

# Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

*Community, Compassion, Commitment*

July 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

*Paul is on vacation and will return mid-July*

### July 2-Sept. 3

### Summer Services at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

There will be ten wonderful services this summer at BUF, with diverse speakers, creative elements and fabulous music. Services will start at 10:30AM at BUF with a Zoom option. Services remaining in July are as follows:

#### **July 16 - Gospel of UUism through Hymns**

*Rev. Barbara ten Hove with Su Livingston and  
Melanie Rieck*

Music plays an important part of religion and our UU faith is no exception. This service will explore some of our favorite hymns and the story they tell us about our theology and beliefs. Elie Friedlob will provide special music.

#### **July 23 - Finding Home:**

*Rev. Barbara Gilday & Steffany Raynes*

Looking at 3 people: a refugee, a prisoner on death row and an adoptee, we'll reflect on what drives their particular passions for home, what stands in their way and what solutions may be found. Considering other seekers may help us to reflect on what home is for each of us. Beth Beyers and friends will provide special music.

#### **July 30 - Wounded Words**

*Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove & Rod Haynes*

Religious language can be challenging for UUs. Is it OK to use the word God? Am I allowed to pray? This service challenges our preconceptions about religious words and invites us to engage with them in new and meaningful ways. Jaco ten Hove will provide special music.

**Summer Services at  
Bellingham Unitarian  
Fellowship - Second Half  
Aug. 6 - Sept. 3**

There are five more wonderful services this summer at BUF, with diverse speakers, creative elements and fabulous music. Services start at 10:30AM at BUF with a Zoom option. Below are descriptions of the second five services (Aug. 6-Sept. 3). Questions? Please contact BUF Summer Service Coordinator, Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove at [revbabs10@gmail.com](mailto:revbabs10@gmail.com).

**Aug. 6 – The Journey from  
Uncertainty to Hope: A Poetry  
and Music Service**

Led by Drew Betz & Carrie Koehnline with special music by Lizz Roberts

Join Drew and other BUFsters for a morning of poetry and music. We will celebrate the following four themes in both music and spoken word: Doubt and Uncertainty, Anger and Clarity, Connection and Hope. You will hear from a variety of voices reading a carefully curated set of poems and be able to raise your voice in singing some classic hymns.

**Aug. 13 - For All of Us  
Imprisoned, Circle for Release –**  
Led by David Curley, Pam Graham, the BUF Black Lives Matter team, and friends. With special music by Joel Johnson.

These words we sing each week challenge us to look at mass

incarceration and the ideas and emotions that have kept it in place in the US for over 50 years. We will explore values, practical habits, and virtues that can free us, mentally and physically.

**Aug. 20 – Partner Church Celebration** - Led by Rev. Paul Beckel & Kevin Allen-Schmid. Special Guest the Rev. Tamas Balasz

Join us as we celebrate the many years of friendship with Magyarszovat Unitarian Church, our partner congregation in Romania. Rev. Balasz is retiring and he and his wife will join us for this special recognition of our many years of relationship.

**Aug. 27- Spiritual Play - Exploring the  
Body's Wisdom** - Led by Rev. Barbara ten Hove with Steffany Raynes & Anna Matheson with special music by Lisa Kusick

On this last Sunday of August, we'll have the opportunity to play together, finding joy and wisdom in our words, in movement and in reflection. Using "Interplay" techniques, this experiential service will work best if you attend in person. For those who choose to participate (always a choice), this offers a fun and meaningful experience for all ages, so bring your whole family!

**Sept. 3 –Planting Something New** – Led by Rev. Rachael Weasley and Pam Graham

When someone first suggested to Pastor Rachael that she start a new church from scratch, she laughed off the comment with a firm decline. Four and a half years later, her new queer activist church held its first event. Hear the story of how she said yes to God, and join in wondering about the mystical invitations in your own life! Joining us from Community of Hope, Pastor Rachael is honored to preach at BUF after several years of collaboration with BUF on Indigenous solidarity work, other social justice efforts, and interfaith services.

## Sundays without an Order of Service

For the rest of the summer we will be experimenting with not having a printed order of service.

We'll have some basic info about BUF and what to expect in services in a semi-permanent card in the pews

## Memorial Celebration for Julie Guy July 22. 1:00 p.m. BUF

Julie Guy died Sunday. She was 96. Julie was an extraordinarily community-minded person. When she became a member of BUF at age 89 (after, she was proud to say, having not been in a church for 71 years) she joined the Financial Oversight Team. Until recently she was making calls for the BUF Phone Ministry Team.

