



WUU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

APRIL 2018



Seeds Are Growing

BY REV. LAURA HORTON-LUDWIG

Dear friends, thank you so much for the wonderful installation service we shared together last month. I am so tickled that we were able to celebrate together with so many fellow UUs, colleagues, friends, and family who believe in the ministry we are growing together.

This was a real team effort, like so much that happens around here. I want to thank in particular Lola Warren and Susan Fournier, the installation planning team leads, who spent countless hours behind the scenes making sure all the logistics were well in hand. Lola and Susan, you are amazing! Many others contributed as well: Marion Wolfe and Jessica O'Brien, who took the lead on providing delicious food; Merry Guernsey, Jane Reilly, and Ellyn Stephens, who handled the invitations; Donna Stanford, Mary Turnbull, Les Solomon, and all the volunteers who made our WUU spaces even more beautiful; Jamie Bartlett, Dave Robbins, Dave Stanford, and our choir members who shared their gifts of music; our ministerial search team members and worship chair Eva Burke, who participated in the service; Sally Fisk, who as marshal made sure all the participants were where they needed to be; and so many other helpers of all kinds. Thank you, thank you, one and all.

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I'm grateful, too, that you had the chance to meet some of my mentors and friends in ministry—dear colleagues from my former congregation in Fairfax, VA; my beloved mentor in spiritual direction; and new colleagues whom I've already come to love and respect. Not to mention my wonderful spouse, mother-in-law, and cousins, who came to represent my family—my deepest roots.

Back in the fall, we told the story of Frog and Toad planting a garden. Toad planted his seeds and discovered it was hard to wait for them to grow. He waited and waited. He gave them a very loud pep talk: "GROW, SEEDS!!" But they took their own time, as all living things do. Last fall, we talked about how the seeds of this new ministry would take time to grow too. Now, as we round the corner of spring together, I believe those seeds have begun to send their roots deep into the ground. I watch with gratitude as they have begun to leaf out and blossom in this still-early season. I'm so honored to be your minister. I'm excited to discover who we will become together and how we will serve this beautiful, fragile, resilient world we love.

In faith,

Rev. Laura



Transgender 101



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists Sunday April 15, 2018

Transgender 101 is a foundational discussion to improve understanding of biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. The training will be provided by Planned Parenthood of Greater Richmond, Virginia. We have two sessions which are developmentally appropriate. We ask participants to please stay for the entire training.

Session 1: Middle School
Room 110
11:30-12:30

Contact: Austen Petersen,
Austen@wuu.org

Session 2: Adults
Sanctuary
12:45-1:45

April Worship Schedule

APRIL 1

9:45 & 11:15 am

"Everyday Resurrections"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

On this Easter Sunday, we recall also the death of Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago this week. We are a people who have known heartbreak. But hope, grace, and joy are still with us, waiting to emerge over and over again in every life.

The WUU membership book is open for signing today by those who have completed our Pathway to Membership classes or those transferring from another UU congregation.

APRIL 8

9:45 & 11:15 am

"Birthing a New Self"

Rev. DiAnna Ritola, Guest Minister

In times of transition the pain of being surrounded by uncertainty can feel nearly overwhelming. Yet just because one chapter of life has ended or shifted does not mean that there is nothing but a void. It is within this sacred space that we are called to birth our new self and become more of who we really are as Divine Human Beings.



APRIL 15

9:45 & 11:15 am

"Becoming Ourselves"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Today we celebrate what it means to emerge into our true selves. It takes both inner strength and outer support, and it is splendid to behold. Continuing this theme, all are invited to stay for the Transgender 101 workshop at 12:45 in the sanctuary.

APRIL 22

9:45 & 11:15 am

"Earth Day:

Finding Hope on Our Emerging Planet"

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister

Our planet is changing. New patterns are emerging. And, for human beings, it is not necessarily fun to live in this time of emergence! On this Earth Day, what is the inner and outer work we are called to do?

APRIL 29

9:45 & 11:15 am

"Be A Bigger Thing"

Rev. Andrew Millard, Guest Minister

How big can we dream? Unitarianism evolved to be a more inclusive religion, while Universalism became so intentionally. Once combined, Unitarian Universalism promised to be "a big tent", not just tolerating theological and cultural differences but actively embracing them. Don't we have as big a vision of ourselves in our UU congregations, shining the light of our liberal faith here in Virginia?



