



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

eWeekly Newsletter: April 12 - 21, 2018

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

Here's What's Happening Sunday, April 15



two services at 9:15 and 11:15am

Offspring of Skywoman, Children of Eve

**Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
Senior Minister**

Drawing from Robin Wall Kimmerer's experience as a botanist and member of the Potawatami Nation, this Earth Day Rev. Nancy will look at the joining of generations and the origin stories we tell about the earth and all its creatures.

Contemporary Issues Forum (CC&C), 10:25am, Fireside Reflections on RRUUC's Pilgrimage to the Khasi Hills

RRUUC Partner Church Committee & Friends

In February 2018, a group of nine RRUUC members traveled to the Khasi Hills, N.E. India, to learn about the practice of Unitarianism in that region, meet with local Unitarians, and deepen our ties with RRUUC's partner congregation, located in the small agricultural village of Mawblang. Along the way, they experienced worship services, historical sites, the cacophony of cities and the quiet of the countryside, and heartfelt hospitality as they were invited into people's homes. While the Khasi Unitarians face challenges, a strong faith is apparent. Join them as they share the impressions gleaned from their travels.



Here's What's Happening in the month of April

Social Justice Giving in April

April's Designated Gift Organization is the UUSC



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our UU values into action by building grassroots partnerships to address human rights violations affecting the poor, minorities, and refugees. Stop by the UUSC table on the bridge after the services to learn about UUSC's work.

We will Share the Plate of both services on April 22.

Environmental Task Force April Events

ImaginEarth is recognizing Climate Justice Month in April with actions that RRUUC members can make to preserve the planet for future generations.

Throughout April, members can choose climate actions named for young family members or friends for a Word Cloud to be presented at the Sunday, April 29 service. On



Connect with us! There are so many ways.

Did you miss a service?
Catch up here:
Sermon [videos](#) & [podcasts](#)

Want to know what's happening when?
[Calendar](#)
[Social Justice Calendar](#)

Something to announce?
[Newsletter submissions](#)

Request space for a congregational meeting:
[Room Request](#)

Something else?
[Contact Us](#)

Announcements

Board Town Halls

In preparation for the Annual Meeting and the Board's consideration of the Senior Minister's proposed budget, the Board Town Halls previously scheduled for April 15, have been rescheduled to **Sunday, May 6**, after each service. We will also have a final Board Town on Sunday, **May 27**, after the single service.

Reminder - the RRUUC Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday June 3**, after the single service.
Stay tuned - more info to follow.

UUMAC Summer Institute is Coming Fast!

Sunday, April 15, Interfaith Power & Light will discuss Environmental Justice projects in the area; a presenter will discuss the important role of girls' education in climate justice; and "Climate Kids", an original skit, will be presented by RE middle-schoolers during the service. On Earth Day, **Sunday, April 22**, climate actions will be included in the Youth Service, followed by writing letters to legislators. ImaginEarth is coordinated by the RRUUC Environment Task Force.

This Sunday Is Our Next Serving Together Project

Make your own dab or spot or smudge! Create your splash or blotch or splotch! Join others as we create something with our own hands as a gift for others.

Sunday, April 15, in our Fellowship Hall, we are going to work together to create a piece of art. **Between 9am and 1pm**, you are welcome to come into the Fellowship Hall for a few minutes and quietly add your own paint brush strokes or swirls or splashes to the canvas. Virginian artist and teacher Shari MacFarlane will guide us as we create together. Think that you are not an artist? That's ok - come and join us! Our creation will first hang in our Sanctuary and then be donated to a local organization in the community as our gift to them. No need to register and all ages welcome. Just stop on by and spend a few minutes to Serve Together!



Hot off the press is the new RRUUC Serving Together webpage! Check it out [here](#).

Congregational Care Notes



We celebrate with **Joel Schrag**, who has been granted the "Steward of Partnership" award from the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council for his remarkable work with our partner churches around the world. He'll receive his award at our Association's General Assembly this summer!

We grieve alongside **Nancy Henningsen** after the death of her husband **Alan Romberg** last week. A memorial service for Alan will take place here at River Road on **Saturday, April 14 at 3:30** in the afternoon, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, Nancy Henningsen suggests contributions to the Romberg Memorial Fund to be set up at [Stimson.org](#).

Dale and Jonathan Hill remind us that a memorial service for their son **Brian**, who grew up in in our religious education program, will take place on here at River Road on **Saturday, April 21 at 3:30** in the afternoon, officiated by Rev. Ginger Luke. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

And **Laura Brown** grieves the passing of her mother after a period of time in hospice care. A memorial service will be scheduled in the coming months.

Come to the UU Mid-Atlantic Community to recharge and relax with UUs from NJ, MD, PA, VA, and beyond. You'll spend a week on a beautiful university campus in southeast PA. To learn more about our small-scale community and get an Early Bird discount before April 16, register at [uumac.org](#), or call Doug Belling for details at (202) 420-1969.



