

Volume 37  
Edition 5  
May  
2019



# CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian  
Universalists

## Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

### Growing, Nurturing, and Flowering

Lisa and I have been reveling in the display of blossoms all over Northern Virginia since the first blooms came into flower. I certainly have never lived anywhere in the country that has had such an abundance of flowering trees flowering all at once and one species after another! Add into that the wildflowers on display at ground level, and it is a feast for the eyes! I took advantage of four different sites to experience the intensity of *mertensia virginica* over the peak weekend, which, like the cherry blossoms was a new pleasure to behold.

That the birds are winging back to their summer habitats is a treat for the ears, when the weather allows for open windows at dawn or a walk in the woods. The faint but nevertheless present fragrance of spring alerts my nose to the freshness of the season and the abundance yet to come.

From the vernal equinox to the summer solstice, our congregational life is also burgeoning with the season of rebirth, resurrection and renewal. There is much to accomplish before we direct our energies towards summer.

In May and June, we will celebrate those who nurture children and youth as they grow into adulthood. We will also celebrate the transition of our YoUUth seniors who are bridging into young adulthood. [Let's all thank Michelle and Dean Luman for re-starting BRUU-YA and their commitment to having a vibrant Young Adult (YA) group here at BRUU.] As we wrap up the year, we will also recognize new members who have joined since last spring, celebrate membership milestones, appreciate RE teachers and others who deserve special recognition for their contributions to BRUU. And, before we wrap up the official church-year, there will be a Flower Communion – the same day as the Annual Meeting.

*Continued on page 2*

Like the annual ingathering multigenerational worship service of Water Communion, the Flower Communion is a distinctly UU celebration of our covenantal community. As part of the Flower Communion, every person – adults, youths and children – bring a flower that Sunday (this year it is June 9<sup>th</sup>). All of the flowers are gathered together into big vases or baskets before the service. The flowers represent our individual beauty and the glorious diversity and bountiful bouquet of our congregational community. Then later in the service, each person in attendance comes forward and picks a different flower to take home with them. Taking home a different flower represents the interconnections and interdependence of being a beloved community.

Joyce Rupp penned the following meditation on “The Flower of Love”:

You are the bud in relationships  
Newly found and enjoyed.  
You are the petals of generosity  
Expanding in the heart.  
You are the full bloom of care  
Shaped through selflessness.  
You are the color of goodness  
Growing in the inner garden.  
You are, for each of us,  
The flower that never fades.

*Rev. Charlotte*



Photo to left and most throughout the newsletter are representative of Reverend Charlotte’s Installation Service, courtesy of Tom Miller

### **People of Color/Indigenous Conversation with the Minister is May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Rev. Charlotte invites BRUU members and friends who identify as People of Color and-or Indigenous (POCI) to meet for conversation and coffee/tea in the Flamingo Lounge on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.

This is a listening meeting to hear from POCI about their BRUU experiences and give POCI a chance to raise questions and concerns in a safe and supportive setting.

## May Worship Service Descriptions

**May 5– *Fasting as Spiritual Practice*** (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann). During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. What is the place and value of fasting in our spiritual lives?

**May 12 – *Born With a Hatred of Oppression: Matilda Joslyn Gage*** (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann). Deserving of greater attention, free-thinker, abolitionist, and Native American rights activist Matilda Joslyn Gage was among the 19<sup>th</sup> century suffragists who were at the forefront of the movement for women’s rights.

**May 19 – *Bridging Ceremony*** (Kristin Worthington, DRE). The graduating senior YoUUth are recognized for completing their program and bridging into the Young Adult community at BRUU and in UUism.

**May 26 – *The Stirring Waters*** (Pulpit Guest: Byron Tyler Coles). Bodies of Water have long been revered as sacred places. Whether they be hot springs or running streams, these liminal spaces serve as locations for personal and communal reflection and restoration. Like in all things, healing does not come easy, nor does healing come quickly when we disregard the harm that caused our need for restoration in the first place. Yet it is only when we allow ourselves to acknowledge the harm that has been done, and that we locate and allow ourselves the ability to move into the stirring waters, that we find our course towards wholeness and liberation.



