

BUF Board of Trustees Meeting (in person and via Zoom)

February 23, 2023

Attendees: Murray Bennett, Drew Betz, Daria Haynes (President), Alex Gilman (Vice President), Sarah Pearson, Lew Phinney, Jim Reimer, John Stewart (Secretary), Paul Beckel (Ex-Officio).

VZ= Visa Zoom

Not Present (Excused): Henry Ohana

Other participants: Sky Hedman, Treasurer (VZ).

Minutes by John Stewart, Secretary.

Chalice lighting 7:03 pm; Paul/Alex

Agenda Review/Changes:
None

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of minutes: Minutes from the 1/26/2023 meeting were approved by email on 1/13/2023
- Treasurers Report (report appended)
- Minister's Report (report appended)
- Community Beyond BUF Report (report appended)

Drew moved and John seconded that the minutes from the 1/26/2023 meeting be approved and that items on the Consent Agenda be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

Auction Recap: Sarah

- The committee held a debrief meeting (report will be provided to the Board) about what went well and what didn't.
- Auction was a success: gross revenue was \$17,700 and expenses were within budget.
- An additional \$9,620 from the paddle call for new chairs was raised plus a \$5,000 matching grant
- Date being set for the auction for 2024 (February 3 or February 10)
- Would like a Board goal for the auction.
- Several of the events from the auction still have openings and signups will continue to be available for the next few weeks.

Board Cruise: Sarah

- There are still openings for the cruise.
- Once the number of "auction bidders" is determined, we will finalize the plans.
- At the March Board meeting, board members will be asked how many tickets total you want to purchase for yourself and partners/friends, in addition to the "extra" tickets you agreed to donate to the auction. Sarah will let you know your total amount due (\$45 per ticket), collect the money, and purchase the tickets for

the wine cruise on Thursday, Aug 3 (setting aside 2 tickets for current or future board members, as agreed).

Security System Status & Policy: Paul

- A request from Ellie for an update.
- Project to complete security protocols
 - Sarah will help after leaving Board
- New Security System
 - System is armed overnight
 - Need to complete protocols about who responds
 - Still need training from vendor
 - Motion detection has still not been delivered
 - Still a concern about how to delegate authority with enough flexibility for other users, however, it has not been a problem yet.

Ministers Evaluation: Paul

- Senior Minister Evaluation Committee to be appointed every July
- Process was discussed
- Drew, Daria and Alex will meet with Paul

UUA Article 2 Summary: Sarah

- Sarah attended a UUA Board Open House (online)
- Process of replacing/amending the current Article 2 of UUA Bylaws was discussed.
- Article 2 process has again made it clear that the bylaws desperately need re-writing. After the Article 2 process has concluded, the next UUA Board project will be the bylaws"
- There is a draft Article 2 revision to the UUA Bylaws proposed
- Amendments can be proposed April through June
- Paul will devote the Feb 26 Service to a discussion of Article 2
- There will be potluck lunch and discussion of Article 2 on March 5
- Board members urged to read the full text of the draft Article 2 changes.
- Lew offered further discussion of Article 2

Volunteers: Sarah

- Discussed strategies for increasing volunteers for core work of BUF like office help, buildings and grounds, technical/computer, Board, etc.
- Chalice circles may be good way to inspire people to take small, medium, large jobs.

Calendaring:

- May 6, Congregational Retreat at Hovander Park

Next Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Summary of Action Items:

- Drew moved and John seconded that the minutes from the 1/26/2023 meeting be approved and that items on the Consent Agenda be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.
- Drew, Daria and Alex will meet with Paul on the Minister's Evaluation process

Attachments: (below)

- Treasurer's Report
- Minister's Report
- Community Beyond BUF Report

Monthly Treasurer's Summary Report to the BUF Board of Trustees
January 2022 Financials (58% of the fiscal year)
Prepared for the February 23, 2023 Board Meeting

Overview of current and projected status:

1. Month of January, 2022:

- a. Pledge income was \$29,864, 142% of budgeted amount for the month.
- b. BUF received \$2,305 in rent for January, 2022.
- c. Net Ordinary Income (Profit – Expense) is \$12,214 for the month of January.

2. Year to date (July, 2022– January, 2022)

- a. Year to date financial report attached does not include comparisons to budget. Due to administrative overload, including the upgrade to QuickBooks Online and the Auction activity, this report is preliminary.
- b. Pledge income is 103% of the amount budgeted for this point in the fiscal year.
- c. Net Operating Income (Profit – Expense) is **\$21,858** year to date (July-January), which is 117% of budget for this point of the fiscal year.

3. Cash on Hand for January, 2022:

- a. The Cash on Hand for **January** 2022 is -\$3,295.
- b. BUF's budget for 2022-2023 included monthly withdrawal from the Emergency Operating Reserves to cover operating expenses.
 - i. To date, these monthly withdrawals have not been implemented.
 - ii. The YTD amount that was budgeted but has not been transferred is \$14,514.
- c. Some capital expenses have been covered through the operating budget instead of using Building & Maintenance Reserves.

