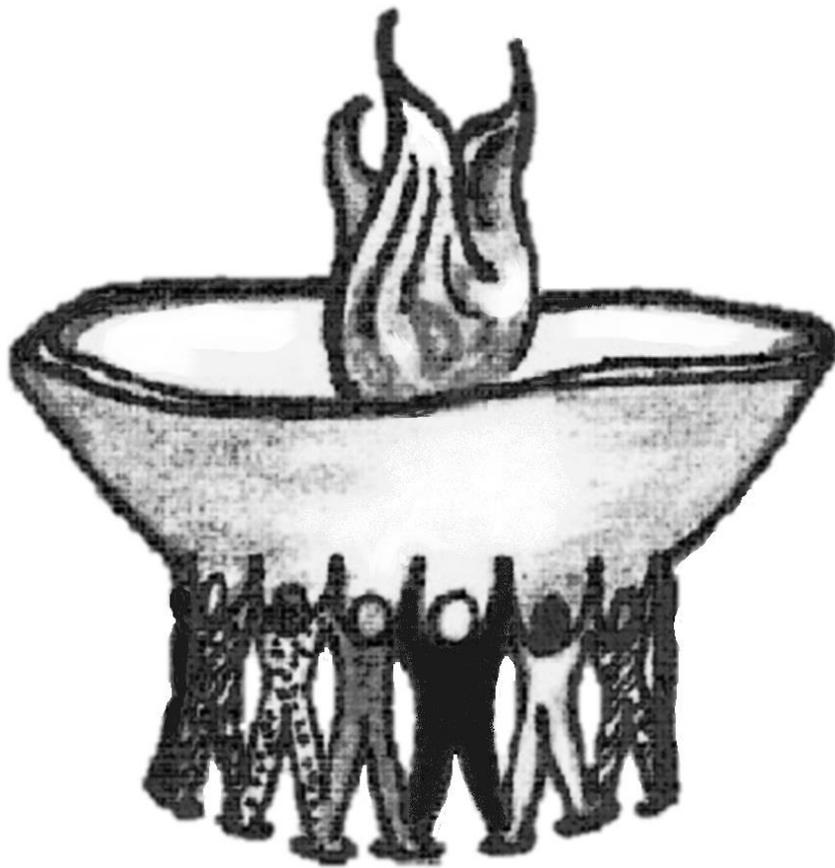


# BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



**ANNUAL REPORT**

July 2017 – June 2018



# BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*Sharing Journeys,  
Nurturing Wholeness,  
Creating Community*

## **BuxMont UU Staff:**

### **Interim Minister**

Reverend Dr. Susan V. Rak

I began my work as your Interim Minister in August 2016 and this time - the moment of ending - seemed so far off! But here we are - and what a year it has been!

### **Worship**

I continued the idea of "theme based ministry" this year, subscribing to the UU Soul Matters program, with provided resources on each month's theme for Worship, Religious Education and Small Group Ministry. It has worked well as a thread linking together different aspects of congregational life and as an aid in planning Sunday Services throughout the year. The themes pulled things together, providing additional continuity in a year of continuing transition.

I will conclude my ministry this year having preached, created, conducted or participated in worship 27 Sundays plus Christmas Eve. This included several special services devoted to topics around the search for a minister ("Beyond Categorical Thinking", "The 500 Hats of a Unitarian Universalist Minister") and some continuing the anti-oppression work we began last year with the "white supremacy teach-in" ("The Courage to be Vulnerable" and "The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith", featuring the words of African American UU's). We also celebrate "Torda 450", the 450th anniversary of the great Unitarian religious reformation in Transylvania and the Edict of Toleration).

I want to acknowledge and thank Music Director John Hook for his support and creativity in continuing the tradition of quality music to enhance worship at BuxMont, especially the work he did to amplify those special Sundays noted above.

