



NOVEMBER 12—10:30 AM—DIWALI: CELEBRATING WISDOM AND GOOD FORTUNE – REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, TRACY HALL, AND THE TUUC CHOIR

Today, Hindus around the world are celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights which promises the triumph of light over darkness, wisdom over ignorance, and good over evil. Hindus pray to Ganesha and Lakshmi to bless them with wisdom and good fortune. What wisdom and good fortune are you seeking this year? You are invited to share in the custom of wearing bright, jewel-colored clothing to celebrate this festival.

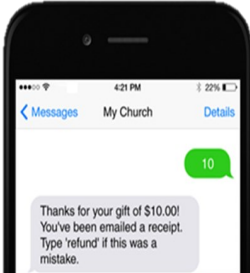
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

For those who plan to join us on Zoom this Sunday, please see below for the Zoom information.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96059224695?pwd=c3ErY1ZtMnZCNXICTkNaQ09LbTRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 5922 4695

Passcode: 329835



DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

PASSING THE PLATE

DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE
MORE INFORMATION ON THE [TUUC WEBSITE](#)

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

When making your contributions online, please be sure to designate your donation to the correct fund by using the dropdown arrow. Click on the fund you wish to contribute to and write the entity (ex: ODB) in the note area for clarification.

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Add Gift to Another Fund

Give this One Time

Give by Credit/Debit Card

▼

▼

▼

Continue

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

Give to Restricted Fund

Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Give to Building Fund

Give to General Fund

Give to Green Products

Give to Kate Venables Music Fund

Give to Memorial Garden

Give to ODB Casseroles

Give to Plate Collection

Give to Religious Education Registration

Give to Restricted Fund

Give to Social Action Collection

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

In a recent conversation with John Barry, he reminded me of the story of a pie auction he attended several years ago. The auction was to raise funds for eighth grade students to take a trip. On the way into the auction, one of the students dropped his pie in the parking lot of the school. It appeared ruined. At the beginning of the bidding, the auctioneer announced that, unfortunately, there was one damaged pie. Without a moment's hesitation, one person raised his hand and said, "I'll pay \$15 for it."

This is the gift of generosity. It is not giving to receive something, tit for tat. You must live a life of kindness to be able to think so quickly, to act so immediately, to know precisely, in that moment, how to show solidarity and heal disappointment with a \$15 bid for a ruined pie.

The gift of generosity doesn't just connect us to others. It transforms us as a human being. John affirmed years ago (and still today), "I want to be the person who raises his hand, without hesitation, to offer \$15 for the ruined pie."

Even if you never dropped a pie in a school parking lot, or saw one dropped, who showed you the gift of a generosity? How would you describe the spirit of the person? How did their act of generosity change you? Who do you aspire to become because of it?

The gift of generosity cannot fix or heal all the world's problems. Our hearts are with the civilians in Israel and Palestine--especially the children--who are suffering terribly from the current war. I am reminded of Abraham Joshua Heschel who wrote, "Prayer cannot bring water to parched fields, or mend a broken bridge, or rebuild a ruined city; but prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart, and rebuild a weakened will." We all know someone whose gift of generosity watered an arid soul, mended a broken heart, and rebuilt a weakened will.

This month we will explore the gift of generosity in the Hindu and Buddhist traditions. We will also consider how generosity flows from gratitude and curiosity. And we will have the opportunity to practice the gift of generosity in relation to one of our community partners, the Assistance Center of Towson Churches, as well as during our annual TUUC auction. And since the gift of generosity flows from gratitude, we will give thanks!