4. Reserves

- a. Building Repair & Maintenance Reserve: \$47,664
- b. Emergency Operating Reserve: \$73,135
- c. Sabbatical Reserve: \$7,575

Income and Expense	<i>Year-to-date</i>	<i>% of budget to date</i>
<i>Pledge Income</i>	\$ 194,862	103%
<i>Total Donations</i>	\$ 224,525	104%
<i>Fundraising Income</i>	\$ 9,448	100%
<i>Rental Income</i>	\$ 13,886	75%
Total Income Year to Date	\$ 280,399	120%
Total Expenses Year to Date	\$ 258,541	120%
<u>YTD Op. Income</u> minus Expense	\$ 21,858	117%

Cash on Hand

	This month	% Change	Prior month	Prior month
Checking balance	\$ 43,271	138%	\$ 18,214	\$ 11,349
Cash assets under Board control	\$209,914	13%	\$ 185,536	\$ 175,152
Cash on Hand	-\$ 3,295	74%	-\$ 12,786	-\$ 21,668

Funds Activity Report

Funds Activity	This month	Prior month
Total Restricted Investment Funds	\$ 55,228	\$ 55,228
Total Restricted Bank Account Funds	\$ 136,284	\$ 136,485
Total Designated Program Funds	\$ 75,839	\$ 63,265
Total in all funds	\$ 258,986	\$ 254,978

Fundraising Summary

Fundraising Event	Income YTD	Income Goal for year	% of Goal
Dinner Auction/Gala	\$ 296	\$ 20,000	.15%
Other Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	-%
Pandemic Grants & Income	\$ 7,712	\$ 0	100%
Total Fundraising	\$ 8,008	\$ 20,000	27%

Members of the Financial Oversight Committee are Sky Hedman (Treasurer), John Stewart, Frank McDonald (Assistant Treasurer), Brian Quick, Cathy Campbell, Sue Sayegh, Lew Phinney and Sharon McCarty..

Treasurer's Summary Reports and selected Financial Reports generated by Administrator are placed Administrator in BUF Workroom.

Cash On Hand reports:

Assets that are available to Board under normal operating conditions: Checking, Savings, and Accounts Receivable. (It does not include Endowment, Humanitas, A. Herrmann Social Justice Account.)

Equity that is subtracted from Assets are those that are not available under normal operating conditions: Restricted Funds and Designated Program Funds. Liabilities are adjusted to include only one month of the Principal payment for the mortgage.

Financial Reports attached:

Monthly I&E Comparison

Cash on Hand Report

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

I&E YTD Annual Budget Comparison

Treasurer's Report

1. **Congregational Input on the Budget:** we had good attendance at the meeting held during the potluck lunch on Sunday, February 5. People did some brainstorming in small groups at their tables and then were invited to speak to the larger group with recommendations. Members of the Operations Team and Board were there to listen. Daria took notes and shared them with the Board.

We have had meetings like this in the late winter for at least eight years (before the Budgeting Timeline came to be). This year's meeting had by far the largest participation. However, it feels somewhat unsatisfying to hold this meeting after the Board has already decided on its budget priorities. On the other hand, it's great (and more important) to have the Board start talking about its priorities in the late fall.

Bottom line: I think we should eliminate this event from the budgeting timeline (especially since the timeline has the Operations Team holding another session every March so the congregation can respond to the first actual budget draft.

2. **A new member ceremony** will be held on March 19 with at least seven new members (three more have expressed interest).
3. **Bias Response:** The Healthy Relationships Team has had a process of responding to internal interpersonal concerns for several years. Regrettably it's been barely visible. This fall the Operations Team—in an effort to make BUF systems more anti-racist/anti-oppressive—asked the Healthy Relationships Team to integrate a “Bias Event” response into the existing process. The Healthy Relationships Team has done so. It should be accessible through buf.org soon. At that point we'll mention it in a Sunday service, and the MWU, to create more visibility.

The process will be that concerns involving perceived discrimination or bias based on race or other personal characteristics will be routed—rather than thru the Healthy Relationships Team—to an ad hoc team including one person from the Operations Team, one person from the Healthy Relationships Team, and one more person not involved in the situation.

4. **Congregational Retreat:** The Board Task Force charged with preparing the ground for a retreat (Hank, Sarah, Genia, me) has chosen May six for a day-long event primary focused on relationship building. Hank has reserved space at Hovander Park. We also have preliminary plans for an overnight retreat in the fall. At this point we need new volunteers to organize activities, food, and publicity.



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment



Reports of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community Beyond BUF (CByB) and Social and Environmental Justice Committee (SEJC)

**September 2022 -
January 2023**

*Compiled and submitted by:
Deb Cruz, SEJC Ministry Action Team Lead and
Community Beyond BUF Council Lead*

Social and Environmental Justice Committee Team Report

January 2023

These reports were compiled initially for the SEJC Program/Business Meeting of January 23, 2022. They are predominantly reports from the Ministry Action Teams and Projects, but also contain reports from beyond SEJC to include the other justice-oriented teams under the Community Beyond BUF Council.

