



# WUU NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

MAY 2018



## Creative Gifts

BY REV. LAURA HORTON-LUDWIG

Who are your heroes of creativity? Who are the artists whose words/art/music/movement/essence has tugged at your spirit and changed your life? As we begin this month of exploring creativity, I am moved to share with you just a couple of the artists who have changed mine.

Art has always fed my spirit. I love going to museums and letting myself wander. Years ago I stumbled upon [Charlotte Salomon's](#) work—do you know about this young genius? She was a painter, a young Jewish woman from Berlin, murdered by the Nazis when she was only 26 years old. Her masterwork *Life? Or Theater?* is a graphic novel/autobiography, over 700 paintings woven together with narration. How can I tell you of the powerful, eerie, and yet somehow joyful effect her work has had on me every time I see it? Her short life was at times desperately sad, and yet the bold, expressive lines of her art contain such a will to self-expression, such humor, such color. I can't put her in a box and tell you exactly what her gift has been to me. But I know it has something to do with the volcano of life inside her which she was determined to share with the world.

**Continued on Page 2**

And then there was the day I went Smithsonian-ing with friends in DC. We stopped by the Natural History Museum to gawp at the Hope Diamond (yes, it's big) and then, quite by accident, walked into the most beautiful exhibit I have ever seen. A room full of Japanese kimono, hung one next to the other in a graceful curve, 30 of them, portraying one continuous scene of mountains, lakes, woods, and clouds through the changing of the seasons. The artist was Itchiku Kubota, a Japanese textile master who reinvented an ancient dyeing technique to create this, his masterpiece, the **Symphony of Light**. Its subtle and transcendent beauty went straight to my heart, as it seemed to speak of an earth that renews itself unceasingly, and of a human spirit in skillful, patient, loving partnership with the spirit of the land. I am forever grateful to have seen such beauty. It lives in my heart still.

Art reminds me that there is a meaning and a beauty and a grace in this world which is real. Some among us, artists, are gifted with the ability to see that meaning, beauty, and grace and then to give them visible form for the rest of us, to make them tangible, to prove to us that those gifts are real and moving in our lives too. Their work comforts us in times of sorrow and amplifies our joy. For the creative spirits among us, let us give thanks!

In faith,

Rev. Laura



## Annual Giving Campaign Update

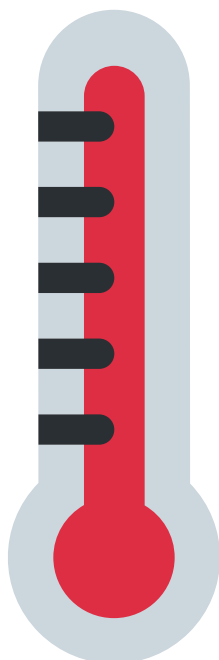
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

The Annual Giving Campaign is within 0.5% of our goal of

\$350,000

This is the highest goal we have ever achieved! 160 households have pledged an average of \$2,176 for the coming fiscal year, which is a 15% increase over last year. While the official campaign is over, we expect that new members and pledges from existing members will take us over the top of our goal.

The important thing is to realize we have worked together to support our WUU mission and vision!



# May Worship Schedule

For the first two Sundays in May, we will have one service only at 11:15 as we celebrate May Day on May 6 and our high school bridging service on May 13. We return to two services on May 20. Then on May 27, we shift to our summer schedule with one service only at 10 a.m., continuing through Labor Day.

## MAY 6

**11:15 am-One Service Only**  
**"Celebrating Beltane (May Day)"**  
**Susan Walkley, Worship Leader**

Our WUU tradition continues with our annual celebration of the return of Spring! Beltane is the Gaelic May Day festival with roots spreading back to ancient times. Come join us for singing, drumming and dancing around the May Pole!

The WUU membership book is open for signing today by those who have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2, or are transferring from another UU Congregation, or are a young person who has completed the coming of age course, we welcome you to come forward at the end of the service to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU. We invite current members and friends to witness the signing and to meet our newest members.

## MAY 13

**11:15 am-One Service Only**  
**"Bridging Service"**

**Austen Petersen, Director of RE and**  
**Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister**

Today we celebrate with our graduating high school seniors as they ""bridge"" to young adulthood. Note: one service only at 11:15.

## MAY 20

**9:45 & 11:15 am**  
**"Let's Play!"**

**Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, Minister**

In honor of the last day of religious education classes for the congregational year, we'll explore a topic kids know a lot about: play! Many of the great religious traditions teach us that playfulness, creativity, and joy are sacred. Play can even change the world. Oh, and it's also just plain fun!

