

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship ~ BUF.org

Community, Compassion, Commitment

September 8, 2021

Highlights –

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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

Last spring the BUF Board approved my proposal to go on sabbatical this coming winter. As part of a “larger cycle of seasons,” Unitarian Universalist ministers typically go on sabbatical approximately every five to seven years. The standard contract grants one month sabbatical leave for every year of service to the congregation. For a variety of reasons, I have not taken a sabbatical during my twenty-five years in ministry. Throughout this time colleagues have shared with me about their own sabbatical experiences and urged me to recognize it as an opportunity for the congregation as much as for myself.



Last month, the Board approved a contract with Rev Barbara ten Hove to provide ministerial services while I am on sabbatical. Barbara will be a familiar face; she has

sung in the choir, provided music this past year over Zoom, and led a number of Sunday services for us over the past few years. Having been on a couple of sabbaticals herself during her decades in ministry, she won't just be filling a gap; she'll be providing important insight both to me and to you, and helping us all to think about the nature of shared ministry in our living tradition—as ordained clergy in collaboration with all members of the congregation.

We'll all be learning more about this in the coming months, and thinking about what we may like to do differently—both during and after the sabbatical. This will be a time of continuity as Barbara leads many Sunday services and supports BUF staff and the pastoral care team. And it will be a time for new leaders to step forward, as her contract will be for approximately ten hours per week.

I will be on sabbatical from Christmas through Easter. I'll share more in the coming months about how I intend to use this time for study, reflection, and renewal. I'm deeply grateful to BUF for this opportunity, and

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anticipate that it will be a time of growth for each of you and for the congregation as a whole.

**Peace,
Paul**

The BUF Board of Trustees has decided to keep the building closed for large gatherings, including Sunday services, through the end of October. Sunday services will continue on Zoom during this time at the regular Zoom link.

The Board's **Covid Task Force** is developing a **survey to hear from you** what protocols would need to be in place in order for you to come to indoor Sunday services. You should be receiving the online survey by email within a week or so.

From the Board

Regrettably, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and accepts the resignation of Bharti Kirchner from the BUF Board of Trustees. The Board is thankful for Bharti's leadership and creativity, her service as Vice President and President, and her stewardship of BUF. The Board is enlisting the services of an outside consultant and will be working on models of collaborative and improved governance throughout this year. The Board is opting to not fill the open Board position at the present time.

Upcoming Sunday – Outdoor Service @ BUF

For September 12th (we have not made plans beyond this) we'll be meeting outdoors in front of BUF. We'll keep the parking lot open so that people can spread out, so please plan to park in the school, or the bank, which are on either side of us on Ellsworth Street. Please bring your own chair.



Sunday Services in September

All services will be live-streamed on Zoom

Sept 12 Outdoors! Water Communion, please bring a bit of water representing a recent experience, insight, or event. During the Water Communion each of us will have an opportunity to comingle our waters in a common bowl to represent our interdependence and connection with the natural cycles of earth and sky. Prefer to keep your distance? Come early to bring your water. The communion bowl will be out at 9 am so you can spend a few minutes ...

Sept 19 Via Zoom – To Be Announced

A Piece of Web Surfing

Apologies to RuthAnn Hanlin; the selections she submitted previously couldn't be opened. Here they are again.

Just for Laughs - Submitted by RuthAnn Hanlin
Stairs vs escalator

<https://youtu.be/lpgtUAjitEw>

Inspiration – Playing with the Moon

<https://youtu.be/Nt7msefHQno>

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**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. 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.

The 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



We will continue to grow, change and adapt these offerings as needed over the course of the fall and reassess at the end of October. Please register with Genia to receive the zoom link for these programs. If you have any questions about this or are new and want to receive the zoom link don’t hesitate to contact me. genia@buf.org

YRUU

We invite all 9th- 12th graders to join us for our fall kick off, this Sunday, **September 12**, from 4:00 - 5:30 in Fouts’ Park (kitty corner from BUF). There will be pizza, games and time to check in with each other as well as do some planning for future meetings. Feel free to contribute a snack or something sweet if you wish. As usual our BUF COVID protocols will be followed.

Family Picnic

While the weather is warm, we want to offer time for families with children to meet and gather safely, outdoors. On Sunday, **September 19th** we’ll have a family picnic, with families bringing their own food, from 12:00 to 1:30. Parents will have an opportunity to meet other parents and relax, while our RE crew leads the children in games and fun art projects. The location is yet to be determined and will be posted in the MWU and an email to RE families.

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. Later in September we will be offering some adult RE classes – stay tuned!