### Spring Refresh and Clean Day At BRUU!

Are you looking for an easy way to contribute to BRUU? Come to our next work day on May 18th from 10AM to 3PM. Come help us spiff up the building inside and out. Last work day we concentrated on the public rooms for the installation. Now let’s work on the rest of the building including outside. We have everything from cleaning to painting to handy person jobs. This is the last work day until next fall and we need all of your help. Come work, have pizza lunch with fun people, then go home satisfied with a job well done. For more information contact Christine Sunda.

## Who doesn't like snacks after service?

Snacks (especially healthy ones) are a great way to help keep BRUUers happy and energetic enough to stick around longer for fellowship after Sunday services! Keep the excitement alive by signing up for a Sunday of your choosing on our new 'Snack SignUp' white board down in the fellowship hall (or on the fridge in the kitchen at other times.)

As a \*general\* guideline, we want to keep it simple so bring whatever you like, but we always like healthy fair too! Just try to keep your snack budget below \$40 with perhaps around 3 servings of fruit or veggies (roughly the size/volume of about 3 milk gallons) and perhaps 2 servings of carbs (again, roughly the size/volume of about 2 milk gallons.) Thanks in advance! Contact Tony Main ([mainfamily@gmail.com](mailto:mainfamily@gmail.com) / 571-274-4572) if you have any questions.



***NOW IS THE TIME***  
***is a monthly series of articles***  
***by BRUU members***  
***on what stewardship***  
***means to them.***

***To look back on our collective journey together this year***

When I was asked to write this piece I had no idea that the subtitle assigned would be “To look back at our collective journey together this year”. And what a collective journey it has been! As a member of your search committee, I approached the past year with both optimism and trepidation,” Dave Feser observes.

We had been given a huge responsibility. But it turned out to not be all that difficult. Why? Because it became a collective journey. YOU chose your new settled minister, not the search committee.

First, the search committee was charged with finding out who BRUU actually was so that we could be presented accurately to those seeking a new position. We compiled this “resume” (called a congregational record by UUA) using a variety of sources, including our well attended searchlight gatherings, your responses to our lengthy questionnaire, and interviews with our staff. As a result of your patience and generous participation in this process, we were able to present a fair representation of BRUU to those interested in becoming our settled minister. Eighteen individuals liked our collectively constructed resume enough to apply for the position. During the subsequent interview process, we rejected some applicants and we were rejected by some, all based on the information provided by you!

As a result of our work together, Reverend Charlotte Lehmann is now our settled minister. How fortunate we are! It is indeed a very good fit!

Rev. Charlotte tells us that this is to be a Shared Ministry which implies to me that collectively we are called upon to try to make the world a better place. To help us continue our journey, please give of your time and resources as you are able.

## From the Treasurer's Office



### Changes are coming!

In July of this year a subtle but important change will occur in the Treasurer's Office. At that time the job of Treasurer will be split between two people: a treasurer and a bookkeeper. The Treasurer will be a member of the board, finance committee and oversee the operation of the Treasurer's office. Since the bookkeeper will not be able to sign checks, for most people, the only tangible effect will be the longer turn-around-time for a check request. If you need a check in a hurry the options are: plan ahead or pay the pre-approved expense yourself and get reimbursed later. This change allows BRUU to plan for a sustainable future that does not rely on volunteers to handle BRUU's day to day finances. I anticipate, that as soon as our budget can handle it, the paid position of bookkeeper will be added to BRUU's staff.

Henry Hastings, Treasurer



From a BRUU auction item, W&OD Bike & Brew Trip in April, 2019. Photo courtesy of Charlie Grymes

### **Roy Zimmerman Concert at BRUU on Saturday, May 18th!**

In the current national nightmare, we need to laugh. And we need to hope. Roy's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. In a career spanning more than thirty years, Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views on social media. With his satirical folk quartet The Foremen he recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. Roy has shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, The Roches, Andy Borowitz, The Chambers Brothers, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. Roy's website is: [www.royzimmerman.com](http://www.royzimmerman.com). Tickets will be \$20 ahead of time and \$25 at the door. For more information contact Dorothy Greenhouse or Suffian Bawazer.

### An Intimate Evening with Pat Wictor

You may remember Pat as one of the trio, Brother Sun. But Pat is a great musician and wonderful person in his own right! Join us for a House Concert [on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30](#) at the home of Janette and Star Muir. Spaces are limited, so if you're interested let Janette know right away ([jmuir@gmu.edu](mailto:jmuir@gmu.edu)). Donation is \$20/person.

