

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

April 5, 2023

In this issue

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

[Sunday Look Ahead](#)

[Social & Environmental Justice](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Music News](#)

[Calendar](#)

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

Words from Genia

As a High School History teacher, one of my favorite units was on Renaissance art. The students loved comparing the stiff, religion-centered, and unrealistic Medieval paintings with the fluid, light-filled realism of Renaissance art. The Renaissance followed the Middle Ages, or what used to be called the “Dark Ages”.



Historians no longer use that term because, even though it was a period of disease and war, great advances in math, science, and literature were made, laying the foundation for the Renaissance. Out of the struggle of the Middle Ages old ways of doing things were discarded in favor of innovations that served people better.

The Pandemic upended our lives but it also gave us pause, and the spaciousness to reassess what we value most. As we rebuild our Children’s Religious Education program, we have to create new traditions grounded in the current needs of young families. The focus can no longer be on learning about UUism on Sunday mornings but rather on relearning how to play with others, feeling safe and a sense of belonging.

An article in the latest UU World cites a recent study revealing that “Connecting with Others” is the number one priority for young families and children coming to our congregations today. This echoes my own conversations with the many new young families coming to BUF these last few months. Parents of young children aren’t looking for more religious programming, but for spiritual connection and community - and they are finding it at BUF on Sunday mornings, as well as our Wednesday dinners, and Parent’s Night Out. In the world of RE we have to rethink and reconfigure how we do things in this new, post-pandemic world. Like the Renaissance, I see this era as refreshing, full of light and the opportunity to grow together in new ways, even though it comes out of a hard time. Maybe *because* it follows a hard time.

Please join us for an intergenerational Easter potluck picnic and egg hunt at Lake Padden after church on **April 9**. Help us celebrate the return of spring, of light, and children at BUF! See the RE column for more details.

**SUNDAY SERVICES –
April 2023**

***Blessing the Lives We Actually
Have***

**Rev. Tessie Mandeville & Carrie
Koehnline**

**Easter Service April 9th at 10:25
a.m.**

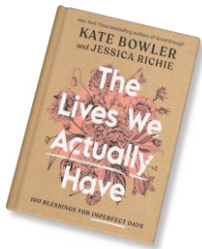
We live in a world that demands relentless perfection. Happy marriages and easy friendships. Bucket-list-level adventures and matching family photos. But what if your actual life doesn't feel very #blessed? Might our regular lives be worthy of a blessing too? Even an average Tuesday?

On Easter morning we'll explore the hopes of transformation and enlightenment while realizing that we don't have to wait for a perfect life when we can bless the lives we *actually* have. We will resurrect some of the old hymns and hear them in new settings; the Chalice Choir will sing a beautiful rendition of the heart sutra, *Gate, Gate*, and members of the Equinox Ensemble will sing a special song for the children. Please join us in person or via zoom for this hope-filled service.

Here's the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/738363620>

Passcode: BUF



Pledge Drive is Crucial this year

Why is your pledge so important this year? Your Human Resources Committee recently finalized recommendations for staff compensation for the new budget year. Staff expenses comprise approximately 77% of BUF's overall operating budget. *But what we want you to know is:* We are currently 35% below salary levels, recommended by the UUA, for positions in congregations our size. In order to stay competitive in this market, retain the exceptional staff that we have, and recruit replacements when needed, your HR Committee urges you to be as generous as possible this year.

Lunch with Paul

Tuesday, at noon we'll have lunch with Paul! Bring your own lunch and join us in the Social Hall.

Adult RE poll coming up!

Last Sunday we handed out a survey to find out what sort of learning opportunities you'd like to see offered for adults next year. If you didn't get a chance to fill it out, you can click on this link and give us your response online! [survey](#) If you have any questions or would like to be part of the RE team, please contact Genia@buf.org.

Art in the BUF Narthex

Beginning **April 5th** we will exhibit the work of another artist, "The Gates of Central Park" by artist photographer Trisha Coggins, whose photo display is a historic walk through a famous art installation in Central Park. The artist plans an open house, to learn about her exhibit, on Friday, April 21 from 3pm to 6pm at BUF.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Anti-racism and Collective Liberation

April 15th-25th JUJustice Washington is joining University Unitarian, University Congregational United Church of Christ and others in presenting an interfaith anti-racism event series. The events will be facilitated by Chris Crass, Ayoka Turner and Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou. They will be offering up the opportunity to integrate collective liberation more intentionally in our work and in our world. Events will be held online and in-person. For more info: <https://www.collective-liberation.org>. Register: <https://www.collective-liberation.org/events>

Anti-racism Training with fellow UUs!!