Annual RRUUC Retreat

Imagine a time when RRUUCers of all ages can gather, away from daily routines, to relax, recharge and enjoy each other, in an appealing setting away from River Road. What would it look like? For the next several weeks, the retreat committee will be asking you to tell us what would make the perfect retreat for you. We want to build on RRUUC's 30-year tradition of annual all-congregation retreats by gathering your ideas for an event that fits our growing and changing congregation's needs and desires. So please give us your imaginative retreat ideas - chat with a retreat committee member during Fellowship Hour (find us by looking for blue "Imagine... A Retreat" sashes), jot your thoughts down on our forms, or send your ideas to retreat@rruuc.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Stewardship Campaign for 2018-2019
Pledge Now!

From the Co-Chairs

Meet Our Ministers



Pledges are still being gratefully received!

Progress continues as pledges roll in! Our pledge total is now just over **\$885,000**. This leaves us just about **\$85,000** short of our goal of **\$970,000**. To those who have pledged, **thank you so much**. If you haven't yet pledged, please click this [link](#) to pledge now. Whether it is a modest or magnificent amount, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Our budget goal amount simply allows us to maintain current staffing and programming levels so a shortfall will mean a loss to one of those.

Let's not let that happen!

Members of the Board and the Financial Stewardship Committees are calling and emailing those who have not pledged yet to discuss contributing. If your circumstances have changed and you are not able to pledge this year, please contact Diana Chimes by [email](#) or phone at 301-229-0400x114.

Thank you, friends, for your generous support.

Mimi and Peter



Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
Senior Minister



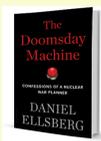
Dr. Alexa Fraser
Ministerial Intern



Rev. Kären Rasmussen
Serving Together Minister

Upcoming Events at RRUUC

Daniel Ellsberg Discussion about the Doomsday Machine



Now that you've attended the talk and begun reading the book - and even if you haven't - let's talk about it and think about what we can do together. Contact David Ward if you're interested and you can choose some times to get together.

Action in Montgomery News

Action in Montgomery intends to sign up 10,000 voters by May 31 who commit to:

- Vote in the June 26 primary in Montgomery County
- Support the AIM agenda, which prioritizes affordable housing, immigrant families, local transportation, and equity in education.

There are 7 candidates for County Executive, 9 candidates for the open District 1 seat on the County Council, and 38 candidates - including RRUUC's own **Loretta Garcia!**

- vying for 4 at-large seats. Look for the AIM table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday. Find out how you can proclaim your values as a voter and hold candidates accountable. Attend AIM's action on **Sunday, April 22, 2-4 pm** at RRUUC, and hear how candidates respond to the AIM agenda.

Questions? Contact Lisa Orange.



The Latin America Taskforce Network Fiesta
Plan to attend the LATN's Spring Fiesta
Saturday, May 5, 5 to 10 pm.

Bring the entire family and enjoy fun - **Breaking the Pinata is at 5:30pm.** Enjoy a great meal by Chef Mariano Ramos. This year Lori

Kaplan, founder and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center will be honored with the LATN 2018 Humanitarian of the Year award. **Tickets will be on sale in the Lounge this Sunday** and in the Fellowship Room the next few weeks. Or click [here](#).

Reminder - the Ordination of the Rev. Sadie Lansdale will be on Sunday, May 13, 4pm. A special email invitation is coming soon!

[Visit Sermon Library](#)

[Read about Upcoming Sermons](#)

We would hate to see you go, but if you wish to unsubscribe from the eWeekly Newsletter, please click the link below.



[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

This is an important event in the life of RRUUC. One of our own, Sadie grew up in our congregation, sang in the youth choirs and actively participated in our youth group before going on to seminary. If you would like to donate to help defray the costs of Sadie's ordination, please submit a check made out to RRUUC with "Sadie Lansdale's Ordination" in the memo line. If you would like to volunteer to help with the festivities, please send an [email](#). For questions, please contact Petrina Hollingsworth.



Community Events

Racial Justice Path Actions4Justice - all are invited

Sunday, April 15, 2-4pm

The Spirit Experience - The Poor People's Campaign comes to Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda. A multicultural, pluralistic celebratory form of worship with music for the whole family. More info [here](#).

4th Annual Voices from The Holy Land 2018 Film Series

Saturday, April 14, 2:30pm, the film "Jews Step Forward" will be shown at Perry Auditorium in the Washington National Cathedral, sponsored by Jewish Voices for Peace. This film documents Israel's open-ended policies of torture, imprisonment, and murder of indigenous Palestinians including children, contempt for international norms, and the rise of laws mirroring fascism, all of which poison any idea of national permanence for Israel based upon peace and regional integration. The film also traces a path grounded in Jewish identity, which ultimately separates personal conscience from a myth-laden, socialized loyalty to the state of Israel today. Richard Forer, interviewed in the film, will moderate the Q&A discussion after the film. Forer is author of "Breakthrough: Transforming Fear into Compassion - A New Perspective on the Israel-Palestine Conflict." All showings in the Voices from the Holy Land film series are free and start promptly. Please visit [here](#) for more info.



Refresh and Renew:

Rev. Nancy's upcoming sabbatical

You may have heard by now that Rev. Nancy is preparing for a three-month sabbatical during the summer of 2018. This means that from June 1 to August 31, she'll be away from the congregation for a time of study, reflection, and renewal. More information about this will come to you soon.



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