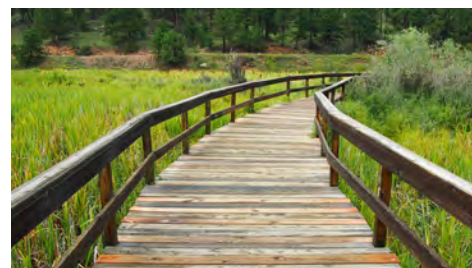
A Golden Opportunity to Join Our Community Outreach



The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. Last year the clothes closet provided 9674 outfits for 2033 adults and 1454 children who were in need. We, the WUU's, have committed ourselves to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothes closet each Tuesday during the month of May from 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. No special skills are required. 3 — 4 people (men and women) are needed each Tuesday in May. If you can help only half a day, that can be arranged, too. Those who are interested please sign up in the gathering space at church on Sundays starting April 8. Carol Sherman will have a sign-up sheet, or call her at 229-3344 or email at cwsher@verizon.net.

Thanks in advance!
Carol Sherman

Pathway to Membership



Our Pathway to Membership class is an ideal way to learn who we are as Unitarians Universalists and also a way to learn more about our WUU congregation. If you are new and would like more information about us, or are considering becoming a member, or are already a long-time member and would like a refresher, then this is the class for you. The class will be held in 2 parts, Sunday April 15 and Sunday April 22, 12:30-2:45pm.

Lunch will be served - please let us know of any special dietary needs.

For more information, or to register, please contact David Hamilton dfhamilton108@gmail.com or Peter Mellette peter@mellettepc.com.



Youth Choir

Singing is one of the most universal ways anyone can participate in music, because you always have your voice with you, and singing in a youth choir is great way to begin a lifelong journey of singing. Youth choir will be every Wednesday at 6:30-7:15PM, led by WUU's pianist Dave Robbins, until the end of the season. We will meet weekly because developing musical ensemble skills requires regular meeting times, it allows the music director to assess the interests and abilities of the students, it builds the habits necessary for successful musical performance, and it's a weekly opportunity for fun! We will plan to have at least one performance during a WUU service before June. During the summer, there will be a recess after we transition to one service per Sunday.

Share the Plate

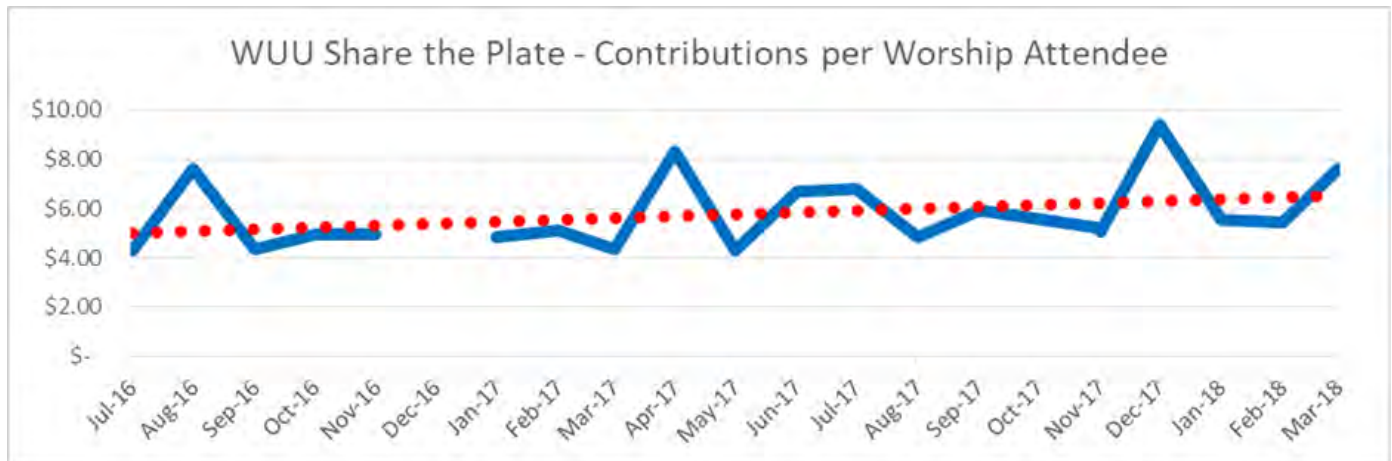
Share-the-Plate for March –Colonial CASA

