

March 2023 Volume 41, Issue 3

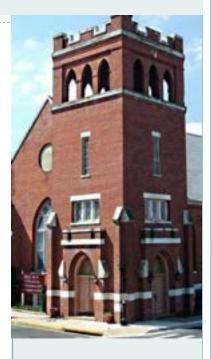
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BRUU Members and Friends are invited to attend the celebration of Rev. Jack Young's life, which will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 2 pm at the Accotink UU Church in Burke, VA.



Rev. Young served as BRUU's interim minister in 2003-2004 and later joined our congregation as a member. He died in August 2022.

Read more about Jack Young's life on page 18



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The monthly BRUU Newsletter



March 5: Strength Through Service

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

As is tradition in this congregation, BRUU's annual stewardship drive begins with a "sermon on the amount." While reaching the dollar-goal in pledges for the next fiscal year is critical to our being able to accomplish all to which we aspire, of equal or greater importance is the involvement of each and every person in the life of this congregation -

in all of its aspects – with full commitment and generosity.

March 12: Lessons from The Book of Esther

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

The Book of Esther is an unusual scriptural text in the Hebrew Bible. The basis of the Jewish holiday of Purim (celebrated this year on 3/5 and 3/6), it is comedic and yet contains lessons that provide hope to marginalized and oppressed communities.

The 2nd Sunday Share-the-Plate recipient is Rainbow Therapeutic Riding (tentative)

March 19: Toolbox of Faith (RE Council)

Using one of the UUA's curricula that BRUU explores with our children, members of the Religious Education Council share the wisdom and value of tools from the Toolbox of Faith and how all of us benefit from applying these in our lives. This is the first of three RE Council worship services sched-

uled for this spring

The 3rd Sunday Share-the-Plate benefits BRUU's Community Assistance Fund.

March 26: Generosity – A UU Value

(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Among the six values enumerated in the UUA By-laws Article II revised language is "Generosity." The text reads: "We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality."

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BRUU ONLINE DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE ON BRUUNET NOW!

As of January 8, people signed in to BRUUNET can use the following link to the directory:

<u>https://www.bruunet.org/membership/bruu-online-directory-of-members-and-friends</u>

You can also find the link on the Bruunet home page.

If you are not on BRUUNET, access to the directory pdf will require a directory password, which you can receive by emailing <u>directory@bruu.org</u>.

That's it! For questions please email directory@bruu.org.

2023 BRUU Directory - Print Copy?!

Based on the number of Members who filled out the online order form* to receive a FREE copy, and a couple of more folks who ordered additional copies for \$5 each, the Membership Committee had 60 copies printed. Our BRUU staff members have received their "complimentary" copies.

The remaining Directories have been available for pick-up since the beginning the first week of February. Those who have not already obtained your copy(s) can stop by the Treasurer's Office and claim your edition, just check off your name on the list on top of the pile. Otherwise, Members can access the Directory information by using the BRUUnet.org website.

The next Zoom meeting of the Membership Committee, is Tues, Mar 7th at 7:30pm, is always open to interested participants. Email Membership@BRUU.org for the meeting link.



Time, Talent and Treasure – The Way that Unitarian Universalists Tithe

Rev. Charlotte

Welcome to March, the month when Bull Run UUs reflect most pointedly on the gifts that they can share with their congregational community; gifts of time, talent and treasure, with treasure receiving the greatest emphasis as we set our sights on aspirational goals for the coming fiscal year.

This year's annual budget drive (aka pledge canvass or stewardship campaign) is no different than year's past in that we are aiming high. I think that the theme chosen for this year is appropriate for such lofty heights; it is "Strength Through Service." This theme communicates that we are better together as a community, stronger in our collective aspirations, when we serve our community – our Unitarian Universalist congregation, our UU faith tradition, and the world in which we fight for justice for all people and for a healthy and safe environment for the community in which we live, work and play.

