



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817
301-229-0400 www.rruuc.org

eWeekly Newsletter: January 4 - 13, 2018

Our Vision: to grow and deepen in Fellowship, Spirit, and Service for all ages

Sunday, January 7, and Current Happenings

Hope is the Match

Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd Senior Minister

two services - 9:15am and 11:15am

Hope is our theme for the month of January. This week, we'll reflect on the idea that hope is not an end in itself, but a propelling force that pushes us out into courage and commitment. It is a starting point. And we all have to start the next part of our journey somewhere.



Contemporary Issues Forum, 10:25am, Fireside Room Mental Health Initiative of the UndocuBlack Network Yannick Diouf and Gabrielle Jackson

The UndocuBlack Network is a multigenerational network of currently and formerly undocumented black people that fosters community, facilitates access resources, and contributes to transforming the realities of our people, so they are thriving and living their fullest lives.

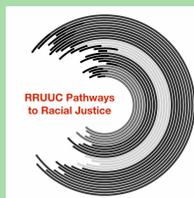
Become the first new member of the New Year! Joining Ceremony, following services, Sanctuary Stage



Celebrate the New Year and your connection to your spiritual community. Begin 2018 as a Member of RRUUC. If River Road has been an important part of your life and you've been considering becoming a Member, join us for this joyous occasion. If you are interested in learning about the path to membership please contact [Sheri Blanchette](#), Director of Membership & Outreach.

From the Board of Trustees on Racial Justice

Racial justice is an important issue facing the nation and River Road. The Racial Justice Task Force conducted an informal survey at River Road. They will share the learning from the survey and envision future work at the **Pathways to Racial Justice Workshop on Saturday, January 20, 1:15 - 4:30 pm**. Members of the Board plan to attend, and we encourage all members and friends to participate, as racial justice is important work where River Road should strive to lead. Register [here](#). See more info below.



Farewell to Louise - Shhh - Let's give Louise a great going away present. Share your love, remembrance, well wishes, prayers,

Covenant News

Thanks to everyone for six weeks of thoughtful input on our first draft of the RRUUC Covenant.

After consideration of much feedback from emails, forums, and small groups, the Covenant Task Force has a second draft of the proposed covenant.

You may view the new draft [here](#).

We encourage you to attend one of **two final**

forums with comments or questions: **this Sunday, January 7, 10:30am and 12:30pm**, in Room 25 on the lower level.

You may also [email](#) additional comments to the covenant task force.

NOTE: The deadline for all comments is **Thursday, January 11**.

The final version of the proposed covenant will be available at the RRUUC Website and via email on January 15.

Our Congregational Meeting to vote on adoption of the covenant will be on **Sunday, January 28 at 10:30am, after ONE Service at 9:15**.

In Fellowship, Spirit, and Service,

The Covenant Task Force
Benjamin Croner, Bob Kulawiec, Lisa Orange, and Petrina Hollingsworth, Chair
Rev. Louise Green, Staff Liaison



drawings, song or whatever can fit on paper! This Sunday is the last day that we will be at a table on the bridge. Either send something as an email attachment to ThanksLouise@rruuc.org

or give us your handiwork directly. Do join in the goodbyes and memory making. We promise to wrap them up beautifully in a way that Louise will treasure.

**Saturday's Retreat Has Been POSTPONED!
New Date - February 3, Same Time - 9:30-noon**

Songs of Hope: A New Year's Retreat

See Congregational Care Notes below and watch for new info.

Upcoming Events Near Us

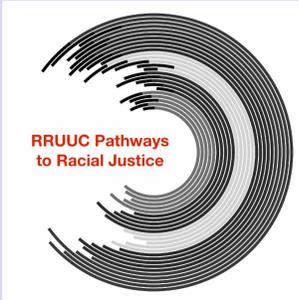
Cedar Lane UU Church, January 14, 3-5pm - their annual interfaith service celebrating Dr. King's birthday and prophetic legacy. The theme for this year is "Reawakening Our Humanity." Speakers include Imam Tarek Elgawhary from the Islamic Community Center of Potomac, the Rev. Dr. Felicia Thomas from Morgan State University, and Rabbi Yaffa Shira-Sultan from the Jewish Social Service Agency. See more [here](#).

Multicultural Welcome - Workshop at Cedar Lane UU Church, Saturday, February 3, 10am-3pm



Do you go to fellowship and wonder what to say to newcomers with yellow mugs? Want to know how to better welcome people of various identities to our UU communities? Through experiential learning, this workshop aims to help each of us better anticipate the needs and wishes of guests by staying open to hearing them. We'll learn how to move away from our assumptions and become better accustomed to putting those preconceived notions on hold in favor of authentic listening and acceptance. Some RRUUCers are already signed up - contact Sheri to let her know you've registered! More info and [register here](#) . Sponsor: Central East Region of the UUA Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Partial or full waivers available. Childcare is offered at no charge. Deadlines for childcare requests is January 26.

RRUUC Pathways to Racial Justice Saturday, January 20



All congregants, members and friends, adults and children, are invited to shape the vision of expanded racial justice "work" at RRUUC by taking the next step. Last spring, 225 people articulated their vision to a Concept Mapping (survey) and on this day, we begin to make that vision real. Read more about paths/results [here](#). Children and youth participate fully here or attend a parallel program addressing the same paths in different ways. Invite a friend and **register by**

January 15. [Register here](#) to join other congregants to find your pathway and to explore making your vision real at RRUUC.

Congregational Care Notes



Wishing everyone safe travels from the holidays and in the current storm, as you return to home, school and work, and find 2018 routines and rhythm. Thinking of everyone impacted by the severe national weather this week.

Rev. Nancy Ladd will be back Saturday, January 6. Please contact **Rev. Louise Green** if needed.