### SUUSI: A Fun, Stimulating, "Church Camp" For UU's

Each year, a dozen or so (sometimes more) BRUU'ers go to SUUSI, the Southeast UU Summer Institute. This year, it will be July 14-20. For a week, over 1,000 UU's take over the Western Carolina University campus in Cullowhee, North Carolina, an hour from Asheville in the Great Smoky Mountains.

- Talk to the Muirs. They can tell you how it is a music festival, disguised as a summer retreat.
- Talk to Mike Freeland. He can tell you about the fun times and the strong sense of community.
- Talk to Cathy Ring. She can tell you how over 100 choices of workshops include powerful programs, with great speakers and great participants who engage in thoughtful discussions.
- Talk to Charlie Grymes. He can tell you about the nearly 100 Nature trips, including wildflower identification and photography, hiking to mountain vistas, hard-to-imagine waterfall watching, rappelling down mountains, mountain biking, and canoeing on the Tucksaseegee River.

Ask around; you'll find others who can tell how SUUSI can be more than just a cost-effective vacation. It is an intentional community, where friendships are developed and nurtured. It is an intellectual experience, where minds are expanded and perspectives are deepened. It is a delightful experience, where people relax and recharge for the next 51 weeks.

The teen program is an extraordinary experience. Individual personal boundaries are discovered and adopted, without parents having to draw the lines and write contracts for appropriate/inappropriate behavior. Want to know more? Check out [www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org)

**BRUU Karaoke on May 11th! Save The Date!** Karaoke Night is coming to BRUU [at 7pm on May 11th!](#) DJ T. Rose will have all of your Karaoke favorites and it should be a great time! This is an important fundraiser for our congregation and outside guests are more than welcome to also buy tickets and join us. \$25 online at [www.bruu.org](http://www.bruu.org) or \$30 at the door. Drink tickets are included with admission price! For more info contact Chris Kuchnicki at [c.kuchnicki@yahoo.com](mailto:c.kuchnicki@yahoo.com) or Brian Pace at [bpace@erols.com](mailto:bpace@erols.com).

At Noon on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, the **NUUners** will be gathering in the BRUU Fellowship Hall to watch two TED Talk features that have been chosen to stimulate some good conversations. The plan is to watch each video talk presentation and converse about the subject, then show the second video and have another exchange of ideas. As always, the program is open to BRUU members and friends who are interested in attending a casual, mid-week, daytime fellowship gathering. Everyone brings their own lunch and beverage. Be aware: **You must have a door access code**, because the BRUU building is closed on Mondays. Folks who plan to come to nUUners will need to request an Access Code for the Church Street door. Contact the BRUU Office Assistant at 703.361.6269 or email [Office@BRUU.org](mailto:Office@BRUU.org) before 5/20 to obtain an entry code. Need more details? Contact Dee Brown [ [dj44brown@yahoo.com](mailto:dj44brown@yahoo.com) ]

# May 2019

5/01	Spirituality of Imperfection,	5/16	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
5/02	Master Naturalists, 6:30 P	5/17	USDA Food Pantry
5/04	Worship Retreat, 9 A	5/18	Workday
	Budget Meeting, 11 A	5/18	Roy Zimmerman Concert, 7
	Green Book Movie, 7 P	5/19	Endowment Committee
5/05	Fellowship Com, 11:15 A		Program Council
	POCI, 11:30		Science in Poetry
5/07	UuPBeats, 12:45 P	5/20	Nuuners
5/08	Spirituality of Imperfection	5/21	UuPBeats, 12:45 P
5/09	Master Naturalists		PFLAG, 7 P
5/11	Ethics Workshop, noon	5/22	Moms Demand Action
	Karaoke Nights, 7 P		Master Naturalists
5/12	Finance Committee, 11:15 A		Spirituality of Imperfection
	BRIC, 11:30 A	5/26	Soup for ACTS, 11:15
5/13	SASS, 1:30 P		RE Committee
5/14	Food Pantry, 9:30 A	5/28	Food Pantry, 9:30 A
	Board Meeting, 6:30 P		Worship Committee, 7:30 P
5/15	Grief Support, noon		

**Grief Support Brown Bag with the Minister is May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Rev. Charlotte invites BRUU members and friends who are experiencing grief or have experienced unresolved or ambiguous loss to meet with her for a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon in the BRUU Library.

