



## River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817  
301-229-0400 [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org)

**eWeekly Newsletter: April 26 - May 5, 2018**

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

### Here's What's Happening on Sunday April 29



two services at 9:15 and 11:15am

#### Re-Imagining

**Amanda Weatherspoon and  
Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, Senior  
Minister**

This Sunday we will have the chance to see our new ministerial team in action together for the very first time. So, **that's** going to be worth showing up for.

In a cultural and political context that tends to put people in boxes, Amanda and Nancy will ask how we can embrace our complexities and face the challenges therein - by celebrating rather than erasing our differences. How can we imagine a new way of being together that's not limited to social categories? How can we bring our full selves to the table in this crucial moment that demands nothing less than authenticity?

**Contemporary Issues Forum (CC&C), 10:25am, Fireside  
Rachel Carson's Legacy: Environmental Justice for Today  
Bob Musil - President of Rachel Carson Council (RRC)**

Dr. Musil discusses Rachel Carson's ethic of environmental justice. Portrayed as an environmental saint who's writing alone sparked the movement, Dr. Musil contends Carson was a political activist who fought corporations, opposed racism and nuclear weapons, and warned about factory farms - issues the RCC organizes around today.



#### Social Justice Giving in April

**April's Designated Gift Organization is the UUSC**



Thanks to all who gave last week. There's still time to put your UU values to work - [click](#) here to donate now.

#### Environmental Task Force April Events

A Word Cloud of ImaginEarth intergenerational climate actions by congregation members will be included in the Service. During the fellowship hours we will also have letter writing in support of the RECLAIM Act of 2017. This legislation unlocks existing funds to assist coal communities in order to provide a "Just Transition" from a coal-dependent economy to a more sustainable community and put people back to work leading a brighter future.



**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](#)



**The Big Share is Coming!  
RRUUC's Annual  
Community Auction**

It's SPRING! Flowers! Lawn Mowers! And the annual **RRUUC Spring Auction!**

Here is a [link](#) to a sample letter, which you may prepare at home and bring to the writing table.

## A Message from the Religious Education Committee

### Be the Person Who Inspires . . . and Gets Inspired by Eric Hoffman

You've heard how getting involved in teaching religious education benefits the youth at RRUUC. You mentor children. You help instill values we share as a congregation. You might even spark commitment to religious life or get someone to reflect on the Sunday morning lesson and discuss it with their family. There are thousands of ways to inspire our youth by teaching. You know that part of our pitch very well.



**But have you thought about how it will change you?**

**It will. I promise.**

You will learn more about Unitarian Universalism than your students. You will laugh. You will form friendships with your teaching team. If you are a parent, you will see your own child through a different lens. You will feel accomplished when you spark a deep conversation in class. You will grow and feel a sense of awe when you see the values and lessons you teach reflected back in the words and deeds of your students. Ask anyone who has taught RE for a year or for decades about their experiences. Ask them how they were inspired. As for the commitments that inspire you - you teach anywhere from 6x a year to 15x - the more engagement, the more inspiration. There are plenty of Sundays left for worship - and the other service is always available too! You work in concert with others, and always have another adult in the room. Time scheduling is flexible and substitute support is readily available. All the lesson plans, materials and scheduling are provided. We offer an excellent training held at the end of the summer and refreshed mid-year. And then the appreciation . . . **Watch for it. If you sign up, you are invited this year too!**

In short, you'll have support to inspire others as you inspire yourself. So, be the person who joins us. Be the person who gets involved with the next generation or the generation after that. Be the person who gives of themselves, but gets so much more in return.

Sign up [here](#) to teach - get inspired - be a teacher at RRUUC.



## Stewardship Campaign for 2018-2019 [Pledge Now!](#)

From the Co-Chairs

**Pledges are still being gratefully received!**

We are so close to our goal of **\$970,000**.

You could be the one who brings us to this goal! Click [here](#).

Thank you, friends, for your generous support.

Mimi and Peter

## Events at RRUUC

Latin America Taskforce Network

This year's auction is

### The Big Share

and it's an opportunity to share what you love to do with others from RRUUC. This is the **last week** to donate: donations will be accepted until **April 30**. Silent auction bidding will occur between and after services on **Sundays May 6, 13, & 20**. Information and a donation form are available [online](#). Or send an [email](#) or call Tim Daniel. Thanks for participating!