This theme of "Strength Through Service" has gotten me thinking about tithing is a little bit different way than I may have in the past. The word "tithe" has become an uncomfortable one for people in our liberal, progressive faith, but I wonder if it could, instead, be liberatory? To tithe is to give one tenth of one's production or one's income to support the faith community. It comes from the Hebrew word that means "a tenth." I've heard UU's ask conservative Christians how their Church can expect everyone in the congregation to pledge one tenth of their income to support the Church. The response was that they were only too happy to do so; it was not considered a hardship. In fact, if you think about it, tithing is no different than suggesting that all American households should be assessed a flat tax on their income; those who earn more would pay more, but everyone would be contributing the same percentage relative to their income. I think that's fair. Everyone would pay their fair share. Think how much more of our wildest dreams at BRUU could become reality, if everyone tithed!

Now, maybe 10% of income is too much to ask, but if everyone pledged 5% of their income, or even 3% of their income, our congregation would be in very good shape financially.

Wouldn't it be nice to feel like we are on firm financial footing?

This got me thinking about the other T's we like to offer as gifts to our collective well-being and enjoyment: time and talent; the service part of this year's stewardship theme. A quick calculation shows that if we tithed our time, whether through volunteering or sharing our talents, a full tenth or 10% would mean 876 hours of service each year or nearly 17 hours each week. That probably feels like a lot – the equivalent of two full days working on behalf of BRUU and-or our UU faith. What if, instead, we committed to – at a minimum – a tenth of that amount, the same as 1/100th of our time or about 2 hours each week? That feels doable, don't you think? There are many members of the BRUU community, members and non-members alike, who are already serving BRUU at least two hours each and every week. Choir members do this. Religious education teachers do this. Many of the audiovisual team members do this. Others in leadership and operations put in similar amounts of time – or more! – and although the number of hours per week may vary, in the long run they are serving at a comparable level of time commitment. Maybe more of us could aim for contributing 1/50th of our time; maybe that would be 2 hours spent on Sunday morning in worship and another 2 hours spent in some other volunteer capacity.

Believe me, I am well aware that there are those among us who are serving in a greater capacity than others; without these very generous souls, we would not be functioning well at all. But maybe each of us can give some thought to how we might up our ante so that BRUU can achieve more of our dreams as a faith community.

All month long, we'll have the opportunity to reflect on the value of generosity in our lives. I hope you will engage in open and honest dialogue with the stewardship team when they contact you to find out how you share in our congregation's strength through acts of service.

I'll close with the proposed Article II language about the role and value of generosity in our faith tradition: "Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality."

May our days and nights be blessed with a spirit of generosity that sustains us all,

Blessings,

Rev. Charlotte

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)!

Courtyard is sleeping for now

However **Amy Hamilton** and the **gardening team** are planning for **2023**



March Fellowship

Canvas Celebration!



March 4 6:30-8:30 pm Canvass Kickoff! Light snacks, music and the Bruu Players. Please sign up to help at the signup genius.



https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094caba923 a7f4c07-canvass#/

Second Sunday March 12

Younger Adults Luncheon Meet at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall POC Michelle Fegeas 540.219.9058

Second Sunday Hike Meet up in the Fellowship hall to join Charlie for a hike at Meet in the Fellowship Hall 11:00 am. POC Charlie Grymes cgrymes@gmail.com



March 12 Pie Day anyone? While pi day is 3-14, Shall we meet for a pie potluck after service on the 12th? Bring sweet or savory pie to share, Pizza, shepherds pie, Be creative POC Fellowship@bruu.org



Saturday March 18



March 18 Work Day "Nothing inspires cleanliness more than an unexpected guest" – Radhika Mundra. New visitors are coming every week. Let's prepare our radical hospitality for the unexpected visitor. Spiff up the building to prepare. POC Christine Sunda sundas3@aol.com

DRUMMING Sunday Mar 19

Drumming Third Sunday

We are having a drumming circle every third Sunday at 11:30 in the Flamingo Lounge (room 107). If you don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you. POC Martin Crim martin.crim@gmail.com

Coming in April 4/1 Manassas 150th Celebration 4/7 First Friday Rendezvous at Bruu



Every **third Sunday** at **11:30** in the **Flamingo Lounge (room 107).**

If you want to participate but don't have a drum, let me know in advance so I can bring one for you.