On Sunday, April 8, the Share the Plate collection benefited the Colonial Court Appointed Special advocates, a new arrival on our Share the Plate roster. The CASA program works with children who have been found to be abused or neglected. CASA recruits, trains and supports court-appointed volunteers who make recommendations to the juvenile court as to what is in the child's best interest, so that children can have the opportunity to thrive in safe and permanent homes. For more information, visit www.colonialcasa.org.

More on Share the Plate

In the January WUU Newsletter, we reported the STP donation results for all of 2017 – and we'll continue to report quarterly results starting next month. Another way of analyzing STP results is presented below. Suzanne Huddleston, our WUU Financial Assistant, has calculated the average donation per person for each STP Sunday. This accounts for the effects on attendance – and thus donations – of weather, guest speakers, etc.

This line graph shows that over time, contributions per person are increasing. This is easiest to see if you look at the red dotted trend line, while the solid line represents each STP Sunday. So great job, everyone!



WALT Class Registration is Open!



From health information to beer making, WALT has a variety of courses this semester by amazing members of our community.

Browse our course catalog today!

<http://www.williamsburglearningtree.org/course-catalog-spring-2018/>

Prefer a paper catalog? You can pick those up at WUU, Work Nimbly, the library, as well as other local business and community centers.

Board Report

The Board met at its regular time (4th Tuesday at 7) to conduct its monthly business. First, we reported on a number of activities:

- **Welcome Rev. Laura!!** The installation service was so impressive.
- Laura, Austen, and I attended trainings on safety for congregations.
- I attended a workshop at 1st UU Richmond on Church Sanctuary, sponsored by the Central VA Sanctuary Network. This may provide for a special role for our Social Justice work in that VA women awaiting deportation decisions are all housed in our regional jail.
- The Cluster Meeting, involving 7 of our tidewater congregations, scheduled for October 13 at WUU. Katrina Landon is our representative. Connie Goodbread, newly appointed Southern Region Co-lead, will be our keynoter!!
- Several congregants have started research on the feasibility of installing solar panels on the Admin roof. The model uses an LLC organization model to which various congregants invest to receive tax credits. The estimate is that that solar energy savings would be about half our current bill. Work continues on insurance implications, code issues, etc. Jim Hall and Roger Guernsey are the contacts.

Back on the Board, our discussions included:

- **Budget.** It appears that we will have a balanced budget this year, even with our new commitments on the building loan. Thanks to our Stewardship and Finance Committees and the generosity of so many congregants!
- **Strategic Plan.** We are on schedule to implement a new strategic plan in July. Various committees have recommended more than 75 initiatives to meet our 6 goals. That is far too many initiatives so we are working to reduce this list down to the ones that are truly strategic as we plan for the next 3 years. We will hold café conversations on this plan in the next two months so we can adopt the plan at our congregational meeting in June.
- **Committee on Right Relations.** We provided guidance to the Nominations Committee so they can select nominees to this important committee. Additionally, we are discussing ways to enable the work of the CRR and the Board to be more clearly defined.

Our newly elected board members are preparing to assume their new responsibilities next month. It is almost time for a drum roll—who will be selected to the officer positions (president, vice president, and secretary) as well as fill the positions for the various committees. It's not as exciting as watching for the smoke to rise at the Vatican, nevertheless, these are important decisions. Thank you Nominations Committee for finding such a talented and diverse set of new board members.



Les Solomon
WUU Board President

Now in the Gathering Hall...

Two new bulletin boards are now in place:

The board entitled, "What's New at WUU?" is reserved for news, activities, and information directly related to WUU programs and ministries. The second board, "What's New in Our Community?" is reserved for non-WUU related events--news about the wider community as well as information about groups that meet in our buildings.

Work is underway to install a new track art display system.

This will provide a way to exhibit art work related to WUU programs, both within and beyond our walls.

Overwhelmed by the challenge of designing a banner? Give us your ideas!

