

Volume 37
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September
2019



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings

UU Evangelism

One morning in August, two people who were visiting Manassas came into the church – the front doors just happened to be unlocked that morning because Annease was expecting the piano technician – and asked to be shown around the building and speak to the minister about Unitarian Universalism.

The woman was someone from the area and the man was visiting from the Pacific Northwest. They had gone to the Manassas Museum and picked up the walking tour brochure. It turns out that our building is on that walking tour of historic Old Town.

After their tour of the building with Tina, they came into my office to learn a little bit about our beloved faith tradition. I gave them my nutshell UU history and theology lesson, which they found very interesting.

The man was raised Mennonite and found points of agreement with his own worldview. I can't remember the religious upbringing of his friend, whom he was visiting.

Coincidentally, that same morning I had gone to a local bank to check on an account that I am now the signatory on – part of my denominational service this year is as the Treasurer of the Chesapeake UU Minister's Association (CUMMA), a chapter of the UUMA – and I'd delivered an even briefer encapsulation of UU-ism to the branch assistant manager. He knew from the paperwork we were checking on that I am a clergyperson and asked about Unitarian Universalism. This banker identifies as Syrian Orthodox, but he told me that the nearest Syrian Orthodox church is too far away to go to every week. He was interested in checking out Bull Run UU to see if it might meet some of the needs of him and his family.

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Clergy are often reluctant to identify themselves as such, but when I am working or addressing work related tasks, I do so knowing that I may need to explain about UU-ism. I've heard congregants say that they are uncomfortable talking about their faith whether with family, friends or people they've just met. I think this is unfortunate because these are UUs who love their church-family, love what Unitarian Universalism is, and love that they found this free and affirming faith tradition.

The best way that any of us can "grow our church" is by inviting family, friends, and neighbors to come experience worship with us on Sunday morning or attend a program of our congregation. What are the access points to our community? Give it some thought. Do you know someone who loves music and might enjoy joining the choir? Is there a family you know looking for a progressive faith formation program for their children? Are there adults who would enjoy learning something new through one of our ALE classes?

Yes, taking these initiatives is being an evangelical of sorts – you are sharing the "good news" of our UU faith – and there is nothing whatsoever unholy about speaking aloud to others about a worldview that has transformed your life. And, yes, I am using evangelical in its broadest terms, not confining it to a particular brand of Christianity or even Christianity itself. For me, evangelism has a broader application, just as fundamentalism does.

We Unitarian Universalists claim to offer a big tent and a seat at our table for anyone who agrees to the 7 Principles and our congregational covenants.

As we begin to ramp up activities for the regular church-year, I would also gently remind us that we are committed to radical inclusivity and welcome. If you can, please actively seek to make all who come here feel at home by greeting the people you don't know at all or very well. Is there an unfamiliar person sitting in the pews? Don't wait to see if they choose a golden mug at coffee hour, instead go up to them before the service starts and introduce yourself, tell them you are glad they chose to come worship with us on this day.

May your days and nights be blessed,

Rev. Charlotte



FROM ANNEASE

September is here and that means choirs resume - hooray! Adult choir meets on Wednesday nights 7-8:30; it's not necessary that you read music to join, just as long as you can match pitch and carry a tune. Choirs for children (ages 9-13) and youth (ages 14-18) each meet twice monthly on Sundays after RE. UuPBeats meets on first and third Tuesdays of the month at 1:30; this group is for anyone who likes to sing but doesn't want to perform for others. In addition to our sing-alongs at BRUU, we have a regular ministry with the residents of Caton Merchant House (assisted living facility nearby). Contact me at music@bruu.org for more information about these opportunities.

Annease Hastings, Director of Music

September 2019 Sermon Descriptions

September 1: *Title TBD* (Worship Committee) – An interactive worship service on the idea of challenging ourselves to be big-n-bold as George Austin, the main character of Kathy Sobrio’s pending book, did. Worship leader, Kathy Sobrio, will relate his story to the BRUU congregation’s future visioning project for our church.

September 8: *Water Communion Ingathering Service* (Rev. Charlotte) – our annual ingathering ritual brings together water as symbolic of our life as a Beloved Community. Please bring a little water from a source symbolic to you/your family to be gathered in story, ritual and music this morning.