CONTACT—Martin Crim



Open to all readers, that meets the **3rd Monday** of almost every month – by Zoom – at 3:30pm.

Book selections are eclectic and made by the democratic process, with consideration to availability at the public library, download, and/or local bookstores (particularly McKay's Used Books!). The group is not limited to BRUU members – one of our participants joins us from Portland, ME.

If you are interested in joining the discussions of an unconventional group of readers then contact Susan Gregorio

[SusanG100@comcast.net]

Thank you to those who have been able to donate non-food items.

Those in need have appreciated it.

Please join us this March in collecting items for Infant Care.

This includes:

diapers & pull-ups
wipes
baby & toddler grooming items
shampoos
infant/toddler oriented off the shelf medicine cabinet needs

These items can be deposited in the donation bin at the back of the sanctuary.

March 10th

American Council for the Blind Accessible Currency Rally

On **Harriet Tubman Day, March 10th**, please consider joining advocates of those who are blind and low vision for their Accessible Currency rally at Lafayette Park in D.C. The event begins at **1:15 pm**.

You can find out more information about the American Council for the Blind (ACB) and this event in particular at https://acb.org/currency-rally or by calling 202-467-5081.

In late February the public came to hear the Greatest Generation Speaks at BRUU



Actors from BRUU and the community performed this adaptation from the Book by Tom Brokaw



BRUU Board Election June 4

BRUU is an incorporated organization, managed by an elected nine-member Board of Directors based on our Bylaws, The current 223 official members of BRUU are the equivalent of shareholders with stock in our corporation.

Members will elect a President, Treasurer, Program Council Chair, one Director, and the Youth Member on June 4 at the annual Congregational Meeting.

Board members serve a two-year term, except the Youth Member is elected for a one-year term. (In 2025, we will elect the other half of the Board: the Vice-President, Secretary, two Directors, plus a Youth Member.)

Interested in serving?

Contact the **Nominating Committee at nominating@bruu.org** or talk to Martin Crim, Janette Muir, Nina Lomax, or Charlie Grymes.

NOTE: the Youth Member position is nominated by the RE Council and is filled only if there is a candidate. If interested, please contact **Jennifer Malos** at re.council@bruu.org

PLEASE PASS THE BASKET!

...as it is an act of BRUU support each Sunday that can be demonstrated by everyone - whether you contribute treasure, or not, but you will be giving time & talent!

This will require some assistance from both our volunteer Ushers and the congregants in the pews. We could use another one or two folks as Ushers to arrive a bit early to assist with welcoming new and returning attendees, passing the Collection baskets during the service, and ensuring the contributions are directed to the correct, responsible financial folks following the service.

If you would be willing to help one Sunday a month with this effort, please contact Worship@BRUU.org or stop and speak with one of the Ushers at the main doors to the Sanctuary.

18 Reflections on Right Relations

2023 Update

From Rev David Miller

The Right Relations Training posted here prompted me to update for 2023 these 18 questions that I have shared before. With everything going on in our congregations and the world, I hope they can be a useful resource.

- 1. What intentions are we assuming of the other and what impact are we having no matter our intentions?
- 2. Am I communicating directly with the person with whom I am having an issue?
- 3. Am I resolving issues or am I spreading them through gossip, an ger and/or frustration?
- 4. Am I reflecting on what personal wounds, issues, and tendencies of mine that are contributing to the issue?
- 5. Am I willing to be an active participant and to work in good faith to clear up issues?
- 6. Am I projecting on to someone else through my own framework what they are thinking or doing vs. engaging them and asking them to share their thoughts and story?
- 7. Am I actually trying to live the principles and values of Unitarian Universalism by acting with compassion, respect and a high value of our interdependence?
- 8. Am I actively listening to what others are saying and not formul ating a response or the next comment or question while they are talking?
- 9. Can I let go of my need to control the situation?

- 10. Can I graciously leave space for others by letting someone e lse speak first, especially those not traditionally centered, or by not speaking my mind if the point has been raised or made already?
- 11. Can I help lift up the life of another or the group in my words and actions?
- 12. Can I have disagreements with an individual or group, do so in love and respect and continue to stay in community?
- 13. Can I take into account the importance of the task in relation to the importance of the relationship?
- 14. Can I reflect on how my attitude and actions contribute to the culture of our community?
- 15. Am I willing not to have to be right?
- 16. Am I being the change I wish to see in the world, and really acting in the way that models beloved community?
- 17. Am I willing to change?
- 18. And finally, can I remember to ask the question, "What is the most loving thing I can do or say right now?" which at times can be hard to say or even harder to hear.

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

NEXT WORK DAY COMING SOON!

Saturday, March 18th come anytime between 9:30 and 3PM to help beautify our beloved building. Now that the building is opening back up, many small repairs have come to our attention. But we also have easy jobs for those of an age or with young ones. As always, pizza lunch provided.

WHY WE HAVE WORK DAYS

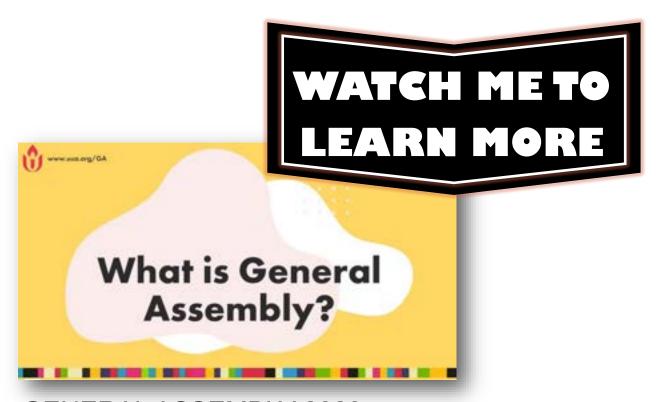
You may see the Work Day announcement above and think, I'm busy, I don't want to give up my precious weekend time to do work, or any number of other reasons for not volunteering to help. Many are good reasons, but over time the number showing up for all volunteer jobs at BRUU, and especially Work Days, has continued to dropped off! When many don't show up, it falls on the shoulders of the few. This burns out the core volunteers.

So why do we have to do most of our own repairs and don't have a paid handy person doing this? One simple answer, money! We are asking for this part time position in our current budget and fingers crossed, but this position will end up eliminated when we don't meet our goal. Even so, this old building needs more help than one part time person could ever do.

We are asking you to find some time between 9:30 and 3:00 to come and help. If you have young ones, well we always have easy paint jobs. Painting jobs that those who can't stand for long can even do sitting down. So you don't paint? We have other jobs like keys that need relabeling or you can be helper to those doing repairs. If you have handy person skills, then we always need your help. All of these jobs, if we hired someone to do them, would cost vastly more than it does if we can do it ourselves.

To summarize, this old building needs more repairs than just a few of us can do. It is for this reason that we ask ALL of you to pitch in and help. The building is around 22,000 square feet and over 90 years old. There are always more to do than hands to do it. Remember, this beloved building belongs to ALL of us. And with that also comes the responsibility for ALL of us to help maintain it. See you in a few Saturdays!

FOR MORE contact Christine Sunda



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

JACK YOUNG (1933-2022)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Jack Young, who died on August 17, 2022, at the age of 89.