Your suggestion can be put in the pink box near the Visitors' Desk or emailed to aesthetics@wuu.org. Once we have the suggestions for banner themes (and we already have a few), we will look for artistic folks who can transform them into a banner design.

A request to teams and committees:

When placing a table up on Sunday for sign ups, registrations, ticket sales, etc., keep safety and traffic flow in mind. Avoid placing tables in front of, or between, the posts. Please remove the table afterwards. Thanks for your help



WUU Book Sales

Will you be donating used books to the yard sale? If so, your used books will be accepted early in order submit those of some value to Amazon for resale. Each year WUU earns several hundred dollars this way. The more that can be sorted prior to the yard sale, the better. Please place your donated books in the designated plastic cartons in the entryway of the side entrance to the building, which is unlocked. (If this method does not work for you, books will continue to be received during the usual yard sale drop-off time, the week before the sale. At that time, books should be taken to the central yard sale donation gathering area.) If you have questions about this, please contact Lola Warren at lolainva@gmail.com, or 220-3853.

An Invitation: General Assembly in Kansas City



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. From my perspective, GA is a bucket list nominee!

Our congregation has up to 5 delegates. Fortunately, one can attend in person or on line. Though our congregation pays for registration, attending in person is very expensive, though rewarding. I have also attended on line. This is an inexpensive way to participate since one can attend the session on at home, while being able to participate by voting, as well as the various services.

Here are the important dates:

- March 1. Housing reservations begins, registration open, and financial aid applications accepted
- April 30—End early registration @ \$395; Youth @ \$225; Off-site @ \$150
- June 24—End late registration @ \$450; Youth @ \$260; Off-site @ \$175
- June 28-July 1. General Assembly

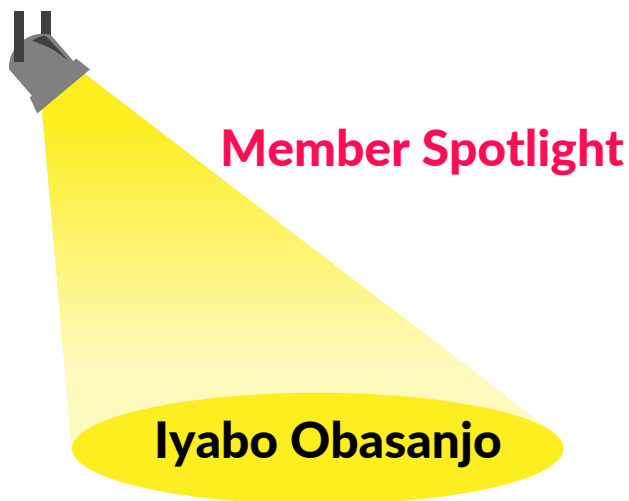
For more information, go to UUA GA 2018 and/or contact Les Solomon.

Les Solomon
WUU Board President
Phone or text at 757 202-1909

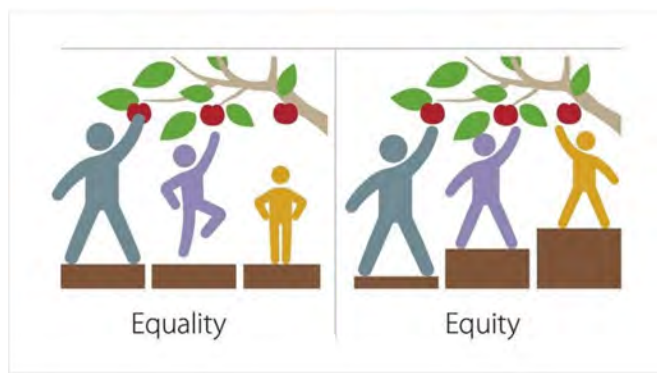


**Save the date! Tidewater Cluster:
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018**

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists will be hosting our annual Cluster gathering on Saturday, Oct. 13th, 2018. This year's theme "Transforming Ourselves, Transforming Our World" will provide us opportunities to share with our sister congregations how our UU principles are changing our inner lives while we impact the world around us. For the first time in several years we have all Tidewater congregations involved in the planning and execution of this special day. It is our hope that we will offer workshop opportunities and activities that will address the needs of young and old! Stay tuned for further information as we get closer to the date, but if you have any questions please speak to your congregational representative (Katrina Landon.)



