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2019



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

Learning and Seeking

In last month's column, I reveled in the growing, nurturing, and flowering happening all around us this spring. It seems that this naturally leads into my thoughts for this month's column.

We recently celebrated the bridging of our two senior youth, closing the service with words from Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom that the purpose of this congregation is to help its people grow. You've said as much in the BRUU mission statement: *We are a safe community for seeking and service.*

One of the characteristics that set Unitarian Universalists apart from other faith traditions is our questing. Our questioning has become sort of a stereotype, a caricature, even a joke: "To have a few doubts is normal. To have many doubts is a crisis of faith. To have constant doubts is to be a Unitarian Universalist." Or "Unitarian Universalism – Where all your answers are questioned." Affirmation of our need as individuals and as a faith community to freely and responsibly search for truth and meaning is deeply rooted in the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism. That is why it is enshrined in the fourth of our seven principles, which together are a covenant of our living tradition.

The principle immediately preceding this one recognizes the value of spiritual growth and that this is something we do together in conjunction with accepting each other as unique individuals with and from whom we can learn. Some children's versions of the Seven Principles tie these two together saying: We are always growing and learning.

Continued on page 2

Indeed, you may have heard me say that life-span faith formation (aka religious education) is everything that we do in our congregational life as Unitarian Universalists. Religious education is not separate from worship and social justice and pastoral care... and participating as members and friends in activities and maintaining our facilities and managing our finances and providing leadership on behalf of the congregation. I know this from the various meetings I attend and the conversations that occur. As a community we are exploring ways to live out our faith every time we come together to do all the above.

In one example, individuals from intersecting committees are getting information about, discussing and taking steps to find greener ways for us to heat, cool and light our building. In another, the Board of Directors chooses a book or articles to read as part of its on-going “journal club” – a way to learn while doing the work of leadership – and small subsets of leaders explore particular issues or projects and share what they’ve learned as a way to maximize the Board efficiency and effectiveness as a leadership body. A third example is our recent fire drill – a first for BRUU and one through which we have begun learning about logistical and physical needs as well as how to support and respect every person.

Of course, there are also the more obvious educational aspects of our organization: worship services, the religious education classes for children and youth and adult life enrichment (ALE) offerings for adults. We need to support and respect these times and spaces for learning as well. As much as you don’t want to miss out of a part of the worship service as the result of some disruption (e.g. a noisy pew-neighbor or a fire drill), our children and youth want to be able to focus on their exploration in the classrooms.

What have you learned or discovered this year? How have you grown?

I, personally, have viewed this first year of my shared ministry with you as one in which I am constantly learning. We are a learning community. Each of us is a teacher and a student; we are guided by our mutual growth and learning.

During our upcoming year of visioning work, we will be engaging the entire community in seeking who we want to be into the foreseeable future. We will do that by asking powerful questions to catalyze insight and be innovative in formulating our eventual capital campaign as well as the action we wish to take in the world.

May your days and nights be blessed with interesting and powerful questions. *Rev. Charlotte*



The BRUU 5th Sunday Special Collection is for **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)** (<https://www.blacklivesuu.com/>).

The **Grief Support Brown Bag** lunch on May 15th was a tremendous source of support for those who attended. We shared stories and experiences around our losses whether recent or some time ago. Sharing stories helps us to process and to heal.

Over the summer, I will facilitate a drop-in grief support brown bag lunch at 12 Noon in the Beyer Library on the following dates:
June 5th, July 17th and August 21st.

Please feel free to join us.

June Sermon Descriptions

June 2– *Spring Music Service: Healing Power of Water* – (Annease Hastings & Adult Choir). Water is the essence of life, and it affects more than our physical bodies. The sound of water compels us to stop and listen, whether it’s from a babbling brook or an immense ocean; it calms the soul and quiets the mind. In this music service, we will reflect on the healing power of water that unites all life.

June 9 – *Flower Communion* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann) We close the regular church-year with the annual Flower Communion service. This is a celebration of our congregational community in all of its beauty and diversity. The Children’s Choir sings. We will recognize new members and membership milestones, show appreciation for our religious education teachers, celebrate the kids who are moving up to YoUUth Group, and share in the Flower Communion ritual. Please bring a flower for each member of your household to place in communal vases. The Annual Meeting follows the service.