## MAY 27

**10:00 am-One Service Only**  
**Summer Schedule Begins**  
**"The Still, Small Voice of Calm"**  
**Williamsburg Friends Meeting**  
**(Quakers), Guest Worship Leaders**

In a world saturated with disturbing news, distracting electronic devices, and multiple calls on our sympathy and time, how can we hear the still, small voice of calm?



## Cafe Conversation-Immigration Crisis

### May 6 12:30 pm

Please join us in the sanctuary after the service and participate in a discussion about the immigration crisis. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Virginia Institute for Public Policy are involved in assisting ICE detainees and families. Did you know that ALL of the Virginia women currently detained by ICE are housed in the Regional Peninsula jail right here in Williamsburg? This social justice issue is right in our own backyard. Please come and learn about current policy and discuss ways WUU can help.

## Share the Plate



### Share-the-Plate for May 2018:

The Share the Plate collection for Sunday, May 13, will benefit the SpiritWorks Foundation Center for Recovery of the Soul. This local non-profit agency is helping individuals and families sustain long-term recovery from the disease of addiction, and helping children and youth live free from the inter-generational cycle of addiction in their families. SpiritWorks provides peer-led programs and services for individuals and families to deepen their understanding of this chronic disease, equipping them with effective recovery management skills and tools. To learn more, visit [www.spiritworksfoundation.org](http://www.spiritworksfoundation.org).

## More on Share the Plate

Thanks to nominations from WUU members over the past several months, the Share the Plate Team is pleased to announce the addition of three new community agencies to this year's STP schedule, mingled with more familiar groups. Since it's our practice to identify recipient names month-by-month in the WUU Newsletter, we won't satisfy your curiosity here. But we believe you'll find these lesser-known non-profits worthy of your generous support. They are quite diverse in their focus and clients, and add to the local social services network that benefits so many of our neighbors.

To nominate a Share the Plate agency or learn more about the program, email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org). Thank you for your generous support of this outreach initiative.



## Board Report

### Drum Roll!

For an outsider, Tuesday's Board meeting might have seemed a bit confusing since there were three separate meetings:

- Monthly meeting with the Old Board
- Executive session with the Old Board to select persons who will receive a survey for the Ministerial
- Evaluation process
- Executive session with the New Board to elect officers and assign committee membership.

First, the drum roll. The new assignments are:

- **President: Les Solomon**, returning for a third year.
- **Vice President/Personnel Chair: Ty Alexander**, a new Board member. The By-laws stipulate that the Vice President also serves as the Personnel Chair. Ty, a new Board member, comes with extensive Human Resources experience in both the public and private sectors.
- **Secretary: Susan Fournier**, returning for a second year. Preparing the minutes is small portion of her responsibilities. She also manages the challenges of preparing for our Congregational meetings.
- **Finance Chair: Ben Puckett**, a new Board member. Ben has served on the Finance Committee and has extensive experience in financial management. He played a key role in negotiating the loan agreement for our Building our Future program
- **Finance Representative: Susan Fournier**. Due to the importance of Finance in the Board's responsibilities, the Board appoints a second person to this committee.
- **Personnel Representative: Katrina Landon**, a new Board member. Due to the importance of Personnel in the Board's responsibilities, the Board appoints a second person to this committee. Katrina is a lead teacher at Woodside High School and has two other WUU positions: Yard sale co-chair and WUU representative to the Tidewater Cluster.
- **Committee on Right Relations (CRR) Liaison: Rachel Delbos**, a returning Board member. This is a new position that the Board created because the two groups, on occasion, need to coordinate their work. Rachel brings valuable experience with both the CRR and Board.
- **Program Council Liaison: Jessica O'Brien**. Jessica will continue her liaison work with the Council.
- **Strategic Plan Liaison: Nan Hart**. Nan has served (and will continue to serve) on the Strategic Plan Task Force. The liaison is a new position. Once we implement the new Strategic Plan, Nan will play a key role in the Board's work to implement, monitor and evaluate our progress on the new Plan.
- **Bylaws Liaison: Franz Gross**. Franz has chaired (and will continue to chair) the Strategic Planning Task Force. Once implemented, he will turn his attention to coordinating work with the Board and Bylaws committee.

