

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

September 22, 2021

Highlights –

In this issue

(CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO JUMP TO THAT CONTENT, OR CONTINUE SCROLLING)

[Sunday Look Ahead](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[Fall Programs](#)

[Eracism Minute](#)

[NEW Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[SEJC Special Collection](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Community Events](#)

Thank you to Genia Allen-Schmid for photos of the Family Picnic

Sunday Service Zoom Link: Meeting ID 738 363 620 Worship starts at 10:20am

<https://zoom.us/j/738363620> Passcode is **BUF** Phone: (669) 900-6833

Message from Paul

An Abundance of Collegial Support at BUF

I first met Rev. Barbara ten Hove eighteen years ago at the every-seven-years UU

Ministers Association

continuing education blowout.

(The UUMA offers continuing education opportunities all the time, but this was a week-long doozy.) Barbara was participating in a worship service and I remember how she conveyed a sense of confidence: that this work mattered, and was worth doing right.



I presented a storytelling workshop at that conference, and someone told me later about this minister, Rev. Peter Luton out in Seattle—“now *there's* a storyteller!” they said. Rev. Andy Backus was also at the conference. I don't remember meeting him, but his name was on the program of UUMA elected officers; I noticed this because I knew that he was married to Chris Lily Backus, who had befriended my wife, Jane, on an early-days email chat called UUMPs (UU Ministers' Partners).

All of this occurred just after I'd moved into the CMD (Central Midwest District) where I met Rev. Bill Haney, then serving in Columbia, Missouri; Bill and I were later to serve on a regional panel, the RSCC, to assess the progress of ministerial candidates early in their studies. (Don't you just love all of these acronyms? I first heard of Rev. Jaco ten Hove—spoken of in a tone of awe—when Jane and I were involved in planning a CUUYAN—Continental UU Young Adult Network—summer camp. Jaco is now editor of the UURMPA newsletter for retired ministers and their partners.)

What all of these marvellous people have in common, other than being awash in acronyms, is they are here with us at BUF. (Andy died just before the pandemic hit; a former chemist, I can just imagine how incensed he would be with the national response). Happily, Chris is still with us. And we've added one of Andy's compositions to our grey hymnals. Also, Rev. Barbara Davenport moved this past winter from Bellingham to Seattle, where Rev. Barbara Cornel—a former BUF

ministerial intern—now serving as a hospital chaplain, resides. And I periodically hear from Rev. Barbara Cheatham, BUF's minister in the 1990s, who also lives in that vicinity.) Should I go on with the Rev. Barbara's or the Chaplains?

No, let's do another Davenport. Rev. Charlotte Saleska served UUCQC in Davenport, Iowa, just before her final gig as the interim minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, Wisconsin. (Did you catch that? UU doesn't always mean Unitarian Universalist, really!) I first met Charlotte at the famous conference, above, introducing myself as the guy who followed her at UUWausau, noting that I knew her son, Kent (who was then studying for ministry) through CMD CUUYAN events.

OK, let's do two more chaplains: Rev. Tessie Mandeville serves as Chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital in Bellingham, leads Taize services at BUF, has a podcast on local KMRE radio (<https://kmre.org/podcasts/spirit-matters/>) and when she leads Sunday services here, does so with overflowing warmth and spirit. Rev. Tessie is officially affiliated with BUF, and is a member of the UUSCM (Society for Community Ministers). Jeff Packer, also affiliated with BUF (as Mr. Packer rather than Rev.) recently retired from St. Joe's Chaplaincy staff, but continues to serve in that capacity per diem.

Our latest entries into the fray are Revs. Mel Hoover and Rose Edington, who, along with all of the others, have been enormously supportive of me, and BUF, even as they remain very conscious of our UUMA Covenant which, among other things, helps to clarify boundaries within this extravagance of ecclesiastics.

Now one last Rev. Barbara (did you spot all five?): Barbara Gilday was ordained by and is very active at BUF. Now retired-ish, she preaches from time to time in UU and liberal churches in the area. Which brings us back to Rev. Dr. Barbara ten Hove, who will be serving as BUF's sabbatical minister while I'm on sabbatical this coming winter. You'll hear more about her, and that, and boundaries (not expecting her to do it all), in the MWU, in the months to come.

I never found my way back to one of those every-seven-years continuing education blowouts, so I'm looking forward to doing so during the sabbatical. I'm especially intrigued by the scheduled keynote speaker, Anthony Pinn. I'm reading a book of his, now, called **The End of God-Talk: African American Humanist Theology**. Many people would consider "Humanist Theology" an oxymoron, but Pinn describes non-theistic religious traditions within the Black community which serve as deep wells of inspiration, and foundations for social justice. Religious Humanism is what attracted me to the first congregation I joined as an adult—the First Unitarian Society, in Minneapolis. My oldest son lives in that neighborhood, and my second (of three) just moved to the Twin Cities. So, during sabbatical, I'll probably take the opportunity to visit FUS as well.

CU XXOO
Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
All services will be live-streamed on Zoom

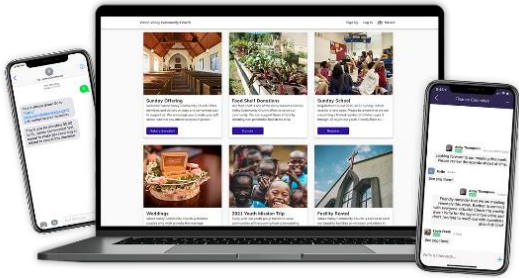
Sept 26 - "When Things are not Fixed"

Rev Paul Beckel

Change means loss, and often grief. Uncertainty may cause anxiety. But change and uncertainty may also remind us that we have the potential to nudge ourselves loveward.

October 3 - The End of Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance? Rev Paul Beckel

Before there were UU Principles, Unitarianism was commonly summarized as: "Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance in Religion." Our understanding of these words, though, has shifted over the past century. What happens when Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance encounter a world in which Climate Change is Real, Black Lives Matter, and A Virus has recently Killed 4.5 Million People?



FAMILY PICNIC FUN

BUF - New Giving App Replaces GIVE +

GIVE + the mobile app for making on-line donations to BUF has changes and is now called Vanco. **The Give+ app expires on Sept 30th!** You will need to upgrade your app to make future on-line donations.

Here's how:

Download the Vanco app that replaces the Give+ app on your phone. Go to the App Store or Google Play to get the app for free.

Open the app and search for Bellingham Unitarian. Select your fund and the amount you wish to donate.

More choices specific to BUF will appear in our account.

Enter the payment method, which you can save for future donations.

You can choose to cover the processing fees, by clicking an "opt in" button.

Review and complete your gift by clicking "submit."

For a more detailed walk through, [click here](#).



A Piece of Web Surfing

INSPIRATION – Submitted by Kevin Allen-Schmid
"Choral Singing in America: Nurturing the American Soul,"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Goaxrj50JII>

**Religious Education Events this Fall –
Genia Allen-Schmid RE Director, genia@buf.org**

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are holding off on our in-person Sunday morning RE programming until children can be vaccinated. Instead, we will be offering weekly zoom options for all ages, along with outdoor games, art projects and family potlucks every few weeks.

This fall’s zoom RE classes are part of a collaborative effort with a number of UU congregations in the Pacific Northwest, including BUF. It will be fun and invigorating for children to meet up with other young UU’s around the area.

If you would like to have your child join in a zoom RE class, you must register [here](#). Once registered, you will receive a zoom link for the class.

Zoom Schedule, starting Sunday, September 26 is:
Sundays, 10:00 to 10:30, separate classes for K-2 and 3-4th graders
Wednesdays, 6:00 to 7:00, 5th-8th graders
Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:00, 9th-12th graders



YRUU

All 9-12 graders are invited to join our weekly YRUU meetings on Sundays, from 4:00 to 5:30. This coming Sunday we’ll watch a studio Ghibli film with some popcorn, followed by a discussion. We’ll meet downstairs in the social hall so just come to the back door and you’ll be let in. See you all there! All covid safety protocols apply.

