



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

eWeekly Newsletter: May 17-26, 2018

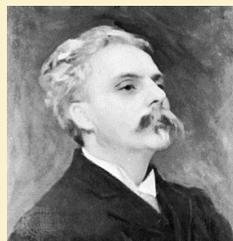
Our Vision: to grow and deepen in **Fellowship, Spirit, and Service** for all ages

Here's What's Happening on Sunday, May 20

two services at 9:15 and 11:15am

Annual Spring Music Service

The Fauré Requiem, one of the most beautiful and uplifting choral works ever written, will be performed by the River Road Choir, soloists, and orchestra, directed by Dr. Clif Hardin, Director of Music.



Contemporary Issues Forum, 10:25am, Fireside Room US-Latin American Relations in an "America First" Moment Lisa Haugaard, E.D. Latin America Working Group



Ms. Haugaard will discuss US foreign and immigration policy affecting Latin America in this "America First" period and provide alternative, humane solutions. Dramatically shifting immigration enforcement is adversely affecting the United States' influence throughout Latin America, as well as disrupting families and communities across America. LAWG has been influential in normalizing US policy towards Cuba, shifting US support from war to peace first in Central America, and then in Colombia; and in inserting human rights issues into US diplomacy in the region. See the LAWG website [here](#).

Contemporary Issues Forum will be on hiatus until Fall 2018.

The Big Share - Bidding Concludes this Sunday!

The amazing 2018 Community Auction donations will be available for bidding one more Sunday. Dinners. Getaways. Cooking and flower arranging workshops. Outdoor outings. Scrumptious food. The bidsheets for this year's Big Share Community Auction will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for a final time this Sunday, so be ready to bid in a silent auction format on a variety of wonderful items.

Bidding will conclude at 1pm. Have fun and Share Big!



Imagine... A Retreat!

Final Listening Session, between services, Rm 30

The retreat committee has received much helpful feedback and ideas about your desires for an all-congregation retreat. Join in the discussion! Or send an email: retreat@rruuc.org

All Pathways to Racial Justice meet, 12:30pm

We begin in Fireside - all together for some sharing and report outs from Pathways leads. Then individual pathways will separate to do their own work in different rooms. We look forward to reconvening and

**Reminder - Summer
Sunday schedule begins
on May 27 with ONE
service at 10am**



**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](#)

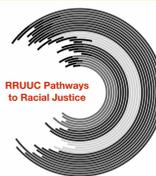
Something else?
[Contact Us](#)

Community Events

**Beall's Grant Ribbon
Cutting and Community
Lounge to be dedicated to
Rev. Dr. William R. Murry,
Thursday, May
24, 10:30am**

Beall's Grant is a newly renovated apartment complex in downtown Rockville. Rev. Dr. Murry was a founding member of

hearing all the new directions that we have ventured or planned for. Bring food to share.



Montgomery Housing



Stewardship Campaign for 2018-2019 From the Co-Chairs

Call it May Magic. More pledges have come in; our total is now **\$987,827**. Wow!

Last Sunday, we announced that the Campaign goal of \$970,000 had been **SURPASSED**, but additional pledges this week have further increased the "over the top" amount, which takes a lot of pressure off the budget process. Thanks to all you generous, responsible, and responsive Stewards of River Road.

This is a remarkable thing, this fantastic support of our congregation. Keeping RRUUC robust takes a strong and enduring commitment from all of us. One of the hidden aspects of the campaign is that every year we start in a hole - individuals and families relocate or have other changes in circumstances, and their pledges decline or disappear. But every year we also have new participants who pledge for the first time.

This year we had **37 first-time pledges**, and we extend a special thanks to them.

While we have been the faces of the Campaign, there would have been no Campaign without the enduring support of the members of the Financial Stewardship Committee. We came into this with no idea what we were doing, but the committee supported and led us all the way. Our heartfelt thanks to Jai Chopra, Chair, Kathleen Knepper, Marcia Leonard, Liz Ward, and Sam Worthington. We also thank the irreplaceable Nancy Ladd and the incomparable Sheri Blanchette who wonderfully supported the effort.