CABIN FEVER

SCARFACE (1983)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**IN PERSON AT THE TOWSON
CINEMARK AT 3 PM**

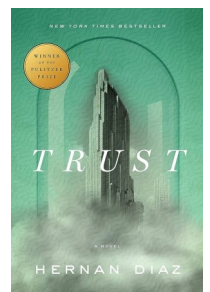


BOOK CLUB

TRUST

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:30 PM

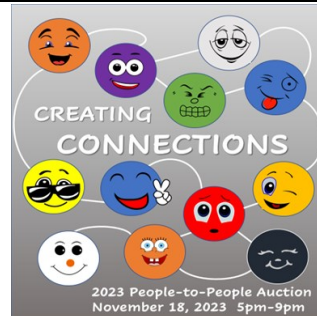


TUUC AUCTION 2023—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:00 PM

Potluck supper @ 5 PM

Children's auction @ 6:30 PM

TUUC Auction night is now just one week away! The evening starts at 5 pm with our traditional (and always delicious) potluck supper before the Live Auction starts at 7 pm. Bring a dish to share and some cash for the beer and wine bar which will stay open through the evening. You'll also have the chance to view all the donations on display and to place early evening bids for silent and buy-now offerings. Nursery and childcare will be provided. For those choosing to attend the Auction on Zoom, watch for an email next week with instructions and the link.



Have you made a donation? We will gratefully accept your donations right up to Friday, 11/17, but sooner is always better. Just click this link: [Donation Form](#). Please bring your donated objects to TUUC between 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, 11/18 so the Auction Committee can get them properly displayed before people start to arrive. If Saturday doesn't fit your schedule, you can drop them off this Sunday or at the church office on Friday 11/17 between noon and 3 pm. Be sure you have completed a donation form for your donation before you bring it to TUUC. If you've been intending to donate but don't know what you can offer, remember that gift cards to area businesses such as stores and restaurants make wonderful raffle prizes and are very welcome donations.

Have you set up your *BidBeacon* account and started to browse and bid on some of the wonderful donations we've received? If not, [click here to Get With The Program](#). You'll need a *BidBeacon* account to bid on the silent and buy-now donations. For the Live Auction we'll have the fun of raising our old-fashioned paddles once again. If you can't attend in person but want to bid, the Auction Committee can arrange a proxy bidder; just email us at auction@towsonuuc.org.

The Raffle has always been a fun part of our annual Auction and this year is no different. We already have well over a dozen prizes and more keep coming in. Click on [Raffle](#) on the Auction webpage or look for the poster in the lobby this Sunday to get a preview of the raffle prizes. And remember, you don't have to be present to win a Raffle prize.

The Auction Committee is working hard to make the 2023 Auction a big success and lots of fun. Please do your part! Make a donation, place some bids, buy raffle tickets, and plan to join in the fun on Auction night. It's time for ***Creating Connections!*** to support TUUC.

Gratefully, Your 2023 Auction Committee

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS ABOUT US

Marilyn Thorn is healing following an automobile accident on November 4. Cards of care and encouragement can be sent to Marilyn and Allan's home at OakCrest. Their address is in Breeze. Please, no calls at this time.

Friends of Andree and Steve Maslen are invited to gather in the Memorial Garden following worship on November 12th to remember and to celebrate the life of Andree.

---Rev. Clare

A NOTE FROM THE TUUC BOARD PRESIDENT

TUUC has recently received a generous bequest from the estate of longtime member Alfred Raymond Bolz. The instructions for its use state that "It is the Settlor's desire that this distribution be used primarily for facilities or projects to expand Unitarian Universalism immediately rather than to establish or be added to an endowment for future use." With the aim of becoming a more inclusive community, the Board of Trustees of TUUC intends to use these funds toward improving the accessibility of our building.

A listening session in December 2021 confirmed the urgency felt by members of the congregation to make changes so that we can be more accessible to those living with disabilities or special needs. The Bolz bequest enables us to begin this process. We convened a team in March 2023 to work on the initial phase of an accessibility project. The team crafted a Request for Proposals seeking an architect to assess our physical spaces and recommend possible solutions, and has conducted interviews with firms that submitted bids. The highest priority need is for easier access to a bathroom for those with physical mobility challenges. However, we anticipate that the architect selected will recommend a number of changes, and that we may need to augment the Bolz bequest with funding from other sources.

Although we have now been working on this project for several months, we are very much in the early stages. As this process moves forward, we will keep you updated on the status of the project, and we will seek input from the congregation via focus groups and listening sessions. In addition, please feel free to contact me at president@towsonuuc.org with questions, suggestions, or concerns you might have.

Accessibility project team: Ellie Hughes (convener), Andrew Hager, Sue Royer, Rev. Clare Petersberger, Clare Flynn-Avallone, Sean Mackey, Todd Robertson, SarahRuth Davis

THANK YOU FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to thank those who helped on Saturday with gardening at Amazing Grace Church in East Baltimore. Twice a year we take a group of TUUC'ers to our partner Amazing Grace for a morning of working in their garden/labyrinth/rain gardens. It is very much appreciated, and this partnership is important to our mission.

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE TIP OF THE WEEK

Fall is upon us, and the leaves are coming down in our yards. Instead of bagging them and putting them out for collection, follow nature's cues. Rake or blow the leaves into your garden beds to protect the plants during the winter or use a mulching mower on the lawn to return their nutrients to the soil. Recycling this resource nurtures plants and important insects. It is also a lot easier!

NOVEMBER ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 12:30 PM

Helmand's isn't open for lunch but there is now a restaurant who offers Afghan food in the middle of the day. Our November Ethnic Lunch will be at Kandahar, a casual restaurant in Hampden, (kandaharkitchen.com) 914 W. 36th Street, Baltimore.

We will meet on Wednesday, November 15 at 12:30. To RSVP email ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Sunday, November 12.

And mark your calendars now for a return to Daniela Restaurant for December Ethnic Lunch. We'll avoid the holiday crunch by moving lunch to a different day and different date: **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**. ---Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

OUR MESSY LIVES TO PROBE ALTRUISM ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Is **altruism** possible? Or is it not? Can we remember performing a purely **altruistic** act, ourselves? According to one of the many YouTubes on the subject, the 1:14 YouTube, "**Altruism**," by Ethics Defined, **altruism** means "acting in the best interest of others, rather than in one's own self-interest." Is that adequate? Does it have to be more than that to be **altruistic**? Does it require some sort of sacrifice? Or what? Examples? Is it the essence of morality? Or not? Bring your unique thoughts and opinions to the Our Messy Lives Zoom discussion on Thursday afternoon, November 16th, from 3:00-4:00 PM. To receive the Zoom invite by email the day before, find Nancy Caswell's email address in Breeze, the TUUC Member Directory, send her an email, and you will receive the Zoom Link the day before.

COMMUNITY CHOIR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Our next Community Choir Sunday will be November 19th. Yes, it's the morning after the Creating Connections Auction! Hopefully some of you will still get enough sleep to come out to rehearse that morning at 9 AM, and sing in the service. You'll have a substantial break time during sound checks before the service. Hope to see you on November 19th! Please RSVP to Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org if you plan to come. But if you forget...you can still just show up!

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 6:00 PM

Join us for good food and conversation in the church upper level lobby. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's through the 80's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us. Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

GALLERY UNICORN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers of Gallery Unicorn hope you are enjoying the artwork in our meeting room. The on-going success of GU for our TUUC community (and the community at large) requires the dedication and person-power of volunteers. We need help with hanging the exhibitions (6 per year) and assisting during GU receptions. The gallery also has a Facebook page and help with social media would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please send an email to gallerunicorn@towsonuuc.org. Thanks. ~ Lisa Lubomski for Gallery Unicorn.

GALLERY UNICORN—CALLING ALL ARTISTS!!

Are you hiding your artist light under a basket? Is your artwork already out there in the world? TUUC is the spiritual home to MANY creative people. We invite you to share your art or artisan work with our congregation in the annual Members and Friends of TUUC Exhibit. While there are many trained artists at our church, you don't have to be a trained artist to submit. Worried about whether your art is good enough? Do you make art? Do you want/need to get your artist light out from under the basket? Do you want to share your work with our broader community? Then this is the place for you. Any member or friend (or family member) of TUUC may submit up to 2 works for the exhibition.

