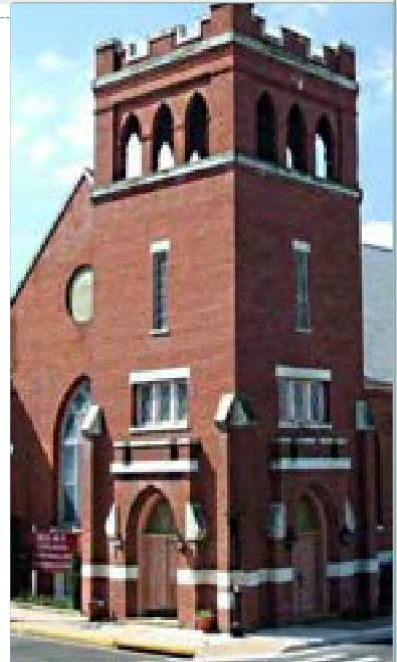




**BULL RUN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

November 2023  
Volume 41, Issue 11

# Crossroads



**BRUU Auction 2023**  
See you at BRUU November 4, 2023 for the Live Event!

[Auction Catalog](#)

**UPDATE:**

Live Auction Saturday Nov 4th!  
Doors Open: 4:30  
Childcare: 5:00 - 9:00  
Bidding Starts: 5:30  
(2 sessions with 1 Intermission)

**Key Dates:**

- **30 October:** Deadline to RSVP for the Live Auction at BRUU
- **4 November:** Live Auction at BRUU
- **10 November:** Online Auction Closes

## BRUU AUCTION Saturday November 4!

You must be present to bid on the Live Auction and collect door prizes. You can observe online through the normal BRUU Service Zoom link, and can still buy tickets to win the 50/50 raffle.

RSVP and Sign Up to Help:

<https://auctria.events/BRUUAuction>

Questions or have a proxy for live voting? Contact [auction@bruu.org](mailto:auction@bruu.org).

Online Auction closes November 10. Bid early, bid often!

*Remember that Auction proceeds help BRUU's operating budget and overall economic stability.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

November Sermons .....	2
Minister's Column .....	3
From the President's Desk .....	4
COSM Reorganization Listening .....	5
Lifespan RE News.....	6
Music Survey Final Call.....	7
Housing Meeting Hold Date.....	7
Fall Cleanup Tips.....	8
Help Needed!.....	9
Pastoral Care Contact.....	10
Puzzler.....	11



## *November 2023 Sermon Descriptions*

**November 5:** *Class Consciousness and Class Action* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann) – Classism is an intersecting oppression along with race, gender and sexual orientation. In 2017, the UUA's Commission on Appraisal published [Class Action: The Struggle with Class in Unitarian Universalism](#) calling on UUs to “get real” about privilege and access by exploring class, classism and economic inequality in our thinking, our actions and our congregations. Addressing classism helps us to build a more inclusive community. Let's create justice not walls!

**November 12:** *Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann) – Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights, which is also celebrated by other spiritual traditions in India and among people of the Indian diaspora. This morning we will learn about this annual autumn holiday.

This month's 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Share-the-Plate recipient is Independence Empowerment Center (<https://ieccil.org/>) whose mission is “to encourage, support and provide options to people with disabilities.”

**November 19:** *Harvest Communion* (Rev. Charlotte Lehmann) – Our annual multigenerational (MG) ritual celebrating the gifts of the Earth and the abundance of life which we share with all of Earth's inhabitants.

Note: There is no Religious Education programming this morning, but the Nursery is open for those who need it.

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

**November 26:** *Sharing the Gifts of Spiritual Practices* (Worship Committee) – During this multigenerational (MG) post-Thanksgiving service, members of the BRUU community will share and lead the congregation in some simple spiritual practices that may be used during the busy month ahead to pause, take a breath, and decompress from the hectic and frenetic holiday festivities.

Note: There is no Religious Education programming this morning, but the Nursery is open for those who need it.



## *During the Holidays, Make Time for Rest and Reflection*



I knew that we hadn't seen an October Crossroads newsletter, but I didn't know until recently why that was the case. An aside: I went looking for my October 2023 newsletter column and can't find it anywhere or by any means, which makes me wonder if I even wrote one! And with all of the shifts and changes in the office administration over the last two months, it doesn't completely surprise me. That said...

I want to take this opportunity to express my great gratitude to Jerome Hruska for being our newsletter editor for the past few years. He took on the job out of the goodness of his heart and as a service to our congregational community. And he has decided that it is time to pass along the work of keeping our community "in-the-know." Thank you, Jerome! I, for one, will miss your monthly puzzler challenge.