**Continued on Page 6**



It will be a pleasure to work with this new Board, thanks in many ways to the contributions of those who have retired from the Board:

- **Jim Kent**, retiring Finance Chair, always reminding us to have a balanced budget. With his leadership and your support, we did it!
- **Michael Coirin**, retiring Finance Representative, and the chair of the important Alternative Income Source task force.
- **Ann Tetrault**, retiring Bylaws liaison.
- **Pat Hoppe**, past secretary.
- **Franz Gross**, remaining on the Board but retiring Vice President and Personnel Chair

Most of our work at the regular Board meeting had to do with the new Strategic Plan. For the last 18 months, we have been working on this plan, receiving input from the Program Council and other groups. Led by Franz Gross, we have established six Goals and developed tactics and initiatives for each goal for the next three years. We have a bit more work to do before rolling it out for your comment. I believe that when we do that, it will be time for another drum roll!



**Les Solomon**  
**WUU Board President**



Left to Right: Ben Puckett, Rachel Delbos, Nan Hart, Franz Gross, Katrina Landon, Les Solomon, Susan Fournier (Ty Alexander and Jessica O'Brien not pictured)

# **The Gathering Hall - A Multi-Use Space Poses Challenges**

## **Having a function in the Gathering Hall?**

If your event requires changes in the gathering hall, please make sure the hall is returned to order afterwards. A few suggestions:

- Take a photo/photos of the hall before anything is moved.
- Use care in handling furnishings and other items.
- Check the floor after an event. Sweep if necessary.
- Return the hall to its usual configuration.

## **On Sunday Mornings:**

- Groups needing additional space to advertise and take sign-ups for a special event will be able to place a table in the information alcove (WUU banner wall) on Sundays, for one to two weeks prior to the event.
- Areas between the center posts should be kept clear of tables/stands.
- To relieve congestion at the refreshment table and coffee bar, consider moving out into the less congested areas of the gathering hall to have conversations.
- Signs and flyers may be displayed on the appropriate bulletin board (the WUU board is in the information alcove; the Community board is just outside the Little Sanctuary).
- Remove flyers and other information from bulletin boards once they become irrelevant or out of date.
- Information placed in the gathering hall should be related to the UU/WUU mission.

Our gathering hall must accommodate our WUU programming needs while welcoming newcomers and providing an attractive, open space for us all to meet and converse.

Transitions take time and require some trust, understanding and cooperation to make a shared space work well for everyone. We appreciate your patience and support.

The Aesthetics Team



**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.)

# An Invitation: General Assembly in Kansas City



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

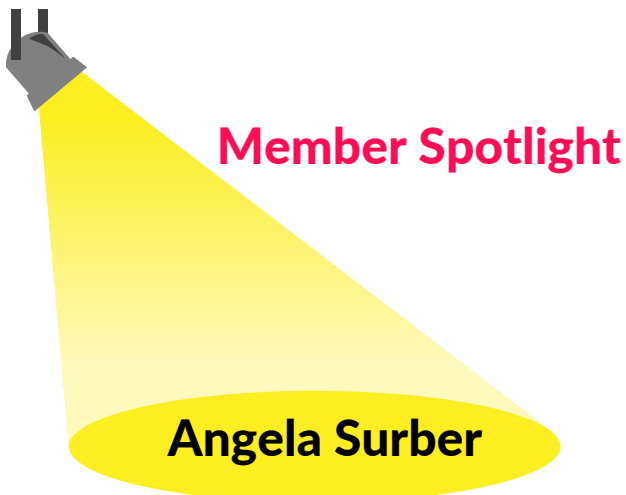
From my perspective, attending a UU General Assembly should be on everyone's UU bucket list. I have attended the last 8 GA's--4 times at the host site and 4 times as a online delegate. Though WUU does not fund for travel, we do cover for registration. Thus, one can attend GA from the comfort of one's home, deck, etc. at no cost!

Rev. Laura and I intend to participate as online delegates. We have 5 slots allocated to congregants. So we are looking for 1 more delegate. Please check out the site at <https://www.uua.org/calendars/uua/general-assembly-2018> , then let me know ASAP so we can save some registration costs.

June 24—End late registration @ \$450; Youth @ \$260; Off-site @ \$175

June 28-July 1—General Assembly

-Les Solomon, WUU Board President



Angela Surber has lived in Williamsburg most of her life. Formerly a Correctional Officer, Angela is a Realtor and has worked in Williamsburg real estate since 1999. Angela has been looking for a community in which she would be able to participate in social justice and community projects, but specifically sought one that was inclusive and diverse. After reading articles online and in the Virginia Gazette about the WUU's community projects, she decided to visit and immediately felt like she had found a new spiritual home. She was particularly excited to have been involved with the Emergency Homeless Shelter. Angela's husband, Jack, is retired from the JCCPD and works for Colonial Community Corrections. Their son, Greg, is an EMT with the Richmond Ambulance Authority.



