

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

May 03, 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

Building Community via Meal-Sharing and Decision-Making

This coming Sunday, May 7, please bring food to share for a **potluck feast**. All are welcome, of course, regardless of ability to contribute food. All, of course, can bring kindness and goodwill.

Afterward, we'll have a **Final-Budget Preview**. BUF's Board of Trustees has created a budget proposal for our 2023-24 fiscal year. The Board will submit this budget for BUF Members' approval at our Annual Meeting (May 21). Members will receive a copy of the proposed budget by email this week. Contact admin@buf.org if you don't receive it. While only Members can vote, friends and visitors are welcome to attend both the preview and the Annual Meeting.

Both meetings will be both in-person and on Zoom: (Meeting number: 997 210 55665) Passcode: BUF, link: <https://zoom.us/j/99721055665?pwd=ODBJM2szZnVBaCtGb2hqY2IwTUx4dz09>

The full packet of Annual Meeting information—coming to BUF Members by email this week—will include the Annual Meeting agenda, nominations for the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee, last year's Annual Meeting minutes, the proposed budget, and information about an advisory vote to be taken at the meeting about replacing additional chairs in the sanctuary. BUF members will be asked to vote on all of the above. Twenty percent of BUF members must be in attendance for a quorum.

Thank you for these and all of the other ways you build and celebrate our BUF community.

Peace,
Paul

**SUNDAY SERVICES –
May 2023**

May 7

The Relay of 1,000 Miles

Walt Ellis

In Tao te Ching we read: The journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step. I have always envisioned this as a solo journey. Walt (BUF's AV Tech who is completing his degree in Chinese) thinks of it more as a shared journey, or a relay.

May 14

Asking for help as a spiritual practice

Steffany Raynes and Carrie Koehline

In this service we will be exploring the topic of asking for help. Why is it hard to do? What can happen when we don't just care for others

but also receive caring? How is receiving related to Beloved Community? Steffany Raynes will lead the service and will include many perspectives.

May 21

The B'ham/Honolulu Connection Music Service

Beth Beyers, Kevin Allen-Schmidt

Summer Services Planning

After providing support during Paul's sabbatical, Rev. Barbara ten Hove, retired in Bellingham from over thirty years of active UU ministry, asked Paul and the BUF board to affirm her as an affiliated minister, joining Tessie Mandeville and Barbara Gilday who already enjoy that role. An agreement has been reached and we're delighted to welcome Barbara as an affiliated minister at BUF.

While she will continue to mostly be an appreciative pew sitter and choir member, Paul and the board have asked her to take on the role of coordinating the **ten summer services between July 2-Sept. 3**. In that role, she will preach occasionally but more will assure the services are planned and led so that those folks who attend during the summer will have as meaningful an experience as they would have during the "regular" church year.

If you are interested in putting on a summer service, can provide support to someone else who is, or can make music for a service, please contact Barbara directly ASAP at revbabs10@gmail.com. The schedule is filling up fast so don't delay. It is her hope to have the service schedule completed around May 15.

And on Sunday, June 4, Revs. Paul and Barbara will officially acknowledge the importance of this ministerial affiliation during the service.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

Anti-Racism Jubilee 3 Training

May 23-25, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Online

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and daily lives? Take a leading role to nurture a multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents?

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association invites you to attend this online event with trainers Paula Cole Jones, Lutricia Callair, and Dr. Leon Spencer!

The 3-day training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, small group work, and shared meals. It's open to anyone, church members, non-church members, church leaders of any faith. The goals are

- To develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations
- To begin applying this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of society, and acting on it.

Agenda topics include:

- The history and definition of racism in the Americas
- The effects of racism on people of color and on white people
- Dismantling racism
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity

Jubilee 3 workshops have an excellent reputation, and I encourage BUF members to attend, as I will do myself. If you have questions or need help registering, contact me at genia@BUF.org

Flier with testimonials and more information about the trainers: [Flyer May 2023 Jubilee 3 at PNW LREDA.docx](#)

Registration: tinyurl.com/PNW-Jubilee-3

George Floyd Memorial Celebration

May 25, 6:15 p.m. BUF Sanctuary

BUF BLM will host a George Floyd memorial celebration and fundraiser on Thursday. It will begin with a film screening of Remy Styrk's Juneteenth video (a documentary that celebrates June 19th, the day Texans were emancipated by the 13th amendment).

This will be followed by conversation with some of the participants. We will then walk to Fouts Park for a candle light vigil by the George Floyd memorial bench. City Councilwoman Kristina Michelle Martin will emcee. A \$5 donation at the door is recommended. Funds will support a follow-up Juneteenth video. We need volunteers. Please contact Naomi Gary for details:

naomiwwgary@gmail.com

SEJC Special Collections – May 2023

SEJC Special Collections Recipient, Blue Skies for Children.