We included more "Time for All Ages" segments this year, taking steps to be intentional about building a multi-generational community. Your newly-hired Acting Director of Religious Education, Jess Bors, took up those responsibilities and challenges and brought the "Wonder Box" element to Services, creating a centering point that involves all ages.

And appreciation to the Sunday Services Committee and Worship Associates who provide richness and depth to the Sunday morning worship experience.

### **Pastoral Care and Rites of Passage**

BuxMont's Pastoral Care Team (or Caring Team) has been very active this year in continuing outreach to members and assisting in times of need. In addition, the Team worked with me in creating the revised procedure for sharing Sorrows and Joys in worship services. The practice has been well-received, although there are some who miss the direct sharing as was previously done. The cards, though, have made the job of creating the weekly "Caring Notes" much simpler!

This year I had the sorrowful honor of officiating three Memorial Services for the BuxMont community: for David Aschmann-Wells, Ruth Aschmann's son; and for BuxMont pillars Jack

Schieber and Rose Marie Schieber. And in addition to BMUUF annual child dedication, I have also officiated two baby blessings for non-affiliated families.

### **Religious Education**

This has been a year of transition for BuxMont's programs of religious growth and learning for children and youth. Welcoming a new DRE led to adjustments and revamping of the morning programs and changes to the structure of the RE Board/Committee and volunteer processes. In addition to all this, we celebrated Coming of Age this year, which is an intensive volunteer effort. Building on BuxMont's strengths, Jess and the RE volunteers have continued to offer a vital and nurturing program for all ages. And with a new minister on board, this will further the growth of a multi-generational community.

### **Governance and Staffing**

We began this congregational year hiring a new Office Administrator for the congregation. With almost daily scheduled time in the office, Rachel Leslie has provided oversight of and assistance with a variety of Fellowship programs. In addition, she has adapted to the rhythm of life at BMUUF while using her organizational skills to keep things moving efficiently. With the arrival of a new Minister, both staffing and Governance will be of prime importance. At this point in its history, BuxMont appears to be finding a good balance in and understanding of its structure, especially vis-a-vis clarifying the work of the Board of Trustees and the work of the Council (and related to that, the work of committees and teams). I worked closely with the BoT in developing a charter for a Committee on Ministry, an essential element of congregational governance as you settle a new minister. In addition, this year saw renewed interest in both Safe Congregations and Right Relations (Covenant). I have met with the Safe Congregations Team as efforts are underway in creating or revising policies and practices for overall safety in the Fellowship. I have also recommended that a Right Relations Team be formed to assist with understanding and deepening the Fellowship Covenant and dealing with conflict.

### **Transitional Ministry**

- In his book *Critical Moment of Ministry*, the late Alban Institute founder Loren Mead identified the five developmental task that a congregation in the interim must accomplish if its successor ministry is to be effective. I note them here with a few comments as to where BuxMont is in this process. These five tasks address the developmental challenges facing a congregation in transition and even as they have a chronological flavor (as listed here), they are also interwoven with each other.
- Coming to terms with history (acknowledge and heal its griefs and conflicts).
- the work we did last year on this greatly informed the work of the Search Committee as they created BuxMont's congregational record and "packet" website.
- Discovering a new identity.
- "Vision" and "Mission" Sundays did not so much yield a carefully-crafted statement to share, but provided the groundwork for articulating BuxMont UU Fellowship's identity, its vision of where it wants to go, what it hopes to be, and for its new ministry.
- Allowing needed leadership to emerge.
- For BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, this has been more like clarifying leadership and making room for new energy as you have called a new minister.