April 13th and 20th; April 27th and May 4th

The Olympia UU Congregation is offering a **2-session class** on separate dates focused on the call and the practice of multicultural competency in our personal and congregational lives. The material will incorporate portions of the UUA Building-the-World-We-Dream-About curriculum. Rev. Sara Lewis and Tiffany Felch will facilitate sessions. This class will be offered in person and online on Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choose **ONE** option: Either in person Or Zoom, whichever is right for you.

Register for in person April 13th and 20th. Details here:

<https://onrealm.org/OUUC/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YjA4YzU4NDMtZTY2NSooMTZhLWJjY2YtYWZjYzAwZDkoYzc2>

Register for Zoom April 27th and May 4th at:

<https://onrealm.org/OUUC/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YjA4YzU4NDMtZTY2NSooMTZhLWJjY2YtYWZjYzAwZDkoYzc2>

SEJC Program and Business meetings this month

April 16. 12-2 p.m. In the conference room or by Zoom (link below). **The Program meeting** is especially nice for newcomers as the action teams share about their good work and future plans. Please contact Kara Black to see the agenda and written team reports before the meeting at kara@cedartreellc.com Bring a sack lunch.

April 30. 12-2 p.m. In the conference room or by Zoom (link below). During the **Business meeting** we will be planning for a new structure and a new way of operating at BUF. We would love your feedback if you can attend. Bring a sack lunch.

All are invited to either meeting. The Zoom link is : <https://zoom.us/j/97265181170>

Passcode: BUF

Yours in peaceful justice, Kara and all of SEJC

God is Red Indigenous Studies Symposium

May 18-19. Northwest Indian College. This annual symposium is named for Vine Deloria Jr., a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, and author, theologian, historian, and activist for Native American rights. He was widely known for his book Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto and God is Red. Northwest Indian College, located on Lummi Nation reservation, hosts this event every year. More information and register here:

<https://www.nwic.edu/about-nwic/nwic-vine-deloria-jr-symposium>

SEJC Special Collections – April

Lummi House of Tears Carvers – SEJC Special Collection Recipient for April 2023

House of Tears Carvers, located on Lummi Nation reservation, is led by Master Carver Se Sealth (Jewell Praying Wolf James) and his brother Sit ki kadem (Doug James). With the help of family and friends, the Carvers create Totem Poles of hope and healing that are gifted to communities in need. In the last 20 years, more than 15 totem poles have been carved and have journeyed throughout the United States and Canada.

Each Totem Pole is carved with traditional images representing either traditional stories or cultural messages that speak to the needs of the community receiving it. Each Totem Pole embarks on a journey, making Blessing stops in many communities along the way. This gives them the opportunity to imbue the Pole with their prayers and thoughts of shared grief, healing and hope.

Through the Carvers generosity and openness, BUF leaders, staff, members and friends have been an integral part of the Totem Pole Journeys since 2013. The poles are not commissioned. Nor are participants or recipient communities charged in any way. The labor and resources are covered through grants and donations only. The donations BUF contribute this month will help them continue their work.



Humanitas Ministry

As the price of housing continues to skyrocket in Whatcom County, we've seen a huge increase in the number of people living in their cars/vans. For some it's a lifestyle choice but many have no other option. Either way, they often need a hand up. Usually it's a request for gas to keep moving around to keep from getting towed or just so they can get to work.

It takes gas to run the vehicle to stay warm during the winter. That was the case for the older lady who came in this week. She's living in her van with her dog. She has a job but it's not enough to support living in an apartment or even to rent a room. She's looking forward to spring when the weather will start to warm up making it more comfortable and less expensive. For now, we were happy to help her with a gas voucher so she can do what she needs to do to survive.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Article II status and process update

The UUA Article II Commission has published the procedures on what happens next with the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA By-Laws. Go here to get the latest national update, timing and limitations in the procedure:

[Article II Study Commission | UUA.org](#)

The commission is obviously expecting many amendments and a lively discussion during the mini-assembly and during the business session at General Assembly. Either participating or watching will be quite interesting. If you're interested in being a delegate, thereby being able to directly affect the process, contact Lew Phinney: lew@usa.net.

Article II Conversation

The Article II Commission is looking forward to continued engagement with Unitarian Universalists about this important shift in our theology. Your voice matters!