## Second Round of Elections: Committee on Right Relations (CRR) and Trustee

The Nominating Committee has received guidelines from the Board (see below). The committee is now ready to take nominations for two positions on the CRR: a three-year term; and a two-year term to replace a member going onto the Board. In addition, Peter Mellette has offered to serve a second five-year term as a Trustee and will also be nominated.

If you want to nominate someone, or yourself, please read the CRR materials first. Nominations can be sent to Nominating Committee member [susanwalkley@gmail.com](mailto:susanwalkley@gmail.com). The committee will close the process Friday, May 4. Interviews will be held May 7th, with the slate prepared by May 20th.

The congregational meeting will be held the last Sunday in June, to elect the slate, to approve the 2018-2019 budget, and to learn more about the new Strategic Plan.

In addition to the guidelines from The Board, Austen, in her role as religious educator, has provided a statement about covenant, which can be found on the CRR section of our website.

### Statement from the Board on CRR Nominations

The Board seeks to provide a safe and welcoming environment for its congregants and friends; it acknowledges that conflict in our community as inevitable and healthy.

We are guided by the principle that properly managed conflict between people in right relations to each other can be a positive force for creativity, growth and enrichment. However, when a person's behavior disrupts this objective, intervention is needed.

The policies & procedures governing the operation of the CRR are currently under review, and we seek CRR members who are willing to work through this review with the Board and Minister.

The Board recognizes the vital role that the CRR has played in our congregational history and the importance of this work in the future. We encourage the Nominations Committee to seek CRR nominees who have a:

- knowledge of the congregation,
- willingness to listen non-judgmentally,
- desire to protect the integrity of the WUU covenant to find solutions that work for parties in conflict,
- if possible, a balance of generational and professional training and/or experience appropriate for CRR work.



### Memorial Service for Philomene Hood

All are invited to attend a memorial service for Philomene Hood on May 22 at 11 am in the WUU Sanctuary and Gathering Hall.

# WUU Annual Yard Sale

## May 18 & 19



WUU's Annual Yard Sale will be on Friday, May 18 from 5-8 pm and Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Planning and organizing is on track and going smoothly, thanks to enormous support from volunteers.

However, Yard Sale Leads Pat Russo and Katrina Landon have put out a call for more helpers: They still have unfilled shifts for cashiers and runners during the sale, sorters and pricers before the sale and folks to clean up afterwards. Note: Those working the early shift Friday night need to arrive 30 minutes early, at 4:30, and those on the later shift should stay until 8:30. On Saturday morning, the early shift starts at 7:30 a.m. and those closing need to stay until 12:30 p.m.

Please consider giving a few hours to this enjoyable and worthy cause. It's a great chance to mingle with fellow WUUs, and exciting to watch shoppers line up and clamor for bargains! For newcomers, helping at the sale is a good way to meet others in the congregation.

To volunteer, check out our ONLINE sign-up sheet (insert link). Sign-up sheets are also available during services in the Gathering Hall. Those planning to make homemade items for the Bake Table can also sign up either online or at WUU, indicating what they plan to contribute.

Pat and Katrina are happy to answer any and all questions. You can email them at [yardsale@wuu.org](mailto:yardsale@wuu.org) or phone them at 757-561-3141. Marion Wolfe is in charge of the Bake Table and can be reached with questions either by [yardsale@wuu.org](mailto:yardsale@wuu.org) or phone at 757-565-1860.



## Yard Sale Donations

**Best Sellers:** Small furniture, wicker furniture, boutique items (unusual or more valuable pieces), seasonal decorations, children's toys, tools.

**Not Accepted:** Clothing, gym equipment, mattresses, refrigerators and appliances, console TVs and stereos, anything with Freon, large metal and wooden desks, dehumidifiers, knives, cribs and car seats, paints, fuels or solvents, broken or non-working items.

**Donate Now:** Books can be left inside the side door to WUU in the designated box. Large furniture that can't be held at your home until the sale can be stored at Jane Reilly's home. Call her to arrange at 757-903-9343.

All other donations can be dropped at WUU from noon on Sunday, May 13 to noon on Friday, May 18. Help is available for those physically unable to manage large loads.

## Commissioned Chalice for Little Sanctuary

At our Feb 4 Charter Sunday service, it was my privilege to present to the congregation the Endowment Committee's gift of a chalice for the Little Sanctuary. The Endowment Committee wanted to demonstrate tangibly the power and possibility of gifts to the Endowment Fund.