- Renewing denominational linkages.
- This was strongly felt as the Search Committee worked with the UUA Central East Region Transitions Coach, Rev. Craig Hirshberg, and Carol Carter Wallace in taking part in the Beyond Categorical Thinking Sunday.
- Committing to new directions in ministry.
- This task continues as you prepare to settle your new minister, Kevin Jagoe, in a matter of just a few month! Congratulations to you all on the hard work you've done to make this happen. Yes, the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees invested a lot of time and energy in bringing this to fruition. But is the willingness and commitment of every member and friend to the practice of shared ministry that brought you to this moment!
- 
- As my time with you draws to a close, I want to express my appreciation to each and every one of you who have been part of this "interim" process - from just showing up on a Sunday to taking part in the various meetings to serving in so many ways: on the Search Committee, the Board, last year's Transition Team. and various other committees; being worship leaders and providers of music; Small Group Ministry facilitators and Worship Associates week after week, month after month.
- And appreciation, too, to the amazing staff - both last year's and present-day: Rachel Leslie and AmyBeth Gibbs holding it all together as Office Administrator; Jess Bors and Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt guiding and supporting nurturing programs for faith formation; John Hook, without whom I would not have enjoyed creating worship as much as I did, plus our accomplished accompanist Margaret Lea.
- So now it's time to make way for a new ministry here at BuxMont UU Fellowship. Letting go and saying farewell is never easy – but the parting is eased by gratitude: sharing ministry in this Fellowship with all of you, at this important time in your life as a congregation has been amazing and enriching.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Susan  
(Reverend Dr. Susan Veronica Rak)

### **Acting Director of Religious Education**

Jess Bors

I began with you on August 1st 2017 as an interim with the option to become your permanent DRE if we all felt it was a good fit. I am happy to report that the Board of Trustees and I are working out the details so I may be your Director of Religious Education going forward. This year marks the end of my third year as a professional religious educator.

“ The DRE will lead and continue to develop an innovative and robust religious education program which will provide our children and youth with a strong connection to Unitarian Universalism, allow them to grow spiritually, and encourage them to work for positive change in our communities and our world” This is done here at Buxmont for ages 0-18 through various programs.

In order to serve your congregation to the best of my ability I took several courses this year including the Philosophy of Religious Education (my second time), The Sequel to Sunday School, Interim Religious Educator Training, The History of Unitarian Universalism Module and Multiculturalism Module. Having this additional knowledge and experiences I was able to really see and hear what your needs were in RE. With the

dedication of the RE board we were able to restructure the K-5 into two groups and select curricula that was well suited for each group. This was out of a need to find fewer volunteers each week as well as answer a desire parents had that we provide more UUA learnings. As your DRE I have also helped to bring procedure to finding childcare for events. Our RE Board is going through a renaming of sorts to better align with the committee work that they are doing and the liaison roles have been eliminated.

In working with Rev. Susan we were able to begin together in worship most Sundays this year. Allowing our congregation to be together as a whole from age four and up more often was a welcome change. The Time For All Ages in a Wonderbox model was also well received as a learning opportunity for all not just our children.

Stacy our nursery provider wasn't able to complete the year due to pregnancy complications. She hopes to return in fall. We have found a wonderful UU grad student Madeleine who will continue through the summer in the nursery. Katherine has finished her second year as our leader in the Pre K and this weekly consistency continues to be a Blessing for the families in that group.

My hope for the coming year is that we continue to find more ways of engaging our whole congregation in religious education and worship. We are entering year two of a three year RE cycle for our children and youth in order to provide a better structure to our learnings and knowledge of "what comes next". I will continue to lift up our fifth principle and use the voting process in helping to determine what we offer in religious education. Ultimately our families and our congregation are the leaders of our religious education programming based on their needs. It is my pleasure to serve as your DRE.

## **Administrator**

Rachel Leslie

### **Key Volunteers**

Dick Johnston: Proof-reads, prints and folds the Sunday Service Bulletins every week, sets thermostats using the current online calendar

### **Purpose/Mission**

Facilitate communication of all Fellowship activities, support consistent operations, and manage the building to achieve BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's mission and vision. Responsible for a broad variety of administrative tasks with minimal guidance. Manages office procedures, facilities, schedules, purchasing, and preparation of budgets. Knowledgeable with major office related computer applications including database management. Knowledgeable about the organization and its policies. BuxMont," and I usually go to bed at night feeling good about having accomplished that goal.