Blue Skies for Children strives to raise hope and self-esteem of homeless, low-income, and foster children, aged 6-18 years. Their Enrichment Programs offer children the opportunity to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities such as martial arts and team sports, and in individual activities in the arts and music.

Children's successes help them build hope and self-confidence. These activities give the children outlets to express themselves, release tension, and create meaningful social circles. They have a positive impact on emotional wellness. The Blue Skies Team would like the children to have happy and healthy lives.

An average cost for the enrichment opportunities is \$80 per child. The Team is building their capacity to serve a greater number of children. Please contribute as much as possible. Blue Skies' representative will speak at BUF's Sunday service on May 21. Contributions will be accepted throughout the month.



Humanitas Ministry

We've had many women come in telling us about how they had lost everything and were having to start over. This week it was a man. When he walked in, well-dressed, well-spoken, he looked no different than one of us. This time last year he was married, had two daughters, and worked in a high-paying job as an engineer. He lived in a large house and drove a new car. Within a year, he'd lost it all. It started with a divorce which took him into a severe depression. Because of his depression, he lost his job, house, car, and everything else, which put him out on the street. He explained he had a car in storage that he'd bought for his daughter. Now he needed help getting it out of storage so he could drive it to get a job. We gave him a pledge for part of the money he needed and sent him to get additional pledges from a network of churches that fulfill these needs. He's getting back on his feet and will hopefully continue to heal from his experiences of the past year.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Watch the Article II Commission space! You can suggest amendment 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!



Join our weekly supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 – everyone is welcome! The soup tonight is potato-leek soup, chopped salad, bread or rolls, and dessert– all for just \$5 a person, and kids under 12 free! After dinner, stick around for some board games! We have childcare until 8:00.

Newcomers Invitation

May 13. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. BUF

If you're a visitor or newcomer who would like to find out more about the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism and also have an opportunity to make a few friends, come to the **Pathways and Pizza** session on May 13th from 10 AM to 2 PM 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, to connect, and to rejuvenate! BUF is providing childcare for children 15 months to 11 years

at BUF, from 8:30 until 12:30. 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

The theme of the month is *Creativity* - a magical quality that can help us transform ordinary objects into wonders, mistakes into beauty, and problems into solutions. Creativity is a skill that helps us navigate our complicated world. This Sunday we will read a book about how mistakes are OK and can lead us to new creations and ways of seeing the world. We will use our creativity to problem-solve some puzzles, and build things out of marshmallows and spaghetti noodles. Come join us for some creative fun!

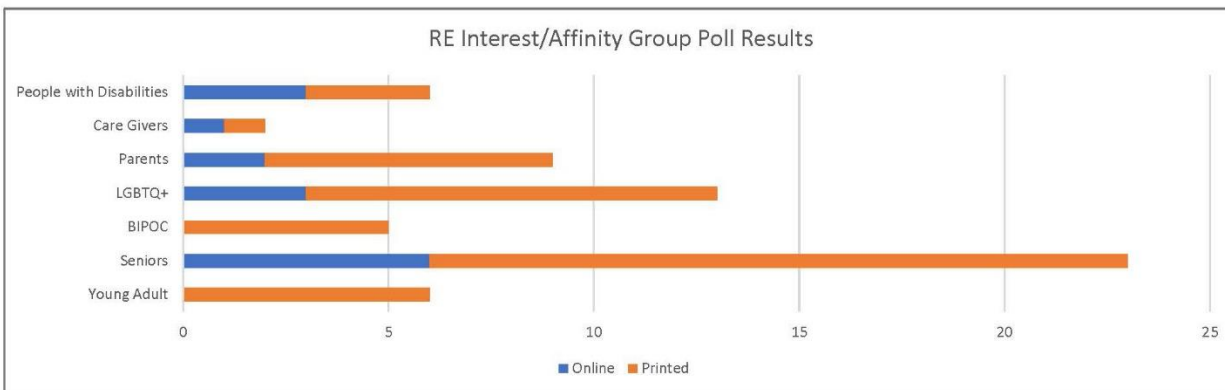
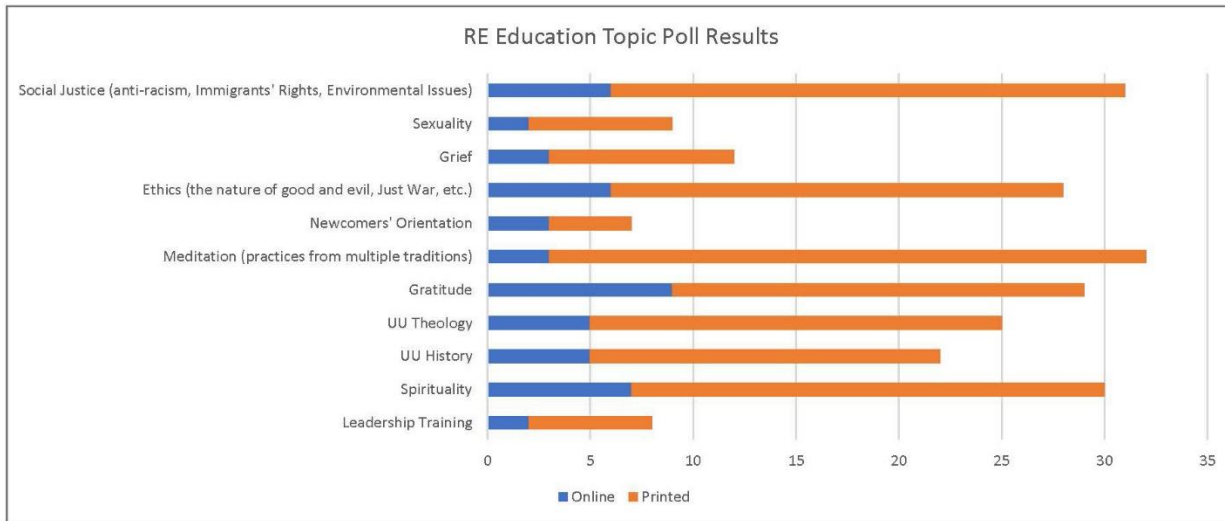
Children will start in the sanctuary where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, low tables and chairs, drawing supplies, fidget boxes, and a front row seat for the Story of All Ages. After the Story, we will head upstairs where we have a one-room classroom for 1st graders on up. We'll share our 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.



VOLUNTEERS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers are needed May 25 for the Black Lives Matter George Floyd Memorial event, starting in the BUF sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. and moving to Fouts Park. For details contact Naomi Gary at naomiwwgary@gmail.com.

BUF Keyboard Artist In The Moment



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

MUSIC NEWS –

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

Orca Happy Hour

May 4, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Crystal Ballroom, Bellingham

Members of the [Choir of the Salish Sea](#); Lummi violinist [Swil Kanim](#); artist [Jason LaClair](#); Sacred Sea President [Tah-Mahs Ellie Kinley](#); and the band SOUL*DRIFT present social fun, art, stories, and songs to help Tokitae return home. This benefit for Sacred Sea will be in Hotel Leo's gorgeous Crystal Ballroom at 1224 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham. No tickets or RSVP needed.



Galbraith Mountain

May 19, 7:30pm, Friday, at BUF

May 20, 3pm, Saturday, Fairhaven Village Green



Choir of the Salish Sea presents a musical montage to a mountain bike and trail running mecca.

The driving rhythms and lofty harmonies of Bellingham's premiere tenor and bass choir reflect the energy and camaraderie of the mountain that brings the world to Bellingham. Songs include *Bicycle Race* by Queen, *White Winter Hymnal* by Fleet Foxes, *Here Comes the Sun* by the Beatles, and *Seven Bridges Road* by The Eagles. For more information and tickets visit choirofthesalishsea.com

BUF Choice Finale

June 11, 10:25am

Chalice Choir and Phoenix Ensemble present their greatest hits from the 2023-2024 season in this Sunday morning grand finale service at BUF. The choirs have been focusing on developing vocal technique and expression this year and they are creating a joyful, vibrant and loving sound. Come immerse yourself in a morning of beauty and meaning with your fellow BUFsters in this spiritually engaging service.



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
May 4, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 8, 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. Note we may make this a hybrid in person and zoom meeting; details to follow.
May 11, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 13, 2023	10 am-2:00 pm	Pathways and Pizza. Get acquainted Saturday with everyone new to BUF and the church. For details contact Felice Davis at 253 307-8981
May 15, 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
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 22, 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
May 25, 2023	12:30 pm	Flowering Cherry Sangha, BUF Sanctuary, Contact: Cynthia at cynauman@gmail.com
May 25, 2023	6:15 pm	Black Lives Matter George Floyd Memorial event starting with a film screening and discussion in the Sanctuary. This to be followed by a candlelight vigil at the George Floyd/Black Lives Matter memorial bench at Fouts Park. Volunteers needed. For more details contact Naomi Gary naomiwwwgary@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 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
July 3, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
August 7, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
September 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
October 2, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
November 6, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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
December 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/753181200 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