Also in recent years, Julie was the driving force behind what is now Julianna Park in Cordata, and was integral to getting a new library branch open in the mall just a few weeks ago.

A memorial celebration -- she made a point that this was to be a big party -- will be held at BUF on Saturday, July 22nd.

## In Loving Memory of Rick Dudley

With sadness we share news of the death of Rick Dudley, a member of BUF for 28 years who lived simply, spoke plainly, and gave freely. Rick lived an extraordinarily minimalist lifestyle with a do-no-harm ethic. He had no illusions that he was going to fix the world; he just couldn't grasp the concept of not living according to one's stated values. A memorial service will be held later this summer.

## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Gay Pride Gratitude



Thanks to Grace Nyblade who organized the spirited contingent representing BUF at Bellingham's Pride Parade on July 9. BUF was #70 in line out of 90 groups who marched through downtown streets lined with cheering, festive and costumed onlookers.



### UUs condemns Supreme Court Decision

"Unitarian Universalists believe the full expression of the diversity of gender and sexuality is a gift. Our LGBTQIA+ siblings are sacred, whole, and divine as they are," said the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, the UUA's outgoing president.

The Unitarian Universalist Association Condemns U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on the 303 Creative LLC vs. Elenis Case June 30, 2023. As UUs, we are committed to supporting them as we see forces working to diminish their rights. Read the rest of the press release here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/condemning-303-creative-case>

## **Moving Forward from GA**

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt was elected to serve as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) with the support of more than 2300 UU delegates at the annual General Assembly (GA). Delegates also voted overwhelmingly for social justice resolutions that support health, ending the planned "Cop City" training center, in Atlanta, Georgia, and protecting the rights of Dreamers, those who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status.

The UUA Board opposed the resolution for 'Complete Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry and Subsequent Reparations,' submitted by petition by youth and young adults. They did acknowledge that UUs need to engage these issues more fully, especially climate justice.

Read more here about this defeated resolution:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/announcements/statement-post-ga2023-divestment-reparations>.

Read GA details here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/uus-elected-rev-dr-sofia-betancourt> and here: <https://religionnews.com/2023/06/26/unitarian-universalism-revisits-identity-values-at-2023-gathering/>

## **Outdoor Work Party, Multi-Faith Network for Climate Justice**

**July 15.** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Barley Blvd.

Come join us Saturday and the Whatcom Million Tree project as we remove ivy from mature trees on an easily accessible site (no slopes or heavy brush) off of the Klipsun Trail along Barkley Blvd. Arrive 10-15 min early and park on Crestline Dr. or Sylvan St. We will meet near the tunnel under Barkley Blvd (close to Sylvan St.)

Bring a water bottle. Gloves, clippers, light snacks, and extra water provided (but feel free to bring your own.). Don't forget hats, sunscreen and insect repellent if you need them!

**Register here:** <https://forms.gle/ywogbpaWWoc97iMq5>

## **UU Minister Association's Berry Street Essay Sessions**

**July 17, August 14.** *See session details for times*

Offered annually during Professional Days before General Assembly, the Berry Street Essay began in 1820 and is the oldest lecture series in the US. This year the Berry Street Essay was offered by the Rev. Cecilia Kingman, entitled "My Little Pony Was Right": Reflections of Fascisms Without and Within.

In it Rev. Kingman reflects upon the rise of authoritarianism, right-wing ideology, and fascism both within Unitarian Universalism and in the wider world.

(<https://uuma.org/berry-street-essay/2023-berry-street-essay-the-reverend-cecilia-kingman/?emci=d921d69a-7b10-ee11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=37df4eea-4115-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=26333722>).

Side With Love joins Rev. Kingman in a two-session interactive opportunity for UUs to engage with this essay and the kinds of faithful responses it demands on behalf of our UU faith.

Session 1: **July 17** at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT.