Also thanks to those of you who shared your personal stories from the pulpit: The Roy, Kenny, and Ducey families, and Rob Nooter. Your voices inspired us all.

Thank you to all of you, to each of you. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of this community.

Mimi and Peter

Partnership and our first Board Chair. RRUUC members are invited. County Executive Isiah Leggett is the guest speaker, and other speakers include Barbara Murry and Beall's Grant resident Maria Garabito. A guided tour of the property will follow the ribbon cutting ceremony. Please **RSVP** by May 20 or call 301-812-4115.

Final Report on Bazaar 2017

was an amazing event, fulfilling our mission of growing in service, spirit and fellowship.

We worked and ate together, invited our community through our doors, made money for RRUUC's operating budget, supported our refugee families, donated large quantities of useable goods to local charities and kept lots of stuff out of landfills. It was a PARTY of epic proportions.



Here are some of the highlights:

- New Date/Shorter Setup
- New Mascot
- We Made Money . . .
- . . . but Storage Expenses are HIGH!
- Net Revenue (\$47k)
- Record # volunteers
- Charities & Refugee families and Individuals supported
- Thank YOUs

A Message from the Religious Education Committee

RRUUC September Teacher Recruitment needs You Now!

There are three essential pieces that fit together to complete the puzzle that is an excellent Religious Education program.

Two of those pieces we have covered easily:

Children and Ready-to-go Lessons and Support.

The third piece can be harder to pin down - Teachers.

For the next year, September 2018 - May 2019, we still need 27 more congregants to get to our total of 55 needed to make this important commitment. Will you be one of them?

TEACHER is a term that covers different roles in our RE program: guide, leader, teacher, and advisor. The different roles provide different entry points into the RE community. Guides commit to a specific age group and one Sunday a month; Leaders commit to deliver one lesson on three (3) consecutive Sundays a month getting better and better -



then that's it, three Sundays out of the whole year! . . . or you **can** do more. Teachers sign up for 2 Sundays a month for Spirit Play, Middle School and **OWL***. Advisors are for Youth Group and we currently have enough.

The kids are great! They bring with them a curious and imaginative energy that is infectious. They are funny, honest, often a little noisy, and always eager to try whatever is presented to them. They want to learn and they want to share what they know. What they need are equally curious, imaginative and eager TEACHERS who can guide, lead, teach, advise them in the formation of their faith.

Be an essential piece of the puzzle! Open your heart and mind to the kids of RRUUC-the future of Unitarian Universalism!

Click [here](#) to sign up. You'll be glad.



***OWL Teachers Needed - Give a Hoot!**

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives.

RRUUC is proud to offer Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for our youth each year. We are looking for a few people who are willing to delve into this more deeply and train to be teachers for our 8th grade program. Learn more about the curriculum [here](#). If you're interested or want to learn more contact [Gabrielle Farrell](#) or [Beth Irikura](#).

Lego Wall Building

Adult or teen help in building an epic Lego wall is needed. Supplies provided - bring your Lego skills. Contact Gabrielle Farrell by phone 301-229-0400x105 or [email](#).



Serving Together

Time to Fill Our Community Food Box!

Thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Kane Davidson, our Community Food Box and Library are up and running!

We need food to fill the box on a continuing basis and this is where the RRUUC community comes in. There is a brand new Community Food box in the lobby by the staircase. When you're doing your grocery shopping, please add an item or two from the list below and bring it in on in to fill that box.

Things we need:

granola bars, peanut butter or cheese cracker single serving packages, Juice Boxes, single serving applesauce cups, single serving fruit cups, single serving mac and cheese, single serving soups or Beefaroni kinds of items

Please don't bring:

Items that need can openers or need to be cooked on a stove or can't be easily and discreetly carried away.

Now is **not** the time to clean out pantries of cans you don't want.

Thank you for your help and support!

Rev. Kären

Announcements

Board Town Halls

In preparation for the Annual Meeting and the Board's consideration of the Senior Minister's proposed budget, the final Board Town Hall will take place **Sunday, May 27**, after the single service.

The RRUUC Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 3, after the single service. The following are available on the website:

You can read the [Full Report](#) on the website, including how your department contributed.