This is a chance to explore the formation of an on-going grief support group in a safe and supportive setting.

Now is the time to start planning your fall adventures. The third annual BRUU Adult Retreat is scheduled for October 25-27 at the Cacapon Lodge in Berkeley Springs. Come spend a weekend in the West Virginia countryside with BRUU friends. It will be close to the same price as last year (around \$150/person). If you are interested in committing to a room, please let Janette Muir ([jmuir@gmu.edu](mailto:jmuir@gmu.edu)) know so we can save you a space and send along more details. Only 20 double rooms are available – so act fast!

BRUU Auction – a highlight of the year – happens in November. Please make every effort to hold your event this year if you haven't already done so and start thinking about exciting items to submit for the next auction on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## The Way I See It

As President of BRUU, I get the chance every month to write a column about some significant or novel thing going on in our congregation that's caught my attention. This month there's a topic that every member and friend of BRUU needs to know about and do something about, and that's why this message is going straight to your inbox rather than coming to you in this month's edition of Crossroads.

I think everyone knows by now that we're formulating our budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The official Canvass ended on April 14 with the Stewardship Stew, and since then, Team members have been working the phone and email lists to make sure that everyone has been contacted personally.

The result? We still have a way to go to meet our pledge goal for FY-19/20. The best estimate as of today is that once all the individuals have checked in who we still expect to make pledges, we will be \$25,000 short of our target. And that's a big problem. The Canvass Budget was designed to be moderate in spending, and focused on moving toward fairer compensation for our professional staff, while holding program increases to a minimum. And it's a problem to be in this situation not long after celebrating Rev. Charlotte's installation, when logic would tell us that this is a moment for getting behind BRUU with heart and soul and pocketbook. And it's a problem trying to understand that in a congregation where we've seen so many acts of generosity recently – a large anonymous donation with few strings attached; two years of funding for a program to develop volunteer leadership capacity; challenge grants to supplement our operational and capital budgets when they needed it – we still need to make an appeal for greater generosity on the part of many. A portion of the revenue shortfall for the coming year is due to the unusually large number of members who are moving away, but be that as it may, it's a problem we must deal with.

A \$25,000 shortfall has consequences. In order to be able to operate with a balanced budget for the year, we might have to reduce spending on our building, carrying out only the most essential repairs and maintenance, reducing cleaning services, and sharply restricting spending on utilities. Many of our program costs, including areas such as Religious Education, Music, Social Justice, and Congregational Services, might have to become self-funded. And we might have to ask our professional staff to forego salary increases, as well as cut back markedly on professional expenses.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We could balance the budget:

- If one person offered a challenge grant of \$12,500, and it was matched completely by others.
- If five people with the means to do so contributed \$5,000.
- If ten people coming off a good year economically offered just \$2,500.
- If everyone we expect to pledge this year made 13 monthly payments instead of 12.
- If everyone we expect to pledge this year contributed just \$4 more per week (this is known as the give up your Starbucks scenario).

Many of you heard me say in a Canvass Moment during a recent service that if we funded our budget like a neighborhood swim club, every member of BRUU would pay dues of around \$2,000, and we'd be set for the year. But that's not realistic – for some of us, that kind of contribution is unattainable, and some of us can do much more. After the Board became aware of the current situation, an anonymous donor decided to pledge another \$2,000 toward the canvass campaign – and we hope others will do the same.

What can you do for BRUU? No one among us is asked to do more than their finances will allow. But I hope you will choose to do everything you possibly can. If you can increase your pledge for next year, please write to [treasurer@bruu.org](mailto:treasurer@bruu.org) within the next week.

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

## BRUU's First Fire Drill 5 May, 2019!



Our first fire drill will be [on 5 May](#) sometime during the service. In keeping with best practices, this will be the only pre-announced drill. This drill will be the first of a once a year event. The Safe Congregation Committee will be the lead coordinators for the drill. Your job as a congregant attending the service is to become familiar with all three exits from the sanctuary, follow instructions, and participate safely and willingly.

Scenario – Congregants will be notified of the need for Fire evacuation by Minister/Worship Associate.