It is important for all of us to be involved in the congregational life of this UU community. AND it is important for each of us to know when to put our individual well-being first.

I want to take this opportunity to gently remind us, regardless of what holidays we celebrate or pay attention to, that at this very busy time of year, it is important to intentionally and deliberately make time and take space for decompression, for rest and reflection. How do you care for yourself when the pace quickens and people are expressing feelings that aren't in alignment with the "joy(s) of the season"? Do you make a date with yourself? Or a friend or loved one? An appointment that doesn't require producing or providing anything? Do you have go-to practices that are focused on nurturing yourself in body, mind and spirit? As long as it is something that creates a healthy space in your life for rest and rejuvenation, it will be just what your minister – or your doctor – ordered!

At the end of this month, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, the Worship Committee is planning for an interactive, post-Thanksgiving multigenerational worship service that will give everyone attending – whether in-person, on-line, or viewing later through our service archives (<https://www.bruu.org/www2/about-us/podcasts/>) – several spiritual practices that can be done whenever you need to pause and take a breath. [Note: if you have a spiritual practice that you feel is effective and you'd like to share it with the congregation, please contact the Worship Committee at [worship@bruu.org](mailto:worship@bruu.org).]

But you don't have to wait until then to start making time for rest and reflection, start now and make it an ongoing habit to care for Number 1 – YOU! Thank you for being part of our aspirational, inspirational and conspiratorial community!

Blessings to all,

*Rev. Charlotte*

## *From the President's Desk*



Dear fellow-congregants,

You may notice that this column has changed its name! I renamed it to better describe my intentions for this communication to you with two major focuses in mind. One to serve as a leadership model with mindfulness to how we are doing and where we are going. The other is to provide some basic information and updates that you may not hear elsewhere. To see BRUU documents related to BRUU policies, board and committee meetings, activities, I encourage you to access BRUUnet and Knowledgebase, which are benefits of being engaged with our congregation.

First let me acknowledge the following members who, over during my 1st Quarter as President, did above and beyond for the good of the order and

- Becks Sosa, a member-volunteer who helped with various tasks while I served as temporary Office Administrator during the hiring process.
- Mary Kadlubowski and all the fabulous members of the team who organized Tina's Farewell Gathering in October.
- Jan Malos, who has stepped up to handle priorities of RE during Kristin's absence and continued to make RE the star in our crown.
- Chris McClure for taking notes for the BOD Retreat and at the Town Hall.
- Our marvelous AV Team who provided support and recording at the Town Hall.
- Bruce and Beth Roemmelt who have decided to transition from being long-time advocates for safety at BRUU while serving on the Safer Congregation Committee, to focus on singing in our amazing Choir. Please be sure to thank them for all they have given BRUU in so many ways, including the radiator covers that grace our Sanctuary and the Security Proposal mentioned below.

The Board has been very busy and I want to keep you in the loop.

- At our October Board Meeting, our Board spent considerable time at the October board meeting discussing how we would roll out the reorganization recommendations that grew and continues to grow from members input before, during and after the October Town Hall. A revised document featuring seven Core Committees with all active committees, teams and groups aligned with those suggested by leadership has been developed for feedback from committee chairs participating in the Program Council meeting. Please remember that this is an evolving process and we need to hear from you.
- The Board reviewed financials for the 1st Quarter and continues to be mindful as it prepares for how the priorities determined by the congregation's input about BRUU's Strategic plan will guide our budget for the next fiscal year.
- The Board continues to move forward on proposals for the installation of an effective wireless network in tandem with the installation of a limited number of security cameras proposed for the safety of our employees, members, volunteers, and visitors. Remembering that realizing these goals cost money, our next steps is finalize cost estimates with local vendors and seek funding. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this planning.
- The Board reviewed draft revisions to the Personnel Manual offered by the Personnel Committee and are prepared to vote on the full document once a couple of new considerations are added. I'm sure the Board will agree that Jim Amaral and Mike Cleary have done an outstanding job making complex requirements easier to read and understand in a UU environment.
- Back in the summer, BRUU applied for historic designation of our church building and after two City of Manassas board meeting at which the designation was approved, we now only wait for the official documentation. Special thanks to Rita Romano and Sterling Rush for attending the meetings.

Ms. Taylor Johnson is expected to be onboarded as the new Office Administrator beginning November 1. Her hours will be 10am to 2pm but her presence at the desk may be flexible from time to time depending on demands of the office. Please give her some time to settle in as she has plenty of specialized skills to fit into her days ahead. In the meantime, I anticipate that you will welcome her with your usual BRUU warmth! *(Continued)*

## *President's Desk, Cont.*

I'm pleased that our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Kristin Worthington, will be working remotely as she recovers from her recent hospital stay, but expects to return to the office in person soon. We'll do our best to keep you updated.