**Register here:** (<https://secure.everyaction.com/SJjtMTmio0-JkaWZUVVjhg2?emci=d921d69a-7b10-ee11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=37df4eea-4115-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=26333722>)

Session 2: **August 14** at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT

**Register here:** (<https://secure.everyaction.com/c9ue6jlCGkesfXLJJfsmBg2?emci=d921d69a-7b10-ee11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=37df4eea-4115-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=26333722>)

PRE-REQUISITE: Berry Street essay, “My Little Pony Was Right: Reflections on Fascism Without & Within” by Rev. Cecilia Kingman (<https://uuma.org/berry-street-essay/2023-berry-street-essay-the-reverend-cecilia-kingman/?emci=d921d69a-7b10-ee11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=37df4eea-4115-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=26333722>)

## **Understand how Immigration and Migration Policies Overlap**

**July 26.** 2:00pm ET • 1:00pm CT • 12:00n MT • 11:00am PT

Seeking to help advocates and activists understand this dynamic, our Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) friends, Migration and Refugee Service, are offering the third and final session to help faith advocates more fully appreciate how these issues connect.

Why Migrate? Throughout history, economically ambitious migrants who wanted more opportunities for themselves and their families left a country with limited opportunities. From the last quarter of the 19th Century to just before WWI, almost one million people from Norway immigrated abroad, mainly to the U.S. Unskilled Norwegian immigrants took the lowest-paying jobs, mostly manual labor. This reality repeats in American history.

Immigration and migration policy issues are increasingly recognized as intertwined and intersectional. Seeking to help advocates and activists understand this dynamic, our (UUs for Social Justice) Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) friends, Migration and Refugee Service, offers a final session on this subject.

### **Register Here:**

[https://usccb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XfFgHiYaQPOhonIV3wZJvg#/registration?eType=EmailBlastContent&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=86985f2b-5c07-4509-8730-c09b3b7ac40a&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3](https://usccb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XfFgHiYaQPOhonIV3wZJvg#/registration?eType=EmailBlastContent&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=86985f2b-5c07-4509-8730-c09b3b7ac40a&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3)

## **Immigration Action Support Needed**

The Immigration Act Team of UUs for Social Justice submitted to this year’s General Assembly an Action of Immediate Witness entitled “Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), with a Pathway to Permanent Residence” (<https://discuss.uua.org/t/protect-the-dreamers-the-recipients-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrival-daca-with-a-pathway-to-permanent-residence/949?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3>).

Since the U.S. district court heard oral arguments on the legality of the current DACA policy on June 1, 2023, DACA may soon be ruled unlawful. This AIW calls on the UUA to urge Congress to provide permanent protection for Dreamers. We are pleased that 2043 of those delegates voting, or 98%, approved our Action of Immediate Witness in the final round, with similarly strong showings in the prior rounds.

Take our new Action Alert to support Dreamers and DACA here:

<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/dreamact2023/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=b2de1d69-9e23-4c85-8906-c8345f3ab0a3>

## Special Collections - July 2023

### **SEJC Special Collections recipient July, Northwest Youth Services.**

Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) is an emergency shelter for youth, age 13-17 years. It is the only 24-hour staffed emergency shelter with support for the youth in Whatcom County. Their mission is to provide for youth experience and autonomy, to work together to foster collective healing and justice, and to reduce forces that perpetuate homelessness. Their program of Positive Adolescent Development (PAD), for 13-17-year-olds offers 24-hour access to vital supplies and support to enable them to have stable housing, family reconciliation, and meet other personal goals.

Our contribution this month is for procuring Ground Floor (drop-in center) supplies for over 500 youths; for the PAD Shelter supplies (serving up to 12 youths at a time), and for Housing Services.

#### **You can contribute throughout July.**

Dejah Kutrovski, Senior Director of Advancement, NWYS, will speak at BUF service on **Sunday, July 23**. For more information, contact: Kenzi Murphy,

Advancement Coordinator at [kenzim@nwys.org](mailto:kenzim@nwys.org) Website: <https://www.nwys.org>

### **UF Safety and Security Measures on the Horizon**

Michael Berres

Our Fellowship has many safety issues that are being addressed and others that must be addressed in the near future.

Aside from safety problems that face any organization or faith community, there are issues in our greater community and the political climate that make us particularly vulnerable.

Paul, Kathy and I have met and listed safety measures implemented at BUF in the last four years. This followed from an ad-hoc Safety Committee facilitated by Elie and me. In the year preceding COVID, we spent a substantial amount of time on health emergencies, evacuation procedures, intruder issues, and other safety concerns. But we didn't finalize a comprehensive safety plan for BUF.

