



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

July 2024
Volume 42, Issue 7

Crossroads



From the 2024 Annual BRUU Picnic

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The monthly BRUU Newsletter

July Sermon Descriptions

July 7: Naming Miracles (Kristin Worthington)

To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle. Every cubic inch of space is a miracle. — Walt Whitman

It is inherently Unitarian Universalist to explore the miraculous. Our first Source is the direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life. The fifth Source, Humanist teachings, counsels us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warns us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Begin to explore miracles, to engage in the transcending mystery and wonder that surrounds us, and to use reason to find your own personal truth and meaning.

July 14: The Miracle of Close Attention (Michelle Luman)

*I think it pisses God off when you walk by the color purple in a field and don't notice it. — Shug Avery, in Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple**

Cultivate your ability to notice the miraculous. “Looking with absolute attention,” can bring us in touch with our own capacity for “direct experience of mystery and wonder.”



July Sermons, Continued

July 21: Knowing-in-Being (Anna Johnston)

Life can change a lot in a short amount of time. Whether these changes are expected or not, slowing down and finding yourself wherever you might be is important for everyone, especially when navigating new stages in life, new places, and new cultures.

July 28: It's All in the Timing (Kristin Worthington, with Lois Montgomery and River Calvin)

It may be said with a degree of assurance that not everything that meets the eye is as it appears. — Rod Serling

As Unitarian Universalists affirm the compatibility of religion and science today, our religious forebears celebrated both faith and reason. Joseph Priestley, 18th-century chemist and Unitarian minister, believed that it was deeply religious to seek the truth, both natural and spiritual. In Unitarian Universalism, critical questioning can be a religious experience; we support one another to search for personal truths and come to our own conclusions.

From the President's Desk

Angie Carrera, President, Board of Directors

Dear Congregants,

Of 206 members qualified to vote at this annual meeting, 106 (51%) attended the Congregational Meeting on June 2 and we elected several fine members to the BRUU Board of Directors, as well as to the Endowment Committee.

Individuals and committees were recognized for their contributions to BRUU this past year and the FY25 Budget was approved as well as two bylaw changes. I hope you will accept my apologies for not encouraging more questions as it was critical to have members present to cast votes on these critical business items. To learn more, please check out the Congregational Meeting document in KnowledgeBase.

Additionally, the Congregational Meeting held a poll asking members to indicate whether they approved or disapproved of the changes being proposed to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. It revealed that 24 members disapproved, 14 approved and 29 needed more information. Five BRUU delegates attended the virtual General Assembly June 20-23, keeping this poll in mind. Article II was accepted by UUA members by majority vote. I expect more conversation about Article II in the coming months and it's impact on BRUU as we move forward.

I've been on the phone and email about some very important issues that have been hindered by bandwidth issues. One is the installation of cameras and internet cabling. Believe it or not, but we are working on getting this done. One obstacle is that we had purchased some equipment which needs to be configured. but we don't have the skills set to do so. Anyone out there interested in tackling this with us? If so, email me! Another was Fire Drills. Fortunately, we have begun the process for making these happen over this fiscal year and you can expect to hear more about the first drill in the next few months. But we still need more folks who are interested in Safety issues to be a part of this process.

On July 13, the Board and two key committee chairs will be attending an all-day Retreat. This facilitated retreat will provide time for Board members

From the President's Desk, Continued

enhance team skills and reflect on the work ahead. It will be important for us to work together on our goals for the coming year and to determine best opportunities for this congregation to grow and thrive.

As temporary Head of Staff until the Board and Congregation discuss and make some decisions on the necessity for and the role of our next minister, I am pleased that, the Staff sounds energized as they partner with the Worship Committee Chair to present meaningful and inspiring Sunday services and other programming.

Please have a happy and safe 4th of July holiday. We remain together for BRUU.

