committee/Team this coming fiscal year. Nominations Committee is seeking members to apply for volunteer positions as Vice President, Secretary, and two at-large seats. Each of you have skills sets and interests that can help us keep BRUU a safe community of seeking and service. We can give you tools to help you navigate our organizational structure and will work with you in covenant and democratic process. I am happy to serve as President with the Board, whose own skills set contribute greatly to the betterment of our work for BRUU.

The Ministerial Assessment Team (MATeam) has met with the Minister once to review this year's Ministerial Assessment, which includes input by congregants who have had key interactions with the Minister. The President, a representative of the MATeam and a members of the Board will be meeting with the Minister soon to discuss the Summary Report made available to the Minister and Board (minus the Youth Rep) prior to the April Board meeting. Personnel matters are sensitive and largely confidential, but we will do our best to keep you informed. We appreciate the time and attention given by the Minister and congregants for their participation in this assessment.

Please read BOARD MATTERS, too!

Finally, I want to thank our awesome office administrator Taylor Johnson, who helped me so many times on Roundup and BRUU Blast articles this past month. Kudos also go to our wonderful volunteer-members, Treasurer Terrie McClure and Finance Chair Dave Hamilton who worked tirelessly to keep me updated on the pledges and pre-payments (from RMDs like mine) updated for the goal total.

I also want to thank my fellow board members for their commitment to performing their duties with vigor, despite several large and small challenges this past month.

As always, you are encouraged to text or email me any questions at President@BRUU.org and I will respond as soon as possible.

Together for BRUU,

Angie Carrera, BRUU Board President

Board Matters

This rescheduled meeting was held on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the BRUU Conference Room and is available on Zoom, except for a Closed or Executive Session. The Host said the meeting was not recorded.

On March 28, the Board approved the Consent Agenda (with an addition item related to the Ministerial Assessment) and reports from the President, Program Council Chair, Treasurer, Minister, and Membership Chair. The general meeting held discussion on these agenda items.

- GA Delegates and financial support for attendees: No new people to fill vacancies. One or two people are staying but need more for total of six positions. No action taken.
- Program Council Notes and Committee Reports: Chair reports that calendar issues are being resolved so that we don't have overlap or unhappy schedulers. Committee Chairs are reminded to please submit your committee's year-end report for the congregation. (See Program Council Minutes in KnowledgeBase.)
- Awards - President's and Unsung Hero for 21st: It's a surprise! Be at the Congregational meeting to help us honor these folks!!
- Annual Congregational Meeting: Discussion on logistics for the June 2nd meeting. Planning entails elections of Vice President, Secretary, and two At-Large seats. The Nominations Committee has begun work seeking members for participation as board members, as well as committee members and chairs for the coming fiscal year, beginning July 1. NOTE: A Town Hall is being planned to discuss the final budget (to be determined soon!) and answer questions that people have.
- Board Retreat Planning: See From the President's Desk article.

Board Matters, Continued

- FY24 Income Goals and Budget considerations: At the time of this meeting, we were significantly under our income goal of \$375K. We considered a few possibilities on cutbacks, but none were decided on. We agreed to wait for final numbers from late and autopay pledges. We will keep you informed..
- Executive Session - Ministerial Assessment: the Board discussed the Ministerial Assessment Team's Summary Report and will be meeting with the Minister soon. We will update the Congregation as appropriate for personnel matters.

After approval by the Board, the full minutes of each meeting are available in the BRUUnet KnowledgeBase. Anyone interested in further information about the meeting may contact the President at President@BRUU.org.



Memorial Service for Marybeth Heatherly— Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 PM

Pastoral Care Committee

A memorial service for Marybeth Heatherly will be held on Saturday May 11 in the BRUU Sanctuary followed by a Reception in our Fellowship Hall. Marybeth was a beloved member of BRUU and an active volunteer in support of our congregation. Please join us in honoring Marybeth's memory and supporting DeeJay.



Volunteers are needed to help with providing food and beverages. Your donated items may be dropped off at BRUU beginning at noon on May 11.

Finger Foods – small sandwiches & roll ups, savories, nuts, cheese & crackers, breads & dips, vegetables, fruits, desserts, beverages (soft drinks, juices), etc. Please label vegan and vegetarian dishes. Also, put your name on your special dish (on the bottom) for easy return.