Jack was born on September 22, 1933, in Liberty, MO to Frank McKinley Young and Irene Louise Young. He spent his early years in a small-town, surrounded by woods, rivers, and lakes. From that memory he wrote one of his first sermon, remembering the warning from his mother as a child, "Not to go beyond the Sheriff's chicken yard." The sermon was about early boundaries that were set for us and how we move beyond them in life. As a teen in Kansas City, he questioned the limits and methods of organized religions. While at the University of Arkansas, he was introduced to a Unitarian Fellowship. Jack was comfortable with its approach and drawn to the intellectual and moral honesty of the denomination. Following graduation, he practiced law for 26 years in Little Rock, Arkansas. He joined the Little Rock Unitarian Church and was an active member, particularly interested in social justice. He lost his first job as an attorney for the city by disagreeing with then Gov. Faubus on the school integration issue, and later participated in the march supporting the integration of Central High.

Jack knew he no longer wanted to continue practicing law and had achieved all he wanted to in that arena. In 1981, Jack went on a solo motorcycle trip to Nantucket to clear his head and research his family genealogy on his mother's side. He met up with distant relatives many of whom became good friends. During that trip he decided to retire from his law practice and pursue a career where he could possibly "help someone keep their ox out of the ditch, rather than haul it out after the fact." Back when he was introduced to a just-formed Unitarian Fellowship at the University of Arkansas, he had thought about becoming a Unitarian minister. Jack found himself considering ministry again, but this time from a greater base of experience in life. Becoming a minister, he wanted to grow his own spiritual awareness and share the process with others. With this call, he graduated with his Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1986.

Rev. Young was ordained in 1987 by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, TN where he served his first settled ministry (1987-1992). At the Chattanooga congregation, he concentrated on inner structures and programs and laid the groundwork for a Wednesday evening program of meaningful dimension, which he called "Wonderful Wednesday." His tenure marked improved programming for younger people, increased church membership, and Sunday Services attendance. He introduced and facilitated discussion groups and adult education programs that were well-liked and attended. He assisted in efforts to improve the organization and productivity of the congregation as well as introducing innovative fund-raising activities. In

this regard he was particularly pleased to host Huston Smith, whom he greatly admired, as a speaker and guest for the Church and community. Furthermore, he represented the church in several community forums, including television, and at regional and national denominational activities.

In 1992, Rev. Young was called to the UU Congregation of Rockville, MD where he would serve until 1998. His ministry at Rockville was also wonderfully productive. He was very involved with the teens at Rockville and helped youth understand the UU approach to religious life, empowerment, and self-confidence. In 1999 the Rockville congregation honored him as their minister emeritus. Subsequently, Rev. Young served the Bull Run UUs, in Manassas, VA as an interim minister (2003-2004) assisting the congregation through many opportunities. He was a nurturer, teacher, spiritualist, and activist. His services were thoughtfully put together and his sermons were stimulating and thought-provoking. He was excellent at conflict resolution and entreated and challenged congregants to look below the surface to deepen one's self-awareness.

In addition to his parish and interim ministry, Rev. Young served the denomination as president of the Chesapeake UUMA (1998).

In 1972, Jack was elected to the Little Rock Board of Directors (City Council). He was president of the Little Rock Racquet Club (1975). Likewise, in 1976, he served as President of Metroplan (Central Arkansas Council of Governments). He also served as President of the Peony Association when he lived in Little Rock.

Among his many interests were classical guitar, which he studied in mid-life, attending the storytelling festival in Jonesborough Tn. gardening, tennis and woodworking. When he retired, he did fine woodworking, naming his business All Things Wood. He made a nametag holder for UUCR and a podium for BRUU to name a couple of his projects.

Jack is survived by his wife Diane Bates; his children: Sidney Young (Linda), Scott Young, and Anne Bates-Young; stepchildren: Jennifer Bates, and Nicholas Bates (Diana); grandchildren: Andrew, Meghan (Paul Finizio), Bryan (Alicia), Nicholas, Isabella, and Olivera Bates; as well as great-grandchildren: Maia and Otto Finizio, Kaylee, and Madison Young. He was predeceased by his parents Irene Louise McGill and Frank M. Young, and his sister Joanne Watkins.