Here's how you can contribute to the conversation:

Read the Article II Commission Report (pdf: <https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>)

Watch the video of their presentation

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQmvlMBUOg&feature=youtu.be>)!

Watch the Article II Commission space! Starting April 1, you can suggest amendments ideas here (<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>). In May, discussion groups will be organized to craft the amendments. Check the webpage for more information and details!

April 5. BUF Night In and Game Night Tonight!

Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall at 6:00. This Wednesday we're bringing out a variety of our favorite frozen soups, such as vegetable tortellini, mulligatawny, and taco soup. We'll also have a hearty kale salad, our ever-popular garlic bread and dessert – all for just \$5 a person, and kids under 12 free! After dinner stick around to play Code Names or a game of your choosing! We have childcare until 8:00.

Easter Family Potluck



Please join other BUF families for a potluck on **Easter Sunday, April 9, from 12:00 to 2:00**. It will be at the Lake Padden Playground Shelter, on the east shore. BUF will provide some ham, rolls and drinks, as well as table ware. Please bring a dish to share. We'll have some fun activities for kids of all ages as well as an egg hunt!! This will be a great time to meet other parents/care takers and enjoy the advent of Spring.

I'd appreciate you letting me know if you'll be attending so I can judge how much food to purchase. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

BUF Board Update and Coming Events

The Board, Treasurer, and Administrator are scurrying behind the scenes, preparing the 2023-24 operating budget for your vote at the Sunday, **May 21st** annual congregational meeting.

Net operating income and pledge income for 2022-23 are ahead of budget. BUF's endowment received \$24,186 from the sale of the I street house next door to the church. BJ Sherwood, a BUF member, owned a share of the house; she left it to BUF upon her death, bringing our endowment funds to \$179K.

We now have a building alarm that is active during the night plus security cameras at all building entrances. BUF also has regular, rental clients such as Natural Learning Center, League of Women Voters, Red Cedar Zen Mediation, and Bellingham Insight Mediation.

Not sure what else the Board does? Visit the BUF Governance page and view minutes from any past Board meeting. Want oral discussion instead? Hear from current board members at the "Explore the BUF Board" event, held after the service on April 16 (3rd floor). For questions contact Drew Betz at drewlenore@me.com

May 6th 10:00 a.m. All-BUF Spring Retreat

Save this date for the All-BUF Spring Retreat Saturday, at Hovander Pavilion in Ferndale. More information to come. Contact: genia@buf.org if interested in volunteering for this activity-filled day retreat.

May 11. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pathways & Pizza

The BUF Hospitality team is offering a Pathways session for visitors and anyone new to BUF. Come get acquainted with each other and the church. Lunch will be provided. Contact Felice Davis: (253)307-8981 or fdavis1944@gmail.com

Save the Date for a visit to the Elliot Family Camp on Hood Canal

Creative Arts Eliot is a five day family camp in August this year, for UU's and their friends at Seabeck Conference Center (about 3 hours drive + ferry). For the first time, Creative Arts Eliot is offering a morning CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOP focused on printmaking for kids of elementary age. Kids love Eliot-- it's a chance to run around on a safe grassy campus, swim in the lagoon, try out row boats, and make new UU friends from around the Pacific NW. Childcare for children under age 5 is also offered in the mornings, leaving parents to take their own art workshop, See eliotinstitute.org for details.

Candidates Sought for UUSJ Board of Trustees

UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice) is seeking new Board members to help better project our values to legislators and national policymakers. UUSJ is our UU national lobbying organization whose nominating committee is seeking applicants to join the Board of Trustees. Nominees need not be members of UUSJ but are expected to join and pay modest dues if elected

The Nominating Committee and current Board are interested in persons reflecting the diversity of the UU justice-making experience. Members of the UUSJ Board of Trustees may serve up to two terms of three years each before leaving the Board for two years.

We want new candidates to join the Board as of **July 1, 2023. Applications are due April 23, 2023.** People interested in this position should contact Chloe Emily Ockey, Nominating Committee Chair (nomination@uusj.org) to further details and to apply.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Genia Allen-Schmid, RE Director, genia@buf.org

Sunday Morning

This month's theme is Resistance. Resistance means the refusal to accept or do something, including to be pushed around by our own internal worries or anger. This month is also when many parts of the world celebrate Buddha's life, so we'll be exploring the Buddhist practice of how to use breathing and to calm our negative emotions and slow down. Being clam can help us be more compassionate with ourselves and others and can help us live out our UU principles.

Children will start in the sanctuary where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, low tables and chairs, drawing supplies, fidget boxes, and a front row seat for the Story of All Ages. After the Story, we will head upstairs and have a one-room classroom for 1st graders on up. We'll share our joys and concerns followed by activities surrounding a weekly theme. Preschoolers will be in a separate room for fun, supervised playtime.

If you have any questions or concerns about our children's programming or want to volunteer, please contact me at genia@BUF.org.

Childrens RE brainstorm

I am hosting a Children's RE brainstorm for anyone interested during our BUF Night In dinner, on Wednesday, April 12, from 6:00 to 7:00. I'll have some childcare providers on duty so we can move into the library to get ideas about what parents need, and how BUF can better meet them.

MUSIC NEWS –

KEVIN ALLEN-SCHMID, Music Director – kevin@buf.org

BUF Chalice Choir to Sing Text from Heart Sutra for Buddha's Birthday and Easter



This Easter Sunday, which is also Buddha's Birthday, the choir will sing an exuberant anthem based on a mantra from the Heart Sutra. *Gate Gate* (pronounced (gah-tay gah-tay), was composed by Brian Tate from Vancouver BC, and is joyful, energetic and dance-like with clapping, shifting meters and a flashy piano accompaniment.

The Heart Sutra is the essence of Buddhist teaching. Here is the mantra, which the choir will sing in Sanskrit: *Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha*

Gate (gah-tay) means gone. Gone from suffering to the liberation of suffering. Gone from forgetfulness to mindfulness. Gone from duality to non-duality.

Paragate means gone all the way to the other shore. Gone, gone, gone all the way over.

In *Parasamgate*, sam means everyone, the entire community of beings. Everyone gone over to the other shore.

Bodhi is the light inside, enlightenment, or awakening

Svaha is a cry of joy or excitement, like "Halleluia!" According to choir member Becky Pillai, the piece is "sheer joy."

How to submit content for the Mid Week Update:

Content must be received on Monday by 10:00 a.m. Submit via email and include an attached 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"; 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

Streamline your Monthly Charitable Contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer

Would you like to make sure that you do not miss any of your monthly contributions? Set up an automatic electronic funds transfer (EFT) of your regular charitable donations. Kathy Wahto BUF administrator can assist you. If you would like to give more for a select organization, you can send an additional check just for those organizations. This system ensures that every organization gets the funds. Thank you so much for your generous gifts.

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

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/>

BUF Board of Trustees and Officers 2022-2023

Daria Haynes, President - Alex Gilman, Vice President - John Stewart, Secretary - Sky Hedman, Treasurer, ex officio,
- Jim Reimer, Trustee - Drew Betz, Trustee - Sarah Pearson, Trustee – Lew Phinney, Trustee - Henry Ohana, Trustee - Rev. Paul Beckel, ex office

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
April 6, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
April 10, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter business meeting, contact rupertayton@yahoo.com for details, https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF. May be in-person and zoom meeting; details to follow.
April 13, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
April 16	After today's service	BUF Board exploration meeting. Natural Learning Center classroom 3 rd Floor. For questions contact Drew Betz at drewlenore@me.com
April 17, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter program meeting, subject or speaker TBA, contact rupertayton@yahoo.com for details, https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
April 20, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
April 24, 2023	7:00 pm	Black Lives Matter program meeting topic subject or speaker TBA, contact rupertayton@yahoo.com for details, https://zoom.us/j/96292952504 Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF
April 27, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 1, 2023	7-8:00 p.m.	Taize https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
May 3, 2023	---	The 2023 application deadline for non-traditional organizations to apply for 2024 Special Collections
May 4, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 6, 2023	10am-2pm	All Church Spring Retreat at Hovander Pavilion in Ferndale. For info or to volunteer genia@buf.org
May 11, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 13, 2023	10am-2pm	Pathways and Pizza. Get acquainted Saturday with everyone new to BUF and the church. For details contact Felice Davis at 253 307-8981
May 18, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship ~ BUF.org
Community, Compassion, Commitment
April 5, 2023

May 20, 2023	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Spring BUF Women's Retreat. Saturday at the Cannery Lodge at Semiahmoo in Blaine. More details coming soon.
May 25, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 1, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 5, 2023	7-8:00 p.m.	Taize https://zoom.us/j/753181200 Meeting ID: 753 181 200 Passcode: BUF If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
June 8, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 15, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 22, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
June 29, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com