Family Pumpkin Carving

Our next family friendly gathering will be on **Sunday, October 24** from 2:00 to 4:00. Details will be forthcoming, but get this on your calendar now!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chalice Circles are starting up again this month! If you aren’t already in a Chalice Circle and long for regular, more intimate interaction with other BUFsters and develop deeper relationships, we invite you to join a group. Let me know if you wish to participate, or want more information, and we’ll get you placed in a Circle as soon as possible.

Adult RE class – Articulating your UU Faith

Bonnie Phinney and Genia Allen-Schmid are offering a class based on Barbara and Jaco Ten Hove’s Curriculum, “Articulating Your UU Faith”. Along with deepening our understanding about UU Theology, we will have a chance to explore and practice expressing what UU-ism is to us, and why we are a part of this liberal “living tradition”. New comers and lifelong UUs alike will find the material informative and engaging, as well as a great opportunity to develop relationships with others in our fellowship.
(con’t)

We will meet on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 starting on Sunday, October 17th**. Initially we'll start on zoom but hope to be able to move to in-person meetings in November. The class will be comprised of 6 to 8 sessions. Contact Genia to join this event genia@BUF.org.



NEW BUF DIRECTORY Judy Kasper, Hospitality
Team kasper.jm828@gmail.com

Plans are afoot to update of our Members and Friends photo directory! This year we're going to do our own production! We will be converting our online directory into a book format including color photos.

Seeing photos along with names helps to make connections. Searching pictures to recall a name and looking up names to recall a face, as well as finding phone numbers, addresses. All from the Directory! BUF has several new members and friends whose interactions have been limited to virtual meetings and the new directory will help us connect with them when we are finally able to gather in person.

Like so many things, putting an update together will be a team effort that includes everyone! If you don't already have a photo in the Directory you will be asked to upload one. The goal is 100% photo participation. The Hospitality Team will be the point of contact for folks who need help getting their photos and information online. Brian Quick will be the contact to set up Profiles for those that don't have one.. Kathy Wahto and Sue Sayegh will handle the data update and will soon be emailing people to check their listing for accuracy .

The target date for completion of the data gathering and photo uploads is **early November**. Target date for publication and distribution is mid-December. Please help make the best and most inclusive directory possible! Details coming!

A Piece of Web Surfing

INSPIRATION – Submitted by Patricia,

Stand by Me – Kingdom Choir

<https://youtu.be/5anyibzrl6k>

ERACISM MOMENT - David Curley, Black Lives Matter

Today I want to ask two questions: Why is ‘dismantling racism’ necessary for building Beloved Community? And, how should building a ‘Beloved Community’ guide us in doing antiracist actions? Our Covenant for Beloved Community describes ‘Beloved Community’ as ‘diverse, and multicultural’. It can’t be just a warm and cozy place. Beloved Community challenges communities and nations based on policing boundaries and identities. I believe that building Beloved Community and dismantling racism are like two sides of the same coin. And that both will require better ways to deal with conflicts. I believe that both require ancient spiritual practices that have been marginalized and trivialized in modern life. For example, listening in a talking circle. Patiently to multiple perspectives, without trying too hard to settle on one ‘objective’ truth to settle conflicts. Listening for what is authentic and beautiful. For that feeling, that we cannot describe in words, of a shift of spirit in the room. Cultivating non-violent courage. Caring for relationships as much as we care for justice. And for justice as much as we care for relationships.

Caring for relationships as much as we care for justice. And for justice as much as we care for relationships.

BUF SEJC Special Collection – September 2021: Humanitas Ministry – Jane Ronca Washburn

The mission of the Humanitas Ministry is to provide support to people in need, in a safe, warm and non-judgmental atmosphere. Since 2013, we have listened carefully to their stories, and offered financial assistance and referrals to other churches and community agencies as needed. In addition to BUF, as part of a faith community we work in partnership with St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Alms Ministry, Assumption Catholic Church (Hope House), the Ministry of St. Vincent de Paul and Hillcrest Church. We are an integral part of Bellingham’s Community Resource Network.



When BUF closed its building in March 2020 because of Covid, Humanitas needed to think outside the box to keep the ministry functioning. We took a couple of weeks to organize to provide a telephone hotline, a specifically-designed website for aid applications, text/email for additional information, and distribution of vouchers/checks via the US mail. We were hoping that on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, the entire masked ministry team would be able to return to BUF to welcome people in need, in person, once more, but the increase in Covid infections, among those vaccinated as well as those unvaccinated, has postponed our in-person opening.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Whatcom Family and Community Network's (WFCN) community-wide showing of a documentary on suicide attempt survivors planned **for September 29th has been postponed, until further notice.** Therefore, they are not in need of a mental health professional for now.

Interfaith Coalition Representative

The role of Interfaith Coalition Representative is very important. It is the communications and connection to our Congregation about Interfaith Coalition and it's work. It is often about fundraising for Interfaith: promoting events, supporting their auction, helping with the coat drive, passing the word on volunteer opportunities, and reports to SEJC. Please contact Ann Stevenson. ann.v.stevenson@gmail.com

Volunteers Wanted as Livestreaming Continues

We have a strong (mostly volunteer) crew working each week to ensure that BUF services are accessible to all regardless of their location and mobility. We would be very grateful for more people to join us. Some of the work is technical and fast paced, but some is relatively straightforward and can be done in advance. Thorough training will be provided. Please contact minister@buf.org if you'd like to help.

BUF Caring Team (formerly Pastoral Care Team)

We need caring volunteers! Each of us will need support at some time and each of us can offer support. Training will be provided, expertise not required. You can designate what kind of assistance you wish to provide. Email caring@buf.org or call Steffany Raynes (206-465-6149) to volunteer.

Welcome Culture – Barbara Ellis-Quinn

As the new church year begins we will be working toward creating a congregation-wide culture of welcoming and hospitality. If you want to be a part of helping to strengthen BUF's welcoming culture please email me at Dr_E_Q@me.com. I will send you an invitation to create an account and join our hospitality group.

UPCOMING EVENTS / CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sep 26	1:00-2:00 pm	Social & Environmental Justice Business Meeting Contact Kara Black karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300
Sep 26	10:00-10:30 am	Childrens Religious Education resumes. Contact genia@buf.org for registration and zoom link.
Sep 29	6:00-7:00 pm	RE 5 th – 8 th . grade. Contact genia@buf.org for registration and zoom link
Sep 29	7:00-8:00 pm	RE 9 th -12 th . grade. Contact genia@buf.org for registration and zoom link.
Oct 4	6:00 – 7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters Monthly Business Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
Oct 17	9:00 am	Adult RE Articulating Your UU Faith – Contact Genia to register genia@buf.org
Oct 24	2:00-4:00 pm	MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Family Pumpkin Carving – More information coming soon!

Community Events and Happenings

On Friday September 11 an arsonist set fire to the Ukrainian Evangelical Church on Cornwall Ave. The building sustained heavy damage and will be expensive to repair. A Go-Fund-Me has been set up if you are able to assist.
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuild-the-ukrainian-evangelical-church-of-bham>

To cheer on and show our love to the local hospital workers who have been nonstop during this pandemic, musicians have begun signing up to play outside the employee entrance at shift changes. The hospital is exploring adding radiant heat to an existing gazebo for the musicians to stand under. We’ve now had three sets of musicians, and it’s gone very well for everyone so far. Ladies Loe cello duo, a classical violinist, the principal harpist for the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra and more. Let me know if you’d like to play. No wind instruments or voices . . . contact Flip Breskin: zeke@openaccess.org

A new play by BUF member and Sylvia Center for the Arts **Playwright-in-Residence Rosalind Reynolds. The Wing Maker" is** a magical riff on the early life of Ada Byron Lovelace, daughter of notorious poet Lord Byron, and the world's first computer programmer. All audience members must wear masks and show proof of vaccination to attend. For dates, details, and tickets, go to <https://sylviacenterforthearts.org/event/the-wingmaker/2021-09-16/>
 For those of you who would like to see The Wing Maker but prefer not to come in person, here is the link for tickets to the live-stream, which is happening this coming **Friday and Saturday, Sept. 24 and 25**. Cut-off for ticket sales to the live-stream is 6:30 pm on the day of, performances are at 7:30. <https://idiomtheater.thundertix.com/events/191013>
 For more info about the show, or tickets for the live performances, click here:
<https://sylviacenterforthearts.org/event/the-wingmaker/2021-09-16/>