### **Highlights of the Year**

- Supported BuxMont in a time of transition by working to cushion the impact of the change on Members by communicating clearly, listening to concerns, providing information and looking at all of the possibilities that come with a change in Ministry.
- Welcomed our Acting DRE, sharing knowledge of "how and why" we operate as a Fellowship.
- Adjusted processes and communications to meet the changing needs of the Fellowship.

## Hopes and Plans

- Support settlement of Kevin Jagoe and his Installation/Ordination in the fall
- Help Jess Bors with the transferring of data from our current website to the new template
- Continue to work closely with the Minister, Music Director, DRE, Liaison to the Fellowship Council, Sunday Service Committee, Rental Coordinator, Communications Committee, and Membership Committee to facilitate programs and services to the benefit of our community.

**Concerns:** none at this time.

## Music Director

John Hook

## Participants in Music Program

Margaret Lea, Accompanist (accompanies services, Adult, Instant and Family Choirs)

BuxMont Adult Choir: 14 regular + 6 supplemental singers. Led by John Hook

Family Choir: Variable but up to 20 participants Led by John Hook

Instant Choir: variable, usually about 6-12 performers. Led by John Hook

Creedless Creekwater Revival (band): 20 adults. Convened by Greg Sturn & Anthony Perotti

Metaphysical Singers (Men): 8 regular singers. Led by Bob Chalmers

Instrumental performers (1-6 per time) about 10 in Sunday Services

Music Committee: 7 members chaired by Mike Sherman

**Purpose/Mission** Our music program deepens our worship experience, connects the congregation in community, nurtures and supports a wide variety of volunteer performers and music leaders. The Music Director provides vision, coordination, development and support to this program and supervises our accompanist. He also works with service planners to help maintain our overall worship experience.

## Highlights of the Year

- Support BuxMont in a time of transition with music and community
- Two performing concerts, one focused on ensembles the other vocal.
- Song Circles continue to attract 10-15 participants
- Coffee Houses have been growing in both participants and audience, the most recent had about 50 people attend or perform. Larger numbers of child performers thanks to outreach by Harry Rothwell
- High levels of performing participants for services, concerts, coffee houses and song circles -- probably about 50 musicians in one or more of those.
- Themed worship is making planning easier
- High performance standards in our worship music balanced with welcoming acceptance of all skill levels of our performers (beginner to professional).
- Continued nurturing strong congregational singing – noted by Search Team when they visited other congregations
- First music service in several years with many musicians and good reviews
- Accompanist moved to simplified monthly pay rate
- Music Committee trying to improve the sound of our music (acoustics & electronics)

## Hopes and Plans

- Support settlement of Kevin Jagoe and his Installation/Ordination in the fall
- Improve long range music scheduling system for Sunday worship

## Concerns

- I need to share more of my work with volunteers to bring my time in line with my expected hours.
- Scheduling in 2017-18 necessarily put a very high load on me and the choir during March, April and May. Will try to anticipate such crunch times even better in future.

## Board of Trustees

**Chair** – Karen Reeve, President (term expiring 2019)

### Members –

- Rick Anderson – Board of Trustees, Vice President (term expiring 2018)
- Richard Irwin - Board of Trustees, Vice President- Finance (term expiring 2018)
- Jackie Drewes – Board of Trustees, Secretary (2 year single term expiring 2019)
- Lynne Nugent – Board of Trustees, Fellowship Council Liaison (term expiring 2019)
- Martin Kaplan – Board of Trustees, Trustee at Large (term expiring 2019)
- Howard Barkan - Board of Trustees, Trustee at Large (term expiring 2018)
- Jerry Johnson – Treasurer (elected annually, non-voting member)
- Rev. Susan Rak – Minister (non-voting member)

**Purpose/Mission** – (summarized from BuxMont’s By-Laws Article VIII)

Authority and responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Fellowship rests with the Congregation which delegates power to the Board of Trustees to perform the following duties:

- all business and financial affairs,
- approve terms of employment of all full or part-time employees of the Fellowship (note: acts as an agent of the Fellowship in employment of the Minister after the minister is approved by the Congregation),
- appoint regular committees as needed and delegate authority necessary to carry out the work,
- speak for the membership in relevant matters consistent with BuxMont’s By-Laws, and
- any other matters pertaining to the administration or business operations of the Fellowship.

