



## River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

**eWeekly Newsletter: May 24 - June 2, 2018**

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

### Here's What's Happening on Sunday, May 27

**NOTE: ONE service at 10am**

**Think It Possible  
That You May Be Mistaken**  
Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd,  
Senior Minister

Standing before the Assembled  
Church of Scotland in 1650, Oliver

Cromwell famously rather colorfully implored the gathered  
religious leaders to reconsider their own theological certitude. "I  
beseech you, in the bowels of Christ," he said, "think it possible  
that you may be mistaken."

On Rev. Nancy's last Sunday in the pulpit before three months of  
sabbatical, we'll grapple with the limits of our own certitude and  
ponder what it would take to open ourselves up to new  
viewpoints and changing wisdom.



**Contemporary Issues Forum will return in Sept 2018.**

**Town Hall Meeting, Board of Trustees, 11:15am, Room 32**

In preparation for the Annual Meeting and the Board's  
consideration of the proposed budget, come to this final  
Town Hall.



**Big News! The 2017-2018 Annual Report is Now [Online](#)**  
It was an incredible year! Read about all about it in the 2017-  
2018 Annual Report. Copies can be requested from the  
office if needed.

### And Here's What's Happening NEXT Sunday

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

[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.**



### Notes

~ No RE this Sunday ~  
~ Monday, May 28 ~  
**is Memorial Day and the  
Building will be closed.**



**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 Poor People's  
Campaign-A National Call  
for Moral Revival.** Thank  
You! To those who joined  
many UUs and others  
across the country in raising  
their voices to highlight  
concerns in weeks one and  
two of the Campaign. The

## Congregational Care Notes



During Rev. Nancy's sabbatical, we are blessed that **Alexa Fraser** and **Rev. Kären** will be working with the Congregational Care Team to support us all in the joys, sorrows and transitions of our lives. If you would like to reach out for pastoral support, the best and easiest way to do so is through our Pastoral Care [email](#).

Campaign continues at state capitals and the US Capitol every Monday, and concludes with a Global Day of Solidarity Mass Rally on Washington, DC June 23. What's next? Rally with us at the US Capitol on Tuesday, May 29, 2pm. For training, teach-ins and other events in DC, click [here](#). For events in Maryland, click [here](#).



## Staff Transitions at RRUUC

This summer will bring a number of staff transitions and additions prior to Amanda Weatherpspoon arriving on September 1st. Here's an overview of staff happenings this summer:

Two current staff members will be making transitions: Diana Chimes will be reducing her work schedule from 25 hours per week (where she is now) to 15 hours per week beginning July 1. Sheri Blanchette will move into a Director of Communications role, while retaining some of her current membership responsibilities such as the database, financial stewardship, and the annual report. Sheri will use her extraordinary vision to set the direction for internal and external communication that will consistently articulate, enable, and fulfill RRUUC's mission. Sheri expects to be in this role on or around July 1.

Sheri's new role brings about two related items: The web work that Beth Irikura has done in the past 18 months will now fall mainly to Sheri with help from Jessie. Beth's talent catapulted us through the web redesign process and so much of the website and social media's successes are credited to her. And Marcia Leonard who has graciously given us her time and talent for 2 years despite an initial agreement of only 6 weeks is finally being let out on parole! This summer she returns to her other roles as super-volunteer, uber geek chair of the AV tech committee and beloved friend to all on staff.

This week, we will be posting job openings for two part-time positions: a morning Office Assistant who will also function as an accounting assistant, and a Membership Coordinator. We would like to have both positions filled by July 1, but we are open to starting the positions earlier if the right candidate is found. When the Office Assistant position is filled, Alagie Jammeh's temporary assignment with us will be finished. We are so grateful for his help these last few months!



## Board Buzz for May Board Meeting

As we near the end of the "Congregational Year" and approach the **Annual Meeting on June 3**, the Board worked through a number of items, including:

- Voted to support the ordination of Alexa Fraser, in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.
- Received an update from Zach Knepper on activities of the Endowment Committee and were treated to a look at draft materials being developed to explain how contributions can be made to the Endowment Fund.
- Received and approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer regarding refinancing of the mortgage on the congregation's facility. The details of this recommendation will be finalized and voted on by a quorum of the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Finalized a number of details related to the

## 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.



**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. 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 will be received only on **Saturday June 23, 10:30-noon**. If you are interested in showing your work, or have questions, please email Elke Jordan, chair of the Fine Arts committee.

### Other Events Here and There



**Emergency Request for Beacon House Camp**  
Beacon House Community Ministry in Northeast DC usually has a summer camp for about 90 children for five weeks. DC is not funding the camp this year so they need about \$112,000 (\$1,245 per child). If you can help, [please give here](#).

### AIM County Candidate Action, Wednesday, May 30, 7-9 pm The People's Community Baptist Church 31 Norwood Rd, Silver Spring

Action in Montgomery's most important action this year! RRUUC pledged to bring 80 supporters! Candidates for County Executive will respond to AIM's agenda for affordable housing, quality afterschool programs, and protection for immigrant families. Carpools will leave from RRUUC. For information and to RSVP, contact Lisa Orange. Candidates' responses to AIM questionnaire [here](#).



