

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

April 12, 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 Paul



Rain, rain, go away.
I only say that because I know
I'm powerless that way

Rain is what makes the Pacific
Northwest.

Elsewhere they beg for it
So let's take this as a test

Of our capacity for thankfulness.
May it overflow our barrels:
appreciation for nature's largesse

May love flow through us all,
Paul

SUNDAY SERVICES – APRIL 2023

April 16 Grace-full Living – Rod Haynes and
Rev Paul Beckel

Rod and Paul reflect on how awareness and gratitude
enable us to respond to both the difficult and the
delightful with grace and dignity.

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.”

Pledge Drive Crucial at BUF 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

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

April 12 & 13. Unfencing the Future

A two-day virtual symposium of panel discussions, poetry, and films organized by The Natural History Museum and co-sponsored by Survival International and the Center for the Humanities at CUNY Graduate Center. In the history of conservation, the logic of fencing was institutionalized in what critics call "fortress conservation." Come learn about challenges being raised to the fencing of state park, national, wilderness, and Indian reservation boundaries. For more information: <https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/events/unfence-the-future/>

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>

April 15th-25th. Anti-racism and Collective Liberation

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 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>

April SEJC Program and Business meetings

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

Passcode: BUF

Yours in peaceful justice, Kara and all of SEJC

April 17. 7.00 p.m. BLM Guest Speaker

BUF BLM guest speaker Malora Christensen, Whatcom County Health and Community Services' Response Systems Division Manager, will discuss the County's Ground Level Response and Coordinated Engagement program, as well as its Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program. She will also discuss how Bellingham's proposed public drug use ordinance may be handled. BUF members may remember Malora, an LICSW, from her time with Community to Community. Contact rupertayton@yahoo.com for details, <https://zoom.us/j/96292952504> Meeting ID: 962 9295 2504 Passcode: BUF

May 18th-19th Indigenous Studies Symposium

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 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](https://www.uua.org/article-ii-study-commission)

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 12. 6:00 p.m. BUF Night In and Game Night Tonight!

Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall. Tonight, we're having chicken vegetable soup with quinoa. We'll have a vegetarian option available too, as always. This will be accompanied by orange-almond

salad, whole wheat rolls and cookies – 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. See the **Childrens RE brainstorm** under Religious Education in our MWU for game details.

April 16. BUF Board Update Event

Hear from current board members about their activities at the “Explore the BUF Board” event, held after the service on the 3rd floor. This is an orientation meeting for the Board. Want to know what the Board does? Come and find out or email Drew Betz with questions at drewlenore@me.com

New Whatcom County Jail

April 17. 7:00 p.m. BUF Social Hall. Indivisible Bellingham is hosting a conversation on Whatcom County’s effort to build a new jail. Guest speakers are: Ralph Schwartz of the Cascadia Daily News; Andrew Reding, Chair of the Whatcom Democrats; and Barry Buchanan of the Whatcom County Council. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions. The event is free and does not require pre-registration. For more information, call Michael Berres at 360-393 6802 or go to www.IndivisibleBellingham.org.

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)

May 13. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pathways & Pizza

The BUF Hospitality team is offering a Saturday 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

May 20. Women’s Spring Retreat

Mark your calendar for our day-long, women’s retreat at Semiahmoo. We will provide childcare from children 15 months to 11 years at BUF, from 8:30 until 12:30. Look for a registration link soon!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Sunday Morning

This month's theme is Resistance and on Sunday we'll look at resisting injustice. We will reflect on, and read a story about how we are strong together, and that by joining together in fighting injustice, we can do more than by ourselves. The Jewish holiday of Passover is taking place this month, celebrating how Jewish people joined together long ago to escape from Egypt. We will learn more about the Passover tradition and how Jews celebrate this act of resistance to oppression.

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.

Children's 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. See **BUF Night In April 12** for supper details.

VOLUNTEERS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our annual pledge drive is here again 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 16. 10:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon, WA



The BUF Chalice Choir will provide music for the Sunday service at Skagit UU Fellowship, 500 W Section St, Mt. Vernon. This will be the second appearance BUF has made at SUUF in recent years. In case any BUFsters who are not in choir would like to follow along to cheer us on, you'll be welcomed there in Mt Vernon for sure.

Rev. Barbara Gilday will be the guest speaker for them that day, and she is planning a deeply meaningful service around the choir songs. After the service our choir ambassadors will mingle with their congregants over coffee and then further over lunch at the Food Coop. On their way home some of our carpools will make a detour through the tulip and daffodil fields. It promises to be a fine outing.

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 13, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
April 16, 2023	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 guest speaker Malora Christensen discusses Whatcom County's GRACE and LEAD programs, 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. This event has been cancelled.
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