



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

August 2024
Volume 42, Issue 8

Crossroads



Photo: The residents of BRUU's Flamingo Lounge, looking bright and summery after a recent refresh

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



August Sermon Descriptions

August 4: The Miracle of Transformation

“Everything in nature contains all the power of nature. Everything is made of one hidden stuff.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Exploring hands-on visible, physical transformations based on scientifically explainable processes will demonstrate a key Unitarian Universalist tenet: reason and awe are not mutually exclusive.

August 11: Backpack Service Sunday

Gather to share our spirit in action! During this service we will pack up backpacks with all the required school supplies. Our efforts will be enjoyed by families at Sinclair Elementary School. Be sure to sign up for donations with the QR code provided in Round Up.

August 18: A Miracle Inside

“If we did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.” – Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

As part of the web of life, each of us embodies a miraculous, natural, and constant state of physical change. This week, we will explore inner, human transformations - changes so deep, complete, and meaningful to the self and to others that they can seem miraculous. How do such changes happen?

August Sermon Descriptions

August 25: The Miracle of Social Change

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” – Harriet Tubman (c. 1820-1913), abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor

A small number of people in every generation are forerunners, in thought, action, spirit, who swerve past the barriers of greed and power to hold a torch high for the rest of us. Hear about some of those miraculous shifts from fear to openness, injustice to fairness, and isolation to collaboration that a group can experience when passionate individuals focus their love, faith, and determination to transform the community.



From the President's Desk

Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

Dear Congregants,

On July 12, Board members from the FY24 board, new members for FY25-26 and two committee chairs (Worship and Membership) were my guests for a fun Board Dinner at Don Jose's Kitchen on Liberia. It was my way of thanking the prior board for all their hard work this past (fiscal) year and welcoming the new board members to service on the Board. If you get a chance, definitely try their Don Jose's Sopa De Res or their Carne Guisada, and tell them I sent you! Yum!

The following morning, the Board for this coming year met me at 8:45am to start our full-day Retreat! A lot was accomplished with the help of a fabulous facilitator, Janet Evans, in the very welcoming Cecilia's Guesthouse at the Benedictine Monastery in Bristow. Most importantly, several action items from the Retreat were identified to be shared with the congregation at the August Town Hall. Whether you attend the Town Hall or watch the recording that will be available by link post-meeting, please know that we expect members to be active participants in all the conversations and actions that we anticipate this coming year. So, I encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

A lot has been happening at BRUU that will not appear in the Board Matters article and these include things like:

- The Sexton Hiring Team is working its way through our applicants. Special thanks to Mike Freeland, John and Christine Sunda and John Calvin, as well as Rebecca Link who is coordinating the initial response to applicants and helping the hiring team in the interview process.
- Recognizing that some congregants may need a way in which to share their feelings about the Minister's departure in May, BRUU will provide a healing session on August 18 (see Roundup items for details). Although the congregation was provided background and process information at the May Town Hall, we remain mindful of the needs of all our congregants as we move forward in this new fiscal year.

From the President's Desk, Continued

- One more thing: It has been brought to my attention that clarification is needed about the two-year No Contact rule prohibiting a discharged Minister from initiating contact with congregants. However, it does not prohibit congregants who wish contact with the Minister from doing so (including mail which we forward). In the best interest of everyone's healing process and desire to move forward, it will be wise for congregants to consider avoiding conversations about the departure and any BRUU business. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at President@BRUU.org.

Each year brings new lessons learned and I (and the new President for FY26) will expect to hear from you about what we will be wanting in a minister when time comes for us to consider a ministerial search. Knowing how much you love BRUU and our community for seeking and service, brings me much joy and comfort. I believe in all the BRUU is and what we have to offer and am so glad to have you in BRUU's orbit.

Angie Carrera, BRUU Board President

Board Matters

This meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the BRUU Conference Room and is available on Zoom, except for a Closed Executive Session.

At this meeting, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with only slight corrections and approved reports from the President, Program Council, Membership and Staff. The general meeting held discussion on these agenda items:

- **August 4 Town Hall:** The Board will plan this Town Hall around action items developed at the Board Retreat, to provide congregants an opportunity to discuss viable next steps in defining BRUU's value to us as a "safe community for seeking and service." This may also help us determine where we are as a congregation before considering movement forward on defining a minister's role in the future. Please join us at 11:30am, following Sunday service.
- **Possible partnerships:** Having received approval at the June Board meeting, the President is currently discussing a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the CEO of Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) by which ACTS would provide distribution of BRUU's Community Assistance Fund (CAF) to their clients in need of emergency financial assistance. BRUU would continue collecting CAF donations but transfer CAF funds to ACTS' Emergency Financial Assistance program, which can provide the social service skillset that is not in BRUU's bandwidth. Besides ensuring a more efficient and effective way for fund distribution, this partnership is expected to re-capture essential time currently spent by our office administrator and BRUU's bookkeeper-volunteers. Another development is that Beacon is considering using BRUU space to provide ESL tutoring (by appointment). We will keep the congregation updated on both these issues.
- **Sexton Position:** Member Rebecca Link has stepped up to serve as "Hiring Team manager," helping the Hiring Team: Mike Freeland, John and Christine Sunda, and John Calvin. They are working on resumes received and arranging interviews during the week of July 29.

Board Matters, Continued

- **Membership Report:** As of July 15, no new members, currently 205 members, 125 friends, and 68 visitors.
- **Annual Financial Review:** The Treasurer shall contact a new CPA firm to do our annual financial review per our bylaw requirements.
- **Perpetual Calendar(s):** The President will review and revise the general and board calendars as necessary for review by the Board at the August board meeting. The Board also approved the following Town Hall dates for November 10, Feb 2, and May 4. The Board also approved one board meeting date change: moved to November 14 (instead of 21) and approved Saturday, June 14 for the Board Retreat, prior to the Board Meeting on June 19.
- **Space Use Fees:** The President will ask the Finance Committee to research comparative rental fees for space use of our Fellowship Hall, Flamingo Lounge, etc. and make a recommendation to the Board for an increase for these spaces.
- **Safety camera and internet cabling:** This project is still delayed, as we need a volunteer to help Mike Freeland with equipment and updated estimates for this work. Can you help?
- **Fire Drill:** This drill is scheduled sometime in October 2024. We will need some volunteers.
- **New Business:** None.
- **Closed Session:** Exit Interview, Healing Session and Article II. No motions made.

After approval by the Board, the full minutes of each board meeting (not the closed sessions) are available in the BRUUnet KnowledgeBase. Anyone interested in further information about the meeting may contact the President at President@BRUU.org.

Healing Ritual

Changes and transitions can elicit powerful responses in each of us. Some are exhilarated at new opportunities and are keen to tackle the uncertainties and blaze a new pathway forward. Others struggle with transitions, needing time to grieve endings and release the past. There is no one perfect way to experience endings and changes, and our emotions sometimes need to be tenderly processed before we can move forward.

During this time of transition, here at BRUU, we recognize that some of us need an opportunity to come together in community and shared experience, so we release our pain or fear and turn to finding our new path forward.

We will be holding a Healing Circle on 18 August in the afternoon after Worship Service. The final room choice will be determined by how many voices wish to share so we can accommodate all in a safe, comfortable setting. Within this container of sacred space, we can hold space for those who are confused and aching, and find connection as we release the intense emotions of the past and clear the way for new opportunities at BRUU. Participants are invited to bring prepared expressions, such as writings, songs, movement or other expressive art to share, and there will be quiet time set aside to consider and create works for those who need spontaneity. As this is a group experience, we ask that participants are mindful of the group's time and energy - express what you need to, but remember to share time and space for others too.

The BRUU Annual Auction

Scott Maile, Auction Chair



The BRUU's Annual Auction is approaching...



The Live Auction will be held at BRUU on 2 November and a bidding for the Online Auction is planned to start on 15 October.

There are so many reasons that The Auction is such a great event. The Auction is an opportunity to strengthen & build connections within our community, an opportunity to generate resources for our congregation, and (one of my favorite reasons) it demonstrates “The Power of Showing Up”.

So many questions to answer, things to do and things and things to think about:

- Who will be offering dinners, activities or vacay lodgings?
- When will the Sign-Up sheets get posted?
- What items will be available (jewelry?, instruments?, LEMON CURD?)

You can stay informed with information that will be posted on BRUUnet, Crossroads, Round-Up and Facebook. Please contact auktion@bruu.org if you have questions.

Details for this fun and exciting event will be available soon!

SUUSI Was a Blast!

Charlie Grymes

A baker's dozen of BRUU-related people attended SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute) this year. We participated in workshops, nature hikes, nightlife concerts and song circles until 2:00am, Teen Way Off Broadway, worship services, and many delightful conversations with new and old friends. Rain made the weather surprisingly cool in July, and a visit by JD Vance to Radford added some spice.



SUUSI has been going on for over 50 years. We'll have "church camp" again next year. If you're looking to make connections and enjoy time with fellow UU's, plan ahead for July 2025.



Events At & Around BRUU

Second Sunday Hike (With Ice Cream/Popsicles)

Charlie Grymes



Second Sunday Hike (With Ice Cream/Popsicles) On August 11, we will explore the brand new trail surface on Winter's Branch Trail in the City of Manassas from 1:00 -3:00pm. There's a new viewing platform as well. Midway, look for the cooler with ice cream/popsicles on an August afternoon.

Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2xqlVXGb-E1UUouqGInOAnh3dtyOFJMn_FLYDkwLIwk3-tQ/viewform

Park at 9501 Dean Park Lane (<https://www.google.com/maps/place/38%C2%B044'37.6%22N+77%C2%B029'25.0%22W/@38.7449135,-77.4922977,736m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d38.7437778!4d-77.4902778?entry=ttu>)

Stuff a Back Pack Returns!



Our friends at Sinclair Elementary School are in need of school supplies. Please help us provide these families with the basics, so they can concentrate on wondering and learning.

Sign Up Form can be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4BAEAB2DA0FE3-50065796-stuff>

Most of the items are \$10 or less, so please sign up for as many as you like!

The fine print: All donations must be exactly what is requested. Purchase the items as you see them, keep them at home until **the week of August 4.**

Contact Kristin at dre@bruu.org for more information.

BEACON Fall ESL Classes Begin This Month

Angie Carrera-Earl



Do you know someone struggling to learn English? Please refer them to BEACON! Their ESL classes have already scheduled for the Fall: August 19 through November 7 (No classes September 2-November 5).

Morning classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM.. Evening classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00- 9:00 PM. Classes are available in-person at Manassas and Manassas Park locations, or online on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM.. More information about class locations can be found [here](#). Please note that not every class level is available at every class location.

The fee for each twelve-week session is \$80 (increased from last year), which includes the book when a student signs up the first time during the year or when a student is tested and advances to the next level. All BEACON students will also have access to a Learning Upgrade App/account to practice English at home (via online account or their smart phone). The Learning Upgrade App has 28 courses with over 1,400 lessons covering math, English, and job skills.

Open House 70th Birthday Party
Saturday, 8/24/24



BIG PARTY - SAVE THE DATE !

as you firm up your summer plans

8/24/24 Saturday

open house 70th birthday for

Nina, John S, Christine, Mike F, John W, Trish, and Cat

9015 Doves Lane

Manassas

571-247-2811

time, music, food, games details to come

BRUU Midweek Coffee Hour - 10am Wednesdays

- Visit with old friends and make new ones
- Share your joys, concerns and insights
- Discuss serious topics and not so serious ones.
- Start your day off with a smile and a laugh or two!

10am-11:30am every Wednesday on Zoom. Feel free to drop in at any time. Contact Gordon Ward for links at wardge@icloud.com.



Buddhist Meditation Practice



A meditation practice group gathers every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the BRUU Library. The focus is to practice meditation for longer periods of time in community.

For addition information, contact Randy at trearlo607@gmail.com

Join the BRUU Book Group!



Our next book club meeting will be on August 19th at 3:30. We will be discussing "Symphony of Secrets" by Brendan Slocumb.

New members welcome, including people who are not members of BRUU. To get the Zoom invitation, contact us at bookgroup@bruu.org.

See Something? Report It!

Notice anything in or around the BRUU building that needs maintenance or repair? Please report it by using this link:

www.bruu.org/www2/building-repair-request-form

This will provide a quick opportunity for you to contact the Building & Grounds folks and alert them to the situation that needs attention.

It takes a village (aka congregation)!



Pastoral Care

One of our strengths as a congregation is how we care for one another.

Please reach out to us at pastoralcare@bruu.org and let us know if there is a need within our community, so that we may coordinate with caring volunteers within BRUU.





2024 SUMMER AT THE HARRIS PAVILION



www.manassasva.gov/harris pavilion

ACOUSTIC TUESDAY CONCERTS

@ 7 PM

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

FRESH MUSIC FRIDAYS

@ 7 PM

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



Current as of February 1

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

Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

@ 7 PM

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

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

Brought to you by ARTfactory

@ 6:30 PM

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



SUNDAY FUNDAY CONCERTS

@ 3 PM

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

OTHER FUN EVENTS

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

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION

703-368-1873

From the Treasurer's Office

Links for donating to BRUU



BRUU can receive online charitable donations via Zelle, Stripe or Paypal. You can use these services for your pledge payment (supporting our operational expenses), food pantry or community assistance donations, capital fund contributions, Sunday and split-the-plate, or any of our special collections and fundraisers. When donating online, you may use the comments section to specify your designation.

If you have questions or concerns just send us a note. Thanks!

Terrie McClure, Treasurer,

treasurer@bruu.org

Robin Fegeas et al, Bookkeepers,

bookkeeper@bruu.org

BRUU

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BRUU Board of Directors

President

Angie Carrera-Earl (2023-25)
president@bruu.org

Vice President

Annaliess Trommatter (2024-26)
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary

Sandra Fox (2024-26)
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer

Terrie McClure
treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large

Allan Curlee (2024-26)
Michelle Fegeas-Foster (2024-26)
John Sunda (2023-25)
director@bruu.org

Youth Director

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Program Council

Art Muirhead (2023-25)
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Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington
dre@bruu.org

Director of Music

David Maley
music@bruu.org

Office Administrator

Taylor Johnson
office@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm