



**NOVEMBER 19—10:30 AM—THE BUDDHA’S FIRST SERMON – REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, TRACY HALL AND THE TUUC COMMUNITY CHOIR, AND THE TUUC YOUTH GROUP**

In his first sermon, the Buddha taught about the first manifestation of the spiritual life. It wasn’t the ability to meditate. It wasn’t the ability to speak to why we call one thing right and another thing wrong. It didn’t involve worshipping deities. It involved an action that many of us will celebrate with family and friends this week. Today we reflect on the first manifestation of the spiritual life according to the Buddha and how, regardless of the religious identities we choose, we manifest it by virtue of being human.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION**

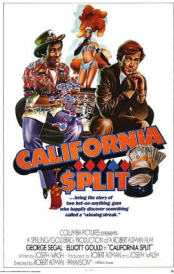
For those who plan to join us on Zoom this Sunday, please see below for the Zoom information.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92012950748?pwd=amNjT2lBT3BXd3pZT0Fva3BRL1ViUT09>

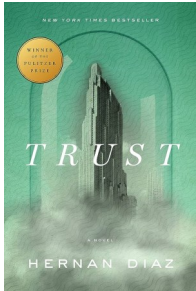
Meeting ID: 920 1295 0748

Passcode: 201769

**CABIN FEVER**  
**CALIFORNIA SPLIT (1974)**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
**4:30 PM DISCUSSION**



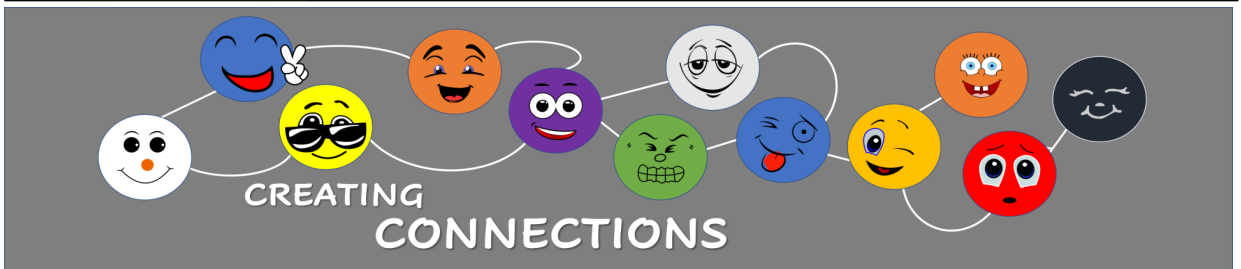
**BOOK CLUB**  
**TRUST**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
**7:30 PM**





**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](#)



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

Potluck supper @ 5 PM

Children's auction @ 6:30 PM

Nursery and childcare 7-9 PM

TUUC Auction night is now just **ONE DAY AWAY!** Please check your email for the Auction Invitation sent earlier this week which includes a list of the 17 fabulous donations that will be auctioned live, the schedule for the night's events, and the Zoom link for those remotely attending.

The evening starts at 5 PM with a potluck supper (hooray!) before the Live Auction at 7 PM. Bring a dish to share and some cash for the beer and wine bar which will stay open through the evening. While you're at it, bring your checkbook too. You'll have a chance to pay for your winnings before you leave, and paying by check allows TUUC to avoid bank fees. During the potluck you'll have the chance to view all the donations on display and to place early evening bids for silent auction offerings. Childcare (minimum age 6) will be provided from 7 to 9 PM.

**Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to offer Nursery care.**

Silent auction donations should be brought to TUUC on Saturday Nov. 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM or dropped off at the church office between noon and 3 pm on Friday, Nov 17.

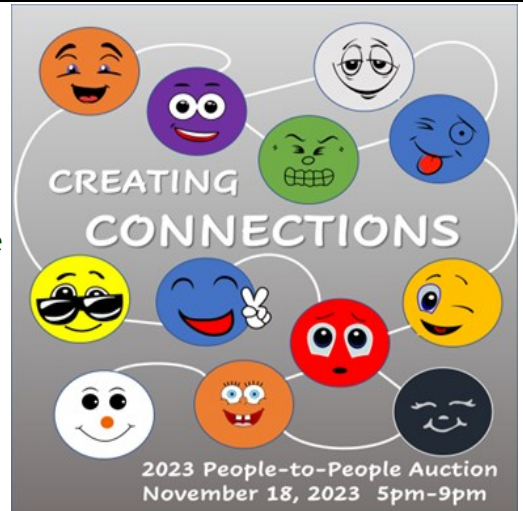
You must use *BidBeacon* to bid on all silent auction items. Please load *BidBeacon* on your personal device before coming to the church and bring your device with you. Bidding is open now. You may bid any time until the Auction closes, except for Live Items, which are only open during voice bidding on Auction Night. Remember, whether you are attending in person or on Zoom you will need a *BidBeacon* account for bidding and billing.

You can [click here to Get With The Program](#). If you know you cannot attend or access *BidBeacon* on Auction night to bid on Live Items, we can arrange a proxy bidder for you. Just send an email to [auktion@towsonuuc.org](mailto:auktion@towsonuuc.org) letting us know what items you would like to bid on and the maximum amount for your bid.

Most donations and the Raffle are currently open on the *BidBeacon* site so you can start bidding now on everything but the Live Auction items. [Visit the TUUC 2023 Auction Raffle](#) to see the many wonderful gift cards and certificates donated as prizes. Raffle sales close early on Auction night so **buy your tickets now**. And remember, you don't have to be present to win.

The Auction Committee is working hard to make this year's Auction a big success and lots of fun. Please do your part! Place some bids, buy raffle tickets, and plan to join in the potluck and Live Auction fun tomorrow. **We'll see you at the party! It's time for *Creating Connections!* to support TUUC.**

*Gratefully, Your 2023 TUUC Auction Committee*



# TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## NEWS ABOUT US

You're invited to an all ages 60's themed costume party celebrating the life & times of "B" Khem (Jim Spath's sister) on Sunday November 26th from 3-7 at the church. Bring your best stories from back in the day & a bite to share. Thai food & tunes will be served. Show your colors! ---Jim Spath and Heather Harts'horn

## 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](mailto: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

## 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!

## 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](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org) if you plan to come. But if you forget...you can still just show up!

### **NEXT SOCRATES CAFÉ TO PROBE MODERN SOCIETY’S INTEREST IN GHOST—11/20 AT 6PM**

Modern society's interest in ghosts will be the focus of TUUC's 39th Socrates Cafe, this coming **Monday evening, November 20th, from 7:30-9:00 PM** (the Zoom Invite Link will be emailed to participants the day before). Email [socratescafe@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socratescafe@towsonuuc.org) to join our email list and become a participant. The intriguing, spellbinding, bewitching question to be probed, suggested by Jeff Savoye, will be: ***"Why does modern society still seem to be interested in ghosts?"***

There are several interesting articles to read: a brief one, of particular interest, dated 10/12/23, is by three Oxford Brookes University professors, ***"Ghosts and the supernatural: three Oxford Brookes University experts discuss their research."*** One theory mentioned is that, through ghosts, a relationship is enabled to continue.

A short New York Times article, dated 10/28/21, ***"Many Americans Say They Believe in Ghosts. Do You?"*** states that belief in paranormal phenomena may be a way of grappling with the unknown. This piece reports several surveys which have been conducted, with researchers considering "a rise being tied, in part, with the increase over the last few decades of Americans claiming no religious preference."

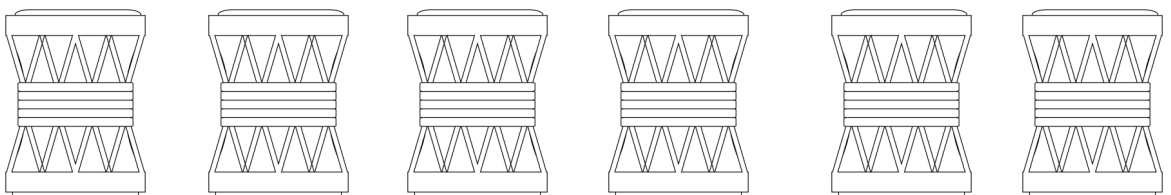
There is much to consider and conclude with this "supernatural interest," tying it to a lessening of religious affiliation, as well as "pandemic-fueled paranormal activity." Looking forward to hearing and sharing unique individual and collective thoughts about this engrossing, riveting topic...hope to Zoom with several of our TUUC "Seekers of Truth" next Monday evening, the 20th! *Namaste!*

### **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.

### **TUUC DRUM CIRCLE WILL MEET SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3 PM**

Hello, lovers of rhythm! Please join us for the TUUC Drum Circle on Dec. 3rd in the Meeting Room at 3 PM. We'll mostly drum free-form, and we'll have a meditative drumming time near the end of the event. Please bring a djembe or other hand drum if you have one. We'll make available a few drums and lots of small percussion.



# SOCIAL ACTION

## 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.

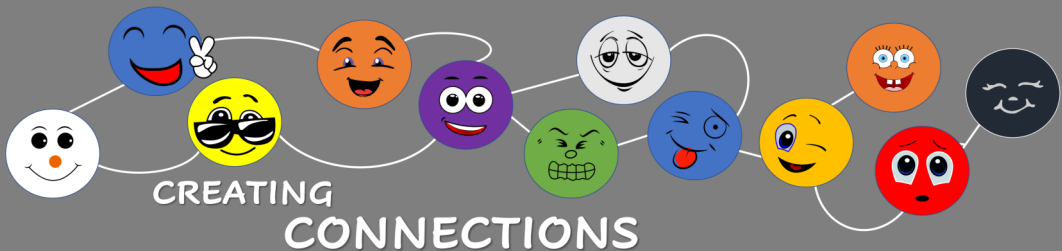
## BRIDGE MARYLAND SUSTAINER BREAKFAST—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 9:30 AM

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.](#)



## 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.

A screenshot of the online contribution form for Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. The amount is \$0.00. There are three dropdown menus for fund selection: "Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign", "Add Gift to Another Fund", and "Give this One Time". A blue "Continue" button is at the bottom.A screenshot of the dropdown menu for fund selection. The options are: "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", and "Give to Social Action Collection".

November 18, 2023 w/Potluck at 5:00 pm, Live Auction at 7:00 pm

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

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
19 Nov	Sunday	Community Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM
19 Nov	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
19 Nov	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
19 Nov	Sunday	Worship as a Spiritual Practice at TUUC	11:30 AM
19 Nov	Sunday	Our Journeys	12:00 PM
19 Nov	Sunday	Cabin Fever—California Split	4:30 PM
20 Nov	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
21 Nov	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
25 Nov	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Potluck	6:00 PM
26 Nov	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
26 Nov	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
26 Nov	Sunday	Celebration of Life—Barbara Spath Khem	3:00 PM
28 Nov	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	7:30 PM

**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
11/12/2023	10:30 AM	99 / 24