June 16 – *Fostering Families* (Rev. Charlotte) Foster care provides safe, nurturing homes for children whose families are in crisis. Members of BRUU along with Wendy Cohen from UMFS, a private non-profit foster care agency, will share their experiences with fostering during this collaborative worship service. Learn about the challenges and rewards of being a foster family. More information about UMFS foster care programs and how you can support them will be available after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

June 23 – *We Are Our Stories* (Pulpit Guest: Dayna Edwards)

Some say that it is our stories that bind people together. What do the stories we tell say about who we are as a faith? Whose voices are missing from the stories we tell? Let’s examine the stories bind Unitarian Universalists together as a faith. Our pulpit guest, Dayna Edwards, is a ministerial Aspirant studying at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. She spent the last eight years as a religious educator serving several congregations around the Washington D.C. area, and has received the Credentialed Religious Educator status from the UUA. She lives with her husband, three children, and their dog in Bowie, Maryland.

June 30 – *General Assembly Sunday Worship* (Worship Committee) The UUA’s General Assembly Sunday worship service is the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. Held on June 23rd at the Spokane Convention Center, this morning we watch this powerful, communal worship experience. The Rev. Marta I. Valentín, minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA, delivers the sermon. Each year a talented group of choral singers perform at the Sunday Morning Worship for the General Assembly audience.

Description from the GA Program Guide: “After exploring el poder de nosotros/the power of we, what are we ready to do/¿que estamos listo para hacer? Let’s not be servants of the past in new cups. Let’s all get free by planting faithful seeds of change and together turn to free the faith we love.”

From the Treasurer's Office



Donation and Pledge Statements for 2019-20

Pledge and donation statements will be emailed to you on the following schedule starting in July 2019. Please remember that these statements are not bills or a demand for payment but simply a reminder. Every year BRUU loses thousands of dollars in uncollected pledge payments, which leads to “Operating Budget Distress”. There are many reasons for this, but one of the biggest reasons is that members and friends simply forget how much they pledged or how much is left on their pledge to pay. The following statement schedule is an attempt to alleviate “Operating Budget Distress”.

Pledge only:

July, October, December 2019;

March 2020

These statements will not only show the status of your current FY19:20 pledge but also the status of your past 2018-19 pledge.

Pledge and Donation Tax Statement for 2019

January 2020

This statement will show all of your tax-deductible contributions to BRUU. Everyone who made a tax-deductible contribution to BRUU during 2019 will get this statement.

If you prefer to opt out of getting these statements or would rather receive a hard copy by mail, please contact the treasurer at treasurer@bruu.org with your preference. Of course, the best way to keep up with your pledge is to set up an Automatic Bank Draft for your pledge. Set it up once and forget it until the next fiscal year at which time you will be asked whether you want to continue your ABD or not.

Henry Hastings, Treasurer

Got Files? In an update of BRUU.org, electronic copies of several old newsletters disappeared into the ether. With those scattered electrons went some of the fundamental history of BRUU maintained in the KnowledgeBase on BRUUnet at <https://www.bruunet.org/page/newsletters>

If you have paper or electronic copies of the Crossroads newsletters for September (and insert), October (and insert), November, and December in 2011, or of the March, 2013 issue - please let us know at Communications@bruu.org

June 2019

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|------|--|------|---|
| 6/02 | Fellowship Com, 11:15 A
Topics for Annual Meeting, 11:15 A
Cottage Meeting for COSM, 11:45 | 6/18 | UupBeats, 12:45 P
PFLAG, 7 P |
| 6/04 | UupBeats, 12:45 P | 6/20 | Yard Sale items drop off
Master Naturalists, 7 p |
| 6/05 | Grief Support Brown Bag, noon | 6/21 | USDA Food Pantry, 12-2 |
| 6/09 | Annual Meeting, 11:15 A
OWL class 11:30 | 6/22 | Yard Sale, 9 A |
| 6/11 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Board Meeting, 6:30 P | 6/23 | Soup for ACTS, 11:15
RE Committee, 11:30 A |
| 6/15 | Annual Church Picnic
RE Youth Overnight | 6/25 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A
Worship Committee, 7:30 P |
| 6/16 | BRIC Investment Club, 11:30 A | 6/29 | Communications Workshop, 1 P |