Evacuation Commences

Worship Associate (monitoring radio) advises Minister of need for evacuation

Minister advises congregants to exit the building in an orderly but rapid manner

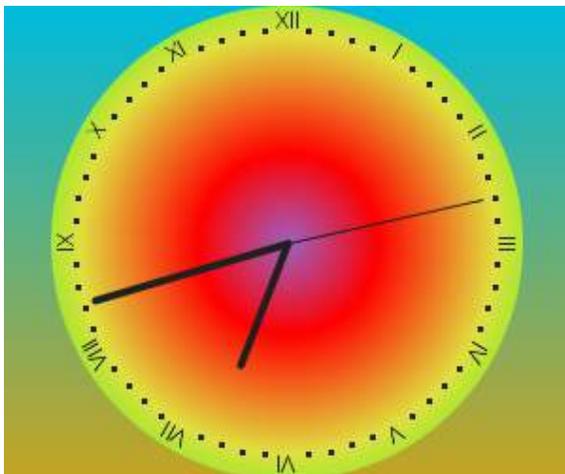
- Congregants advised to NOT use lift
- Congregants in need of assistance (request they raise their hand) assisted out of building
- Congregants told to not re-enter the building until cleared by Safe Congregation Evacuation Coordinator
- Doors closed after evacuation
- Congregants gather in parking lot across from the main Three Monkey's entrance.
- RE students/Coordinator/teachers gather at designated parking lot behind previous Old Town Tavern and are counted. Parents meet with RE Coordinator (in real evacuation will pick up children after the count).
- Safety team manages evacuation, notes issues that may arise, records time to evacuate, and addresses any initial medical needs. Coordinates with FD/EMS
- Potential Sweep by Safety Team Leader to ensure all are evacuated.

Drill ends (Timer Stops) – Congregants/RE classes re-enter building

Congregants will be asked for feedback on the drill. Safe Congregation Committee will evaluate the drill.

For additional information, contact Bruce Roemmelt, Safe Congregation Chair, [safety@bruu.org](mailto:safety@bruu.org)

## NOW IS THE TIME TO THANK EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM



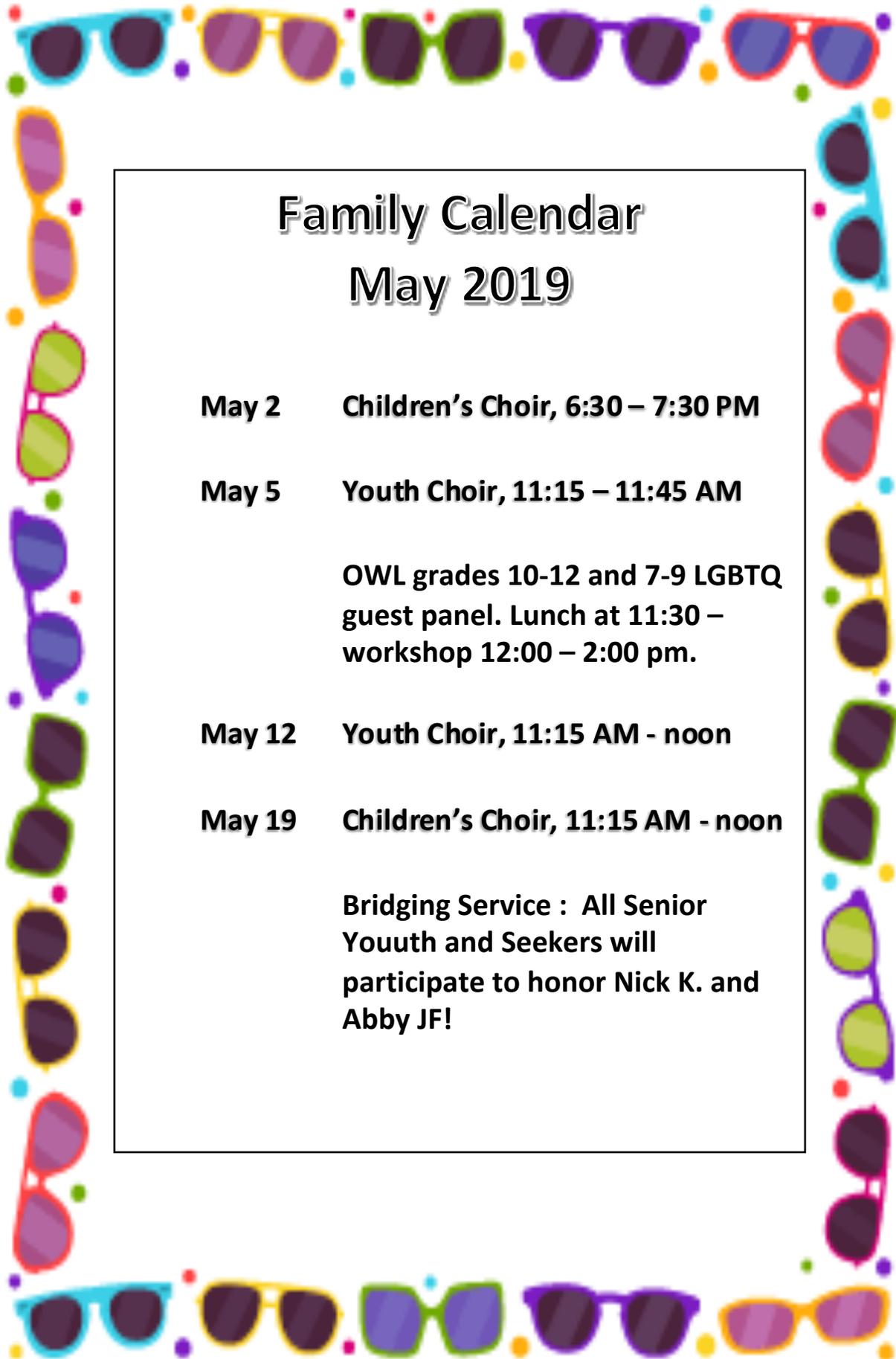
I want to publicly recognize and thank everyone who contributed to this year's Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Drive. Your willingness to give of yourself with generosity and good cheer was of immense joy and relief to this introvert.