Angie Carrera, BRUU Board President

Board Matters

Board Matters—June 2024 Board Meeting

This rescheduled meeting was held on June 20 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 and reports from the President, Program Council, and Membership. The general meeting held discussion on these agenda items.
- The President's Report: The Board approved a request for the Music Director to use staff development fund for a choir learning opportunity. The Board is reminded that the last fire drill was in 2019 and that staff is prepared to assist Safety volunteers to implement a drill this fall. The President asked for feedback on a proposed clarification on the No Contact Rule (see "From the President's Desk" article).
- The Vice President's Report: As Dianne's term ends she updated the board on the status of current leases and provided a (draft) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Lease Management on our commercial and Chapel space. Further discussion was moved to New Business.
- Program Council Report: Committees are ready to see finalization of the reorganization and work to ensure strong and effective communications between Core Committees and committees/teams, as well as with Staff.
- Membership Report as of June 14, 205 members, 125 friends, 68 visitors.
- The Congregational Meeting: Board agreed that the meeting went well, except time available for more questions might've been helpful/desired. The Sexton position will be advertised, and a hiring team assembled for application reviews and interviews. Complying with the perpetual calendar, the President will sign annual staff/board covenants confirming salaries on approved budget. The Board agrees to a donation covering GA delegates' attendance in the virtual conference.

Board Matters, Continued

- New Business:
 - A. A completed version of the Lease Management SOP will be submitted to KnowledgeBase and used by future lease managers.
 - B. The Personnel Committee Chair has requested that a new task be added its charter: “Solicit and maintain job descriptions for regular and recurrent volunteer positions at BRUU.” Already at work with our volunteer coordinator, and a Volunteer Position Description Template!
 - C. Community Assistance Fund: The Board approved exploration of a different way to distribute the CAF monies contributed by the congregation as it has been a time-consuming and arduous process. We will keep the congregation informed.
- Closed Session: Exit Interview document regarding the Minister’s resignation approved for sending to the UUA representative. Correction to March meeting minutes Closed Session approved.

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.

SASS – What We Do & Don't

Society of Audacious Silver-haired Sisters was organized a long, long time ago, the exact date has been lost in the mists of Time. One gal (who shall be named if someone wants to ask) decided BRUU needed a gathering of mature wild & wonderful women who were capable of entertaining themselves and sharing their wisdom – during the day. And so it came to pass that a gaggle gets together at least once a month in the BRUU Flamingo Lounge to chat and, usually, chew snacks or “do lunch.” There is no formal agenda or SOPs. Basically we spontaneously determine what the subject topics or activities of interest will be for each session.

The SASS group is open to any interested folks, and is meeting on the second Tuesday of each month this Summer. For a general idea of what kinds of things we do: In May we took a van trip to the Glenstone Art Museum & Garden, Maryland; just went to a matinee performance of “Rumors” at the ArtFactory; and, currently planning a day trip to the Gary Melcher Mansion in Fredericksburg in early Fall. Discussions are a smorgasbord of topical interests (but do not dwell on the local or national politics), and sometimes we even request attendees to bring a meaningful poem, or joke, or personal vignette to share. Occasionally one of us will host a tea or coffee social at the end of the month.

We don't organize very well, but we do welcome and enjoy having new folks join us.

If you would like to be notified by email of the upcoming dates & activities, email SASS@BRUU.org or contact Geny [540.235.0336] with questions or details.

Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd appointed UUA Director of Communications and Public Ministry

The BRUU Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has appointed our former minister, Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd as Director of Communications and Public Ministry.

In the executive position of Director of Communications and Public Ministry, Rev. Ladd will lead the development and implementation of the UUA's communications strategy; ensure that strategy addresses the UUA's intersectional justice priorities, development engagement, and relationships with significant constituencies; set central messages for the Association; oversee a planning process for communications priorities across the UUA; and manage Communications staff.

This is no surprise to many of us and we wish her well as she advances the UUA with her many talents and skills!



Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd as BRUU's Minister in 2012. Photo from BRUU's Flickr page.

A Note from Kristin

Kristin Worthington, DLRE

During General Assembly, held last week, Unitarian Universalists *adopted new language* on core religious values of our shared faith. Revisions to Article II required a 2/3rd approval to pass; 80% of the GA delegates voted to approve. The changes take place immediately.

Please read the full text here:

https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2_final_line_num_10312023.pdf

I ask that you read with a compassionate heart and a mind open to possibility. See if any of the words or ideas speak to your intentions or visions for our world. Think about “how am I living this value?” or “how does this value impact me?”



Know that the Principles and Sources are NOT being thrown out. They are, of course, what most of us who attend this congregation know as the roots of our faith. We, together, as a community will build from that foundation as we live forward with our beliefs and service.

Be looking for opportunities in the near future to explore the Core Values, as well as opportunities to shape the way we engage with them here at BRUU.

As always, contact me for more – dre@bruu.org or phone: 540-905-9213

Chrysalis Concert Series

Sarah Peacock LIVE—July 12, 2024



Don't miss Sarah Peacock when she's in town!

Music Row Magazine: **“This Music City troubadour is cool and different. . . Think about the wail and passion of the Jefferson Airplane’s Grace Slick mixed with the dark, magical swirl of Stevie Nicks and you’ll be in the general vicinity.”**

Advance tickets \$20. Same-day tickets \$25. Kids under 16 attend for free.
Childcare covered for the littlest ones. The show begins at 7:30 pm.

Tickets: <https://app.auctria.com/Redirect/a71fe18e-d671-4969-b041-dc5ac1b811e3/of281bf2-2946-4c6c-8d93-c>

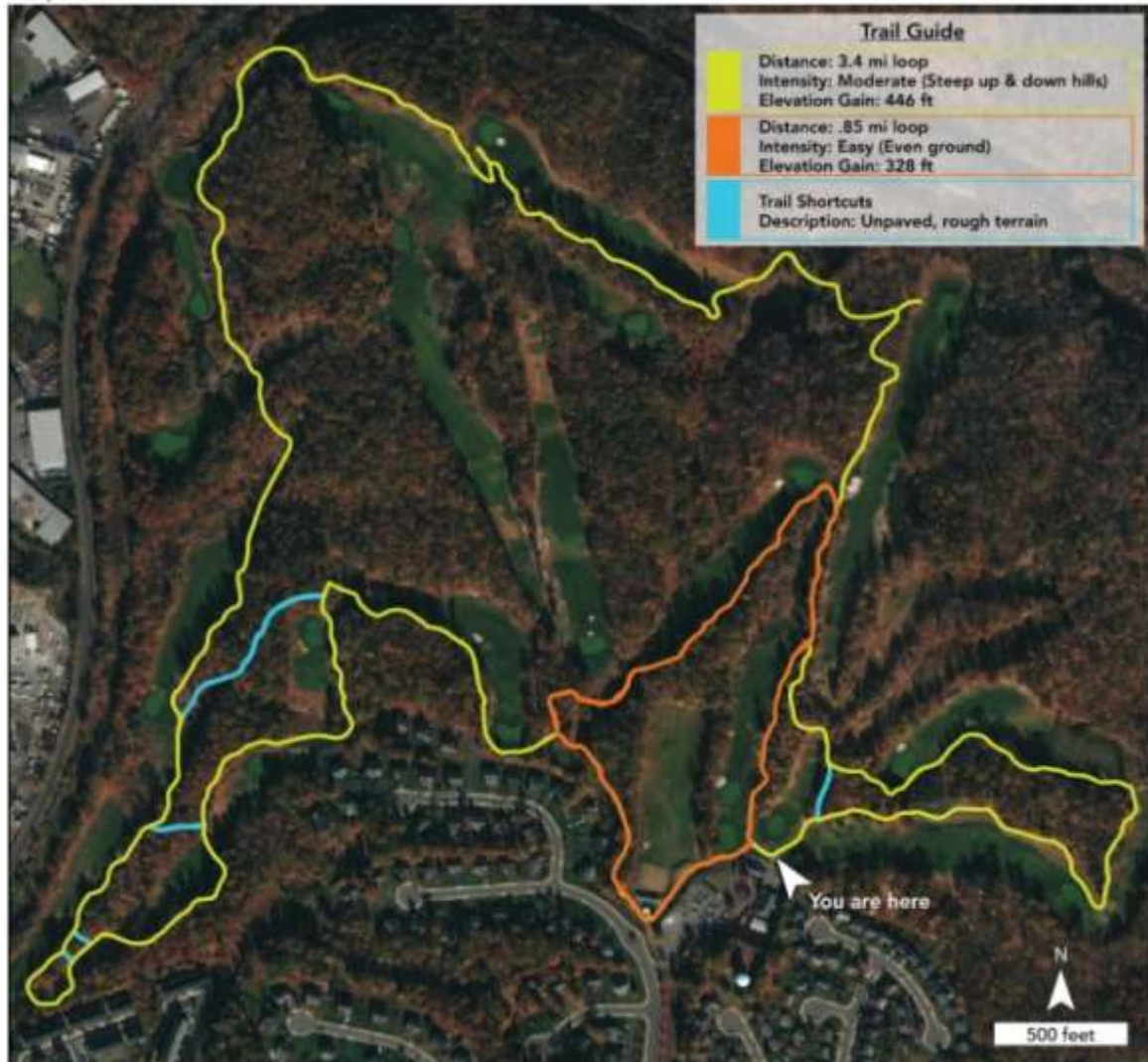
Events At & Around BRUU

Second Sunday Hike—July 14, Blooms Park

Charlie Grymes

On July 14 we will hike a scenic 3.5 mile route in Blooms Park, a 270-acre park within the City of Manassas Park. Blooms Park was formerly a golf course. The route is mostly on blacktop paths, formerly used by the golf carts. It's a wooded, hilly area; there will be a number of hill climbs and descents on the route. Please register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2xqIVXGb-E1UUouqGInOAnh3dtyOFJm_n_FLYDkwLIwk3-tQ/viewform to get details.

Map of Blooms Park



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.

Eco Justice Week



*Monday, July 29- Friday, August 2 *9:00 am–3:00 pm *Ages 6-10

\$185/child; \$150 each additional child *Scholarships available

For More info contact dre@bruu.org

Register online



- *Home Made Paper *Sun Prints *Group Sculpture *Recycled Art
- *Found object Wind Chime *Collaborative games *Free play Bee Hotels
- Bug Homes * Solar Distillation * Worm Composter * Plant Based Plastics
 - * Water Health * Solar Ovens * Environmental Heroes



BULL RUN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

9350 MAIN STREET MANASSAS, VA

OPEN TO ALL

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

ALERT—DONATION ITEMS

Thank you for your generous spirit, but please do not “drop objects off as a donation” to the BRUU office or in the building without contacting the appropriate committee, team, or office administrator first. Each one has a process for deciding what gets accepted depending on current needs and space requirements and sometimes even décor. We don’t want to hurt folk’s feelings, but we often receive donations without an appropriate way to use, store or display them. Thank you!

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.

**BEACON for English Language & Literacy
provides ESOL instruction for adult learners.**



**Volunteers needed for
our summer
conversation classes**

**Online
only**

More Information is available on
our website:

[https://beaconliteracy.org/get-
involved/join-our-volunteer-team/](https://beaconliteracy.org/get-involved/join-our-volunteer-team/)

**July 8
through
July 24**



**Classes will be
Mondays & Wednesdays
9:30-11:00AM
or
Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00 - 8:30 PM**



**Seth Mazzaro, Volunteer Coordinator
(571) 531-5838
smazzaro@osbva.org**

BEACON for English Language and Literacy is recruiting volunteers to teach adult ESOL students for their 3-week online AM/PM conversation classes in July and 12-week AM/PM in-person and online ESOL classes starting in mid-August. No teaching or language experience is required, and training is provided. To learn more, contact Seth Mazzaro at (571) 428-2524.



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

9350 Main Street
Manassas, VA 20110-5150
703-361-6269

BRUU Board of Directors

President

Angie Carrera-Earl
president@bruu.org

Vice President

Dianne Lane
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary

Chris Sexton
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer

Terrie McClure
treasurer@bruu.org

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Jessica Hruska
Sophia Kadlubowski
Chris McClure
director@bruu.org

Youth Director

Maia Malos
director@bruu.org

Immediate Past President

Rita Romano

Program Council

Art Muirhead
programcouncil@bruu.org

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