September 15: *Give Them Not Hell But Hope* (Rev. Charlotte) – Regina Perry, winner of the 2018 Auction Sermon, asked for a message that draws on the Universalist doctrine of hope. Love without exceptions has been central to Universalism in America since 1770. This hope-filled theology fuels our faith and our actions in the world.

September 22: *Visioning: A Wider Sight* (Rev. Charlotte) – This church-year, BRUU will be engaged in a process to create a vision statement that will guide our decisions and efforts to live our mission in world. What is the difference between vision and mission? How does mission serve the wider sight of our vision for Beloved Community?

September 29: *Title TBD* (Worship Committee) – Kathy Nickels, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, will lead worship on a topic related to the theme of prison ministry. The 5th Sunday Special Collection will benefit the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Prison Ministry program (<https://worthynow.org/>).

September 2019

9/05 Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
9/07 Board Retreat
9/08 BRUU Barbeque
Membership Committee, 11:15 A
Finance Com, 11:30 A
BRIC, 11:30
9/09 SASS, 1:30 P
9/10 Food Pantry
9/12 Worship Committee, 7 P
9/15 Program Council, 11:30 A
Cottage Meeting, 11:30 A
9/17 PFLAG
9/18 Grief Support Brown Bag, 12
9/20 USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A
9/22 RE Committee, 11:30 A
Committee Fair, 11:15 A

9/24 Food Pantry, 9:30 A
9/26 Master Naturalists, 6:30 P
Board Meeting, 7 P
9/28 MAC Workday, 9:30 A



Children’s Book Drive! The Food Pantry is almost depleted of books for children – 6th grade reading level. Please donate gently used books to the Food Pantry box in the Fellowship Hall.

What's BRUU-ing in September?

With the start of September, BRUU congregational life jumps back into high gear after the quieter summer months. Highlighted-happenings include worship, faith formation, fellowship and interfaith engagement. Here are some of the programs you don't want to miss:

9/8 – *Water Communion and Annual Ingathering Multigenerational Worship Service*:

Be sure to bring a little water for this annual ritual of covenant renewal and celebration being a safer community for seeking and sharing. The service is followed by a BBQ lunch for all.

9/15 – *Religious Education* starts for all children and youth. The new date for monthly *Soup Sunday* is 3rd Sunday of the month. The *Committee on Shared Ministry* hosts its 3rd (and final) cottage/listening meeting, grab some lunch and join others in sharing with COSM what is working well and what you wish to see at BRUU.

9/22 – Worship service kicks off a year of *visioning* in the morning. We participate in the annual Unity in the Community *International Day of Prayers for Peace Interfaith Celebration*, collection of non-perishable food, and (meatless) potluck at Wat Lao Buddavong in Catlett, VA, from 3-6 pm – please plan to attend along with adult choir and Rev. Charlotte.

9/29 – The first of four *5th Sunday Special Collections* will be received to benefit the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Prison Ministry program. *Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes* for Grades 4-6 and 7-9 begin, see DRE Kristin Worthington, for more information.

As always, check for on-going programs such as Adult Choir rehearsals and Tao classes, outreach programs like the food pantries, and committee meetings for more opportunities to get involved in BRUU congregational life.

Submitted by Rev. Charlotte

The Heart of BRUU

Committee Fair

Sept. 22

Following service

Fellowship Hall



Please join us downstairs during coffee hour and Soup Sunday where the committees will have tables to inform you of their service to BRUU and the community. Please consider deepening your connection to your chosen faith community by picking a place to serve.

If you are a chair, RSVP to Nina Lomax at 571-247-2811 (cell/text) or ninalomax@comcast.net to reserve your table by 9/15.

COSM Conversations September 15, 11:30!

COSM (Committee on Shared Ministry) will be facilitating its third cottage meeting on Sunday, September 15 at 11:30 in the Flamingo lounge. This is 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.

As detailed in the July newsletter, we've entertained discussion about a wide range of topics, and generated numerous ideas. We've heard about things people like and things that people maybe don't like so much. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, please don't miss this one!

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 name tags that say "Committee on Shared Ministry." COSM consists of Gretchen Almstead (chair), Tony Main, Martha Muirhead, Rita Romano, Deborah Buckingham, and Rick Flaherty.

Fellowship Snacks

Starting last October, we have successfully launched a healthy eating snack schedule for fellowship coffee hour.

Please consider taking one or two Sundays.