The official activities were completed with the Stew-Stew last month on April 14<sup>th</sup>. However, several canvassers will continue to canvass so that we can meet the fiscal goal for FY19-20.

## THANK YOU ALL!

<b>Cochair</b>	<b>Terrie McClure</b>
<b>Newsletter Articles</b>	<b>Heather Berthold, Bob Hamburg, Marilyn Hamburg, Jessie Thompson, Mike Cleary, Cherie Romanek, Pat Malarkey, Bruce Roemmelt, Dave Feser</b>
<b>Thank You Dinner</b>	<b>Jessie Thompson, Morgan Thompson, McLane Thompson, Kathy Sobrio, Gwen Talbot, Victoria Gammon, Laurie Bloomberg, Tony Adell, Jon Kostik, Angie Carrera, Randy Earl, Terrie McClure, Helen Elkins, Sterling Rush</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	<b>Kelly Muzzin, Gretchen Almstead, Eric Trumbull, Mike Freeland</b>
<b>Trainers</b>	<b>Victoria Gammon, Terrie McClure, Martin Crim</b>
<b>Canvassers</b>	<b>Dave Hamilton, Gwen Talbot, Dave Feser, Michael Oliver, Art Muirhead, Heather Berthold, Martha Walsh, Mike Freeland, Kathy Sobrio, Victoria Gammon, Mike Cleary, Catherine Ring, Martin Crim, Randy Earl, Robin Fegeas</b>

**Bev Reusser, Canvass Campaign Chair**



## Family Calendar May 2019

**May 2 Children's Choir, 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

**May 5 Youth Choir, 11:15 – 11:45 AM**

**OWL grades 10-12 and 7-9 LGBTQ  
guest panel. Lunch at 11:30 –  
workshop 12:00 – 2:00 pm.**

**May 12 Youth Choir, 11:15 AM - noon**

**May 19 Children's Choir, 11:15 AM - noon**

**Bridging Service : All Senior  
Youth and Seekers will  
participate to honor Nick K. and  
Abby JF!**

## From our DRE



“It takes a village to raise a child,” “Love makes the world go ‘round.” No, it doesn’t, our incredible Religious Education Volunteers do! The people that you trust with your children have a variety of roles. Yes, they do provide information that develops a child’s faith. They also model what it is to be a Unitarian Universalist. They ask questions so that the child can figure out what their own Unitarian Universalism feels like, and acts like. They get to know your child on an individual basis and strive to meet their needs and stimulate their interests. They use their creativity to make character development a fun and worthwhile experience. They often do wacky things, for example, actually staging a flood when the lesson is about Noah. They share of themselves, their experiences, their mistakes and their successes. They get to show off their talents. They genuinely care deeply about your child.

And they learn and grow themselves. Being in small groups with children and youth gives our volunteers experiences they might not get the rest of the week. Children ask questions that make them think and bring perspectives from fresh eyes. And they get to be active and tactile. Modeling clay, theatrical reenactments, science experiments, songs and games are pretty fun. Being a leader of children gives them experiences that they take with them to other parts of their lives. They also get to be proud and sappy watching the children grow into the young adults we send out into the world.

Some of them are BRUU parents, but many are not. Here’s the village part. Parents need other adults in their circle influencing and supporting their children. Although each and every parent at BRUU is naturally perfect, other adults have talents, interests and experiences we have not had. Way up on the list of essentials to being a UU is to learn from a variety of sources. (And by the way, keeping young people in our pews depends on the relationships they have with adults in the congregation.) Join them! Be one of the important people in a child or youth’s life, just by being yourself.

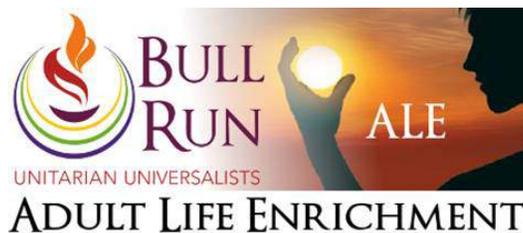
In the meantime, please make the effort to acknowledge and appreciate the people who are doing it now. We are all grateful for them and because of their actions our lives are blessed in ways we cannot see.

Michelle Luman  
Mary Kadlubowski  
Mike Freeland  
Osk Huneycutt  
Helena Kennedy  
Sophia Kadlubowski  
Martin Crim

Danielle Smith  
Colin Credle  
Zarina Credle  
Margo Davies  
Jennifer Malos  
Dianne Lane  
Matt Sisson  
Lois Montgomery

Randy Earl  
Cathy Ring  
Kelly Muzzin  
Annaliess Trommatter  
Dean Luman  
Angie Carrera  
Henry Hastings  
Owen Davies

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education



### **What We Choose -- Ethics for UU's -- May 11, Sat. – 12:00 to 4:00 – Room 305 OK then . . . What do you believe?**

UU'ism doesn't tell you what to believe. But it does require you to establish your own set of truths, based on the fairness & respect shown in UU's 7 Principles. Sign up for A.L.E.'s . . .

Come & test your beliefs in situational ethics. Explore what you really truly do believe. You might surprise yourself!

### **THE SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION -- May 1 – 8 – 22 , Wed. - 7:00 – Sr. High Room**

Are you Perfectly imperfect? Imperfection is e-v-e-r-y-b-o-d-y! In this A.L.E. class, let's explore the positives of imperfection & square it with our competitive American culture's expectation of perfection. Who knows, in this class the REAL YOU might find inner peace at last!

[Go to bruu.org](http://bruu.org) – scroll to A.L.E.'s link – browse & register -- all free! [Just click here or on the picture why dontcha?](#)

The BRUU women's group (SASS – the Society of Audacious Silver-haired Sisters) meets the second Monday of every month. On May 13th the group plans to take a road trip to Fredericksburg to tour a Tiny House. The house is owned by a former BRUU member who will demonstrate the features and fun of her compact house, and garden. Afterwards the group will go to lunch in old town Fredericksburg before heading back North. If you wish to participate you must call (703.754.8191) or email [ring.cw@gmail.com](mailto:ring.cw@gmail.com) for details & carpool arrangements. In the event of tour cancellation (such as for inclement weather), SASS will revert to the usual meeting schedule: Meet at Noon on the BRUU front steps to walk to lunch at a nearby restaurant. Don't want to "do lunch", then just arrive at BRUU by 1:30pm for the meeting in the lower level Lounge. Bring savory snacks or sweets to share.

## BRUU Board of Directors: April 2019 Meeting Highlights

The Board took note of the fact that the New City Fellowship had signed an amended lease agreement with BRUU that will provide them with expanded access to the building on Sunday afternoons, and will increase our rental income by \$120 for each Sunday.