Other Events Here and There

AIM County Candidate Action,

Wednesday, May 30, 7-9 pm

The People's

Community

Baptist Church

31 Norwood Rd,

Silver Spring



Be part of the biggest countywide candidates' forum and support Action in Montgomery's most important action this year! Candidates for County Executive will respond to AIM's agenda supporting affordable housing, quality after-school programs, and protection for immigrant families. RRUUC wants to bring 80 supporters to what's sure to be a packed house. Stand up and be counted! Carpools will leave from RRUUC. For information and to RSVP, contact Lisa Orange.

Voter Support Information

Register to vote by **June 5** for Maryland Primary elections. Check your status, register, or change registration (name, address, party) [online](#). Download a paper form and submit. Early voting is June 14-21; election day is June 26. Check on any candidates anywhere in the US [here](#).



Conversation on Faith and Reproductive Justice

with Monica Simpson, Exec Director of SisterSong

Monday, June 4, 7pm, All Souls Church

by All Souls Church Unitarian Reproductive Justice Committee. More [info](#) and register [here](#).

Partner Church Trip to Fiatfalva, September 2018

A small group of RRUUC members is planning a trip to Fiatfalva to celebrate with our partner church the 450 years

[Agenda](#)
[Mortgage Refinance Terms for Vote](#)
[Bios of Nominees for the Board of Trustees](#)
[Bios of Nominees for the Leadership and Nominations Committee](#)



Bake Sale! RRUUC Youth Group will be offering delicious treats to enjoy during the meeting.

Art Events at RRUUC

Ethiopian Highlands Art Exhibit until June 22, Fellowship Hall Reception, Friday, May 18, 6-9pm

Ethiopian Highlands presents images of the people and landscape of Northern Ethiopia. Meryl Silver is a Maryland based photographer, originally from New York City. Most of her early work focused on the people and street scenes in New York City. For example, she completed a major project on the homeless who spent their nights in a church on Park Avenue, where, over a period of years, she came to know the nightly inhabitants. In that project, as in *Ethiopian Highlands*, she tried to capture the timelessness of the place and the warmth of its inhabitants.



Members and Friends art show - Calling all RRUUC artists

The Fine Arts Committee is again organizing a Members and Friends Art show in the Fellowship Hall for **June 23 through Labor Day**. We encourage all interested Members to participate. Friends of the congregation (non-member active participants in RRUUC), as well as children who are active in RRUUC, are also eligible to participate.

- Two dimensional art in all media will be accepted. Art must be framed and wired (no saw teeth) or otherwise presented in a way that is ready to hang from our hanging system. The committee cannot add or adjust hardware to make the art hangable, this is the responsibility of the artist. We also accept three dimensional art that can be displayed in our new lockable glass display case - e.g. jewelry, glass, pottery.
- Each artist may submit one piece. If the piece is less than 24 inches wide, you may bring a second piece of 24 inches or less. Art must be available for the entire period of the show. For each piece you will be asked to provide your name, title of piece, selling price if for sale. Twenty percent of any sale will be donated to RRUUC. The committee reserves the right to reject pieces that are deemed unsuitable for the venue or if there is lack of sufficient space.
- Art will be received only on **Saturday June 23, 10:30-noon**, no exception. If you cannot come please have a friend bring your work. The committee will be hanging the art Saturday afternoon and cannot accommodate latecomers.
- No opening reception is planned. Artists are encouraged to attend the **Coffee Hour on June 24** or thereafter, to chat with parishioners about their work.
- If you are interested in showing your work, or have questions, please [**email**](mailto:Elke.Jordan@rruuc.org) Elke Jordan, chair of the Fine Arts committee.

of Unitarianism, which began with the Edict of Torda in Transylvania. We will be there at least on September 15-16 for the celebration. The UUPC has a pilgrimage planned September 22-October 4 to a number of historic towns in Transylvania and Romania. Contact [Ursula Scott](#) or [Julie Lazar](#).

Meet Our Ministers



[Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd](#)
Senior Minister



[Dr. Alexa Fraser](#)
Ministerial Intern



[Rev. Kären Rasmussen](#)
Serving Together Minister

[Visit Sermon Library](#)

[Read about Upcoming Sermons](#)