### Highlights of the Year –

- Board operations - Created Board covenant, held retreat resulting in intent to focus on supporting engagement of members and the RE program in addition to doing required board business, consistently used consent agenda for all reports not requiring discussion.
- Supported ministerial search by participating in surveys, creating a Negotiating Team, determining minister’s salary, and approving the Ministerial Letter of Agreement.
- Selected co-chairs for the annual Stewardship Campaign and supported their efforts.
- Held successful fund drive that raised \$15,000 to replace the lift.
- Approved guidelines for new Committee on Ministry to start in FY19.
- Revised Management Team functions.
- Committed to establishing a Right Relations Team in FY19.

**Hopes for FY19** - Foster a positive and effective partnership with the new minister; create a Right Relations Team; continue to develop the Board's leadership capacity and function in relation to staff, committees, and the Congregation.

**Concerns** - none at this time.

## **Religious Education Board**

**Chair** Jennifer Worthington

**Members** Micki Vielle, Ann Scull, Lisa Chippendale, Heather Burke, Margaret Henley,

### **Purpose/Mission**

To Teach the meaning and importance of the Unitarian Universalist principles, Encourage respect and compassion for a variety of different people and different lifestyles, Give our children awareness of and respect for many cultures and faiths, Foster a commitment to social action, Help our children to become independent thinkers, and Encourage personal spiritual exploration,

### **Highlights of the Year**

This year we have restructured the Religious education program to a more structured style. Our new Director of Religious Education has been integral in making positive changes to the RE curriculum and the execution and preparation of Sunday programming. We have also made an effort to integrate RE into the larger congregation by adding A Time for all Ages more regularly and reaching out to others to volunteer in RE.

### **Hopes or plans for the near future**

For the coming year we hope to change the board to a committee. Which will allow for more flexibility in involvement. The program will next year be prek/k (Rainbow connection), 1-3 Dr Seuss UU style , 4-6 Harry Potter and UU. We would also like to reconfigure the RE spaces to better serve the needs of our community. We are also offering OWL for grades 7-9 and youth group for grades 10-12.

**Concerns** none at this time.

## **Committees**

### **Building & Grounds Committee**

*Aesthetics (Sub-Committee of Building & Grounds)*

**Chair:** Donna Spangler

**Members:** Upon request as needed.

**Purpose/Mission:** To serve in a consulting capacity on the aesthetic aspects of any fellowship construction, improvements, design or decorating.

**Highlights:** Consulted with numerous committees who had design/decorating questions.

Camouflaged lift area during the repair/replacement time period.  
Ongoing consultation on lobby bathroom for tile, fixtures, counter, paint and mirror.

**Hopes and Plans:** Redesigning entrance bathroom and the front entrance.  
Replacing benches in the social hall which were frequently used.

**Concerns:** Funding for aesthetic purchases.

## **Communications Committee**

**Chair** Dena Condron

**Members** Howard Barkan, Rachel Leslie

**Purpose/Mission** To facilitate communication about between BuxMont members and with the community at large.

### **Highlights of the Year**

The committee has taken responsibility for management of bulletin boards within the fellowship (except for those in RE) and has worked to streamline information presented. We completed a congregational survey, gathering information in regard to how the congregation learns about events at BuxMont. We have increased our Facebook presence with regular postings before and after events at the fellowship.

### **Hopes or plans**

The committee is working to grow its membership in order to have consistent support in communication tasks. We hope that more groups and committees will avail themselves of the support the committee is offering in publicizing events at the fellowship.

### **Concerns**

The development of an updated website is underway.

## **Decorating (Sub-Committee of Sunday Service Committee)**

**Chair:** Co-Chairs, Donna Spangler, Jane Turkel

**Members:** Micki Vieille; Susie Hook; Carol Myers; Marion Trollop; Loretta Turner

**Purpose/Mission:** Make BuxMont welcoming and beautiful by providing floral arrangements, and other seasonal or special event decorations, for the Fellowship Sanctuary, Social Hall and Lobby.

**Highlights of the Year:** Create fresh or silk pillar arrangements for the Sanctuary pillars every Sunday of the year.

Maintain the Donated Flowers effort to provide memorial or honorary arrangements for those who wish to commemorate a loved one or occasion.

Create arrangements for the Coffee reception table after each service and a welcoming arrangement in the lobby.

Create food table arrangements and table arrangements for special occasions such as Celebration Sunday, In-Gathering, etc.

Create seasonal or themed decorations for the bay window and Social Hall.  
Maintain live plants in Sanctuary, Social Hall, Fireside Room, and Gallery.  
Coordinate with Merriment, Music, and Auction Committees to provide decorating assistance.  
Decorate the building for the December holidays with Christmas tree, wreathes, etc.

**Hopes and Plans:** Organize and consolidate supplies in the various storage areas.  
Encourage new volunteers for the committee, no need to be an experienced flower arranger.

**Concerns:** Aging volunteers experiencing difficulties doing stairs and climbing to attic to retrieve supplies.

### **Dinner Group** (subcommittee of Membership)

**Chair** Jeannie Bellavance, co-ordinator, Sara Forney

**Purpose/Mission** The Dinner Group Program was designed to develop closer bonds with Fellowship members and active friends in a more informal social setting while having great fun and good food at the same time!

### **Highlights of the Year**

Thirty-nine people signed up to join our first year in the Dinner Group Program. Two people also signed up as substitutes. Sara Forney and Jeannie Bellavance created 5 groups consisting of 6-8 members. Carol Cotton wanted to be included in this program. She received permission from her residence, Manor Care Health Services, to be a hostess for the entire season. Other groups met in participants homes. Each group planned its own dates and times. This spring the group captains reported that all participants really enjoyed getting to know the other members and felt closer to them.

### **Hopes or plans for the near future**

The dinner groups were successful. The program will continue in the 2018-2019 church year. Information and sign-ups will be available in the August and September Liberal Voice.

**Concerns** None at this time.

## **GARDENS**

**Chair:** (Susie Hook)

**Members:** Dale Crosier, Nancy Overton, and Harry Rothwell have been the steady standouts of our diminished corps of regular gardeners at BuxMont. Dale tends to the tee-bed at the Street Road end of the parking lot, cuts back ornamental grasses, sprays weeds, mulches various areas out front (this year hauling wood chips from way out back), handles snow poles, weeds out by the BuxMont sign, and often assists in the Celebration Garden on work days. Nancy designs and maintains the front entrance gardens, donating and installing annuals, perennials, and shrubs each year for this most viewed area. Harry focuses on the Detention Basin Wild Garden. He pampers his growing, personally donated, collection of native wildflowers, skillfully prunes trees, and maintains birdhouses and bird feeders year round all over the property. BuxMont "Friend" Dave Nuessli several times has contributed perennials and assisted Harry in planting. Rick Anderson uses his master gardener skills