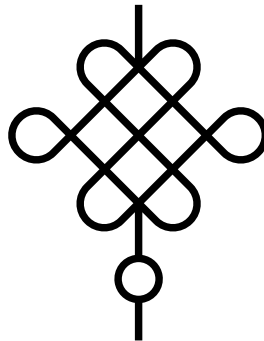
I've always loved the experience of BRUUs Adult Retreat, traditionally held in October in nearby Berkeley Springs, from Friday late afternoon through Sunday after service. So, I've begun assembling a planning group to make sure that that weekend gives us that same but different opportunity for growth as a beloved community sometime in mid-October 2024. Please let me know if you are interested in being involved or if you think you would like to attend.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at [President@BRUU.org](mailto:President@BRUU.org).

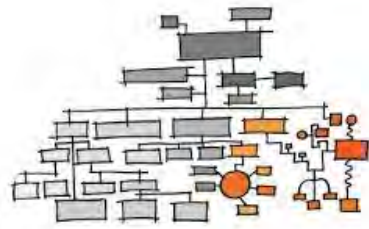
Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Angie Carrera-Earl  
Board President

"Holding each other in care, power and love."



## *Reorganization Listening Sessions, hosted by COSM*



The topic of reorganization is a hot one, and COSM wants to hear from you! Questions, comments, concerns? COSM will be hosting listening sessions to get your feedback to bring to the Board. Our first session is taking place on Sunday, November 19th, at 11:30am in the Flamingo Lounge. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Religious Lifespan Education is Going Strong



During this season of giving thanks, I am especially grateful for the BRUU community. Thank you for your prayers and healing energy you've been sending my way while I have been out. Many thanks to the RE Volunteers who kept Sunday morning classes running smoothly, the workshop leaders for ALE Mondays and Jennifer Malos & Owen Davies for implementing the Fall LRE vision.

A planned holiday break in November & December gives these same volunteers a well-deserved rest to spend time with family and friends.

NO RE Sundays November 19, November 26; December 10, December 24, December 31  
ALE Mondays will resume January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dates for your Fridge:

Coming of Age:

meets Saturdays November 4; December 9  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Senior Youth:

November 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Tea;  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Holiday Cookie baking/decorating;  
December 10<sup>th</sup> Cookie Tray distribution

Seekers:

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>: Interfaith event Masroor Mosque 12:00 – 2:30 pm

BRUUYA:

November 12<sup>th</sup> Monthly Brunch at Siam Classic

Wellspring Sacred Arts:

begins November 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 3:00 pm via zoom.

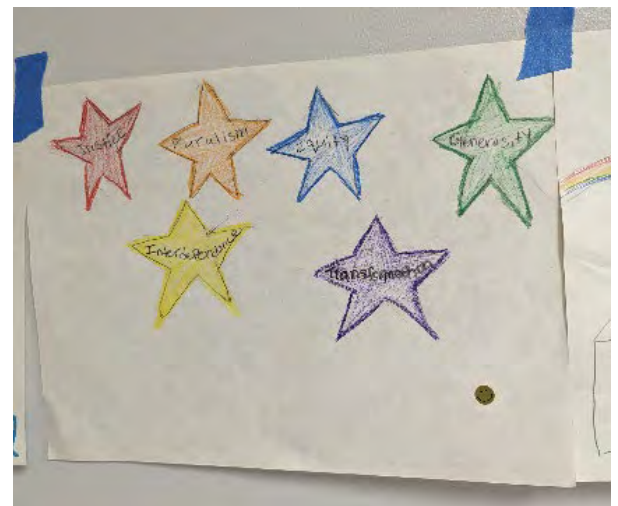
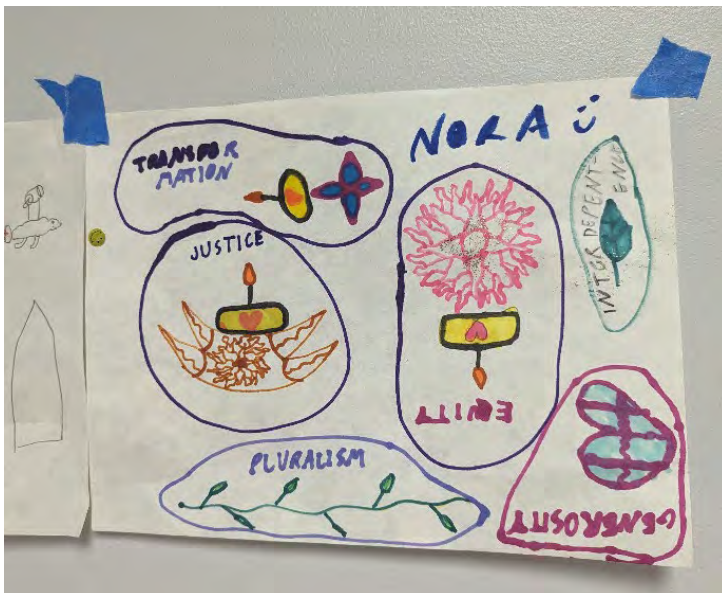
Article II Proposed Changes Discussion: Mondays, November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meet at 7:00 pm in Room 305; bring your dinner if you like