A memorial service is being planned for April 1 at 2:00 at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke, Va. where he is interred.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Parkinson's Association.

City of Manassas Just Bought Olde Towne Inn

The Manassas Economic Development Authority will pay \$5.5 million for the property across Main Street from BRUU. The city has sought to get that downtown site redeveloped for years.



The Olde Towne Inn could be torn down in order to build condominiums comparable to Messenger Place a block further east. That might reduce the current supply of affordable housing in Manassas.

The height of the five-story, 94-unit apartment Messenger Place building generated some strong public reaction several years ago. The city's decision to reduce the number of required parking spaces also spurred comments.

The Manassas Architectural Review Board (ARB) has a say in how buildings in the Historic Overlay District can be modified. BRUU has been required to get ARB approval for changing the signage and exterior of our buildings.

Chrysalis Concert Series – looking for volunteers

Our Vision: Music Transforming Community

Our Mission: Offering a concert series grounded in good music that opens the soul to transformation. The series features musical performances that will break through barriers and build community, serving as a catalyst for change in all of us. Funds are raised to support BRUU's ongoing outreach in the Manassas area and beyond.

Our Chrysalis Concert Series is gearing up for more great concerts like we had with Nothin' Fancy in January. We have concerts coming up in April and May, and great plans for the future. This on-going fundraiser is a great way to reach out to the community and also stay connected with our BRUU family.

In running this kind of series, there are many needs and the more help we have, the more we all enjoy the event. If you are interested in being involved – whether it be helping with set up, refreshments, av/sound, publicity, etc. – we welcome you. Please let Janette Muir (jkmuir99@gmail.com) know and she will send a link to the next zoom meeting.

Meanwhile – save the dates
4/8, Greg Greenway
5/6, Shenandoah Run.
Tickets available soon

THE PUZZLER February's Puzzler

A Dictionary Bovine Puzzler HINT

Get your oldest copy out, like from the 1500's



Most singular nouns can be made plural by simply adding an 's' or sometimes an 'es' to the end of the word.

We're looking for a plural noun but it has no letters-- none-- in common with the singular form. Not one single letter. **HINT: Bovine**

THE ANSWER: Kine

An archaic plural for cow, as in the biblical admonition, "Bind not the mouths of the kine that tread the grain."

From The Lord of the Rings—Kine of Araw were a species of oxen that lived in fields in Rhûn near the Sea of Rhûn, and they were hardier and wilder than any other oxen in Middle-earth

CONGRATULATIONS TO ART MUIRHEAD

BRUU

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Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

President (2021-23)

Rita Romano president@bruu.org

Vice President (2022-24)

Dianne Lane vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary (2022-24)

Chris Sexton secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer (2021-23)

Heather Berthold treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large Jessica Hruska (2022-24) Sophia Kadlubowski (2021-23) Chris McClure (2022-24) director@bruu.org

Youth Director

Freya Davies (2022-23) director@bruu.org

Immediate Past President Martin Crim

Program Council Catherine Ring (2021-23) programcouncil@bruu.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington dre@bruu.org

Interim Director of Music

David Maley music@bruu.org

Office Assistant

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

BRUU OFFICE HOURS

M-F 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

THE PUZZLER March's Puzzler

I walked into our kitchen the other day and just as I entered Jessica turned to me and said, "hang on just a second, I'm just calling Tyler. I need him to pick up Julia and I'm just reminding him."

'Within a few seconds he must have answered the phone because I heard her say, "Hey Ty, it's me...."

...Just Then...

she asked him a perfectly normal question. But if she'd asked that **same question 30 years ago** he might have thought she was joking...or losing it!

It is very likely that we are asked this same question several times every week.

What was the question that she asked him?



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!