With your small cash gifts to commemorate people or occasions and your commitments of Legacy gifts from your eventual estate settlements, we are building an endowment, now totalling more than \$350,000, that future generations of WUUs will be able to draw on for significant enhancements of their spiritual lives and this place of worship.

Designed by local artist Lynn Trott to complement artist Martha Berry's flowing fabric wall hanging, the gold glazed pottery chalice holds an oil lamp and sits on the beautiful cherry table that Sally Fisk and her committee designed for the Little Sanctuary.

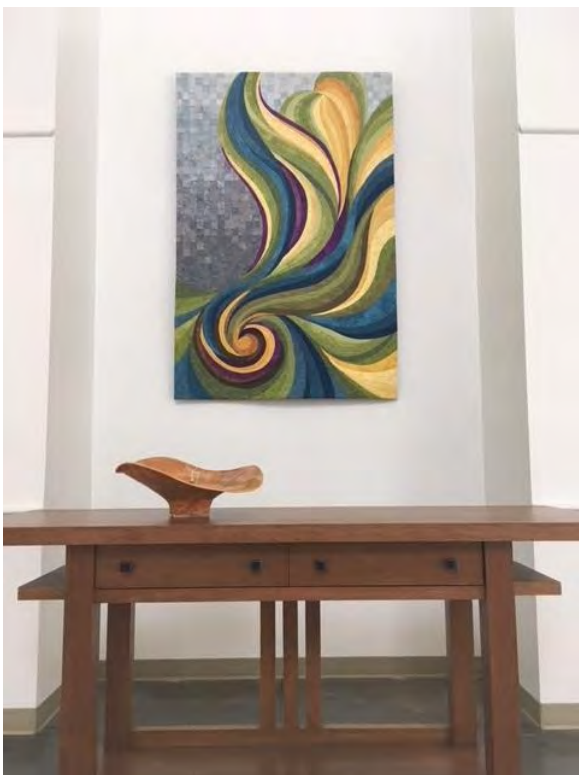
Here are Lynn's words about her work:

*"I have been a potter since 2002. Shapes, textures and colors fascinate me, especially the flow and contrast of natural line and form in flowers, plants, flame and stone.*

*My work is primarily vessels, sculpture and jewelry in flowing shapes that liven the eye and feel good in the hand. My pottery is formed with a combination of wheel throwing, hand manipulation and carving. It is then fired with expressive, often swirling glazes.*

*Besides the natural world my primary artistic influences have been medieval book illuminations, Celtic knot designs, Old Japanese Tamba pottery, and the Art Nouveau and Modernist periods. I keep returning to the clay sculptures of Ruth Duckworth, the bronzes of Alphonse Mucha, the stone sculptures of Jean Arp, the paintings of Paul Klee, and the pottery of George Ohr.*

*Since 2004 I have shown and sold my pottery at venues across Virginia, including Williamsburg's An Occasion for the Arts, Art on the Square, Touch of Earth, and the UU Gallery of Richmond."*



Since we commissioned Lynn to create a chalice for WUU, she has been making a variety of chalices to sell.

Contact the office if you wish to use the chalice for your next meeting in that sacred space.

Phoebe Kent, Retiring Chair  
WUU Endowment Committee

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER 2018

- When: July 1 through August 26.
- Who: Children ages 4-17 (nursery care is available for infants through age 3.)
- What: Summer Fun is an opportunity for kids (and adults) to get creative!



## SCHEDULE

- July 1 Garden Day
- July 8 Noah and the Ark
- July 15 Blessing of the Animals Service
- July 22 Use the Ark-bring stuffed animals
- July 29 Social Justice Book Club
- August 5 Mosaic Makers Day
- August 12 Participants' Choice
- August 19 Storytelling and Illustrations
- August 26 Honor Water
- September 2 Labor Day-No RE
- September 9 Ingathering (water communion) everybody worships together

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE SUMMER FUN A SUCCESS

Would you like to offer your help? We need lead teachers to lead the themed sessions, and assistant teachers to assist the lead teachers.

CONTACT AUSTEN PETERSEN,  
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
[austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org)







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  
hospitals in one  
program!

The only health  
care education  
collaborative of  
its kind!

A benefit to you  
and your family!

*As You Wish*

Advance Care  
Planning

[asyouwishvirginia.org](http://asyouwishvirginia.org)

A program of the  
Advance Care Planning  
Coalition of Virginia

...

REGISTER at  
[asyouwishvirginia.org/  
events](http://asyouwishvirginia.org/events) or

call

Mon-Fri - 9AM to  
Noon

757-325-9400