This calendar reflects BRUU-wide events on BRUUnet calendar as of 27th publication date



The annual meeting of the members of the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists has been called by the Board of Directors and will be held on June 9 at 11:15 AM. In order to conduct business, a quorum, defined by BRUU's Bylaws as 30% of voting members, must be present. If a member will not be attending, that member can provide a completed and signed proxy in lieu of attendance. Please be prompt so that a quorum count can be established. Please print your own materials using the link on the BRUUnet home page.

Are YOU the Next BRUU Lead Chef?

June 23 is my last Soup for SJ as Lead Chef...Thank You ALL for your efforts and support! Now as my year is up, it is YOUR TURN to jump in and bring something new, and this a good opportunity for BRUU's Families, or Couples, and those of you who come up with new decorations, themes, and...! still COOK!! (thats how I got started ...!!) Please think on it and let the Social Justice Comm. know, ask for Osk, or any Chef ! Mrs. Cox in the Office can also help you!

Marybeth Heatherly hummbeth2@gmail.com



Children's choir campout at the Tislers' farm



LET THE OUTDOOR FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

The **BRUU Annual Picnic** is almost upon us. On Saturday, June 15th the Sundas are again hosting our annual picnic.

Come at 3pm for fellowship, music, pool (bring towel & swimsuit), volleyball, and a bonfire with s'mores after dark.

Meat & vegan burgers plus dogs provided along with condiments & non-alcoholic drinks. Bring a dish to share & BYOB.

MAC Chair Christine Sunda points out to BRUU Pres what needs to be done.

John Sunda hangs picture rail for the YOUUth art work display in lower level hallway and

COSM Conversations: Come to the Next One, June 2 at 11:45!

The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) has been having a lot of conversations. These conversations have included our first cottage meeting as well as smaller groups consisting of COSM (or at least one of its members) and BRUU's leaders. They have left us impressed with the passion, dedication, and expertise we find in our community.

COSM held its first cottage meeting on April 14 and will hold two more, on June 2 at 11:45 and on September 8 at a time to be determined after the service, both of them in the Flamingo Lounge. On June 2, the Board will be answering questions about the agenda for the annual meeting (which is June 9) from 11:15 to 11:45, so you can come to that meeting and then to ours.

Cottage meetings are open to any member or friend of BRUU who wants to come and participate in a guided discussion. Our goal is to see if BRUU is on the right path and to get feedback on how BRUU is doing with all its ministries (worship, faith formation, community engagement, and supporting one another). Please grab a cup of coffee, bring your thoughtful opinions, and come for as long as you can stay. There will be treats!

At the first cottage meeting, we had a lively discussion about a wide range of subjects, including cultural appropriation, what we don't want to see at the Craft Fair, and the need for Our Whole Lives sex education for adults. We had a mix of long-time members and newer folks and heard about things people like and things that people maybe don't like so much. If you didn't come to the first one, be sure not to miss it this time.

If you can't make any of the cottage meetings, please talk to any member of COSM about your feedback or email COSM@BRUU.org. We'd love to hear from you. Look for the red ribbons on our nametags that say "Committee on Shared Ministry."

We have also taken on a thorough process of talking to all committee chairs and other leaders at BRUU. We've invited some leaders to speak to the whole committee, and other leaders we're talking to one-on-one, with a member of COSM interviewing the BRUU leader. These have been incredibly helpful so far. We have learned about the ministries of BRUU, have (we think) spurred reflection on BRUU's ministries, and shown BRUU's leaders that we value them, by listening to them. If we haven't talked to you yet, and you're a BRUU leader, we're coming to get you!

COSM has noticed in individual and group conversations that people are reflecting well about the area of ministry they are involved in and how it fits into BRUU's ministries. COSM hopes that these conversations spark further conversations at the committee level and among members.