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Team Reports

Introduction to PNW PLATEFUL

*Nourishing our vulnerable community,
one plate-full at a time.*

Meet Sarah Chan, who has been bringing her grandmother's mouth-watering recipes, spices, and flavors from Trinidad to Whatcom County through her business, Calypso Kitchen. As of this month, she and a highly energized board of directors have launched a related non-profit, **PNW Plateful**.

With the heart and soul of a community angel, and the mindset of a social entrepreneur, Sarah instinctively reaches out and connects with those in need. Her passion revolves around helping people and teaching them to help themselves, through good and good-for-you food and cooking.



For the past three years, Sarah shopped for, prepared, and delivered a minimum of 250 meals each week for homeless and hungry families in our community. She teams up with local organizations like Northwest Youth Services, YWCA, and the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters, among others. She has done this without a cadre of volunteers and without any compensation for food or supplies. Her phone continues to ring with more and more requests.

A few like-minded individuals are lending their skills to fully develop a 501 (C) 3 organization and raise the resources Sarah needs to sustain - and grow - her community work. PNW Plateful initial goals are to:

- double the meals for the homeless and hungry,
- create a volunteer service network for preparation and delivery of food, and
- set up cooking classes for in-need and homeless teens and adults on how to use available food and make it delicious and nutritious.

Sarah has taught cooking classes to those who obtain supplies from area food banks and community gardens. She envisions working with school districts and partnering with non-profits to bring skills as well as food to those who need it most and setting up templates so that others can multiply these efforts and successful outcomes.

PNW Plateful is now receiving donations via the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF), which is acting as fiscal sponsor. BUF will accept tax-deductible donations and administer those funds on behalf of PNW Plateful.

This month Sarah is seeking financial assistance to provide holiday meals – meals that you would be proud to serve your own family – to the homeless, to local area flood victims, to those whose lives have been impacted by the pandemic, and to others who need a hand.

You can help by going online to <https://wp.buf.org/administration-overview/donate/>, selecting “Special Collections,” and writing in the note section that it is directed for the PNW Plateful, OR by writing a check to **Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, memo for PNW Plateful**, and sending to 1207 Ellsworth St, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Thank you for considering how you can make a positive difference for thousands of homeless and hungry people in our community.

Social and Environmental Justice Committee Team Report

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For questions or further information please contact
Stephanie Bowers, Board Chair, PNW Plateful
Stephaniebowers830@gmail.com

Black Lives Matter

We hold three meetings every month. The first is a “business meeting” to plan the Guest Speaker Program and Discussion/Book Review meetings. We make room for any topical issues and concerns during all of our meetings. About 5-10 people regularly attend business meetings. More people attend the program meetings.

We’ve had some great guest speakers! For example, Joy Gilfilen spoke in November. Facilitated by Mel Hoover, they discussed the latest on Restorative Justice in Whatcom County.

All meetings are currently held over Zoom on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays at 7pm.

We no longer select Anti-racism speakers for the Sunday Services. That is now done during the monthly Covenant of Beloved Community Forum held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7pm via Zoom. There is room for improvement in attendance at the CBC Forum.

Other actions:

- Participated in Covenant of Beloved Community monthly meetings
- Held a BLM Memorial Bench Dedication Event on Nov. 6th at Fouts Park
- Participation in Juneteenth Celebrations
- Participation in MLK Day Events
- George Floyd Memorial on 5/25
- Active in Voting Rights
- 2023 Theme will be Restorative Justice



Co-Facilitators:
David Curley: dlcurley1945@gmail.com

Naomi Gary: naomiwwwgary@gmail.com
Rupert Ayton: rupertayton@yahoo.com

Environmental Justice

Multifaith Network for Climate Justice.

BUF’s environmental justice work has been predominantly been conducted through its participation in the Multifaith Network for Climate Justice (MNCJ). MNCJ’s program since September 2022 are below. Upcoming presentations and recordings of past meetings can be found here at <https://earthministry.org/past-mncj-events/>. MNCJ meets on the 4th Sunday of the month either on Zoom or BUF’s social hall. All are welcome to attend.

- September 2022: Bellingham All in for Climate. MNCJ worked with Ragfinery on presenting the Net of Interconnection as part of the kickoff event.
- October 2022: Presentation by Jason Brown, PhD entitled: “Cultivating Placefulness: Why We Need a Contemplative Ecology in Troubled Times.” Also held a leadership team retreat.
- November 2022: Presentation by Susan Kane-Ronning, PhD “Healing Gaia”
- December 2022: No meeting – holidays
- January 2023: Evolution of MNCJ: Where do we go from here?
- February 2023: Environmental justice legislative update with Earth Ministry

Social and Environmental Justice Committee Team Report

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Earth Advocacy Partners.

Deb attends monthly meetings with Earth Ministry (<https://earthministry.org>) and other faith representatives to keep up-to-date on WA State environmental legislation and other activities. Legislative priorities have been established: <https://earthministry.org/advocacy/2023-legislative-priorities/>. A lot of attention will be focused on the breaching of the Snake River dam.



Snake River Dams.