for pruning, organizes “stuff” that some of us leave out, and works with children to plant perennials for a couple of special summer classes. He also stepped in on an emergency basis to cage several shrubs and trees that our new beaver was steadily decimating. Lynne Nugent gets the small garden by the DRE’s office off to a good start. She and Dale have kept the mulched path from the TD Bank property usable year round by adding wood chips several times. Martha Wrigley provides homemade, effective deer spray that reduces animal damage to our perennials. Steve Ciampoli maintains the labyrinth area several times each growing season. Micki Vieille donates cannas (despised by deer) every year and assists in planting them in several wet areas. Adam Gingerich saved the cost of a lawn mowing by shaving all our lawns with a small mower last spring. John Hook helped with early mulching last year, moved huge pots, and collected pawpaws. We are grateful to Solebury Orchards and Robin Hoy for selling our pawpaws (when we provide them) at the Wrightstown Farmers Market to benefit the Fellowship. Susie Hook manages the large pots of seasonal flowers that are chained outdoors (after one was stolen a couple of years ago) during the summer. She focuses on the Celebration Garden with work parties (too few, and too poorly attended last year). Without enough weeding help, we have to rely on glyphosate. Over the past couple of years, two of our most committed gardeners have died, another has stepped back from the Fellowship, and others have had special outside time demands recently. We miss them all and will always picture Adrienne Tufts and Jack Schieber in their element outdoors at BuxMont.

**Concerns:** Our biggest challenge in the past year has been lack of able-bodied people to push wheelbarrows of mulch in the Celebration Garden. As a result, we didn’t order mulch after last spring, and the garden beds are almost down to bare soil now despite having many of our autumn leaves shredded and blown back onto the beds for the first time last December. Keeping deer, rabbits, ground hogs, and beavers from doing too much damage is an ongoing struggle. Other concerns are invasive plants, particularly along the creek and in the detention basin. Lesser celandine is worst along the creek and in the flood plain woods next to our property. Poison ivy, while a native, is not welcome in the detention basin where people often work or stroll. ***More volunteers will be welcomed! We can customize your work to enable solitude or society, repetitive tasks or creativity. Contact Susie Hook.***

Dreyer Landscaping does almost all of our mowing for \$110 each time. Dave Dreyer understands that if the weather is dry and the grass semi-dormant, we want him to skip mowing to save money.

An ongoing serious concern for several years has been the death of numerous large ash trees due to the emerald ash borer. Other declining trees close to the building or parking areas have dead areas and drop branches. In June 2017, Clauser Tree Care took down our biggest dead ash in the lawn. We anticipate the rest of our dead trees and branches near the front and rear parking lots and alongside the building will be taken down this spring. With TD Bank finally removing 3-4 trees along their property line, we anticipate our 2017-18 tree removal costs will total around \$2,000. We thank finance trustee Dick Irwin, board president Karen Reeve, and board trustee Martin Kaplan for their research, marking, and interventions with neighboring property owners. While the trees most dangerous to our routine activities will soon be gone, there are many more dead ashes along the creek, particularly up near Street Road. At present we have no plans to remove these and expect them to continue dropping limbs and eventually fall into the creek. They will continue to be a potential hazard in that mostly unfrequented area.

A big thank-you to everyone who has worked on our gardens and grounds!

## **Library** (Sub-Committee of Sunday Service Committee)

**Chair** Jeannie Bellavance

### **Members**

Claire Schultz  
Stephanie Wardwell

### **Purpose/Mission**

The mission of the library is to support our Fellowship as a resource that will allow members to find information on a variety of topics such as spirituality, philosophy, life style, diversity, social concerns, Unitarian Universalism, and other religions.

### **Highlights**

The committee wishes to thank our members for the generous donations to the library collection.. Throughout the year the committee updates the collection, weeding out duplicate titles and titles that no longer serve the library's mission. These books will be available to Fellowship members and friends at the annual book sale in early June.

**Hopes** or plans for the near future (coming year) that you wish to highlight

Although the holdings of the library are listed online in *Goodreads*, a database which can be searched by topic, title and author, the database does not include the Dewey Decimal location in the library. We would like to figure out a way to make this possible without a great deal of expense.