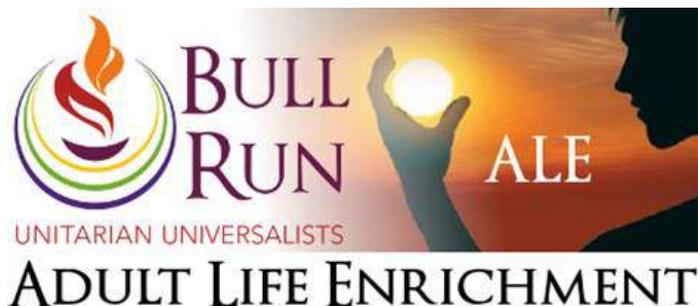
COSM consists of Martin Crim (chair), Dionne Stephenson, Rita Romano, Deborah Buckingham, Gretchen Almstead, and Rick Flaherty. Martin and Dionne are coming off the committee at the end of June, to make room for two new members serving for 3-year terms. The others are serving another year or two, so we'll always have two members coming off the committee each year.

The primary role of COSM is to take a "balcony view" of how BRUU is doing, so we can report to the Board and the congregation on what we see and how things could be improved. Along the way, we are also educating BRUU about our various ministries. And we also will be doing an assessment of Rev. Charlotte in October as part of her preliminary fellowship with the UUA. We'd love to hear from you any time!

Who You Gonna Call? Pastoral Care!

As the congregation wraps up our standard activities and begins to scatter for travel vacations and stay-cations the Pastoral Care Team wants you to know that we are still “on duty.” Please know that you can contact the team by email (PastoralCare@BRUU.org) throughout the summer with your concerns and/or support needs. We know that health issues and “stressors” don’t seem to take time off during the warm months - and we expect to hear from you in times of need for transportation, meals, or some conversation and resources. You can also contact the BRUU Office (703.361.6269) to connect with a team member, or the Minister.

Also know that Rev. Charlotte will be keeping the same office hours throughout the summer with the exception of denominational activity, vacation days and scheduled holidays including the week of June 17th – 23rd when Rev. Charlotte will be in Spokane, Washington for Ministry Days, and Professional Day in conjunction with attending the UUA General Assembly (GA) that week. Rev. Charlotte is then on personal vacation leave through the July 4th holiday weekend.



June 5 Wednesday

What the H.... Should I Eat?

Go to bruu.org – scroll to ALE’s link – browse and register. Free

BRUU Yard Sale June 21-22

“Your home is a Living space, not a storage space.” (Francine Jay)

Set up and drop off is scheduled for Thursday, June 20.

Donations and Volunteers needed!!!

Do you feel the need to simplify your life? “Stuff” clutters your home and mind. It is time to clean out the closets, garage, storage units, toy bins, and attics for the coming yard sale. Due to limited space in the fellowship hall we are accepting only items that are clean, gently used or better be donated. Donation receipts can be provided. For questions – contact Mona Tisler mtisler@yahoo.com



Photos of the Moonlight Battlefield Hayride nature and history auction item with David Hersch. Charlie Grymes regaled the participants with his knowledge of local Civil War events and the continuing struggle to preserve the battlefield. Between fireflies, a gorgeous view and even a marriage proposal, it sounds like a night to remember!
Photos courtesy of Tom Miller



Communication for Success
June 29th 1-3 PM
Workshop
Leadership Development Team
Stay tuned for more details

The Way I See It

In this space back in February, I put in a plug for our marvelous ALE programs and speculated that the influence of ALE had stimulated me to sample some other learning experiences, including a bridge class offered by the Fairfax County Park Authority. I'm currently near the end of my second bridge class and hopefully getting beyond the stage of being a totally fumbling beginner. One thing intriguing about these classes has been seeing how different instructors can bring a totally distinct approach to dealing with the same topic. In the first class we sort of flitted around from one point to the next, a few minutes of practice and off you go! The second class has been much more methodical, with a constant review of material from the previous couple of lessons before introducing and repeatedly training on a new technique. On the whole, class number two seems to be having a better effect – you could probably wake me from a deep sleep and I'd be able to tell you how long to hold onto that ace if you're a third hand defender.