Due to the extreme cold, we are postponing the Saturday, January 6 **Songs of Hope Retreat**, to **Saturday, February 3, 9:30am-noon**. This will be a similar time for fellowship, spiritual practice, and contemplation, music, movement, and nature. Look for new notices next week, and join us in February. Still room for you! Register [here](#).

Upcoming Events at RRUUC

Art Exhibit, January 4-February 11 , Fellowship Hall
Journeys In the Dance of Shape and Color
by Artist **Judith L. Smith**

Reception, Sunday, January 7, 3-5pm

From monumental Washington to misty Kyoto, journeys inspire my abstract visual expressions. I find my artistic voice in digital rendering and manipulation of photographs from these travels.



Newcomers Brunch, Sunday, January 14, 10:30-11:15am & 12:30-1:15pm

If you are a Newcomer looking for a spiritual community and are curious to see if you may have found one here, please come. Meet the ministers, enjoy a light brunch,

and meet others new to RRUUC. Activities for the kids. Let us know you're coming - [RSVP here](#) - or drop by!

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, January 27, 6pm

The HS Youth Group presents *The Great River Road Cook Off*, a murder mystery dinner theater. Enjoy great food, great fellowship, and a great show all for a great cause. Proceeds benefit **Hispanic Federation Unidos** for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Purchase tickets [here](#) or at the door.



Social Justice Important Happenings

The Social Justice Fair, January 7, Fellowship Hall Directly after both the first and second services

Learn more about the social justice activities at RRUUC. Do you wish to get involved in the variety of social justice activities at RRUUC? Do you want to connect with others with similar social justice interests? Do you want a better understanding of the breadth of RRUUC social justice activities? The groups below represent RRUUC's rich history of social justice work and members will be available to provide information at the fair.

- Racial Justice Task Force/College Access Fund
- Beacon House
- Partner Church
- Hunger organizations
- Shepherd's Table
- Shelter Week
- La Clinica
- UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland
- UU Service Committee
- UUs for Social Justice
- Action in Montgomery (AIM)
- Homestay Program (new!)
- Animal Ministry
- Middle East Task Force
- Latin American Task Network (LATN)
- Environmental Task Force
- RRUUC Youth Group
- Immigrant and Refugee task force
- Social Justice Ministry Team

Share the Plate with La Clinica del Pueblo, Sunday, January 12

RRUUC will "extend the offering" to La Clinica del Pueblo, this month's social justice beneficiary, through the plate collection at both services. LCDP and RRUUC have enjoyed a decades-long partnership in support of health services for immigrants. Please bring your checkbooks!

The RRUUC Animal Ministry Task Force, together with RRUUC children and teens, will conduct a service project with Worthy Dog Rescue in January. We will assemble kits containing durable chew bones, elevated beds, water bowls, and toys for chained or penned dogs, along with educational materials for their owners. Here's what you can do:



Bring two old tee shirts and help us make pull toys for the dogs on **Martin Luther King Jr Day, Monday, January 15, 2 to 4pm at RRUUC**. Also, please join us on **Saturday, January 20, 6:30pm** for a benefit showing of *The Champions* and a bake sale.

West Virginia Service Learning Trip 2018: It's not just for teens

2018 will be the 5th year that River Roaders have worked with the people of [Big Creek People in Action](#) in War, WV to make their homes safer, warmer, and drier. This year's trip will be August 4-10. Adults and youth in or entering high school are encouraged to join us to work and learn. Cost is \$450. Deadline to sign up is April 1. [Sign up!](#)



Meet Our Ministers



Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
Senior Minister



Rev. Louise Green
Minister for Congregational Life

Admission: \$15 adult, \$7.50 for kids under 13. The film is a heartwarming story about the dogs rescued from Michael Vick's dogfighting ring. All funds raised will be used to purchase the dog supplies for the kits. You can sign up [here](#) to attend the film.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland-2018

Maryland's General Assembly will convene January 10 and remain in session until April 9. Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) will be keeping its eyes on the legislation proposed in Annapolis-especially any bills related to social justice. You are invited to be part of this legislative mission. Attend the UULM kick-off meeting at the UU Columbia Congregation, **January 20, 8am-1pm**. Registration [here](#). Also, a UULM table at the Social Justice Fair (see above) will focus on UULM's work and ways you can respond to the 2018 Maryland legislative session.



Dr. Alexa Fraser
Ministerial Intern

[Visit Sermon Library](#)

New Adult Religious Education For the New Year! Registrations limited and still open!

Seeking Peace and Refuge in Difficult Times **4 Saturdays at 10am, beginning January 13**

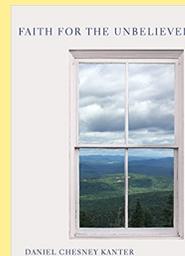
Every day, we hear unsettling news events, whether they be natural disasters, global unrest, or political upheaval. In this class, we'll experience and practice mindfulness meditation, poetry and journaling to enhance self-care, develop greater courage and faith, go within, and find strength in community. We will focus on cultivating a more grounded, clear place from which to live mindfully and, if desired, take action to better the world. Minimum 7; Maximum 12 by January 8.

[Register here.](#)

Faith for the Unbeliever

Mondays at 7pm, February 5 & 19, March 5

A series of dialogue and discovery exploring the gifts and challenges of atheism and theism, and the points in between and beyond. What does it mean to claim faith as distinct from belief and how do we remain connected with those who experience and understand all of these things much differently than we do? The book is available in the bookstore; it's short and easy to read. Maximum 12, minimum 7 by 1/29/2018. [Register here.](#)



Also - Small Groups are forming and re-enrolling - this opens up mid-January through to mid-February! Come with your ideas.

We would hate to see you go, but if you wish to



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