The exhibition will run from Sunday, January 8, 2024 through March 4, 2024. Art to be delivered to the church between 9-10 on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and picked up following services on March 4, 2024, or at the church on Monday, March 5, 2024 between 9-10am. If you have any questions or want to submit, please email to gallerunicorn@towsonuuc.org.



November 11, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

-Invasive Species Removal: Multiflora Rose

Multiflora Rose is an eastern Asian plant brought to the US as rootstock for other roses and for erosion control. Now considered invasive in the Eastern US it forms dense, thorny thickets. Manual removal is the way to go. We will be removing it from around the parking lot and Cherry Grove.

-Invasive Species Management: English Ivy

English Ivy was brought to the US as a garden plant. It has quickly become established as an invasive. Currently impossible to eradicate, it must be managed in a forest setting to prevent damage to mature trees. We will be working on the trees in and around the parking lot.

-Invasive Species Management: Porcelain Berry

Native to SE Asia, the Ampelopsis Glandulosa was brought to the US and is still planted as an ornamental in gardens. It can overwhelm smaller trees. We will be working on the trees in and around the parking lot.

SOCIAL ACTION

THANKSGIVING BASKETS—FROM THE SHRANKOFFS

Those of you who were in church on November 5 are aware that the Shankroffs have a long interest in the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). For the better part of 30 years we organized the Thanksgiving basket campaign. We collected and stored 30-50 baskets and later transported them to ACTC. A couple of years ago we found that we were unable to continue so we passed the torch. And then the pandemic came. TUUC donated less than dozen baskets last year. So we urge those of you who are interested to donate cash to ACTC to cover the cost of a basket. Please write a check payable to ACTC in the amount of \$25 to \$30, with a note on the memo line "Towson UU Church" and mail to 120 W Pennsylvania Ave Towson, MD 21204. Thank you. ----*Sue and Herb Shankroff*

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES—THANKSGIVING BASKET DONATIONS

It's time to express our gratitude for all the bounty we have by donating Thanksgiving Baskets to the ACTC (Assistance Center of the Towson Churches). There are three ways to give:

- You can do a virtual donation
- You can buy a prepared basket at a participating store
- You can buy the required items and bring them to TUUC for delivery

All the details are at their website (<https://www.actconline.info>) or on the poster in our lobby. Please note the deadline for delivery for baskets dropped off at TUUC is Wednesday, November 15.

NONPERISHABLE FOOD

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

- Mondays, 12 to 2 PM: Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)
- Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)
- Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM: Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

SACRED LISTENING CAMPAIGN

Our Sacred Listening Campaign Team will be reaching out to more people in the next few months. Would you like to deepen your relationships with others in our TUUC community, discover an area of social justice that excites you and possibly learn something about yourself in the process? To become a member of our team or to have a conversation with one of our group, please contact Rev. Clare or Ann Beezley.

BRIDGE MARYLAND SUSTAINER BREAKFAST—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 9:30 AM

Come for the free breakfast and fellowship, stay to learn how BRIDGE Maryland Inc. (BMI) is making a difference in your community, and invest in the work that BMI doing. The event will be held at Sandymount Church at 2101 Old Westminster Pike; Finksburg, MD 21048. To register for this event, [please visit this page.](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

11 Nov	Saturday	Second Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
12 Nov	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
12 Nov	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
12 Nov	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
12 Nov	Sunday	Worship as a Spiritual Practice at TUUC	11:30 AM
12 Nov	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
12 Nov	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Scarface (40th Anniversary)	3:00 PM
12 Nov	Sunday	TUUC Focus Group on Accessibility	7:00 PM
14 Nov	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
14 Nov	Tuesday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 PM
15 Nov	Wednesday	Auction Rehearsal	5:30 PM
16 Nov	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
16 Nov	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
17 Nov	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
18 Nov	Saturday	Auction Potluck	5:00 PM
18 Nov	Saturday	Children's Auction	6:30 PM
18 Nov	Saturday	TUUC Annual Auction 2023	7:00 PM
19 Nov	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM

Don't Work Sick
Don't School Sick
Don't Church Sick

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	In-Person / Online
11/05/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 16