All of which brings me to promoting our Annual Congregational Meeting coming up on **Sunday, June 9**. I'm trying to be relentless in making sure that everyone is aware that this is imminent and that it's important to participate. If you have the impression that I'm repeating what I conveyed last year at this time and what's being publicized in Round Up and elsewhere – you'd be right! If you think you have everything about the Annual Meeting down pat, feel free to move on to all of the other captivating news you'll find in Crossroads. But if you have a smidgen of doubt, then please review what follows.

- There will be a short break after the Sunday Service, with everyone being asked to return to the Sanctuary no later than 11:15 for the start of the Annual Meeting.
- The draft agenda includes votes on: proposed bylaw changes on the make-up of the Board and the tenure of the Minister; our operational, capital improvement and endowment budgets for the coming fiscal year; and the slates of candidates to fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors and the Endowment Committee.
- Detailed information about all the agenda items is available in the meeting notification packets that were emailed to all members.
- Solid attendance is critical to a successful outcome, and our Bylaws contain specific requirements regarding quorums and proxies:
 - Quorum. Thirty percent (30%) of the total Members shall constitute a quorum at any properly called and properly noticed meeting.
 - Proxies. At all meetings of Members, any Member may hold the written proxy of one (1) other Member. Such written proxies shall be ... recorded as Members present in voting and for determination of a quorum.
- As always, members will have the opportunity to state their concerns and aspirations for BRUU.

This is our first Annual Meeting since calling Rev Charlotte to be our Settled Minister last year, let's see if we can impress her with a large and enthusiastic turnout!

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, president@bruu.org, 703-266-1949



June Family Calendar

6/2 Children's Choir 11:15 – 11:30 AM

6/9 OWL Grades 10-12 11:30 AM lunch
12-2 PM Workshop

6/14 (DATE CHANGE)
Junior High/Senior High Overnight

From our DRE

Sunday, May 19th was our annual Bridging Service. This rite of passage celebrates our senior high school youth in their transition to young adulthood. Our service began with a Buddhist folk tale, demonstrating that our journey in life is “twisty-turny, “that sometimes good news doesn’t work out like we expected, and sometimes bad news can be a fortuitous shift. Those present were asked to remember a surprise twist along their journey. These are the responses, in no particular order, along with some advice on how to manage those turns.

Coming to DC and all this

I agreed to step in last minute to help with music at a youth service. Now I’m a youth advisor and so glad!

Always say “YES!” to any adventure!

Letting go of negative emotions.

When your boss says “Can you go here for me?” say, “Yes.” You never know who you will meet and what door will be open later in your life.

I was depressed and lonely. Just wanted to stay home and stay in bed and watch t.v. But I went out to an activity where I did not know anyone. Met some wonderful new friends! (It was not easy. I had to work at it.)

Finding a new UU Church in a new state.

Moving to Florida

On a whim, I applied for a job across the country. Now almost 30 years later – it was a wise choice.

Don’t be afraid of whims.

I won an award in the all-county art fair. My teacher never told me my art was even in the show, so I was very surprised. It opens a lot of doors for me.

After giving up on my career dreams, a friend networked and found me a new job opportunity in a very different line of work. It’s been an interesting experience, I never imagined for myself. Be open to new experiences.

Off to new adventures... loving and leaving family... figuring out who you really are. What fun!

Following a cancer diagnosis, took a step forward into standup comedy.

Being laid off from my job, moving to VA and finding you and your dad!

At 18, I was the first in my family to go to college. At 24, moved to a new country.

To eat seafood, and it was OK.

Drive across the country and back!

Post retirement Journey

Being courageous enough to start my own business and defining how I’d spend a third of my life.

Finding love in unexpected people and places

Star Island Circles

Stepping forth in a marriage and trying to make things work.

I battled with a mental illness 2 years ago, and while it was extremely hard, I have found a peace that I have never felt before.

Asking out that cute girl who worked in the cafeteria.

Explore another culture. Leave home. Come back home.

In times of trouble, I love to think “this too shall pass.”

Wherever you go, there you are.

Smile every morning. Laugh throughout the day. Rest in reflection. Sleep with Gratitude.