Simply veggies, fruits, hummus, cheese, good bread, popcorn...basically whole foods or food filled with love...impress us!

Special thanks to those who stepped up already:

Rita Romano, Bill Stejskal, Jen Deavers, The Davies family, Mimi Costley, Tony Main, Henry Hastings, the Covins, Dee Brown, Raegan Stobo, Jon Kostik, Kathy Sobrio, Mike Cleary, Helena Kennedy, Faye Sledge, Ed Davis, the Coes, Laura Crowne, Angie Carrera, Peg Futrell, and the choir peeps for choir service. Contact Nina Lomax at 571-247-2811 (cell/text) or ninalomax@comcast.net

*******Leadership Development Team News*******

Did you know that the LDT has funding available for BRUUers to take courses or classes which would add or improve skills for our congregational leadership?

If you are interested in a particular offering, please contact an LDT member for an application for approval. Nina Lomax Dianne Lane Angie Carrera Martha Walsh

Coming soon: October 19 Running Effective Meetings

Coming Later: January 11 Building a Highly Effective Team

Reserve your spot Nina Lomax 571-247-2811 cell/text, ninalomax@comcast.net

Just As Long As I Have Breath

Series Title: First Principles

Column Title: Planning for a Range of Possible Futures

In my speech accepting BRUU's vote to make me President, I spoke of stewardship, accountability, planning for a range of possible futures, vision, living our values, and love. This is the third in the series, on the subject of planning for a range of possible futures.

In my previous column, I wrote, "We can measure one aspect of success early: Whether we can ask hard questions and face the discussion that follows." One set of hard questions starts with "What if?" What if our tenants move out and we can't replace them? What if pledges don't come in like we expect? What if we have unexpected expenses?

Another set of hard questions looks into the deeper future and doesn't like what it sees there. Illiberal religion is growing in power and influence in the US. Climate disaster is growing steadily and surely. Growing economic inequality is dividing society. What are we going to do?

And yet another set of hard questions sees that the world really is getting better. Marriage equality happened in my lifetime. The New York Times Magazine's 1619 Project examines the legacy of slavery in a way few white people could have tolerated forty years ago. Worldwide, extreme poverty, illiteracy, and disease are declining. These trends make us ask, "What can we, as one smallish church in a smallish denomination, do to keep the momentum going?"

In working on our vision for a range of possible futures, we need to return to first principles. The free and responsible search for truth and meaning is the capstone of the seven principles. All of us together are wiser than any of us individually, and that's why I invite you to participate bravely, honestly and openly in our upcoming visioning process. As part of that process, let's think about how we would react to bad times and take advantage of good times.

Martin Crim, President, BRUU Board of Directors

Your Board is Working for You

In August, the Board:

- * Approved a calendar of events and future agenda items
- * Set the Annual Meeting on June 7, the same day as the Flower Communion.
- * Agreed to hold Town Hall meetings with the congregation in October and February.
- * Approved a Visioning calendar with a kick-off on September 22.
- * Finalized plans for the Board retreat in September.
- * Agreed to provide a "SmorgasBoard" item to the annual auction
- * Discussed capital repairs to the main building and commercial building (and how to pay for them)
- * Started planning for a 20th anniversary celebration of being in our current building
- * Worked on Rev. Charlotte's preliminary fellowship assessment, which has to be completed by early November.



Family Calendar September 2019

Sept 8: Mandatory Parent Meeting, OWL
Grades 7-9, Room 305

Sept 14-15: Junior and Senior Youth
Overnight

Sept 15 - children's choir 11:15-12:15

Sept 22 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

Sept 22: Mandatory Parent AND Child
Meeting, OWL Grades 4-6, Room 305

Sept 29: First Session, OWL Grades 4-6
and Grades 7-9

From our DRE

Religious Education Begins September 15! Our curriculum this year focuses on Unitarian Universalist Identity. The RE groups will study the Seven Principles & Six Sources; Unitarian Universalist History; Individuals who formed and shaped our faith, as well as Contemporary UU's leading us to the next phase. And they will explore how to practice UU character and values on a daily basis.

Rising 9th graders will participate in the Coming of Age program, a rite of passage that acknowledges their step into the youth group; and allows the participants to examine their current faith beliefs.