Cleanup assistance would be greatly appreciated in the kitchen & Fellowship Hall following the reception. Please contact pastoralcare@bruu.org if you are able to help.

Chrysalis Concert Series: Dave Nachmanoff

The Chrysalis Concert Series

Music Transforming Community

*Sponsored by the Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Congregation
At the Corner of Church and Main, Manassas, VA*

As part of the Chrysalis Concert Series, we introduce to you Dave Nachmanoff, a touring musician who has performed for numerous UU congregations and at SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute), performing at BRUU on May 10th. Here's a little bit of information about Dave from his website:



When you hear about the music of a guitar virtuoso with a doctorate in philosophy, who cut his musical teeth performing and collaborating with singer-songwriter Al Stewart (“Year of the Cat”), you know you will be getting something different. In a career that has spanned a dozen albums and thousands of shows ranging from living room concerts to the Royal Albert Hall, Dave Nachmanoff has built a loyal fan base and a unique niche as a performer and songwriter.

Over the years, he has shared the stage with a long list of legends of the folk and rock music worlds, including the likes of Alison Krauss, Steve Forbert,

Dave Nachmanoff, continued

Firefall, John Wesley Harding, and blues legend Libba “Freight Train” Cotten (when he was ten years old). Dave continues to record and tour, playing well over a hundred shows a year in listening rooms, private house concerts, and at other events. He is focusing on using his music to make a difference in the world and benefit concerts are an important part of that. He is currently touring the U.S. in support of “Cerulean Sky” which he recorded with Grammy-nominated producer-engineer Bill Smith, who has worked with Frank Sinatra, Paul Simon, and Yes, among others.

When not on tour, Dave Nachmanoff is busy producing for other artists, teaching master classes around the US and working in his unique niche of writing and recording custom songs.

For ticket information go to this link:

[Ticket Information](#)



Introducing a New BRUU Award: You're Amazing—and that's no bull!

Sandra Fox

The first presentation of the You're Amazing award was made on Sunday, April 21, 2024 by Sandra Fox to Margaret McCalla. Instead of an award that is only made once a year, this award will be presented by one recipient to the next recipient every one to two weeks. Who can win the award? Any one of the amazing folks here at BRUU. Should you receive the award, your responsibilities as a winner and the Guidelines on how to pass it on are printed below. Please note that you must display the award at home or in your workplace; you may not drive around with it in the trunk of your car!



Please join in congratulating Margaret as our first recipient.

Guidelines:

- The recipient must display the trophy and sign for at least one week. (At home it will be a reminder to the recipient and other family members or friends you are amazing. If taken to the workplace it may cause fellow workers, who have not previously seen your awesomeness, to reassess their opinion of you.)
- The trophy must be passed to another person associated with BRUU after no less than one week and no more than two weeks.
- You may not give the award to the person who has given it to you.
- It is preferable that the award goes to someone who has not yet received it. Folks on Zoom are definitely eligible.

You're Amazing! Award, continued

- The presentation must be made publicly with other BRUUsers in attendance (Coffee Hour, a meeting, a rehearsal, an auction event, during Joys and Sorrows, etc.) using the words, “You’re amazing, and that’s no bull!” No other explanation is required, and it is preferable that none be given. The trophy speaks for itself.
- The person who gives the award will notify communications@bruu.org of the new recipient’s name, preferably with a photo, so that they will appear in the Round-Up.
- The award will not die if you break the trophy. Sandra will replace it with something equally....memorable.



Are You Green-ier Than the Green Team?

Charlie Grymes

Carbon Footprint Calculator

Our Green Team project in May is to invite all BRUUsers to calculate their per capita average of CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide equivalent) emissions, using the TerraPass calculator, <https://terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

Numbers are key to managing greenhouse gas emissions. As taught in both Advocacy 101 and Business 101 training, what gets measured is what gets managed. So... use the calculator and determine your numbers according to TerraPass. You might be able to beat the average of Green Team members.

NOTE: your numbers can be ballpark estimates. Go ahead, just guesstimate. No teach will whack your knuckles with a ruler if the numbers are not perfect. (But watch out for Larry Underwood's cane...)