I'm looking forward to reconnecting with each of you-

*Kristin Worthington, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

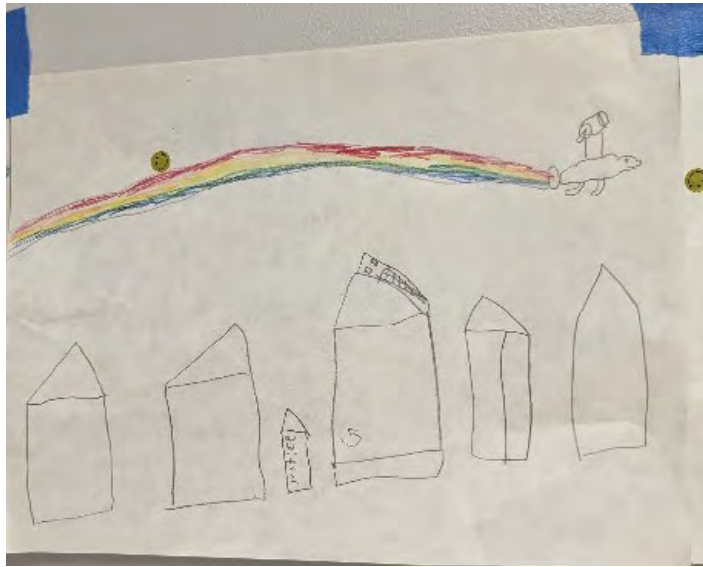
P.S. Below the Questers class (ages 8-10) shared artistic interpretations of the Article II proposed changes



**Please Help Finish Up Music Program Survey... we need just a few more for statistical significance!**

The survey is closing soon, so to make your voice heard about music at BRUU, please complete this brief survey by scanning the QR code or clicking on the link. We'll also be set up downstairs during coffee hour through Sunday Nov 5, if you'd like to complete the survey then.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BRUU\\_Music\\_Director](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BRUU_Music_Director)



***HOLD THE DATE: Housing Town Hall with Del. Maldonado 12/7 at BRUU***



Solving the "not enough housing at a reasonable price" challenge will require state and local action. Come to BRUU on December 7, 7:00-8:30pm, to share ideas and learn about various proposals from Del. Maldonado and members of Manassas City Council. For details, contact Mike Freeland at [housing@bruu.org](mailto:housing@bruu.org)



## Fall Clean Up in Our Gardens—Less is Better!

Now that the weather is cooling, we start thinking about cleaning up our gardens for the winter. We plan to cut back and remove the dying plants and remove all the fallen leaves from our flower beds. But this year, just don't! The less we do, the more we protect wildlife.

Did you know that many insects, including the native bees, winter over in the stems of perennials? They make a small hole in the stem and live in the hollow tube near the soil level over the winter. Native insects are very important to all the birds and other critters that feed on them. We are experiencing die off of insects in epic proportions! If you absolutely must cut them back due to HOA rules etc., at least leave a 12–16-inch stalk. Then put the flower heads under bushes so the birds can feed on them there. With insects dying out at alarming rates, we need to do all we can to allow them success.

During winter birds will feed on the dead flowerheads that you leave in the garden, such as on Black-eyed Susans. This is a more natural way to feed birds than bird feeders. If you have native plants in your garden, the birds can gain much food from them.

Additionally, many people will remove all the leaves from our flowerbeds in the fall. Granted, leaves left on the grass will kill the grass. The opposite is true for perennials and shrubs. The leaves insulate the plants from cold and the freeze/thaw cycles of winter. Mulch does not work well at insulating plants. Beetles and other helpful critters will burrow beneath the leaves for a comfy place to winter in. Then in spring, the leaves will decompose and add nutrients to the soil. Meanwhile, the leaves work just as well as mulch in stopping weeds from growing. In my yard I never use mulch on my flowerbeds, ever. Compost, made from leaves, is the way I always go.

If you live in a HOA or place where neighbors will complain if you leave your front beds with dead plants, then at least let the back yard remain untouched. There are places in all our yards we don't visit much in winter that are prime spots to leave as is. Remember that until the weather warms up in April, we need to leave the dead plants in place. It is hard to leave dead plants in our flowerbeds in early spring, but it is worth knowing we are doing what we can to give a helping hand to nature. This year try something new: doing nothing (in our garden)!

Christine Sunda,  
Green Sanctuary Team Member



## ***HELP NEEDED!***



### ***In Search Of: Sunday Zoommeister***

Join the AV Team in the booth on Sunday mornings, or even do most of this job from home. Training provided so you can manage the handful of postings in the Chat for our Sunday Zoom audience. Interested? Come watch one Sunday in the booth and check it out. For more details, contact the AV Team at [av@bruu.org](mailto:av@bruu.org)



### ***Coffee, Tea, and Thee?***

Our fellowship social time following the Sunday services is an important part of our congregational vitality. It is where we meet our first-time visitors holding the sacred “golden” mugs (yes, they are actually mustard yellow), chat it up with other BRUU folks, sign Caring cards (and eat those tasty cookies), purchase fair trade goodies (coffee, chocolate, and more), and find out what our different project teams are doing and promoting, all the while – sipping some coffee or tea.

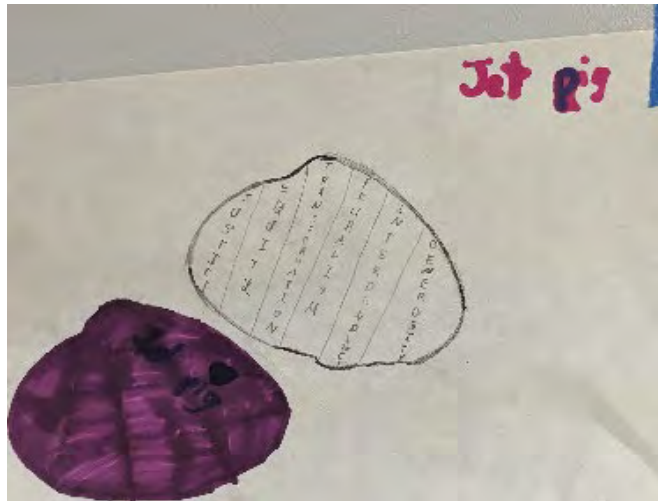
What you need to know is that there is no miracle to making these fluids appear. It takes a team of dedicated acolytes (aka Kitchen Krewe members) to make this good stuff happen – and they need more help.

Please consider volunteering to help one Sunday a month. You could come in a little early and start the coffee makers and set out the mugs, cream & sweeteners. Or, you could stay a bit later to wash up the mugs and put them, and the other items, away. It’s a very simple system. Basically, more hands would make lighter work for our current team. Just ask any of them: Bert Miller, Gretchen Almstead, Eric Trumbull, Larry Underwood, Mark Tisler, Tony Main (bless his caffeine-craving heart) – and be sure to thank them for their dedication to providing coffee! To volunteer, contact me, the Kitchen Krewe Kaptainess, at [ring.cw@gmail.com](mailto:ring.cw@gmail.com) or call **703.754.8191**.

## 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](mailto: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



## BRUU Puzzler for November

Similar to a connections puzzle, find four UU or BRUU-related “themes” (each 4 words) that organize the 16 words. Correct answers will identify each theme and the four words that relate to it. There may be more ways than one to create a theme, but only four specific themes will group all words correctly.

1. Justice	2. Tarot	3. Chalice Lighting	4. World Parliament
5. Chime	6. Equity	7. Animal Blessing	8. Article 2
9. Evil	10. Joys & Sorrows	11. Sung Benediction	12. Relations
13. Observatory	14. Compassion	15. CUUPS	16. UU Nutshell
Theme 1:	Theme 2:	Theme 3:	Theme 4

*Hint: What's up around BRUU lately?*

*Please email your answer to [newsletter@bruu.org](mailto: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!

### October Riddle Answers

1. Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it? *Nothing*
2. Who makes it, has no need for it. Whoever buys it won't use it. Who uses it, won't care. What am I? *A coffin*
3. I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and once a year, I make heavy pumpkins light. What am I? *A candle.*

October's Top Puzzler was... Heather Helphenstine!