Junior and Senior High Youth will have Second Saturday Socials – once a month gatherings of fun and fellowship. Senior Youth will continue a favorite, the Senior to Senior Teas, a chance for our young people to get to know adults in the congregation. The junior youth class will be in a self-directed study of important UUs, producing videos, art, music, stories or whatever they get excited about!

Younger classrooms will be active and engaging. Our Explorers room has been transformed to communicate the day's lesson in a variety of expressions and learning styles. Social Action this year will be RE wide. Being Allies to the LGBTQ community was chosen. The project will be headed by our youth and will include the efforts of all children and youth, in age appropriate commitments.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 4-6 and grades 7-9 will be held this year, while K-1 will take place for a portion of their Sunday mornings.

Please make sure to update or fill out a Registration form for each of your children, and check the Family Calendar for Important Dates. Contact Kristin at dre@bru.org with any questions.

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education

Explorers (Ages 3-7)

Room 304

Mary Kadlubowski, Sophia Kadlubowski
& Osk Huneycutt

Seekers (Ages 11-13)

Room 305

Margo Davies, Jennifer Malos, Matt Sisson &
Lois Montgomery

Questers (Ages 8-10)

Room 208

Martin Crim, Mike Freeland, Laura Coates &
Michelle Feagus

Coming of Age (9th graders)

Senior Lounge/Studio
Heather Berthold & Colin Credle

Senior Youth (Ages 15 – 17)

Senior Lounge

Kelly Muzzin, Annaliess Tromatter,
Dean Luman & Danielle Smith

BRUU and V.O.I.C.E. - Fall 2019



With so much happening this Fall, this is a perfect time to report on BRUU's participation in VOICE! VOICE, Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, was founded in 2008 with BRUU and almost 50 other Northern Virginia congregation and organization charter members. A non-partisan coalition, VOICE works to organize middle and low-income communities in Prince William, Fairfax, and Arlington counties and the City of Alexandria, uniting people across lines of race, class, religion, political party and geography.

VOICE takes action on key issues in our community including but not limited to affordable housing, transportation, immigrant rights, criminal Justice reform and schools (multiple issues here). This is done, not through protests and not through partisan politics, but by building relationships within communities and with those in power—at many levels. VOICE has been very successful over the years in identifying key issues through numerous community listening sessions, and getting those in power to commit to effecting change on those issues. For more information, see <http://www.voice-iaf.org> and download the two-page 2019 VOICE flyer, http://www.voice-iaf.org/sites/default/files/VOICE_2019_State_Issue_Agenda_About_VOICE_201902v2.pdf and the 2018 Annual Report (<http://www.voice-iaf.org/sites/default/files/VOICE-2018-Annual-Report.pdf>).

Where is VOICE now? 2019 is very much a building year, not because VOICE has lost power, but because we recognize that to better effect change, we need greater influence at the state level. Much can be and has been accomplished at the local level. And we have had the support of the Governor on many issues. But in order to achieve success at the state level, such as not suspending the driver's licenses of those who can't afford to pay court fees (VOICE can take huge credit for this), we need legislator and governor support.

To build up VOICE for greater influence in the state General Assembly, we are initially concentrating on county level activities. In Prince William County this means (a) recruiting more organizations, including schools and ACTS (as well as new congregations), (b) growing our "Friends of VOICE" support (more on this later), and (c) building "core teams" within our congregations. We are well on track to increase organizational membership significantly (most likely by 50% or more—see list below)! A Friends of VOICE drive will begin soon. And building VOICE core teams within congregations, most importantly within BRUU, is also on track (more on this also later).

VOICE actions this Fall will also take place at the county level. Instead of a VOICE-wide action as we've had the past two years, we will hold a Prince William County Candidates Action, Sunday, October 20, 2019 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, starting at 3:30pm. All four candidates for Board of Supervisors chair, both candidates for Commonwealth Attorney and one of the two candidates for Board of Education chair have already committed. The second BOE chair candidate committal is pending. BRUU has committed to bringing 25 to this action, with a total PWC-wide target of 400 to 450.

Issues to be addressed at this action will be those of current concern: criminal justice reform and schools. In Prince William County, these include the need for a Public Defenders Office (PWC is one of only two VA counties without such an office), bail reform and numerous school issues (mental health, after school programs, safe routes to school, ESL for parents ...). Note that PWC VOICE issue papers are currently in the works and will be available soon—stay tuned.

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September 2019 Crossroads

As in past years, we are also doing a Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) effort, scheduled for November 2-5 (door-to-door canvassing Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday (election day) and phone-banking on Monday). If interested, please sign up with a BRUU VOICE team member (see below).

But this fall, BRUUers will have other opportunities to (a) participate in preparing for the October action, and (b) receive training. A VOICE Action Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 17 from 7 to 8:30pm at St. Paul UMC; BRUU has committed to bringing eight to this meeting.

VOICE training has been rescheduled to November (from September 14). This three to four hour session will be an introduction to the basics of VOICE's approach to organizing power for change. It is open to anyone, either new or veteran who wants a refresher. Stay tuned for exact date and location.

Finally, we hope to organize at least one listening session at BRUU this fall (maybe winter), focused on school issues. We are still in the early planning stages so once again, stay tuned. If you wish to be involved, please see Joan Cantor or any BRUU VOICE Core Team member.

The current BRUU VOICE Core Team consists of Robin Fegeas, Mike Freeland, Joan Cantor, Kathy Nickel, Michelle Fegeas and possibly more since we're still in the formation process. We hope to have our first team meeting in September, at which time we'll address goals, the scope of our activities, our responsibilities, etc. If interested, please let us know (and be sure you are on our email list).

As mentioned above, we will soon be campaigning to build up our "Friends of VOICE" participation. VOICE is funded by member dues (BRUU's dues are 1% of our operating budget), grants (from foundations, denominations, and corporations/institutions) and by donations from individuals. Quite simply, a Friend of VOICE is an individual who commits to giving or raising \$300 or more. Anyone is of course invited to donate to VOICE (see <http://www.voice-iaf.org/donations>) but if you do, please let a BRUU core team member know so we earn brownie points.

There is so much happening this fall – please consider becoming involved! We will especially need "bodies" at the October 20th Action, but think about also helping with the GOTV effort and(or) the School issues listening session, attending the training session, and becoming a Friend of Voice or even a BRUU VOICE core team member!

January 1, 2019 PWC congregation/organization VOICE members
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists
Dar Al-Noor Islamic Community Center
First Baptist Church Manassas
First Mount Zion Baptist Church
Mount Olive Baptist Church
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church

Members who joined, or will join in 2019:
First AME Church of Manassas
Manassas Church of the Brethern
Olive Branch Baptist Church in Haymarket

Ten more congregations are being actively pursued
two or more schools
Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) of Prince William

Submitted by Robin Fegeas

BRUU BBQ Potluck

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 after
Service in the Fellowship Hall

BRUU moved into our building 20
years ago! Let's celebrate!!

The BRUU BBQ Potluck is fun,
indoor event. It will take place rain
or shine downstairs in the
Fellowship Hall right after Service.

Fellowship-Activities Committee will
provide hamburgers, hotdogs and
veggie burgers. Please sign up to
bring the things we need to make
this event happen!

For more info, contact: Liesl Main,
Christine Sunda, or Margo
Davies, fellowship@bruu.org



Check out the new carpeting on the staircase and balcony in the sanctuary! Not only is it much more visually appealing, it also reduces noise. This is one of the capital improvement projects recently completed. Stay tuned for our sanctuary new projection system, due sometime this month.

OCTOBER FEST AND DANCE PLUS OTHER FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

The fundraising committee is planning many activities for the next year. Our first event is an **Octoberfest dinner and dance** on Saturday, October 5. Come for a wonderful dinner of brats, sauerkraut, beer, and a German dessert complete with oompa music provided by our musicians. After dinner we will transition to regular dance music for more fun and dancing. Childcare is available for children seven and under. More details about this fundraiser will be coming, but mark your calendars!

In December we will have our annual craft fair over December 7th & 8th. New this year will be a BRUU Crafters table where we split the profit with BRUU crafters. If you are interested in taking part in this, contact Dorothy Greenhouse. If you want your own table contact Christine Sunda. Plan to come and shop for your holiday gifts. Saturday is the same day as the Manassas Parade so make a day of it! Throughout the year we will have concerts by various amazing artists. In March we will again have the St. Paddy's Day dinner. There are even more fun activities planned, so stay tuned.

OUR FIRST FALL WORKDAY IS SEPTEMBER 28th

Let's get the fall season off to a good start with our next workday on Saturday, September 28th from 9:30am to 3pm. The next weekend is the Octoberfest and it would be great to have the building looking clean and fresh for it. We have, as usual, light cleaning, painting, and other tasks we need done. Please come for any length of time you can. A free pizza lunch will be provided. Responsible young people are always welcome. We have also scheduled a second workday on November 9th. The purpose of this workday is to get the building ready for the annual Auction (yay Auction!). For more information contact Christine Sunda



Why Not to Clean up Your Garden This Fall,
adapted by Christine Sunda from an article by Jessica Walliser in Savvy Gardening

Many people think that in fall we need to cut all our dead plants back to the ground and rake up all the leaves until there isn't a shred of nature left behind. Our yards are as clean as our living rooms! Instead we have learned that our yards can be a haven for birds, bees, and butterflies if we just leave them as is after the growing season. Our gardens play an important role in supporting wildlife and we can enhance or inhibit that role by what we do. Keep your dead plants in place and don't remove leaves especially from the flowerbeds. Here are five important reasons to NOT clean up the garden in the fall:

September 2019 Crossroads

1. Native Bees: In North America we have thousands of native bee species that need a protected place to winter from predators and the cold. They hide in peeling bark or the hollow stem of a plant. Some winter as eggs or larvae in the ground. When we remove all the plants and leaves where they can overwinter, we hurt these important native pollinators.

2. Butterflies: Though some butterflies fly south in winter, most stay put and find shelter somewhere safe and dry. Some like the mourning cloak overwinter as adults in leaf litter or rock fissures. Butterflies that overwinter in a chrysalis include the swallowtail family, the cabbage whites and the Sulphurs. These butterfly chrysalises are found hanging from dead plants and leaf litter. The butterflies that overwinter as caterpillars roll themselves into leaf litter or even seed pods. If we cut down the plants and clean, clean, clean, we are eliminating these beautiful and needed pollinators from our gardens! Just knowing that butterfly populations are declining in record numbers should be a good reason to not clean up your garden.

3. Ladybugs: Native ladybugs don't overwinter in our homes; it's the Asian ladybugs that do. Native ladybugs spend the winter under leaves, at the base of plants or under a rock. Ladybugs are great pest eaters including aphids and are very important if you want a balanced yard without using chemicals.

4. Birds: Insect-eating birds such as chickadees and nuthatches consume thousands of pest insects in spring to feed their young. Not cleaning up the garden means there will be insects, seeds, and berries through winter and early spring to eat when not much is blooming. Dead flower heads are often filled with seeds for them to eat. The more you leave your garden alone, the more songbirds you will have!

5. Predatory Insects: There are many other predatory insects like lacewings and assassin bugs that spend the winter in our gardens. If you have the insects that kill pests already in your garden in spring, you have a natural built in defense. Don't remove your dead plants and leaves and you will help reduce the need for chemicals and just have beautiful eco-rich gardens.

This fall instead of going out with pruning shears, rake or leaf blowers (a big polluter by the way) wait until late April. By then most of the bees and butterflies will have emerged and already be helping keep our bit of the Earth healthy and happy.

UU Climate Justice Conference

On Sunday, Sept 15, a group of Unitarian Universalist organizations including All Souls will be hosting an afternoon conference on climate justice and building a movement for a Green New Deal. It will feature a combination of national and local speakers, with emphasis on people from frontline communities and youth. This session is part of a larger conference happening Sept 15-17 which includes more fantastic speakers (including at least one Member of Congress) and lobbying.

Speakers for the Sunday session (12:30 – 5:30 PM at All Souls) include: **Basav Sen**, Climate Justice Project Director at the Institute for Policy Studies, one the leading organizations working on climate solutions that address racial, economic, gender and other forms of inequality; **Chris Bradshaw**, Founder and Executive Director of Dreaming Out Loud, which creates economic opportunities for the DC metro region's marginalized community members through building a healthy, equitable food system; **Levi Draheim**, UU from Brevard County, FL, and—at 12-years-old—the youngest plaintiff in the Juliana v United States climate lawsuit; and **Julian Brave Noisecat**, Director of Green New Deal Strategy, Data for Progress, US policy lead for the global grassroots climate campaign, 350.org and a proud member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen (First Nations).

Registration for Sunday alone is \$40 and includes lunch. Registration for the Full Conference (Sept 15-17) is \$125. Click here for the Sunday program flyer and links to registration for both Sunday and the full conference. Link: <http://bit.ly/915UUClimateJustice>