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BUF Choir Rehearsals Resume Sept 8 – Where the Spirit Sings

Kevin Allen-Schmid, BUF Music Director kevin@buf.org

The Covid Task Force gave Kevin Allen-Schmid the go-ahead to begin Fall Choir rehearsals in the sanctuary. Conditions for those participating are a) you must be fully vaccinated and b) all choir participants and accompanists will wear masks (per state mandate). While in both indoor and outdoor rehearsals or performances, individual singers may choose to sit or stand at whatever distance from the others is comfortable for them. When and how choirs may resume performing for indoor or outdoor services will be announced as the year unfolds.



Our coming season will be called “**Where the Spirit Sings,**” and our ultimate aim is to nurture and share our spiritual wellbeing through singing and playing *in person* in the 2021-2022 fellowship year.

Chalice Choir, open to all singers, will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 6:45-8pm, in person, in the BUF sanctuary, starting on **September 8**. The auditioned Phoenix Ensemble will rehearse from 8:15 to 9pm. Information about Treble Voices will be announced soon. Special music offerings of all kinds are welcome throughout the year, both in video and live format. No Zoom choir rehearsals are planned at this time.

I so look forward to our coming year of singing and playing together, in full voice and spirit! Please contact me with any questions or suggestions. kevin@buf.org

Intro to Anti-Racism Facilitated Workshop September/October 2021

Sign Up NOW – Naomi Gary naomiwwgary@gmail.com

WHAT: BUF & UU Blaine and Mt Vernon joined forces to create this exciting opportunity to move us all towards a more inclusive, anti-racist, multicultural transformed society. Facilitated by Courtney Wooten, an experienced anti-racism trainer and owner of Suburbia Rising. <https://www.suburbiarising.com>. Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalist Growth Foundation supplied a grant to cover most of the cost.

WHO: With 30 openings, this is for ANYONE from all three UU fellowships, not just members of Black Lives Matter or Widening the Circle.

WHEN: Via Zoom, on three Saturday mornings, 9/25, 10/2, & 10/9. Each workshop will last 2-3 hrs. Plan to attend all 3 sessions.

COST: \$50 per person. Scholarships available. If you can't attend but want to support this workshop let us know!

Interested? Have Questions? Email Naomi Gary naomiwwgary@gmail.com Deadline is 9/18/21

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Social & Environmental Justice (SEJC) - PLEASE JOIN US

The SEJC Program Meeting is **Sunday, Sept 12th, at 1 pm** on zoom. This meeting will include updates from all the SEJC Ministry Action Teams, and will include time for introduction and questions from newcomers.

The SEJC Business Meeting (regularly attending this tri-annual meeting is what makes any congregant a member of SEJC) will be on **Sunday Sept 26th** at 1 pm, also on zoom.

Please send Kara your e-mail address in advance if you would like to receive the agenda and written team reports prior to the meetings. Thank you for your support and

participation! :) Kara Black

karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300

SEJC Mission

We affirm and promote peace, justice, and equality through action, education and raising awareness within our BUF community and the wider world.

Zoom link for both meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/93479662886>

+12532158782,,93479662886#,,,,*701242# US
(Tacoma)

+13462487799,,93479662886#,,,,*701242# US
(Houston)

A Piece of Web Surfing

INSPIRATION – Submitted by Jayme Curly

Five Hebrew Love Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zutd7L3u2wE>

A Piece of Web Surfing

INSPIRATION – Submitted by Barbara Gilday

Heal The World, Children Around the World cover of Michael Jackson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6d6Yo3DwVI>

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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. We will describe more of our journey at the **BUF Special Collection for the Humanitas Ministry on Sunday, September 19, 2021.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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. Some work on site

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Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

at BUF, others far away. It's a rewarding opportunity to assist in BUF outreach from behind the scenes. To keep these volunteers' schedules manageable, 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. In all cases, 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.

We are changing the name to **BUF's Caring Team** in order to clarify our mission and serve more members and friends. Collaborating with our Minister, the team works to provide a ministry of support, hope and caring so that no one in the congregation feels alone in difficult times. Our main areas of service include: a) providing a listening presence: one to one conversations - in person, on the phone, and/or on zoom/FT. (examples: personal support in time of loss or times of family, health, or spiritual crisis) b) responding to needs: short term assistance (examples: meals during illness or during recovery after surgery, assistance finding community resources). c) organizing memorial service receptions. Email caring@buf.org or call Steffany Raynes (206-465-6149) to respond to this invitation.