A lot of focus is now being directed at the Washington State Legislature. Energy, Agriculture and Transportation will be the focus since both Gov. Inslee and Sen. Murray stated the breaching of the dams should not occur until there is a plan in place to mitigate these impacts. Legislation and capital budget activities are critical to addressing these impacts to move forward.

A call has gone out to see if we can attract some more members to help with revitalizing BUF's group. We have had a few responses, but would like to see some more!

Convener: Deb Cruz, dwacruz@comcast.net

Family Promise



The BUF Family Promise Team delivered another set of meal kits to four Family Promise families both in Bellingham and Ferndale on October 20th. Thanks to our regular volunteers. We have another meal kit delivery scheduled on January 30th with 4 regular volunteers already signed up. (Judy Fruhbauer, Murray Bennet, Carol Smith, Claire Lending, Jana Williams) The kits are now only delivered on Mondays going forward into 2023. We are always in need of other volunteers both to assemble meal kits and deliver.

Convener: Ann Stevenson, Volunteer Coordinator, ann.v.stevenson@gmail.com

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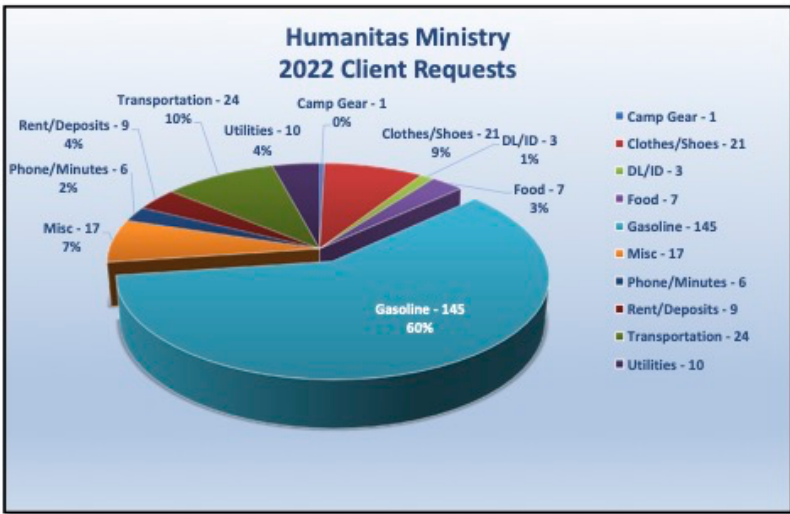
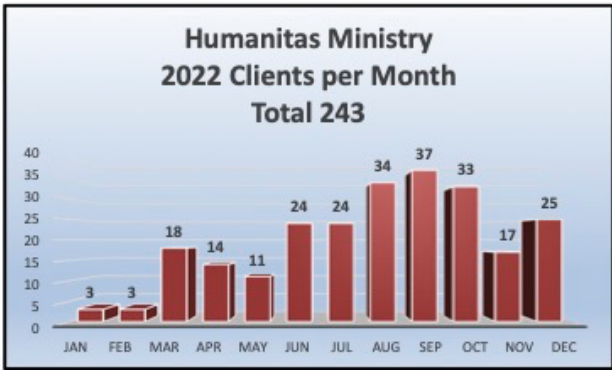
Humanitas

Humanitas Ministry

2022 Report

Humanitas was able to assist 243 people in 2022, slightly higher than the 235 we helped in 2021. The first two months of the year we operated remotely via a dedicated web site and phone line, but in March we were able to reopen our doors to in-person interviews.

As gas prices rose over the year, so did requests for gas vouchers. Gasoline accounted for 60% of our total requests for the year, up from 49% last year. Most came from families trying to make ends meet or people living in their cars. Other requests were at levels similar to last year.



Convener: Stephanie Bowden, stephanie.bowden@comcast.net

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Immigration Rights



The latest on the proposed Immigrant Resource Center (IRC) after the City council passed a motion to create and fund the IRC, the mayor recommended the hiring of a consultant to specify the Immigrant resource center. A Request for Quote is being drafted.

Immigration Advisory Board

"The Road Is Long - Community Organizing for a City-Funded Immigrant Resource Center" was the title of a session several IAB members gave at the MLK Conference on Jan 14th. Despite setbacks, the IAB continues to pursue creation of the IRC. **City Council voted against funding a resource center and voted instead to empower the Mayor's Office to produce a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** to seek an impartial outside expert to verify what the community has already presented.

There is no actual dollar amount attached to that contract but the mayor estimated it would cost between \$70-100k, which he is confident that city council will approve as a budget revision when the RFQ is written. It will be written by City Administrator Brian Heinrich. The IAB met with Brian and gave input on the criteria/qualifications that they recommend be included in the RFQ. A draft RFQ is expected at the end of January.

Please continue to write to the Mayor and Council to support a fully-funded IRC. IAB members think it will always be important for the IAB and community allies to show support for an IRC informed and run by impacted immigrants. You can get more info on the IAB here: <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board>

Convener: Mike Betz, mwbetz@comcast.net

Interfaith Coalition

Interfaith Coalition (IFC) as an institution of support for the community's needy people had made significant contributions in the year 2022. Notable figures are given below, from their Annual Report, which reflect the contributions made by community members in cash and kind.

Housing: Families - 20 Children - 51 Individuals – 28

Volunteers - 570 hours - 7,993 **Worth** of time and help given: \$239,390

Holiday gifts received: No. of families - 74 children - 134

Winter coats drive: 1400 distributed **Funds raised** (auction incl.): \$121,574

BUF's Contribution of item to the IFC Hope auction: \$280 worth.

BUF had a special collection for IFC on Christmas Eve.

CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) Program continues to be supported by BUF volunteers. Also, knitters have donated scarves and hats. Donations are needed for the program, as it does not receive any funds from IFC. Checks can be made to Interfaith Coalition, with CAST mentioned on the memo line, and mailed to IFC, P.O. Box 30767, Bellingham WA 98228.

Convener: Ann Stevenson, ann.v.stevenson@gmail.com

Social and Environmental Justice Committee Team Report

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Interweave (LGBTQAI+)

This group is inactive and needs leadership to revive it.

Native American Connections Committee (NACC)

From Beth Brownfield.

PROMOTED THROUGH Intersectional Native Events Chimp Mail that goes out to more than 700 individuals monthly

SEPTEMBER 2022

- **Saturday, Sept. 3,** Traditional and contemporary arts, and crafts Lummi Artists on Lummi Island,
- **Saturday, Sept. 3:** Promoted Quaker "Toward Right Relationship" course: "Toots of Injustice, Seeds of Change".
- **Sept. 12-16:** Encouraged attendance of open House and a 5-day Immersion, 10 am - 4:00 pm Deep Dive into Restorative Justice Community's goal: "Consciously Collaborating to Build a Community and Crisis Resilience Strategy"
- **Sept. 14:** Totem Pole Blessing, Port of Bellingham, Granary Ave
- **Sept. 14-30:** Detailed Schedule of Totem Pole Journey to the Clean Energy Justice Convergence in Pittsburg, PA (Sept 21-23)
- **Call for contributions** to help Jewell James upgrade his Carving Studio
- Fundraiser "Bring Tokitae Home": Blanket Project

OCTOBER 2022

- **October 10:** promoted Indigenous Peoples' Day, Whatcom Community College, Syre Auditorium, with speakers, meal, ceremony, and this showing of the film "Daughter of a Lost Bird"
- **October 20:** Promote "Towards Right Relationship" "The Indian Boarding Schools and Multigenerational Trauma"
- Promoted previously recorded presentations sponsored by Pendle Hill "Land acknowledgement as a First Step toward Right Relationship with the Land and it's Peoples"
- Encouraged subscribers to learn about the Indian Child Welfare Act coming before the U.S. Supreme Court.

NOVEMBER

- **November 25,** Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship: Native American Heritage Day Event, Cindy Minkler (Oglala Sioux Nation-Lakota), J.P. Falcon Grady, Piikani (Blackfeet Nation), and Lummi Nation Elder, Cynthia Wilson. Coordinated this event sponsored by SEJC and NACC. Big crowd and \$950 in donations.

DECEMBER

- **Dec. 11 & 19-23 Lummi Holiday Bazaars**
- **Promoted** a list of programs for end of year donations that support Indigenous Issues and Work: Towards Right Relationship with Native People; Salmon People Project by Children of the Setting Sun Productions; National Native American Boarding School; National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition; Native Land Conservancy, the Language Conservancy; Indigenous Environmental Network, Indigenous Law Institute; American Indian College Fund; Native American Rights Fund; Indigenous Media Organizations: Indian country Today, Native News Online, Indianz.com
- **Dec 26:** Education piece on "A Story to Know and Understand" The public execution of 38 Dakota Indians by federal authorities in Mankato, Minn., on Dec. 26, 1862. Approximately 4,000 people came to witness the event.



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JANUARY

- **Sun. Jan. 8:** First official Native American Connections Committee's Anti-Racism Moment. Insert in Order of Service on Doctrine of Discovery and Cultural and Historical Trauma and its effects. Message was a guided journey "What would WE do if five-years-from-now the AMERICAN culture was suddenly subdued by another culture that believed theirs was the superior way of living? (This is being scheduled the 2nd Sunday of every month for NACC). Jewell James came to Coffee Hour and guided us through his 12-foot-long timeline of the Doctrine of Discovery. THANK YOU TO SEJC FOR \$200 to laminate the chart and pay Jewell an honorarium.
- **Jan. 12-14:** Promoted Human Rights Task Force's 2023 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Human Rights Conference.
- **Jan. 15:** Promoting MLK Jr Day 2023 Celebration, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship. This was started by Karl Meyers of the Community Food Coop for 3 previous years. This year he is doing it alone with Naomi Gary as the BUF liaison through BLM and SEJC
- **Jan. 20-21, Pickford Theatre:** Promoting "Treaty Days Film Festival" Children of the Setting Sun Productions. Two days of films showcasing the resilience of Indigenous peoples in honor of the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855 between the Lummi Nation & the U.S.