### 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.



### Imagine... A Retreat!

The retreat committee has gotten some great feedback and ideas from you about what would make a perfect retreat experience for our congregation! Have you given us your thoughts yet? We would love to hear from you! Talk to us during Fellowship Hour (look for our blue sashes), send us

Come to the LATN's Spring Fiesta Saturday, **May 5, 6 to 10 pm**. Bring the entire family and enjoy fun - Breaking the **Pinata** is at 6:30pm. Enjoy a great meal by Chef Mariano Ramos. Lori Kaplan, founder and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center will be honored with the LATN 2018 **Humanitarian of the Year** award. Ms. Kaplan transformed a small grass roots association into a multifaceted organization that now serves over 4,000 immigrant youth and is a national model. **Freddy Caceres**, recipient of the LATN-Carlos Rosario scholarship will be a guest at the Fiesta. Listen to the music of **Lilo Gonzales**. There will again be a **Crafts Boutique** of wonderful items for sale at the Fiesta. Any donations of handicrafts are welcome, before May 5. If you would like to donate, please contact Charlotte Jones Carroll. **Tickets will be on sale** in the Fellowship Room this Sunday. Or click [here](#) to buy tickets or make a donation online.



an [email](#), or jot some ideas down at our table in the Fellowship Hall. Or come join us in listening sessions after each service on **May 13** and between services on **May 20**.

## Announcements

### Event Cancelled

The Serving Together Building of the Community Boxes this



Saturday from 9-1 has been cancelled, since it looks like people will be enjoying a fine spring day off campus. Never fear, the boxes will be built and be ready to be filled with books and non-perishable food for our local community soon! On **May 13**, come and join Rev. Nancy and Rev. Kären after both worship services as we bless these community boxes and launch the work we will do to fill and maintain them for our neighbors.

### 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 will take place **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.

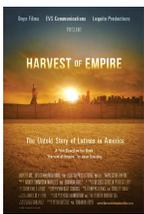
### Art Exhibit runs through May 6, Fellowship Hall *Framing France - Paintings by Barbara Mandel and Printing Photographs: Variations - by David Scherbel*



The artists, colleagues for ten years at the Holton-Arms School, return for another two-person exhibit of recent works. Mandel's paintings feature landscapes, chefs, and culinary creations from Paris to the south of France. Scherbel's photographs demonstrate how the simple decision of what paper to print a photograph on influences the viewer's experience.



### Movie showing: **HARVEST OF EMPIRE**, Sunday, May 6, 12:30pm



The Immigration and Refugee Committee will show the documentary *Harvest of Empire* in the Fireside Room. The film describes the role US policy has in generating the forces that move people to migrate to the US from their homes in Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Discussion will follow. Snacks available. Contact Charlotte Jones Carroll for more info.

### Reminder - the Ordination of the Rev. Sadie Lansdale will be on Sunday, May 13, 4pm

#### Have you RSVP'd to the special email invitation?

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

**May International Dinner, Wednesday, May 9, 7pm**  
City Lights of China, 4953 Bethesda Avenue

## Meet Our Ministers

Please call or email Chris Hager by Tuesday, May 8 or call the restaurant on Wednesday at 301-913-9501. All are welcome!



### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church Juried Art Show

Call for Entries Media: Any media hangable in a public space between 12 in and 6 ft. Deadline: Send photograph for consideration and contact information [via email](#) by **May 31** for show to hang late August. Theme: any of the 7 Principles of UUs.

### One Spring Day Event and Two Summer Weeks Events

#### The Summit: Art for Social Impact by the Sanctuaries

Saturday, May 19, 2pm Workshops | 6pm Ceremony

The Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd NW, Washington, DC

We're thrilled to announce our Art for Social Impact training program [Summit](#), with a variety of engaging workshops on how to use the arts for social change, as well as an arts-based, spirit-filled celebration of the graduating artists.

Space is limited. Only 75 tickets available! Register today!

#### Oberlin College, July 8-13

Are you looking for an intentional, intergenerational community where you can live fully as a Unitarian Universalist and grow, relax, play, recharge and reconnect for a week including a vibrant community of around 100 young adults? Attend workshops and hear inspiring speakers, take part in a variety of fun and creative activities, hang out with family or friends or spend time in deep conversation? This year we Confront the Challenge of Climate Change with our theme speaker Dr. David Orr. There is programming for all ages. Learn more [here](#).

#### UUMAC Retreat, July 8-14

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, register at [uumac.org](#), or call Doug Belling.

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

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**Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd**  
Senior Minister



**Dr. Alexa Fraser**  
Ministerial Intern



**Rev. Kären Rasmussen**  
Serving Together Minister

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**[Read about Upcoming Sermons](#)**

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

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