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. We want everyone to join this effort. Please join us by registering for the Sunday Hospitality Sign-up Genius volunteer list. If you are already registered you don't need to do anything. However, 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.

Volunteers Appreciated – Workers and Painters Needed

We are **currently seeking volunteers to help paint** the conference room. As with any facility, there are also ongoing tasks like tidying and organizing storage areas. There are many other opportunities and projects that volunteers can help. E-mail Jim Reimer at jd.reimer@comcast.net for more information.

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UPCOMING EVENTS / CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sep 8	6:45 - 8:00 pm	BUF Chalice Choir Rehearsal – BUF Sanctuary – Masks and Full Vaccine Mandatory
Sep 8	8:15 pm- 9:00 pm	BUF Phoenix Ensemble Rehearsal – BUF Sanctuary – Masks and Full Vaccine Mandatory
Sep 12	1:00 - 2:00 pm	Social & Environmental Justice Program Meeting Contact Kara Black karab@treefrognight.com 360-676-2300
Sep 12	4:00- 5:30 pm	YRUU Kick Off – Fouts Park – Contact genia@buf.org for details
Sep 13 NEW DATE	6:00 – 7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters Monthly Business Meeting Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504
Sep 19	12:00- 1:30 pm	Family Picnic (Location to be announced) Contact genia@buf.org for details
Sep 20	7:00 pm	BUF Black Lives Matters – Program Meeting https://zoom.us/j/96292952504
Sep 25	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (3 parts) Contact Naomi Gary for questions or to register naomiwwgary@gmail.com Deadline is 9/18/21
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- 7:00p.m.	RE 5 th – 8 th . grade. Contact genia@buf.org for registration and zoom link
Sep 29	7:00- 8:00pm	RE 9 th -12 th . grade. Contact genia@buf.org for registration and zoom link.
Oct 2	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (Part 2)
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 9	Morning	Anti-Racism Training (Part 3)

Women’s Full Moon Circle – UPDATE



Several women of BUF had planned to host an, outdoor gathering on September 20 for female-identified members and friends of BUF. This event is being postponed until a later date. Instead, we are turning our work inward to explore more deeply being women connected to and supporting each other. We are sinking roots into the fertile soil of the feminine right now, to grow something rich in the future. If anyone who identifies as female at BUF is intrigued by what we are doing, you are welcome to contact Lisa Moss at lmossprivatecare@gmail.com to learn more.

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Lisa Moss, Steffany Raynes, Anastacia Lundholm, Rev. Tessie Mandeville, and Carrie Koehline want to honor any disappointment you feel about this cancellation. We also encourage you to create your own safe celebration of the Full Harvest Moon and the Fall Equinox. The full moon rises at 7:35pm, September 20th. The Fall Equinox is September 22.

Community Events

From Kabul to Bellingham – Whatcom Refugee Project (Becoming a Welcoming Community)

A free webinar (registration required) coming up on **Wednesday, Sept 8th from 7:00-8:00 PM**. We've put this together on short notice, as questions have been pouring in from the community asking about ways to support Afghan refugees. Feel free to forward this on to friends or colleagues who might be interested. **Wednesday, September 8th from 7:00-8:00 PM PST**. When will Afghan refugees be arriving in Whatcom County, and how can we help? This question has been at the heart of many emails and phone calls we've received over the past couple of weeks. While the answers are still somewhat unclear, we would like to update you on the progress of our refugee project and give you the chance to hear directly from an Afghan who immigrated to the U.S. several years ago. Join us as we hear his story, and learn of ways we can prepare as individuals and a community to welcome these potential new neighbors to our community. [REGISTER AT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

A new play by BUF member and Sylvia Center for the Arts Playwright-in-Residence Rosalind Reynolds opens **Sept. 16** -- to a (vaccinated) live audience! **"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. Hopefully there will be a livestream option as well, for those who prefer not to attend in person (details TBA). For dates, details, and tickets, go to <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 whatcompjc.org/idp2021.

Greening with Integrity September 24 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Center for Spiritual Living 2224 Yew St. Road. 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>

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BUF Mission

We the members of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF) are a liberal religious community which values the diversity of individuals and affirms Unitarian Universalist principles. As a community we aspire to provide a creative and nurturing environment where social, spiritual and personal development are encouraged and acknowledged. Therefore, we celebrate in ritual, music, art literature and humor; and we endeavor to teach, to learn, and to serve both our community and the world.



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

Spring Office Hours at BUF

Building Closed till further notice due to Covid-19 Emergency

Phone messages and emails checked regularly

Minister's Schedule
Tuesday through Friday