### **Membership Committee**

**Chair** None for 2017-2018

**Members** Brian Rothkopf, Susie Hook, Karen Reeve, Erin Mulder, Sara Forney, Deborah Sheesley, Diane Fosnot, Ruth Aschmann, Claire Schultz, John Miller, Howard Barkan

**Purpose/Mission** The committee's duties include

- Ensuring visitors are greeted and welcomed. Follow up with visitors.
- Guiding visitors along the pathway to membership (in coordination with minister)
- Keep BuxMont's demographic data current.
- Check in with people who we haven't seen in a while.

**Highlights** of the Year - **summarize, in brief, major** accomplishments, goals reached, tasks completed, etc. - please note: *detailed descriptions of an event or project are not necessary.*

- Our committee worked to assimilate duties from prior membership coordinator and chairperson.

- Succeeded in having a visitor ambassador almost each Sunday, to sign visitors in, answer their question and help make them feel welcome at BuxMont
- Reviewed membership list, contacted those people who haven't seemed to be participating in a while, and updated the membership list accordingly.

**Hopes** or plans for the near future (coming year) that you wish to highlight

We hope to be better organized in the next BuxMont year, and do an even better job in welcoming visitors and keeping in touch with those people who we don't see often. We will strive to check that newer people are acclimating well to our BuxMont community. We hope to keep in contact with all of our membership during the year.

**Concerns:**

*None*

**Peace & Justice**

**Chair**-Tracy Bleakney

**Members**-Tracy Bleakney, Gail Ball, Andrea Barto, Alisa Brownlee, Alicia Ford, Sara Forney, Dick Johnston, Jeanne Kane, Martin Kaplan, Donna Laing, Pat Lathrop, Erin Mulder, Carol Myers, Valerie Profit, Karen Reeve, Harry Rothwell, Celia Sharp, William Talvitie, Tom Thomas, Micki Vieille, Joy Weatherill, Jack Wilkerson, Betsy Winter Hall

Purpose/Mission-The mission of the BuxMont Peace and Justice Committee is to uphold the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism by supporting economic, environmental, and social justice issues, locally, nationally and globally through education, advocacy and action.

The Peace and Justice Committee, in giving witness to Unitarian Universalist values, seeks to lead, inspire, and collaborate with members of our congregation and outside individuals and groups in the area of social justice.

**Highlights of the Year -**

Peace and Justice has a number of ongoing commitments including: Apartment Partners, the Split Place Project, Fourth Friday Films, Doylestown Food Pantry donations, Green Sanctuary, OxFam Hunger Banquet, and support of UU-PLAN initiatives.

We did not have a Chair since Celia Sharp's term expired in July, 2017; duties were shared among committee members until Tracy Bleakney was approved as Chair by the Board in March, 2018.

This year we are proud of:

- Led a Sunday Service about hunger/provided the experience of an OxFam Brunch which garnered \$1288.50 in donations for OxFam.

- Established the Jack and Rose Marie Schieber Memorial Immigrant Scholarship in conjunction with Bucks County Community College (awaiting final approval from the Fundraising Committee as of this writing).
- Hosted the workshop “Interrupting Racism” on 9/12/17 which was led by the Peace Center.
- Created and published a Peace and Justice brochure.
- Chose a banner message reflecting UU Values for BuxMont and used our budget to pay for it.
- Created a reliable email distribution list for our committee.
- Hosted the Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalitions Conversations with Legislators on 3/23/18.

### **Hopes or plans for the near future**

- ❖ Collaborate with the RE Committee and Jess Bors to plan our next OxFam Banquet and possibly other future endeavors.
- ❖ Encourage BuxMonters of all ages participate in the New Hope Celebrates Pride Parade on 5/19/18.
- ❖ Work towards directly involving more of the congregation in Peace and Justice concerns.
- ❖ Highlight the need for more volunteers in fulfilling our commitment to be a Green Sanctuary congregation.
- ❖ Host a speaker from Healthcare4All to speak to our congregation and the community.
- ❖ Identify how we can help close the Berks County Residential Center and support the immigrant being held there.
- ❖ Identify ways we can collaborate with Bucks County Faith Leaders Coalition.

### **Concerns:**

None at this time.