### 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](#).

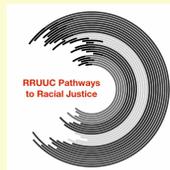
### A Conversation on Faith and Reproductive Justice with Monica Simpson, Exec Director of SisterSong



**Monday, June 4, 7pm, All Souls Church**  
by All Souls Church Unitarian Reproductive Justice Committee. More [info](#) and register [here](#).

*Educating 4 Change Pathway (to Racial Justice)* is sponsoring a discussion of this year's UUA Common Read: **Centering: Race, Authenticity & Power in Ministry, Sunday, June 24, 11:15am**

As our faith wrestles with multiracial multicultural (MCMR) inclusion and bias, Centering provides insight into the stories and analyses of Unitarian Universalist religious professionals of color. 18 voices are included. We will reflect on the wisdom offered and what it means for the future of UUism and RRUUC as we move forward with our own MCMR ministry. Scheduled for one session, there is the opportunity for 2 more. All are welcome. Bring a brown bag lunch. Childcare available upon request by June 17. Register [online](#). Note: It is very important that you read the book before attending. Contact Rita Parks.



### Partner Church Trip to Fiatfalva, September 2018

- Annual Meeting, including quorum requirements, the proposed agenda and the recipient of the Dan Lewis Award.
- Began the process of reviewing next year's budget after briefings on the updated results of the Stewardship Campaign and status of the Endowment Fund. Members of the Board will be available to discuss the budget and mortgage refinancing after the service on Sunday, May 27 at a town hall meeting.
- Received an update from Reverend Nancy on coverage of her many duties while she is away on sabbatical.
- Received an update from Ana Lim on the Building Committee's summer construction plans for the kitchen and pathways.
- Discussed, with great joy, the plans for welcoming our new Associate Minister, Reverend Amanda, in the Fall.
- Adjourned into Executive session to work on the annual evaluations of the Senior Minister and self-evaluation of the Board

The email for the Board to receive input from the congregation is available by clicking [here](#). Info about the Board, including Minutes of Board and Congregational Meetings, is available [here](#).

All Board meetings begin with a 15-minute time slot for members or friends to present views. The next

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

meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday June 12, 2018 at 7:30pm.

### A Message from the Religious Education Committee by Amy Reid

Children and youth in our religious education (RE) program at RRUUC get to know adult leaders, guides and mentors on Sunday mornings. We may call their work teaching, but for me, as a guide, it has been a wonderful opportunity for learning. Whether I'm helping to tell or act out a story, write a poem, create a piece of art, tend to the garden, prepare food, or play a game, I have gained insight into what it means to be a UU. I'm not there to be the expert in the room but am on a journey of discovery along with the amazing youth in our congregation. I hope you will accept our invitation and join the RE community. Sign up now, and we'll celebrate over breakfast on June 10 your commitment to learning alongside our youth.



### OWL Teachers Needed - Give a Hoot!

Interested in teaching [OWL](#) (Our Whole Lives Sexuality)? For K thru 1st, 4th-6th or 8th/9th. If so, please contact [Gabrielle Farrell](#), Lifespan Religious Educator or [Beth Irikura](#) for an application by June 15. Leaders must attend a UUA sponsored training or have done so previously. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** is due to all those who taught this congregational year in our religious education program for children and youth. All others are invited to show congregational appreciation to these folks by signing up [here](#) to make and deliver a breakfast food item for the Teacher Appreciation breakfast on June 10. Items can be dropped off prior by contacting [Gabrielle](#).

### Serving Together

#### Let's Stuff Rev. Nancy's Office While She's on Sabbatical

For our June and July Serving Together Project, we're going to hold The Mother of All Food Drives for South Lake Elementary School!

\*\* In 2015, River Road and South Lake Elementary in Gaithersburg,

Maryland, began a partnership that resulted in the first subsidized after-school program for elementary school students in Montgomery County. Birthed through Action in Montgomery's organizing, Excel Beyond the Bell began with a handful of



### Meet Our Ministers



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



[Dr. Alexa Fraser](#)  
Ministerial Intern



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

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



teachers, a dozen River Road volunteers and one single week of programming.

\*\* With over 85% of the kids at South Lake receiving free and reduced lunches, South Lake is not just one of the poorer schools in Montgomery Co. - it is also one of the most vibrant.

\*\* Rev. Kären has been in contact with South Lake and they have a summer school program in July and August for about 500 kids. But guess what, there are so many kids registered that don't have enough food to eat for this summer program.

\*\* So we're going to hold **Mother of All Food Drives** for the months of June and July, stuff Nancy's office to the gills with bags of needed food, and make trips to the school and deliver it all to them. And we'll keep giving them the food they need until they cry uncle. Here are shopping list for us to use. Let's stuff Nancy's office!

### **Shopping list for South Lake Elementary School**

Juice Boxes      Beane weenee  
Single serving soups      White chicken in water  
Fruit cups-single servings      Applesauce- single serving  
Animal crackers bag      Ramen soups  
Small cereal boxes      Popcorn bags  
Mac and cheese boxes and single servings  
Any kind of Nutrigrain or trail bars  
Small bags of rice      Small bags of pasta  
Cracker packages-cheese or peanut butter

from the eWeekly Newsletter,  
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