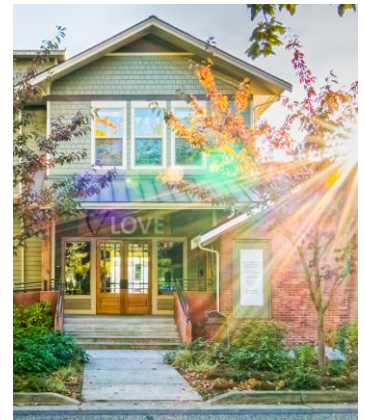
The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center (WPJC) will host “**Rad & Real: Turning Imagination into Action,**” Bellingham’s 18th annual International Day of Peace celebration, happening in-person (following COVID safety protocols) on **Sunday, September 19, 2021 2:00 – 7:00 pm**, at Maritime Heritage Park, followed by a virtual community event on **Tuesday, September 21 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** This year features the presentation of our annual Lifetime Peacemaker Award, a chance to meet and learn about various local organizations helping to imagine a compelling future, inspiring performances by local artists, and a keynote speech by Swinomish and Visayan elder Shelly Vendiola. Shelly Vendiola has served as an educator, facilitator, activist, and mediator for over 30 years and co-founded the Native Community Engagement and Peacemaking Project. Register early on-line with sliding scale donation at whatcompcj.org/idp2021. (con’

Greening with Integrity September 24 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. MOVED TO ZOOM - Register to Attend

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?zjs=1&zoom-join-params=ZltdUCoqD4tEtP3_xPsm-viV2APCOj8W5s4

Join the Multi-faith Network for Climate Justice as we host *Greening with Integrity*. In-Person & Live Streaming. Reverend Dr. Andrea Asebedo, Center for Spiritual Living - has led her congregation in lowering their carbon footprint. I imagine many others of you have taken similar steps; we would love to hear your stories as well, if you have. Please join Dr. Asebedo as she shares her story of love and grief with the Bellingham community, as part of the City's *ALL IN for Climate Action* week. In person and live stream available. <https://cob.org/services/environment/climate/all-in-for-climate-action/climate-action-week> <https://cob.org/event/greening-with-integrity-2021>

BUF's website is BUF.org. Contact us by email at admin@buf.org Phone 360-733-3837.. Sign up for our online newsletter, the Midweek Update at <https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/> Sign up for BUF News Digest at <https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/> (photo by Carol Sheppard Photography)



BUF Board of Trustees and Officers

Open, President - John Stewart, Secretary - Sky Hedman, Treasurer, ex officio, - Melissa E. Swift, Trustee - Daria Haynes, Trustee - Drew Betz, Vice President - Alex Gilman, Trustee - Sarah Pearson, Trustee - Lew Phinney, Trustee - Henry Ohana, Trustee - Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

Fall/Winter hours at BUF

Building closed for services, due to Covid-19
Small group meetings are being held, under Covid guidelines.

Office Hours: Mon - Friday 10am to 3pm
Minister's Schedule: Tues through Fri

How to submit content for the Mid Week Update:

Content must be received by 10:00 a.m. Monday before publication day. Please take a moment to read our guidelines for submitting content: Submit via email and include an attachment, Word document, single spaced, Georgia 12 font. Avoid any formatting, bullets, etc. Limit **200 words**. If you have an item for the calendar please put "Calendar" in the subject line of your email; if you are seeking Volunteers, please put "Volunteer" in the subject line. Submittals may be edited for space and clarity. Submit your content to MWU@buf.org You may still submit your "Surfing the Web for Music and Inspiration" as before. You will find selections sprinkled throughout the MWU. Happy Reading!