

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

April 19, 2023

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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

Words from Hank Ohana

I'm Hank Ohana. I've been a member of BUF for 24 years, during which time I've been canvassed, been a canvasser, and now am on the Board of Trustees. Today I just want to talk with you as a fellow congregant. I don't mean just "members." I mean *everyone* who comes to a Sunday service, sings in the choir, is in a chalice circle, a book group, has children in children's events, is part of a SEJC committee, goes to meditation groups, Taize services, women's retreats, etc. - ALL of us.

A lot goes into having BUF our home. Obviously there is the building and staff, but there is an entire infrastructure that allows it to exist. The bottom line is that it requires money. The budget that the board would like to bring before you would support that, but we are not there...yet.

I would like to ask all of you to consider what BUF brings to your life. If you haven't pledged yet this year, think about taking the "10% challenge" of raising your pledge from last year. If you have already pledged, have you taken the 10% challenge? Even though Connie and I have pledged, after talking it over we've decided to raise our pledge again. In our case we *had* taken the 10% challenge, but we have decided to increase our supporting level. I'm not asking you to "give until it hurts," but I'd like you to consider "stretching" a bit.

There are two areas in particular that I want to point out. One is our staff salaries. Three out of the past four years we have not been able to offer our staff a raise. Currently, we are only paying them 66% of what UUA guidelines suggest. We would like to be able to offer them a 3% increase, but in order to do so we would need to raise an additional \$6500. Otherwise we will again have to ask them to stay on with no adjustment for cost of living or compensation for years in service.

The other area is our building reserves. In order to keep this building - our sanctuary - usable and safe, we need to do regular and occasional maintenance and improvements. None of us wants to walk into the building one day with a collapsed ceiling and an emergency upon us. To this end, we must have reserves in place to manage these ongoing needs and emergent

situations. The goal would be to avoid those all-together!

For the past several years, we have not been able to put money into the reserve budgets. With our world and our church "opening up" again, and the building getting more use, we need to address this before it's a crisis.

So please, consider - and then maybe reconsider - what BUF brings to you and how you might be able to support that. Putting money in the basket is always good, but it's pledges that can be counted on that allow the Board to build a budget to fund what happens here at BUF. And remember - you don't have to be a member to pledge.

To pledge, or to increase your pledge, please contact stewardship@buf.org.

Thank you,
Hank Ohana

SUNDAY SERVICES – APRIL 2023

April 23 Seeing as a Sacred Act – Sati Mookherjee



Local Poet Sati Mookherjee reflects on seeing: “the act of prayer and my grandfather’s gaze as a scientist are the same act, which is of close observation....” And grief: “...poetry is not just looking at what’s there; we’re looking at what’s not there: the white space, the caesura, the pause.”

Lunch With Paul

Every Tuesday at noon we have Lunch with Paul! Bring your own lunch and join us in the Social Hall

Art in the BUF Narthex

April 21. 3:00-6:00 p.m. Artist photographer Trisha Coggins plans an open house at BUF to explain “The Gates of Central Park,” her work on display in our narthex. Join us Friday to find out more about the history of her photographic walk through art, in this famous public space.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Anti-racism Training with fellow UUs!!

April 27th and May 4th. The Olympia UU Congregation is offering a class 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 on Thursday at 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

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

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

Anti-racism and Collective Liberation Series

April 15th-25th. JUUstice 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 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>

SEJC Business meeting

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 attend either meeting at BUF or by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97265181170>

Passcode: BUF

Yours in peaceful justice, Kara and all of SEJC

Indigenous Studies Symposium

May 18th-19th This event will be held at the Northwest Indian College Main Campus. Vine Deloria Jr. was a Standing Rock Sioux and an author, theologian, historian, and activist for Native American rights. His book *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* and *God is Red* is the theme of this annual symposium held on the Lummi Nation reservation. For more information and to register: <https://www.nwic.edu/about-nwic/nwic-vine-deloria-jr-symposium>

SEJC Special Collections – April Lummi House of Tears Carvings

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

House of Tears Carvers, located on the 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 and 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 April Preparations

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](https://www.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!

BUF Night In and Game Night Tonight!



April 19. 6:00 p.m.

Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 – everyone is welcome! Tonight, we're serving up taco soup, chips, chopped salad 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.

UUSJ Board Search open in April

April 23. Applications are due to UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice) from individuals who wish to join their Board of Trustees. UUSJ is our UU national lobbying organization whose nominating committee is seeking new applicants. 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 Board of Trustees may serve up to two terms of three years each before leaving the Board for two years.

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

In The Moment with BUF Artist

May 5 and 6. BUF pianist Andrea Rackl is giving a fully improvised concert with her friend and colleague Matt Rehfeldt! The concerts are organized by Bellingham House Concerts.



They will take place at BUF choir member Steve Lamm's house on the Lummi Peninsula. Come share the magic of music created in the moment in the intimate atmosphere of a living room. You'll be up close and personal for the action! Bellingham House Concerts tend to sell out early due to limited seating. Get more information and your tickets now at BellinghamHouseConcerts.com

Newcomers Invitation

May 13. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you're a visitor or newcomer who would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, here's an opportunity to do that and meet a few friends. Please join us for the **Pathways and Pizza** session on Saturday at BUF. Lunch will be provided. To reserve your spot please contact Felice Davis: (253) 307-8981 or fdavis1944@gmail.com

Women's Spring Retreat

May 20. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Come join our Women's retreat on Saturday, at Semiahmoo! It's a wonderful chance to make new friends and deepen your relationship with old ones. Our theme is "Seeds of Intention". We will have a mix of whole group and small group activities surrounding our theme, along with time for self-reflection and unscheduled fun! Prepare to be inspired, connect, and

rejuvenate! BUF is providing **childcare** from children 15 months to 11 years at BUF, from **8:30 until 12:30** p.m. Register here, [registration](#), or copy and paste this address into your browser: <https://buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning



Our theme this month is *Resistance* and this Sunday we explore how we can resist being complacent by changing our habits. The holiday of Earth Day is a perfect time to relearn the habit of living gently and simply on the earth. Our story and supporting activity, includes creating art by using repurposed materials and looking at the many ways we can be good stewards of our planet.

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.

ADULT RE SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the recent Adult RE survey. We had a great response and our team is planning next year's offerings based on your feedback. Here are the results of the survey. The data and visual were put together by Patricia Conover and Jen Baptist. You can copy and paste the address below, or you can click on this to see the results: [survey results](#)

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGsltKdQdRtCDJcqkLCCkWZmKTn?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

If you want to be involved in Adult RE or be a part of our planning team, contact Geniagenia@BUF.org.

VOLUNTEERS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our annual pledge drive is still underway and can always use fresh eyes and new volunteers. We have a strong, volunteer Financial Oversight Team that reviews reports, watches trends, and advises our Board of Trustees. We also have a group that reviews our books every year. To get involved, contact the office at admin@buf.org.

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

BUF Choirs Take to the Road in April

April 30. 10:30 a.m. Vancouver, BC



The BUF Phoenix Ensemble will team up with the choir at North Shore Unitarian church (NSUC) in Vancouver, BC to provide that morning's Sunday service. Music Director Allison Nixon is planning a full music service together with BUF director Kevin. BUF last exchanged with NSUC before Covid. For this service, each choir will sing some songs on their own, then the two choirs will combine for a grand finale of "The Water Is Wide" and "We Rise Again."

Now ain't that somethin' to sing about!

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 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 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
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