Send your numbers to GreenTeam@bruu.org Hey, you might win a prize... Got questions? Befuddled by calculator? Contact Charlie Grymes at cgrymes@gmail.com



I'm Going Green! Challenge—Let's Finish Strong

Larry Underwood

The I'm Going Green Challenge is a success. As of last Sunday, 62 BRUUsers have qualified for a challenger award by taking actions to make the planet more sustainable. Individually and together, we are making a difference. Here are some of the things that your fellow BRUUsers have done to qualify:

- Started to recycle.
- Started to compost wastes
- Bought an electric or hybrid vehicle.
- Planted trees and/or native plants.
- Bought energy efficient appliances.
- Bought a new heat pump.
- Picked up trash along of roadway or trail.
- Built and distributed “seed bombs“.
- Began using reusable bags for shopping.
- Bought fair trade, shade grown coffee, tea, or chocolate.
- Purchased carbon offsets.
- Gone vegetarian
- Changed all lightbulbs to LED's.
- Joined an environmental group.
- Built and put out a “bee hotel”.

Are you still looking for a project? Officially the Challenge will end in just a little over a month at our Annual Meeting on June 2. Still, there is more to do. Several members have mentioned their intention to participate.

So, procrastinators, with just a little more than a month to go let's finish the I'm Going Green Challenge! strong. The time has come to turn good intentions into meaningful action. If you've done anything lately that you feel makes the planet more sustainable drop by the Green Table during coffee hour and receive your award. Even more important than the award is the knowledge that you will have done something to make the planet more sustainable.

LET'S GO GREEN!

Events At & Around BRUU

2024 Water Academy – You're Invited

What's coming out of the tap beside H₂O? What are the levels of chemicals like PFAS? Salt? Bacteria? Why do we drink Potomac River water in western Prince William County, but Occoquan River water in the eastern end? And what happens after we flush? Have you ever toured the wastewater treatment plant next to Neabsco Boardwalk?



Get greener – there's a free opportunity to get savvy about our local water. The Service Authority (the utility that supplies drinking water to most of Prince William County and manages the sewers) offers the annual Water Academy this June.

There are three sessions – June 11, 18 and 25. Dinner is provided, starting at 4:30pm. Presentations, tours, and activities take place from 5:00pm to approximately 7:30pm. More details at https://www.pwcsa.org/water_academy

NOTE: must register by May 17.

Make Manassas Better – Join a City Committee

The Manassas City appointments committee is advertising 3 committee vacancies: Economic Development, Utility Commission, and Historic Resources Board. If you are a City resident, and have a talent, expertise or interest in applying for one of these vacancies, you can apply at https://www.manassasva.gov/connect/city_clerk/apply_for_a_board.php More information about these committees is listed at this same link .



2024

SUMMER AT THE HARRIS PAVILION



www.manassasva.gov/harris pavilion

ACOUSTIC TUESDAY CONCERTS

@ 7 PM

- May 7 – Shane Gamble Duo
- May 14 – Jason Teach
- May 21 – Grayson Moon
- May 28 – Patty Reese
- June 4 – Chris Compton
- June 11 – Chesapeake Sons
- June 18 – Jason Masi
- June 25 – Shane Gamble
- July 2 – Joe Downer
- July 9 – Timmie Metz Duo
- July 16 – Travis Tucker
- July 23 – Scott Kurt
- July 30 – Shane Gamble
- August 6 – Garrett Mabe Duo
- August 13 – Kimberly Burke
- August 20 – Mackenzie Ryan Duo
- August 27 – Rook Richards
- September 3 – Shane Gamble

FRESH MUSIC FRIDAYS

@ 7 PM

- June 21 – The Still Runners
- June 28 – The Twangtown Paramours
- July 12 – Jon Mitchem
- July 19 – Bad Press Band
- July 26 – Speakeasy
- August 9 – Nitehawks
- August 23 – Blue Bottleneck Band



Current as of February 1

Scan the QR code for the most up to date schedule!

Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

@ 7 PM

- June 8 – Earls of Kent
- June 22 – Beatlegacy
- August 3 – Special Occasions
- August 10 – Mike Parker
- September 14 – Silver Tones Swing Band

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Brought to you by ARTfactory

@ 6:30 PM

- July 13 – TBA
- July 20 – TBA
- August 17 – TBA
- August 24 – TBA



SUNDAY FUNDAY CONCERTS

@ 3 PM

- June 23 – Community Band Festival
- July 7 – Navy Band Country Currents
- July 14 – Carleigh Jane
- July 21 – Kings Park Concert Band
- July 28 – Navy Band Commodores
- August 4 – Prince William Community Band
- August 18 – Manassas Balalaika Society
- August 25 – Manassas Symphony Orchestra

OTHER FUN EVENTS

- June 14 (Friday) – Fools! Improv Comedy 7 pm
- June 26 (Wednesday) – Reptile Show 1 pm
- July 10 (Wednesday) – 257th Army Band 7 pm

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION

703-368-1873

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI)



The 2024 SUUSI Catalog is now live on the SUUSI website at

<https://www.suusi.org/>

Check out this year's amazing offerings as SUUSI returns to Radford University on July 21-27. SUUSI is "church camp" for families, UU-style. Lot of music, outdoor activities, conversations, and opportunities for personal growth as well as fun.

Join about 500 other UU's for a incredibly rewarding week of making new friends, building connections, learning, discovering new perspective at various workshops and worship services, and exploring the outdoors in a wide variety of nature trips.

The Youth program is powerful. SUUSI is a memorable intergenerational fun time together. It's that rare family time that families remember forever, with joy.

Oh, and the music! SUUSI is 24-7 with acoustic roots music and song. There are experienced touring artists, emerging wannabes, and lots of "I play for fun, You're a pro, I'm not – let's play together anyway" musicians.

You want to party with barbecue at 2:00am? Want to play games and do puzzles quietly over coffee? Hey, come to SUUSI. We celebrate diversity.

BRUU alumni include the Muirs, Mike Freeland, Cathy Ring, and many others. Ask 'em why SUUSI is such a special place...

CER Summer Institute (CERSI)



Have you thought about attending CERSI (Central East Region Summer Institute) July 7-13? Registration is open!

The 2024 theme speaker is Rev. Julian Soto, a UU minister and activist, presenting "Unlikely Superheroes: Skills for Practicing Faith and Ethics in Tough Times." Rev. Soto brings a remarkably loving presence and a depth of spiritual leadership. Prior to being a minister, they were also a teacher and a lawyer. Each of these has been a way for them to engage with people, with transformation, and with the goal of making the world a better place. UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Community will once again be joining CERSI at PennWest for the annual gathering.

Join us for a time of community, fellowship, networking, fun, music and so much more. There is programming for children, youth, young adults and adults - you will need to choose what you want to do (or not) each day! Learn more about this year's adult morning seminars and afternoon workshops at the CERSI website. You can still apply for a job at CERSI to underwrite part of the cost of attending and be part of the team that makes the magic happen. Scholarship applications are open with a deadline of May 31. Do note that registration rates go up June 1, so you want to register soon! Register here: <https://www.cersiUU.org/register/>

This once-a-year gathering of like-minded individuals can be life changing. CERSI has been described as an all-inclusive vacation for the family where children can grow, and everyone can be nurtured. Please join us.

Fair Trade Organic Coffee, Tea and Chocolate



The Social Justice Green Team sells Equal Exchange (fair trade & organic) products during the coffee hour after the church service. Proceeds from our sales will benefit not only the small farm coops and families around the world, but also help negate BRUU's carbon footprint impact through the TerraPass program.

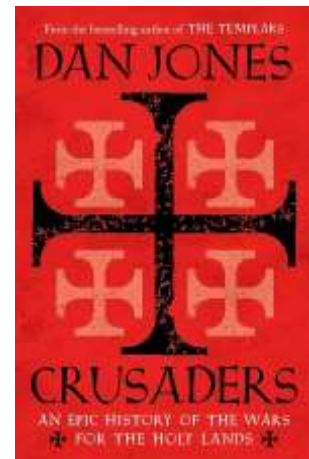
Look for the rolling cabinet and the smiling team member who will be delighted to help you with your selection. For information on volunteering or to place a special order let Susie Eastridge know via her email: susanneastridge@gmail.com

Join the BRUU Book Group!

Our next book club meeting will be on June 24th at 3:30. (No meeting in May.) We will be discussing "Crusaders" by Dan Jones.

New members welcome, including people who are not members of BRUU.

To get the Zoom invitation, contact us at bookgroup@bruu.org.



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.

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](http://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.

It takes a village (aka congregation)!



BRUU

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Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann
minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

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BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm