



**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

June 2022  
Volume 40, Issue 6

# Crossroads



The monthly BRUU Newsletter



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## LEGACIES

During the memorial service we held at BRUU on May 14th to honor Jon Kostik, there was a slide shown on the screen with a photo of Jon taken at the annual Adult Retreat last October. The photo shows Jon with his arms folded in front of his torso with the words “Make J Happiness.” The assignment, according to Janette Muir who shared the photo with me, was to make a tattoo of their goal for the coming year. Jon’s goal was to “make happiness.” The slide, as I pointed out to our in-person and on-line audiences, stated that this was Jon Kostik’s Celebration of Life Service. Although we often use – instead of “memorial service” – the title “Celebration of Life Service for [the deceased name]”, this slide proudly proclaimed through image and words that Jon possessed this time in which we came together to remember our beloved Jon.



That image is very powerful on so many levels. Jon’s proud stance before the camera, his proclamation that he was going to make happiness in the world, and that he celebrates/celebrated life.

On so many levels, Jon left us a legacy by his life's example. We heard that repeatedly during the celebration of life service. Helping others – a life of service – was one of Jon's passions. The family decided to ask for donations to the BRUU Community Assistance Fund (CAF) in memory of Jon. This fund helps to many of our community neighbors who are struggling financially. The need continues to be great; we are grateful that the family honored Jon in this way.

And Jon has given us even more as his legacy.

After the service was over and the reception was winding down, Jon's brother Pete ("Chip") Kostik handed me an envelope and explained that their sister Carol Kostik would be mailing a matching gift as soon as she got back home to New York City. As Carol said to me at that time, they never expected to inherit from Jon. The stipulation of this sizeable gift from the Kostik family is that it be used to repair, restore and protect the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary building. Based on a recent project proposal from the Willet Hauser company based in Minnesota, all of the windows – those with colored glass and those with clear glass – will be taken care of at the same time. The project will also address the need for re-painting the exterior trim around all of these windows. And there will be some money left over for future use!

It is my hope that this project will start as soon as possible and be completed over the summer and-or fall. When I return from my sabbatical in November, I hope that it will be to the beautiful windows in fully rejuvenated condition, just like myself! We will then plan another celebration (of life J) for the windows and put up a plaque indicating that the restoration work was done through the generous gifts of the Kostik Family in memory of Jon.

I hope that Jon continues to inspire us through his example.

What will be your legacy?

Yours in faith,  
*Rev. Charlotte*



# BULL RUN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

## JUNE SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

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### **June 5: *People of Hope and Change***

**(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann )**

Our annual flower communion is a long-standing UU tradition celebrating community. For this multi-generational worship service, every person who attends was asked to bring a flower and everyone takes home a different flower. We recognized the people who have contributed to our lifespan religious education program and the many volunteers who make sure that our rich congregational life runs smoothly for they are the good gardeners tending to our faith garden.

The annual meeting followed immediately after the service.

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### **June 12: *Seasons of Life, music service***

**(Annease Hastings)**

Life has its cycles and seasons, just as nature does. In this all-music service, we'll reflect on these seasons and how each presents us with opportunities to learn and experience our lives more fully.

This month, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **P-Flag**

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### **June 19: *After 1619, How Do We “Repair”?***

**(Worship Committee )**

South Africa used a Peace and Reconciliation Commission to deal with an unpleasant past. How should Northern Virginians deal with our past? If we look through an equity lens, what do we see locally?

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits  
**BRUU's Community Assistance Fund.**

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### **June 26: *Elephants and Ants***

**(Worship Committee)**

We need to do small symbolic acts of being “green” so our actions align with our beliefs. However, symbolic actions alone will not preserve the planet, Save the Bay, or even get Neabsco Creek off the official “dirty water list.” In addition to doing small things that are easy (recycling of water bottles), we need to do big things that are hard (stop using fossil fuels). There is a difference between elephants and ants.

## COVID Policy Changes

On March 24, the BRUU Board received a report from its reopening task force.

After discussion, the Board adopted the following changes in the rules applicable to Sunday services and coffee hours.

As before, these rules are a policy decision, balancing numerous considerations, with the goal of keeping BRUU members safe while opening up to in-person events.

BRUU will continue to provide online services for those who find that in-person services do not meet their assessment of the risks and benefits.

### **BRUU will therefore:**

- \* Drop the mask mandate effective April 24, while encouraging continued mask wearing in the building to increase confidence;
- \* Invite in-person attendance by members of the broader community as of April 3;
- \* Retain vaccination card verification (except for outdoor services, such as April 17) until further notice;
- \* Coffee hour with food continues, recognizing that people in Fellowship Hall will drop masks but encouraging those gathering in Sanctuary to wear them;
- \* Singing: The congregation will not sing but performers will sing; up to two performers or podded groups may sing together but larger ensembles will wear masks when singing.

The logo features a stylized flame or torch in the center, surrounded by a circular border with green and yellow segments.

# BULL RUN

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was not home more than 15 minutes when I got the call from Dianne Lane, our Vice President, informing me that she was at Nina's house working out and learned that Jon Kostik had died. At this point we do not know the details of his death, but the news was shocking and unsettling. I never really knew Jon that well until these last 2 years. He was a board member, but also 1 of 3 other people that made up a pod that we shared dinner and fellowship with on occasion during confinement for Covid. Jon was a kind-hearted man, soft spoken, and very generous with his time. He was always willing to help in whatever way he could. He accomplished or assisted with many tasks at BRUU. One of the most recent was the renovation of Room 103 to make it more habitable for the food pantry. He also helped during the crisis we had with the air-conditioning on the 3rd level where we have renters. He was also heading up the Kitchen Krew once we began offering drinks and snacks once they were allowed during fellowship after service. I know he also helped individual BRUU members who needed assistance with household projects. I am sure he did much more than I was aware of. I was lucky enough to have purchased the handyman services he offered for the auction. Together we installed wainscoting in my dining room. During this time, I was able to meet his new dog, Sky, a gentle and loving adult golden retriever he had just adopted. Sky was quite a gem, and I was so happy for Jon that he had such a lovely companion. It is said that dogs and owners grow to resemble each other. In this case it was an instant match between the two.

I will miss Jon's presence on the board. He was an independent thinker and a voice of reason. I look forward to grieving his death in fellowship with other BRUU members. Jon knew the true meaning of stewardship. I have no doubt we will give homage to his life. We will miss him. I will miss him.

I was planning on writing more about stewardship and my joy at hearing that 37 pledge units increased the amount of their pledges this year. But I am not able to focus on much at this point. May Jon's life encourage all of us to be kind and to take care of one another. It is what our beloved community is all about.

# BRUU Annual Picnic at the Sunda's

## Saturday, June 11th starting at 3 pm

The Sunda's will again host the annual picnic at their house. Come for fellowship, food, volleyball, pool, and a bonfire after dark. BRUU will provide burgers, dogs, vegan burgers, the accompanying condiments , plus soft drinks, juice and water.

Please plan to bring a dish to share (we'll get a sign up going soon), byob, swimsuit and a towel. The address is 15400 Compton Road, Centreville, VA.

### DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT?

If you see something GREAT, say something Great

Make sure to send your BRUU KUUDOS to  
[newsletter@bruu.org](mailto:newsletter@bruu.org) & [communications@bruu.org](mailto:communications@bruu.org)



## GREEN TEAM WINS

### BRUU Wins Sustainability Champion Award!

*The BRUU Green Team just won the "Sustainability Champion Award" in the Faith Community Category, chosen by Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. BRUU has been on a sustained journey of reducing our environmental footprint and advocating for greening up our community. Award ceremony will be June 16 at at Rock Spring United Church of Christ in Arlington. Contact Larry Underwood, chair of the Green Team, at [greenteam@bruu.org](mailto:greenteam@bruu.org) for more details.*



The Green Team is organizing  
monthly hikes on the  
Second Sundays of each month in  
2022

**JUNE 12**

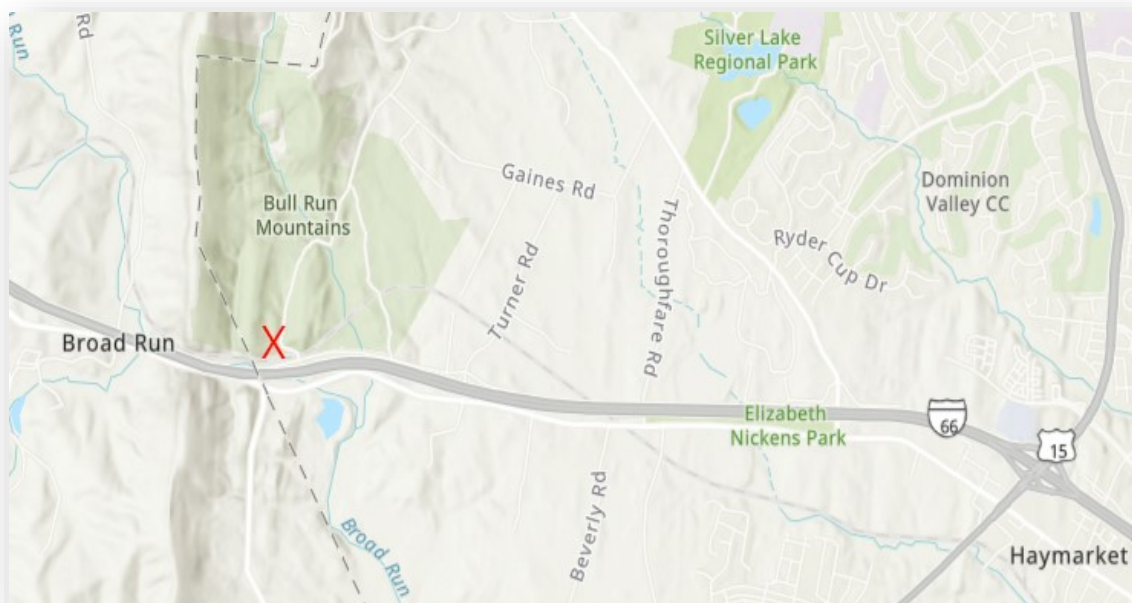
Come explore the  
**Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve**  
from **1:00-3:00pm**

17502 Beverley Mill Drive, Broad Run, VA 20137

Please register (in case of weather cancellation) at

<https://tinyurl.com/2er74eu5>

No dogs, not even on a leash. Sorry, Fido...



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# SASS is Out & About

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SASS stands for the Society of Audacious Silver-haired Sisters, and this was started as a BRUU Fellowship group of “mature” women who wanted to get together during the day for conversation & activities of mutual interests. The group has dropped the minimum age and welcomes anyone who wishes to participate.

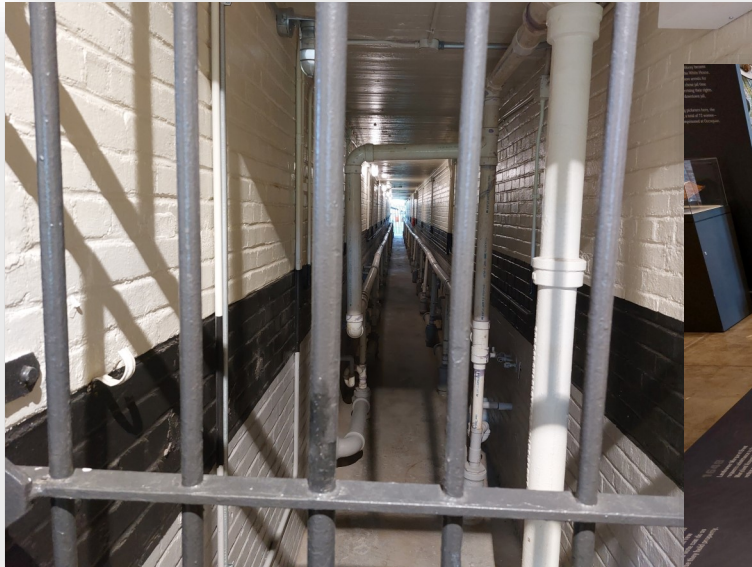
Our monthly meeting is held in the BRUU Flamingo Lounge on the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30pm. Some of members meet at Noon, on the BRUU front steps, and head to a local restaurant to “do lunch” before the meeting. Then, either on the 4th, and maybe sometimes on the 5th, Friday of each month there is a social, held at a members home, in the morning at 10am for a Coffee Chat, or in the afternoon at 4pm for Hi Tea (varieties vary).

Mark your calendars if you are interested in participating and contact Geny [GenyLV@gmail.com] to be placed on the group announcement/reminder email list.

On June 13th, SASS is going to gather at Noon in the BRUU Lounge and share a Salad Potluck lunch. Everyone coming will bring any kind of salad dish ( that feeds 4) to share for our lunch. Meeting will start at the usual time, 1:30pm for those who are don't want to come early for lunch.

June 24th the group will be socializing on a screen porch overlooking Lake Jackson.

On Friday, May 20th a dozen SASS members & friends took a tour of the former Lorton Federal Prison that has since been converted into a Center for Arts with a Woman's Suffrage Museum. The women who picketed the White House for the right to vote were incarcerated by Pres Wilson and tortured in this facility.





A sobering experience, that was combined with an opportunity to stroll through the artist studios, craft shops, and performance theater that now makes up the majority of the former penitentiary property, which is just over the PWC-Fairfax county line. Lunch was at the Brickmakers Cafe - named after one of the workhouse punishments once performed by both male & female inmates - on the patio overlooking the Occoquan River. Next SASS trip will be to tour the recently renovated Mormon Temple.

## HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

SUBMIT announcements using this form

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/announcement-form/>

## [ BRUU Fellowship TESTIMONIAL ]

A delightful, free Acoustic Music series commenced on Tuesday, May 17th, at the Harris Pavilion, sponsored by the City of Manassas. It will continue every Tuesday evening, beginning at 7pm, throughout the Summer. The weather was comfortable, and the crowd was friendly. We took our visiting grandchildren (who are now young adults) and also visited with other BRUU'ers who were there at the "second tree" meeting place (on the Restroom side of the lawn).

The cheerful music and park staff made the scene a Classic American get-together. We encourage you to plan to join this music social each week.

~ Sally and Larry Underwood

For more info contact [Fellowship@BRUU.org](mailto:Fellowship@BRUU.org)

## "Open House" in the AV Studio

Check out how we make audio, video, and Zoom magic in the BRUU balcony any Sunday between now and July 1. Come upstairs on a Sunday between 10:00-11:00am to observe the show – even try your hand as a sound producer, camera operator, or "voice of Zoom." (We're always looking for people who want to be trained, but it's OK just to observe.)

## Volleyball and Potluck – Monday Nights

Mark and Ann Hempen host a volleyball game and potluck supper every Monday evening (weather cooperating...). Game starts at 6:30pm, potluck follows. Come play, or just watch and eat. No need to make a reservation at the Manassas Junction Bed and Breakfast – just show up whenever you can at 9311 Prescott Ave.



# Reach out and touch a bit of the BRUU COSMOS

## COSM Organizational Space!

We're excited to announce that BRUU's Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) has a new presence on our website at:

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/about-us/cosm/>

Check it out as we would like to share the results of our small group activity over the past year (as word clouds) in which we asked the questions:

How we survived?

What we have been doing to recover?

What we can do to thrive?

*The larger words in the word cloud represent the more popular responses from our activity among the groups*



# THE PUZZLER

## May's puzzler

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I use this in Engineering class!

Engineers were contemplating building a suspension bridge across the gorge at Niagara Falls. So, you've got a raging river below, and you've got to get cables for the suspension bridge from one side to the other. But, there was no way to get the cables across, because there was no boat that could fight that current.

The contest was won by a young boy. And shortly after the contest was completed, they were able to run the cables from one side of the gorge to the other.

### What was the contest?

The contest was a kite flying contest. The kite was launched from the side of the gorge where the wind was blowing across the gorge. Once the kite landed on the other side the string was used to pull increasingly heavy ropes across from alternating sides until the rope was thick enough to pull the cables across.

*CONGRATULATIONS TO :*

*Glen MacDonald*

*And Art Muirhead*

## BRUU

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2021-2023

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# THE PUZZLER

## June's puzzler

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There are six words in the English language which have the letter combination of "UU".

One of the words is 'Vacuum', can you name the other five?



GOOD LUCK!

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*Please email your answer to -*

newsletter@bruu.org

Use the *Subject Line* - **BRUU PUZZLER**

From the correct answers, one random winner may be chosen to be featured in the newsletter and awarded bragging rights of course. Good Luck!