June 2019 Crossroads

Your responsibility is not to be who everyone thinks you ought to be. Your responsibility is to be who you are.

Leave school with more friends than you can keep up with.

Education! It can never be taken away once earned, and will make a stunning difference in your life!

Keep looking for trust on your journey.

Explore and do your passion onward to success!

Harmony and peace to all. Live in Kindness.

Always look at the world through your own eyes and other eyes.

Keep your childness in heart and in your soul. For your childness sparks imagination.

Where there is a will, there is a way. And if you can't find the way, make your own.

Take time for Joy.

Never stop learning.

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education



Photos of Bridging Service



Submissions to Newsletter

- ✓ Send to editors (Gretchen and Eric) at newsletter@bruu.org
- ✓ Due by 25th of month
- ✓ Articles of 400 words or less
- ✓ No children's last names since newsletter is publicly accessible
- ✓ BRUU and UUA announcements only
- ✓ Subject to editorial review

Alert: Scammers Posing As Congregation Leaders

Several congregations have reported that their members are receiving scam emails that are requesting gift card donations for a charitable cause. At least one person has lost money to these scams. Religious groups and congregations are becoming easy targets for these types of scams. The UUA recommends that congregations inform their members about this scam and educate their members on the official channels your congregation uses to accept donations.

The UUA has seen an increase in “phishing” attempts of all kinds. Phishing is a form of “social engineering,” whereby a hacker with bad intentions sends an email (or text or phone call) pretending to be someone the recipient trusts and asks the recipient to take an action which can have adverse effects. Sometimes, they request money. Other times, they invite the recipient to click a link or open an attachment that can trigger malicious code.

A good rule of thumb with emails you're not expecting is to: (1) reach out to the sender through another channel (call, text, visit website) and (2) not click on a link (or send money, gift cards, etc.) without clarifying from the trusted source. For more on this particular gift card scam, follow this link below: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/scammers-posing-as-pastors-churches-nationwide-issue-urgent-warning.html>

To get a better sense of what to look for when receiving unsolicited emails, try this Google Phishing Quiz: <https://phishingquiz.withgoogle.com/>

Hackers are getting more sophisticated every day. The best defense is to encourage your employees, volunteers and congregation members to pause and look for warning signs before responding to any unsolicited email.



Earth Day Service Garage Band,
photo courtesy of Charlie Grymes

BRUU Board of Directors: May 2019 Meeting Highlights

The Board directed the President to provide a comment to the City of Manassas Planning Commission regarding accessibility in the downtown area, in particular by encouraging the addition of more parking spaces for the disabled.

We discussed the new wording for the BRUU Bylaws in Ministerial Section. Board members approved proposed language that would require an enhanced quorum of 45% of members to be present in order to consider either the calling or dismissal of a Minister. The required threshold to call a Minister would be raised from two-thirds to 90% of those present, while dismissal of a minister could be carried out by a simple majority vote. The Board also endorsed proposed changes which would create an optional Youth Member position on the Board, as well as realigning the Board positions to be elected in the even and odd year cycles.

Gwen Talbot was present to brief Board members on the priorities for the Capital Improvement Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. After discussing the sources of funding and the fact that as in other years, the Capital Budget line items may be subject to change as needs dictate, the Board approved the \$16,500 funding level previously approved by the Finance Committee. The \$448,400 Operational Budget and the \$300 Endowment Budget were also endorsed for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Board members discussed the practice of retaining the Immediate Past President as ex-officio (non-voting) Board Member for a period of one year. After researching the Knowledge Base, it appears that this has been a matter of tradition rather than a formal policy decision. The Board voted to formalize the retention of the Immediate Past President under the terms outlined above as an official Board Policy.

In the light of comments that there are ways in which the BRUU Covenant might be changed or updated, Mike Cleary shared his thoughts on developing a process for amending the Covenant. He noted that having a table in the Fellowship Hall after services generated conversation and input on congregants' views about the Covenant. He suggested that coffee hour discussions or holding cottage meetings would be effective in gathering information on proposed amendments to the Covenant.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 11, 2019 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at president@bruu.org or 703-266-1949 (home).

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors

