

Volume 37  
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2019



# CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian  
Universalists

## Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

### Money, Money, Money

March marks the beginning of BRUU's annual budget drive – alternatively known as the Stewardship campaign or annual Canvass. That means we spend more time this month talking about money than any other time of year. Unitarian Universalists, like many Americans, seem to have an allergy to talking openly about money.

One year at the start of the stewardship campaign in another congregation, the chair of the committee began a testimonial with the hit song, "Let's Talk About Sex!" That's another taboo subject in our American culture, a vestige of our early roots in Puritanism.

All of this reluctance to talk about money results in, at the denominational level, that UUs contribute to their congregations at a lower rate than is the case in other denominations, especially those that set an expectation of tithing at the (biblical) rate of 10%.

I once had someone ask me how it was that African American evangelical churches could ask for, let alone receive, that 10% tithe when their members were generally much, much lower down on the income ladder than UUs (with the implication of being overwhelmingly white, privileged, suburban, educated, and affluent). The simple answer is that their members value their congregational community that much, enough to put the greatest amount of their discretionary giving to their churches.

*Word Weavings, continued...*

How much do you value Bull Run UU – that is what we represent in the world, the emotional and spiritual support you receive from the congregation as well as the opportunities for learning and personal growth, the chance to serve others and create a more just society in which all can live healthy and fulfilling lives? What do you receive from being part of this congregation, whether as a member or a friend? What would that cost you in dollars or as a time and talent exchange if you had to find professionals to fill all of these wanted and needed roles?

Of late, I've noticed a high level of energy in the congregation, especially on Sunday mornings. We are happy to be part of this congregation and excited about the present as well as the potentials we see in our future. We are beginning to turn our focus towards creating a vision of who we will be in the world.

Money is quite simply a tangible form of energy. We can keep that energy flowing, in which case there will be enough of it to go around. Or we can be stingy, stopping the flow of energy and creating an environment of scarcity and scarcity thinking. I encourage each BRUU member and friend to think abundantly as we move into a year of visioning work while sustaining the progress made towards fair compensation in staffing and increasing stewardship of our assets.

*Rev. Charlotte*



Help Make BRUU Installation-Worthy at Our Next Work Day! Two weeks before Rev. Charlotte's installation we are having our next Work Day. Come help us fix, clean, and paint our building and make it ready for such an auspicious event! The work day is Saturday, March 9th from 9:30AM to 3PM. As always, come for as long as you can. Pizza lunch will be provided. Supervised children are welcome. (We need to work on repainting the black chairs!) Teens, this is a good way to earn service hours! Point of contact is Christine Sunda.

BRUU's Annual Variety Show was a successful family friendly event! Photo courtesy of Mike Freeland



Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway rocked the sanctuary with their Deeper than the Skin fundraising event and subsequent worship service. Photo courtesy of Mike Freeland

## March Worship Service Descriptions

### **March 3 – *A Thousand Ways to Burn* (Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss)**

Spiritual Director Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss will explore the practice of Sabbath rest as an antidote to a world preoccupied with striving and grasping; presenting Sabbath as a radical practice of wonder and gratitude that awakens us to divine love.

### **March 10 – *Invest In Your Own Religious Freedom* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)**

This morning you'll hear why it is the spirit of stewardship that matters in sustaining this congregation today and tomorrow and on into the future. The annual pledge canvass officially begins.

### **March 17 – *Kiss The Irish!* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)**

Every human culture has a complicated history of positive contributions as well as complicated and messy participation in systems of oppression; the Irish provide an example of these competing pictures of social identity.

### **March 24 – *UUSC Justice Sunday* (BRUU Green Team)**

The Green Team will reflect on the power of deep partnership and relationship-building, with a special focus on the climate justice convening that UUSC helped organize in October 2018.

### **March 31 – TBD (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)**

## From the Treasurer's Office

### Pledging to BRUU

March is here which means it is time for the annual pledge canvass. The canvass committee will be contacting you very soon for the upcoming pledge canvass for fiscal year 2019-20. A few words about how pledging works at BRUU. During the upcoming canvass members and friends will be asked to make a pledge for the fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2019, and ends on June 30, 2020. The only requirement for pledging is that you indicate on a canvass pledge form how much you are willing to pledge to BRUU for the upcoming fiscal year. Pledging is very important, since about 70% of our operating income comes from pledges. The finance committee will then use the total amount pledged to plan our operating budget for FY19-20. The finance committee plans to spend virtually 100% of the money pledged for FY19-20; therefore, it is very important to make a pledge that you are sure you can meet.

There are several ways you can give to BRUU but I will mention just two of them. Automatic Bank Draft is the easiest and most efficient way to give to BRUU on a regular basis. The money will be automatically deducted from your bank account monthly or semi-monthly. This reduces the amount of bookkeeping required and also the chance for errors. Over 70 members and friends are taking advantage of this method of giving and it only costs BRUU \$0.15 to add another monthly ABD transaction.

Credit Card transactions are another way people like to contribute to BRUU. Credit Card transactions can be handled in the treasurer's office, over the phone or monthly by providing the treasurer with your credit card information. It is optional but appreciated if you would add 3% to the total amount donated to cover the credit card fees. In 2018 we processed \$28,500 of credit card transactions and we paid close to \$900 in CC fees.

Regardless of how you donate to BRUU thank you for your generosity.

**Henry Hastings, Treasurer**





Above: Bruuers scramble for leadership training starting with Myers-Briggs Temperament Indicator workshop.

Below: Our own Dianne Lane wows us with concrete ways to Run Effective Meetings for LDT workshop #2. Photos courtesy of Nina Lomax

MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday 1-4 PM fellowship hall  
Leadership Development Team presents:

## Navigating Difficult Conversations

- Conflict is a natural part of our interactions with others whether in personal life or in our organizational life
- Learn the 5 styles of conflict
- Discover powerful tools for appropriate uses for conflict-handling

Presenter: Jean Porto of Inner Inspiration  
Thomas Kilmann Instrument assessment \$30  
(scholarships available)

Childcare available for children under 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Max 25 people

Reserve your seat with Nina Lomax

text/call: 571-247-2811

email: [ninalomax@comcast.net](mailto:ninalomax@comcast.net)

## **Fundraising Committee has Re-booted with Many Activities Planned!**

In January the Fundraising Committee restarted under the direction of Dorothy Greenhouse and co-chair Christine Sunda with team members Chris Kuchnicki, Mona Tisler, Laura Crowne, Brian Pace, and Laura Coates. If you are interested in joining us, we definitely have room for more members.

We are pleased to announce we have come up with four events for the rest of this fiscal year (through June) and one in July:

Our first event will be a Saint Patrick's Day dinner on March 16 from 6-9:30 pm. Our dinner will include a Potato-Leek Soup and Salad, Corned Beef & Cabbage main dish and a vegetarian Shepard's Pie. The desserts will tempt your pallet (we're keeping them secret)! Everything from refreshing green ale's to non-alcoholic apple ciders will 'wet your whistle'. To get in the spirit of Ireland we're having a number of live bands performing along with a sing-a-long. You get all this for a low advanced ticket sale of \$20 per person, with children 12 and under for \$3! To pay by PayPal [click here](#) or go to the website: <http://www.bruu.org/saint-patrick-fundraiser/> . Here is also the QR code for the address. If you scan with your I-phone it will take you directly there.



We just want you to sign up early to give us an accurate head count for our food purchases--this is a fundraiser! To get your savings buy now as the tickets at the door will be \$30 and children \$5. Erin go bragh! This literally means: Ireland to the end of time.

Our second event is on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We are having a Brooksie Wells concert and it should be lots of fun. More information will be in next month's newsletter. In May we have two, count them two, events! On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> we are having our first Karaoke night. We are hiring a professional DJ to host this event so start warming up your vocal cords! The following week, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we have a Roy Zimmerman concert. Lastly, in July we are having our annual yard sale, so please save items for this. This is looking to be a fun filled spring!



## FROM ANNEASE

"Connecting with Spirit" Evensong service March 8 at 7:30

In many languages and religious traditions, the word for "spirit" is the same as, or is derived from, the word for "breath." Both denote something intangible, yet essential for life. Join us for a mystical experience as we connect with spirit through music, meditation and prayer.

Annease Hastings, Director of Music

**Capital Improvement Plan Update:** The Talbot Matching \$5000.00 grant offered in June has been matched by \$5375.00 for a total of \$10,375.00. Many thanks to all who contributed to improve our building.

- Recent improvements have included replacement of three window air conditioning units when AC system crashed in office area this summer \$600.00; roof repair (shingles) \$850.00 and \$1900.00 for flashing outside Kelly Music Studio and fix roof by tower; \$1000.00 for new flooring installed in rooms 302/304.
- Future plans include: sand floors in office, minister's office and conference room \$2000.00; replace carpeting in studio \$2000.00; replace carpeting in balcony of sanctuary, refinish stairs and add runner \$4000.00; replace 150 chairs and racks to put them on \$12,000.00; installation of camera in sanctuary for live feed to fellowship hall during service \$3000.00, installation of audio/visual sound system and lighting \$12,000.00.

***Your contributions make these changes possible. We have an old building that requires constant updating and repairs.***

- Estimates are being obtained for insulation of the educational wing, HVAC replacement, total roof replacement, handicapped accessible bathrooms, elevator for all 3 floors are plans for Capital Campaign in a year or two.

Gwen Talbot



Photos on page 6 and 7 depict scenes from the Senior Youth Service about Afterlife on February 24, courtesy of Tom Miller.

March 2019 Crossroads



# March 2019

3/01	Stewardship Training, 10 A
3/03	Social Justice Com, 9 A Fellowship Com, 11:15 A Green Team, 11:30 A New UU, 11:30 A
3/05	UupBeats, 12:45 P Psychology of Aging, 7:30 P (Adult Life Enrichment Classes)
3/06	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
3/08	Evensong, 7:30 P
3/09	Workday, 9 A
3/10	Membership Com, 11 A Finance Com, 11:15 A BRIC Investment, 11:30 A New UU, 11:30 A
3/11	SASS, 1:30 P
3/12	Food Pantry, 9:30 A Board Meeting, 6:30 P
3/14	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
3/15	USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A
3/16	Saint Patrick's Day Party, 6 P
3/17	New UU, 11:30 A Program Council, 11:30 A
3/18	Nuuners, noon
3/19	UuPBeats, 12:45 P PFLAG, 7 P
3/21	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P Pastoral Care Team, 5:30 P
3/23	Installation of Reverend Charlotte, 4 P
3/24	RE Committee, 11:30 A Soup for ACTS, 11:30 A New UU, 11:30 A
3/26	Food Pantry, 9:30 A Worship Committee, 7:30 P
3/28	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
3/31	New UU, 11:30 A

# The Way I See It

One of the things I like most of contributing to Crossroads every month is having the chance to highlight some of the outstanding activities we have going on at BRUU, of which there are many. This month, I'd like to flash the spotlight on something that is a distinctly UU activity – our Adult Life Enrichment (better known as ALE) Program.

When I say ALE is something distinctly UU, I come at this from the perspective of someone who grew up going to a rural Methodist church in Northern Illinois. There was actually more social awareness than you might think, and even a burgeoning awakening to issues like civil rights and social inequities. But when congregants got together to study and discuss something, it was almost invariably the invariable, King James version of the Bible. Now, I in no way regret having been exposed to this Good Book, which contains considerable wisdom, and arguably continues to be one of the most important cultural touchstones in all of Western society. But I am much more drawn to the UU approach to study and discussion – rather than limiting our search for truth to the boundaries of one book, UUs are curious about practically anything you'll come across in this whole wonderful, bountiful universe.

If you haven't already, I would urge you to take a look at the current ALE catalog; you can find it by going to [bruu.net](http://bruu.net) and following the link on the home page. You will be transported to a nirvana of intellectual stimulation: a seminar on ethics; a movie about a youth with a severe disability; an expert-level class on natural phenomena; a course on the psychology of aging; a discussion group on spiritual issues; and many, many more. There's no guarantee you'll come out of any of these sessions with hard and fast answers to the mysteries of life. But I can guarantee that you'll receive a thoughtful guided exploration of issues that matter to all of us.

I have to say that I've attended a fair share of ALE classes over the past few years, and I've never been disappointed. Our instructors and facilitators are serious about preparing relevant and well-researched material to their audiences, and we owe them a huge collective THANK YOU.

And I have to imagine that the influence of ALE has stimulated me to aspire to new goals in learning and experience, even beyond BRUU. A couple of months ago, I took a friend up on his suggestion that the two of us join a bridge class being offered by the Fairfax County Park Authority. And I can attest that an old dog can, in fact, learn new tricks. (Pun, with apologies, very deliberately intended.)

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org), 703-266-1949  
February 24, 2019

# From our DRE



You should be Here! Ten miles off the New Hampshire coast, Star Island is a Unitarian Universalist retreat/conference center. Register now for Faith Development (LRE) week, July 13 to July 20.

Partner with lay leaders, musicians, ministers, administrators, worship teams and religious educators in crafting high quality faith learning experiences. This year, the week will focus on shared leadership and family ministry.

A day on Star includes a Theme Talk by the week's special presenter – this year, Unitarian Universalist curriculum author Katie Covey. Each morning adults share a small group workshop. Past workshops have included Storytelling, Worship creation, Music with Emma's Revolution, Bringing the outdoors in and Successful marketing and social media. The Children and Youth break out into age groups and enjoy summer camp like activities. Some of my personal favorites are the annual Bottle Rocket contest from the lower elementary, the Duct Tape Regatta in upper elementary. Junior High often go on island wide scavenger hunts, and the Senior High youth prepare a worship service for all. Junior and Senior high each have an overnight with high energy advisors. Afternoons are for optional activities such as tie-dying, kayaking, tours to other islands, or a seal watching boat trip. Or, you can sit in a rocking chair and breathe. Every day holds a family worship for younger children and the day closes with a candlelit chapel service. Meals are served family style, and always include desert.

Star is a place to be nourished, recharged and inspired! And deep long lasting relationships are created for those of all ages. A pirate legend says that Blackbeard left one of his wives on Star, and as his ship pulled away she yelled “You will come back!,” and trust me, if you come to Star, You Will Come Back.

For more info on the LRE Conference, go to [www.starreweek.com](http://www.starreweek.com) or [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org). Or ask me. Discounts are available for first time attendees, and scholarships are available from both the conference organizers and Star Island.

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**The New UU** is for newcomers and longtime members alike. Join us for a series of six workshops addressing important themes in Unitarian Universalist congregational life. Each workshop provides an opportunity for participants to interact and share their own experiences, a process that echoes the Unitarian Universalist commitment to individual theological exploration. Participants will learn about Unitarian Universalism not only by hearing about it, but by doing it—exploring their own theology and its intersection with the tradition. Most weeks meet in Room 304; March 10 will be held in the Library. Sundays, 11:30 am—1:30 pm. Register with Kristin at [dre@bruu.org](mailto:dre@bruu.org).

**March 3: Membership with Faye Sledge** The opening workshop will present information about the rights and responsibilities of membership in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, specifically discussing the Pathways to Membership at BRUU. Participants will share their impressions of congregational life and share their hopes about participation in the congregation.

**March 10: “Where Do We Come From?” Roots with Doris Galvin & Cathy Ring**  
This session will give an overview of the history of Unitarian Universalism and introduce some notable persons along the way. Our BRUU co-founders will share our own history, beginning at the “Do you think anyone would be interested?” conversation till now.

**March 17: Theology & Worship with Rev. Charlotte Lehman**  
This session presents some of the basic theological understandings of most Unitarian Universalists, and an introduction to Bull Run UU’s worship traditions. We’ll take a look at the elements of worship and have the opportunity to learn more about our minister’s personal take on worship.

**March 24: Social Justice with Larry Underwood**  
The workshop provides an introduction to social justice work in a Unitarian Universalist context. We will discuss action and reflection in the context of our faith. We will also learn about the current social justice programs and projects our congregation is involved in.

**March 31:** Governance & Polity with Art Muirhead & Mike Cleary This workshop provides an overview of congregational polity and covenant, the foundational principles upon which Unitarian Universalist congregations are gathered and continue to exist as institutions. We will discuss what a “Free church” means. Our current Board President will explain BRUU’s policies and procedures and we will discuss the process and promises of our BRUU Covenant.

**April 7: Faith Development with Kristin Worthington** This workshop introduces the philosophy of Unitarian Universalist religious education, and the concept of lifelong learning. Participants will explore how faith, Unitarian Universalist identity and spiritual development are shaped through our congregation’s religious education programming



12-Apr	Brooksie Wells Concert	Fundraising
14-Apr	Stewardship 'Stew' lunch	Stewardship
15-Apr	NuuNers	
26-Apr	Evensong	Music (Annease)
28-Apr	Soup for ACTS lunch	Social Justice
11-May	Karaoke Night	Fundraising
18-May	Roy Zimmerman	Fundraising
20-May	NuuNers	
26-May	Soup for ACTS lunch	Social Justice
8-Jun	Annual Picnic at the Sundas	Fellowship
9-Jun	Annual Meeting	Board
23-Jun	Soup for ACTS lunch	Social Justice

## March 2019 Family Calendar

**3** - Children's choir 11:15-11:45  
Youth choir 11:15-12:15

**10** - All children and youth asked to participate in the Time for All Ages. Look to the weekly email for more information.