Meetings or Conversations With

- **Swil Kanim** and his current work and plans. He's willing to do next year's Native American Heritage Day Celebration at BUF, Nov 25, 2024.
- Lunch with **Freddy Lane** about this past summer's Totem Pole Journeys, and his plans to give presentations on these on the purpose and importance of these journeys.
- Conversations with **Shirley Williams** on the work she is doing with White Swan Environmental
- Conversations with **Lisa Spicer**, film maker who started working on a film with Cha Das Ska Dum, Jewell James, and Kurt Russo in 1990, during the time when they were doing the international outreach with other indigenous peoples. She is currently working with Shirley Williams
- Conversations with **Paul Magid:** Doctrine of Discovery classes, project: canoe to be placed at top of Mt Constitution to honor Lhaq'te'mish creation story; Chautauqua; Port Townsend summer Chautauqua.
- **Candace Wellman**, author of a series of books on white settlers that married Indigenous women.
- Frequent conversations with **Marilyn Mayers** (East Shore UU), **Gary Piazzon** (Coupeville UU), **Jo Blair** (Port Townsend) Native American Connections, **Doug Mackey**, Olympia Right Relations
- AND DEB, DEB, DEB (I can't keep up with her!)



From Deb Cruz.

Forestry Forums. Work continues with Kurt Russo of Se'Si'Le (<https://se-si-le.org>), Elizabeth Dunne of Earth Law Center (<https://www.earthlawcenter.org>) and Paulette Jordan of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on a series of statewide forestry forums between now and Fall 2023. There was a slight delay because of hosting the International Indigenous Salmon Seas Celebration and Honoring on October 27-31, 2022.

Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities (INIC, <https://fanwa.org/our-network/inic/>). Deb attends bimonthly meetings with other faith communities across the state to discuss and share activities within our Indigenous communities.

Whatcom Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities. At the request of several members of the Interfaith Community, we held a meeting on January 12, 2023 to form an interfaith indigenous community group. This group will engage in activities to educate and inform their communities as well as participate in ways to uphold our indigenous communities.

Social and Environmental Justice Committee Team Report

January 2023

Chief's Totem Pole Journey and

Sovereignty Run. On February 2, 2023, there will be a presentation by Lummi House of Tears Carvers around the Chief's Totem Pole Journey to Pittsburg, PA and then across the U.S. as part of the National Congress of American Indians' Sovereignty Run. See the amazing photos and hear the stories of this Journey! This presentation will be going on tour to other UU congregations and other community groups throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Repatriation of Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut and

Toki TV. Continue to provide tech support in a regularly livestreamed program series (Toki TV) centering the story of Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut and providing updates on the efforts to return her to the Salish Sea. Every Sunday at 1:00 pm. You can view previous episodes and future ones here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/529407417240057> or here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCor-MLe7Lh-jIQ-thWsyFwg/videos>.

- December 13, 2022 a "Day of Listening" held with Miami Sequarium owners, staff, veterinarians, and federal agency representatives and Tokitae activists. Eduardo Albor, current CEO of Miami Seaquarium stated he would consider returning Tokitae to the PNW if agency approvals are granted and vet reports support the move. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc3tvVAn19I>) (there is about a 7-minute pause before the video starts)
- Ken Balcomb, founder of the Center for Whale Research, passed away on December 15, 2022. He and his brother, Howard Garrett (Orca Network) have been long-time advocates for the return of Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut and for the Southern Resident Orcas.
- A blessing was held at Cherry Point on January 3rd (<https://www.facebook.com/annette.martinez.562/videos/527318842689847?idorvanity=529407417240057>). More video clips are posted on the Orca Network/Lolita/Tokitae Facebook page.

Conveners: Beth Brownfield, bethbrownf@aol.com and Deb Cruz, dwcruz@comcast.net

Refugee Resettlement Team

The BUF Refugee Action Team has successfully helped to settle a Syrian refugee family with the help of Western World Relief (WWR) serving as a "BUF Good Neighbor Team." After arrival on October 4th, we had a dedicated team of volunteers who have helped in all the myriad resettlement tasks: the first month of housing and hosting (Kara and Kurt) language classes, babysitting, social service appointments, housing, jobs, medical appointments and more. The people who have been involved in this "1st wave refugee family" are: Kathryn Allen, Genia Allen-Schmid, Kristin Barber, Michael Berres, Kara Black, Debbie Boots, Brenda Brown, Esther Golde, Annette Holcomb, Judy Kasper, Joan Mackay, Erica Mallin, Jen Miller, Ann Stevenson. Our volunteer work hours logged with World Relief totaled a worth of \$28,000. There is still much work left to be done with the first family: medical and dental visits, supporting the family in language classes and other cultural orientation efforts.

We are excited to share that Kara Black is taking the lead to settle the "2nd wave Syrian family" (brother Hussan's family of the 1st wave family Badria) arriving February 23rd. A significant amount of resettlement funds have been raised with new volunteers joining the 2nd wave effort.

Convener: Ann Stevenson, ann.v.stevenson@gmail.com

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SEJC Project Reports

Fair Trade Sales

Current sellers have been Susan, Sita and Cleo with ancillary help provided by Felice Davis & Naomi Gary.

Rose Edington has expressed interest in selling and has prior experience elsewhere. I'm looking forward to getting her oriented especially since Sita will be in India until the end of March. I will be traveling some this month and February and again April -May so if you're interested in helping out then-I'm planning to offer training over the next 2 months. I set up our table about 11 am anticipating the service ending about 11:30. Usually people linger until 12:15 and I'm out no later than 12:30.



Sales have been slow but steady as attendance at services increases. See financial report run by Kathy for Todd's SEJC Financial Report. Prices have increased for us but we haven't raised our prices other than eliminate the 3/\$10 chocolate bar special.

We have donated a chocolate bar, a UU Travel Mug and a \$25 gift certificate to the auction. Please consider buying Fair Trade for birthdays, thank you's or wedding gifts. I recently put together a nice basket for a friend's wedding by adding a few other local items and gift cards.

Convener: Susan Thurn, sdthurn3@gmail.com

SEJC Special Collections and B'ham Food Bank/Lummi Food Shelf contributions

Beloved Community Commitment and Special Collections: Our efforts to draw new or less known non-profits in Whatcom County continue to succeed in the current reporting period, October, 2022-January, 2023. Members of BUF contributed to two organizations, an immigrant labor union and a non-profit helping people who were in or out of prison to re-enter the community. A third recipient is due in January, a media program for free access and training for underserved groups.

We have two volunteers who have picked up writing promotional pieces for the MWU for the rest of this period, for the next two recipients—grateful to Tessi Mandeville and Deb Cruz. Yet, we still need additional volunteers for future writing.

Special Collections Recipients for 2022-23

January 15, 2023	Kulshan Community Media and KMRE Radio
February 12, 2023	Kids In Motion Therapy Clinic
March 19, 2023	JUJustice Washington
April 23, 2023	Lummi House of Tears Carvers
May 21, 2023	Blue Skies for Children
June 11, 2023	Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Convener: Kara Black, kara@cedartreellc.com

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Affiliate Reports

UU the Vote.

Claire Lending and Stephanie Sarver organized BUF's involvement in the UUtheVote. In our first meeting we gauged the interest and decided to focus on postcards rather than letters. These were done through Vote Forward. We met six times at BUF to write postcards in community. Additionally, some BUFsters took postcards home to write. We sent a total of 720 postcards. Postcards were sent to infrequent Black voters in Virginia, Arizona, and Georgia. Included in the 720 postcards were postcards reminding Georgia voters about the runoff after the regular election. We did not keep count of the number of people involved, but we estimate 40 people were involved.



Unitarian Church of Magyarszovat in Transylvania, Romania.

We currently have a display of embroidery, woodwork, photos from 2017 trip to Magyarszovat in the entry way so we can see our partnership, and the life style in Transylvania. Also Reverend Tamas and wife Kato are planning on visiting in August and are working on their visas. Reverend Tamas would also like to participate in a Sunday service while they are here.

Convener: Reka Zoltan at anyu9earth@gmail.com

Whatcom Racial Equity Commission.

The County is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a 501c3 fiscal sponsor who will in turn hire an executive director to manage WREC ultimately resulting in the seating of the 31 WREC commissioners. It is a common model in the the nonprofit world. The County is assembling a small volunteer group of stakeholders to advise on the RFP before it is publicly posted, and to advise on the review of responses and selection of the final candidate 501c3. Kayla warns that the RFP may take a long time to be issued as the County has a large pipeline of them.

Eliana Steel at eliana.steele@gmail.com and Rupert Ayton at rupertayton_rt@yahoo@breezechms.com

Other Activities

Restorative CommUnity coalition (Beth Brownfield)

Report on Work of Restorative Community Coalition

I have been working closely with Joy Gilifielen on the reorganization and deep dive into “*Consciously Collaborating to Build a Community and Crisis Resilience Strategy*.” These are the projects they are simultaneously creating. This work is happening because of SEJC critical support of their work.

1. **Developing a Civic Intervention Kit** to address civic trauma. It is a community-wide tool kit to be used by First Responders, Family Members, Parents, Social Workers, Community activists
2. **Sending a letter to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee** asking for civic intervention to restorative justice regarding the homeless crisis and the aftermath of Camp 210.
3. **Looking to having open conversations on “Peacemaking” with the new candidate for Sheriff.**
4. **Launching a Community Civic Café** every Wednesday from 5:30-7 pm. This is a campaign for all our cities to become participants in a *Compassionate USA* campaign that was launched out of San Antonio, TX.

The Community Civic Café will also assess the impact of COVID on our whole community and help implement healing.

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It will complete a trauma analysis of people and build alliances to create a “Restore a Life Center.

THE GREATEST PROJECT is to build a coalition of people and groups that understand and believe in the vision of service and healing, to those especially susceptible to civic TRAUMA, and can FUNDRAISE for the realization of a “Restore a Life Center” in Whatcom County

Ops Team

COVID policies and procedures. The Ops Team has been working on one of its goals, creating a Bias Incident Reporting procedure. The Ops Team has been working with the Healthy Relationships Team to create this procedure and it is nearly complete.