Iyabo Obasanjo moved here from Boston to teach Public Health at the College of William and Mary. She taught at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia as a Visiting Professor in the 2016-2017 academic year and decided to stay in Virginia to escape the cold winters in Massachusetts. She has a son, Jimi, who is currently a high school Senior. Iyabo was born in Nigeria and has had a varied career spanning over 25 years. Iyabo was a member and on the Parish committee of First Church, Dedham, a Unitarian church which was walking distance from her home in Massachusetts. She enjoys the diversity of thoughts and ideas that is found in UU congregations.



Standing on the Shoulders of Greatness

Join us for this Village event held at WUU honoring community members who have made a difference in education equality. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner and free child care. [Click here to purchase your tickets.](#)

Join us to honor those who have and continue to make a difference in our community: Bobby Alexander, Edith "Cookie" Heard, Coach Melvin Jones, John Whitley, Satoshi Ito, Linda Wallace-Cody, Rev. Thomas T. Shields, Jacqueline Gardner, Chris Brown, and Reverend Dr. Robert Whitehead and New Zion Baptist Church.

We will also be honoring Kenneth Edwards, Village tutors, 757 Give Back organizers, Real People Educating Others, Brian Smalls, Apostle Corwin Hammond, Travis Harris, John Piggott, Coach Donovan Bridgeforth, Kenneth Holloway, Jamesse Jones, and Eric Christenson

Program from 5 to 6:30; music and dinner until 8!

WUU Yard Sale - WE NEED YOU!

Spring is finally here and the annual WUU Yard Sale is right around the corner
(May 18 and May 19).



We sure could use your help! In return we promise fun, camaraderie, and our everlasting gratitude!

Whatever your talent, we have a place for you.

What's your interest?

- ☐ Sorting and pricing (shifts all week before Yard Sale)
- ☐ Furniture transporters (pre-Yard Sale pick-ups)
- ☐ Heavy lifting (tables and chairs in and out of Sanctuary)
- ☐ Bake Sale donations, staffing the table
- ☐ Sales floor (Assisting customers during the sale)
- ☐ Jewelry Table ☐ Checkout (Tally and bag sales)
- ☐ Boutique ☐ Cashier
- ☐ Hold Area

Dates and times we'll need volunteers

After April 1, you can sign up for shifts that fit your schedule ONLINE [Click Here](#) or on sign-up sheets in WUU's Gathering Space.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
5/13 Sun			
5/14 Mon			
5/15 Tue			
5/16 Wed			
5/17 Thu			
5/18 Fri			
5/19 Sat			
Furniture Pick-up before Yard Sale (as needed)			

Questions?

Email: Yardsale@WUU.org

Call: Pat Russo / Katrina Landon
757-561-3141

A word about donations: We are now accepting books for resale on Amazon. Each year we earn several hundred dollars this way, and we need to sort them prior to the yard sale. Please leave these early book donations in the hallway inside the side entrance to the building, which is unlocked. If you need a receipt, leave a note with your name and email with the books. We will email a receipt and let you know which books will be sold online and the asking price. (We will take additional book donations during the usual drop-off time, the week before the Yard Sale.)

Large furniture in good to excellent condition can also be donated now, if you have pieces that you can't keep until the Yard Sale. These items can be stored at Jane Reilly's home. Call her (757-903-9343) to make arrangements.

All other donations can be dropped off at WUU from noon Sunday, May 13 to noon Friday, May 18. Help is available if you have physical limitations preventing you from moving loads yourself.



MAY 22, 2018 6:30 PM

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISTS
3051 IRONBOUND RD, WILLIAMSBURG

"AN ACT OF LOVE"

A moving and thoughtful video on a woman's unexpected journey and reflection on her family experience with end-of-life care sets the stage for our candid conversation on the importance of communicating throughout the advance care planning process.

It starts with a conversation; one that most people don't have. This informative program shows you how – for your benefit and that of your loved ones. Presented by:

As You Wish



ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

A program of the Advance Care Planning Coalition of Eastern Virginia

Invaluable
information from
all regional
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The only health
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A benefit to you
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Advance Care Planning
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REGISTER at
[asyouwishvirginia.org/
events](http://asyouwishvirginia.org/events) or

call

Mon-Fri - 9AM to
Noon

757-325-9400