Children's choir 11:15-12:15 (followed by lunch)

OWL Grades 10-12. Lunch begins at 11:30. Workshop  
12:00 - 2:00 pm

**17** - Youth choir 11:15-12:15

**23:** Rev. Charlotte's Installation. All children and youth are asked to participate. Look to the weekly email for more information.

**24** - Children and youth choirs 11:15-11:45

OWL Grades 10-12. Lunch begins at 11:30. Workshop  
12:00 - 2:00 pm

## **BRUU Board of Directors: February 2019 Meeting Highlights**

We welcomed Abby Johnson-Firth as the new Youth Member of the Board. Abby will serve on a provisional basis until she has to depart for school in the fall. The Board will draft a Bylaw Amendment for consideration at the June Annual Meeting on making the Youth Member a permanent position. The Board also voted to approve Nina Lomax, Angie Carrera, Dianne Lane and Brian Pace as members of the Nominating Committee that will develop a slate of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Kathy Sobrio provided an update on Program Council activities. The Membership Committee is ready to go to press with the paper directory, and is preparing to initiate the online directory. The Fellowship Committee circulated a document with events planned for the first half of 2019.

Kathy also briefed on progress with the congregational visioning process. She and Mike Cleary plan to provide members with an overview at the February Town Hall Meeting in February, highlighting the benefits of the process, and how it can help us in developing a better Long-Range Plan, and in building momentum toward a future Capital Campaign.

Art Muirhead gave an update on upcoming changes to our rental agreement with the New City Fellowship for Sunday worship. Sometime this spring, they plan to expand to a second service. After a series of meetings and consultations, we have agreed in principle to an arrangement where NCF will arrive in the sanctuary a half hour earlier at 2:00 pm for sound system setup, but at the same time agreeing not to tune up until 2:30. This will mean that BRUU will retain essentially the same level of access to the Fellowship Hall and the other NCF rental areas. They will finish their services and clear out by 8:30 pm with the net result that we will realize an additional \$120 per week on NCF's rentals. NCF has also made it clear that they aspire to purchase their own building in the longer term, and their agreement with us will probably not extend past June of 2020.

Heather Berthold presented the Canvass Budget that was approved by the Finance Committee for consideration by the Board. The Finance Committee in essence recommended a moderate budget which focuses on continuing efforts to meet UUA Fair Compensation guidelines but holds the line on increases in other areas during the coming fiscal year. The proposed budget will avoid drawing on operational and capital reserves, and will limit replenishment of the capital fund until we are able to carry out a capital campaign in the medium term. The Board voted to approve the proposed Canvass Budget as the baseline for carrying out our Stewardship Campaign.

The next Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2019 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org) or 703-266-1949 (home).

**Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors**



### Now is the Time

When I first heard the theme for this year’s Stewardship Campaign theme, “Now is the Time,” I have to admit I had a flashback to the phrase we all had drilled into us when typewriters were a thing: “Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country!”

How many of you smiled in recognition? Don’t be embarrassed, it’s OK! If you don’t know what a typewriter is, you can chuckle, too, at the silly things your grandparents had to learn when they were in school.

A sense of humor and gentle playfulness are two of the things that keep me coming back to BRUU again and again and again. For Sunday Worship, of course! For Social Justice, natch! For friendship and growth. For committee meetings, even, and the annual auction - I can’t get enough of BRUU! I love it here! That is why, when the Stewardship Canvass comes around every year, I put my money where my heart is.

My pledge is, in part, a selfish act; I want BRUU to be there for me! It takes money to keep our historic building in repair, keep it heated and cooled and to keep the lights on. We want our minister and staff to be fairly compensated so they can thrive and have long tenure with us.

My pledge is also, in part, an act of generosity; BRUU is not just me, BRUU is all of us – without each and every one of us, BRUU would be diminished. While much of our work within BRUU and in the community at large is done by us members and friends on a volunteer basis, BRUU still needs funds to purchase the tools with which we work.

Now is the time to give. Because we are selfish. Because we are generous. Because, as Rabbi Hillel said, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?”

- Pat Malarkey