The Board reviewed the second draft charter submitted by the Endowment Committee after some revisions and clarification had been requested by the Board. After reaching consensus in favor of the technical changes made in the amended version of the charter, Board members discussed the Committee's proposal that rather than reporting to the Board, as has been the case in all previous committee charters, its reporting relationship should be directly to the Congregation. After a discussion of the merits of different options for defining the Committee's degree of autonomy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised charter, with the sense of the Board being that the Endowment Committee's role in coordinating with the Board and being ultimately accountable to the Congregation should be appropriately reflected in a new BRUU organizational chart.

Kathy Sobrio and Mike Cleary had agreed at the last Board meeting to put together a proposal on how congregational visioning process could be carried out. They outlined a process which would begin with a clear explanation of vision as opposed to mission, and where a key goal would be to involve as much of the congregation as possible. Ensuing discussion by Board members included the recommendation that three structured listening sessions with congregants would probably be optimal; that procedures developed for the techniques known as World Café and Appreciative Inquiry could be helpful for facilitating the sessions; and that there would be a need to distinguish between the role of the COSM (evaluating our ministries to make suggestions for improvement), and Visioning (creating a blueprint for BRUU's future). The effort will continue throughout FY 19-20, culminating at next year's Annual Meeting.

The Board held a general discussion on our communications practices in order to see if there were possible recommendations for making these more effective. Comments on areas for potential improvement included promoting policies on using the best means for ensuring that congregants are aware of important events, and developing a BRUU culture where people are more conscientious about RSVPing. There was also a perceived need to refine our feedback loops on the use of social media for outreach, and on determining the best means of attracting visitors and turning them into new members. Since the online groups and discussion features of BRUUNet are getting very little use, we need to have an intentional conversation about where these functions should be relocated and what form should they take – Kathy will ask committees how they communicate in group formats online. A final topic was how we organize ourselves to deal with communications issues. There was a suggestion that we might want to differentiate between the different communications teams, which seem to be working effectively, and the perceived need for a committee that will take an analytical approach to developing policies – Heather Berthold will follow up in this regard.

The next Board meeting will be held on May 14, 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

## Denominational Affairs



*You are invited to join us for a week of multigenerational fun and inspiration*

**With Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Ysaye Barnwell**



**July 7-13, 2019, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH**

**Details at [www.cersiuu.org](http://www.cersiuu.org)**

Registration is now open for CERSI - the Central East Region Summer Institute, July 7-13 at Oberlin College, OH. Our amazing theme speaker is Dr. Ysaye Barnwell speaking on Building the Vocal Community. Workshop options cover a range of topics and the week includes time for sharing, listening, singing, and playing. Scholarships are available! Deadline to apply is May 31. Learn more at [www.cersiuu.org](http://www.cersiuu.org)

### **UUMAC: July 7 - 13, residential family camp for UUs, including YOU!**

We meet each July on the campus of DeSales University, near Allentown, Pennsylvania. UUMAC lasts one week, though many campers wish it were longer! As the name indicates, we are focused on UUs from the Mid-Atlantic States but anyone is welcome to join the fun. DeSales provides food, comfortable dorm housing, and buildings for our use. Our week includes sharing, listening, building community, laughing, singing, thinking, reading, dancing, and getting to know each other. UUMAC is many things to many people: a spiritual retreat, time for reflection and celebration, a reunion with our friends, a time to revel in a community of fun-loving and like-minded people of all ages. Join us for a week which is as relaxing or action-packed as you like, and renew your spirit. Contact Ann Andrex, [andrexes@comcast.net](mailto:andrexes@comcast.net) for detailed help or encouragement! Or visit the UUMAC webpage at [www.uumac.org](http://www.uumac.org)

### ***Calling All Youth Leaders***

Are you ready for River Rising Leadership School? At River Rising Youth will spend a week creating community and learning to care for that community spiritually, pastorally and physically. They will have conversations about how Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist values influence their own sense of purpose and work on articulating their own faith based values. We'll approach leadership as a continual process of self reflection, group processing and practice work. And we'll have a lot fun just hanging out and playing together! 2 different weeks, 2 different locations. Learn more at [www.uua.org/central-east/youth/goldmine](http://www.uua.org/central-east/youth/goldmine).

### ***Sophia Lyons Fahs Camp***

Long Island UU Council announces that registration is open for Sophia Lyons Fahs Camp. This camp has a new location!. Dates are August 18-24, 2019 at Camp Echo in Burlingame, NY. This is for children and youth of all ages. Learn more at [liacuu.org/fahs](http://liacuu.org/fahs).