Current members are:

Ministry Council Lead/Chair	Rev. Paul Beckel (Senior Minister - Staff)
Board Representative/Vice Chair	Jim Riemer (Board Member)
Administration Lead Council	Kathy Wahto (Administrator)
Community within BUF Lead	Seat is Vacant (Volunteer position)
Growth and Learning Council Lead	Genia Allen-Schmid (Director of Lifelong Learning-Staff)
Community Beyond BUF Council	Deb Cruz (Volunteer)

Covenant of Beloved Community:

Covenant of Beloved Community says farewell to one of its leaders. Kaitlin Davis will be stepping down from her role as one of the coordinators as other priorities are needing her attention. Thank you for all you’ve done Kaitlin! Here’s hoping the journey you’re on now is rewarding and fulfilling!

Covenant for Beloved Community forum meetings are still taking place on the second Tuesday of the every month via Zoom. Participation has dwindled significantly, but we’re hoping that folks and teams are still engaged with their Covenant of Beloved Community efforts.



We, a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Join us on **January 29th — Celebrate the Voyage of our Beloved Community.** Help us celebrate and navigate our continuing journey of building Beloved Community on Sunday, January 29th from 12:00 to 1:30 in the Social Hall. We will provide sandwich ingredients so we can eat while we enjoy a visual presentation of our BUF accountability goals, see what we achieved, and what we are still working on. This will be an interactive event for everyone, with plenty of opportunity for participation and input.

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Denominational Affairs

UU General Assembly

GA for 2023 will be held June 21 - 25, 2023 online and in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (<https://www.uua.org/ga>). Registration is open now. Delegate assignments are due by February 1, 2023.

UU Common Read: "Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism" by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin.

Right Relationship Congregational Team Training. Every other Wednesday starting March 1, 2023, the UUA is offering training "for congregational teams who will be helping their congregations (or other covenantal communities) live into their covenants." BUF Healthy Relationships team members expressed an interest, but not sure if anyone has signed up. https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/right-relation-training-03-23?vgo_ee=wDDDiJyJRwZoQ8qhxt8DiSBaWaAotQkn8FTjdS3g5M8%3D

Side with Love, Create Climate Justice. On December 4, 2022, SWL co-sponsored a briefing on December 8, 2022 on how faith communities could apply for grants from the Inflation Reduction Act for energy efficiency of their facilities projects. Sky Hedman had been registered to attend, but no word back yet on how BUF might apply for funds.





Pacific Western Region.

Nothing justice-related to report at this time.

JUUstice Washington


- **Revitalizational Project.** JUUSTICE Washington continues to engage Starr King School for Ministry students. Sahar Mushin Laufman, Elle Parks, and Travis McPhee are working on asset mapping of congregations, additional programming and for 2022-2023 justice issue summits.
- **2023 Environmental Justice Legislative Summit.** On January 28th from 9:00 am-1:00 pm, JUUSTWA will be holding summit (panel and strategy session) with WA State legislators. Topics will include the breaching of the Snake River dams, climate and the GMA (which will have a direct impact on Whatcom County, salmon recovery, and other environmental justice issues. The panel of legislators will be talking about various bills and processes, then afterward we will be helping UU issue groups to identify legislation to endorse or oppose, build a plan to help them through legislative process (various committees and hearings), and monitor its progress. JUUSTWAs current legislative priorities included:




Legislative Advocacy 2023

January 28, 2023
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Virtual


On January 28th, JUUSTWA will be hosting time and space for our network and Washington State legislators. This year is going to be a significant and busy year as we will grapple with climate change, salmon recovery, the breaching of the Lower Snake River dams, green building and transportation and other environmental justice issues.




Rep. Mike Chapman
24th District
Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources and is on the Consumer Protection & Business and Transportation Committees



Rep. Beth Doglio
22nd District
Chair of the Environment & Energy Committee and is on the Labor & Workplace Standards and Transportation Committees




Rep. Debra Lekanoff
40th District
Agriculture and Natural Resources, Appropriations, Environment & Energy and Rules Committees



Rep. Alex Ramel
40th District
Environment & Energy, Finance, Rules and Transportation Committees

Register for the Summit here:
<https://give-usa.keela.co/2023-enviro-legislative-summit>



JUUSTICE Washington events are open to the public and open regardless of the ability to pay.

If you want to participate but are unable to donate, please contact office@juustwa.org so we can get you the information you need to attend the Summit.

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- Breaching the Lower Snake River dams
 - Police Accountability including the Traffic Safety for All Act
 - Salmon Recovery
 - Environmental Justice and Climate issues of frontline communities
 - Climate and the Growth Management Act
 - Preserving Old Growth and Legacy Forests
 - Southern Resident Orca Preservation and Restoration
-
- JUUstWA is in talks with UUSC about an RIMS (Refugee, Immigration and Migrant Solidarity) Summit including information on their CAPRAS program for asylum-seekers.
 - JUUstWA will be putting together a racial justice summit. We attempted one back in October of 2022; however, there was such a dismal response to it due to COVID, we decided to postpone it until late February 2023.
 - JUUstWA is working with Side with Love's Climate Displacement program to put together a presentation for congregations.