During the last four years, staff and members have also addressed BUF safety concerns. More information and training on these will follow in the coming months. Issues discussed include:

- External door locks and congregant access
- Rental groups, external door locks and access
- Rental groups use of BUF equipment
- BUF groups like Choirs entering through other locations
- Motion-triggered alarm systems
- Locking cabinets and closets
- Replacement of current phone system with phone/intercom system
- Data protection
- Criminal background check of those working with children
- Evacuation plan for children
- Compliance with Bellingham Fire Department codes

- First aid and emergency equipment
- Clean air filtering system
- Emergency responses to fire, earthquake, intruders

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Congregational Administrator Job Opening

BUF is recruiting for a Congregational Administrator. Please see the job posting on the BUF website <https://wp.buf.org/congregational-administrator-opening/>. If you know of someone who may be interested in this position please have them submit their information as soon as possible. **No phone calls please!**

### Board Update:

#### September 29-30<sup>th</sup> Rummage Sale at BUF

Greetings BUFsters! We are planning a Fall Rummage Sale at BUF. This sale is one of our Board approved fundraisers for the coming year.

I have agreed to convene a working group of eager and helpful planners. It will take a number of helping hands to pull this off. Let's meet up to start the planning soon.

Please contact Drew Betz via e-mail by **Friday July 15** if you are interested in being on the team. My hope is to have an initial meeting before the end of July. We will gather at BUF with Kathy Wahto who is a key to our successful planning. Please RSVP to me by this Friday. I will be contacting those interested with a scheduling poll as early as the **27th of July**.

Thanks in advance for considering this.

Drew Betz, Board member, [drewlenore@me.com](mailto:drewlenore@me.com)

### Cooks Needed for next year's Wednesday Night Dinners



Our weekly Wednesday Night dinners are over for the summer, but we're already planning for next year. If you are craving a way to meet other people and have even moderate kitchen skills (or want to learn!), we encourage you to sign up to join our cooking team. It only requires 2 or 3 hours once a month. Contact Genia Allen-Schmid at [genia@BUF.org](mailto:genia@BUF.org) if you want to learn more.

### Sept 5. Lunch with Paul at BUF

Lunch with Paul resumes at **Noon** on Tuesday, **September 5**.

### BUF Creativity Exhibition

#### Sept 16-17. BUF Social Hall

Plans are afoot for holding a celebration of our unseen artforms. What are your creative outlets? Do you keep them mostly to yourself? Let's bring them together in an exhibition to be held September 16/17 in the Social Hall. Artistic works might include samples of paintings, poems, drawing, textiles, sculptures, photos, ceramics, or - what do you create?

If you're interested in volunteering to plan and organize this event, please step up now. We need you—and your creativity! For more details: Email Jan Cavitt at [jadacad@gmail.com](mailto:jadacad@gmail.com) or Pam Graham at [pam.graham1@icloud.com](mailto:pam.graham1@icloud.com) or [pamg6986@gmail.com](mailto:pamg6986@gmail.com).

### Mid Week Update Summer Schedule

The MWU is published every other week until September 6 as follows:

**July 12 MWU is published**

July 19 No MWU

**July 26 MWU is published**

Aug 02 No MWU

**Aug 09 MWU is published**

Aug 16 No MWU

**Aug 23 MWU is published**

Aug 30 No MWU

**Sept 06 Weekly MWU resumes**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Genia Allen-Schmid, RE Director, [genia@buf.org](mailto:genia@buf.org)**

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Sunday Morning



Our formal Sunday morning Religious Education program is on hiatus over the summer, but two of our wonderful teenage childcare providers will be here each week to lead a variety of fun indoor and outdoor activities during the service.

Children will start in the sanctuary, as usual, where we have a child-friendly space with pillows, drawing supplies, fidget boxes, and a front row seat for the Story of All Ages or interactive song. Afterward the children's focus, we will head upstairs where older children will be in the flex room and preschoolers 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](mailto:genia@BUF.org)

## VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Sept 16-17.** BUF Social Hall. Volunteers and planners needed for BUF Creativity Exhibition.

Email Jan Cavitt at [jadacad@gmail.com](mailto:jadacad@gmail.com) or Pam Graham at [pam.graham1@icloud.com](mailto:pam.graham1@icloud.com) or [pamg6986@gmail.com](mailto:pamg6986@gmail.com).



**MUSIC NEWS -**

**KEVIN ALLEN-SCHMID, Music Director - [kevin@buf.org](mailto:kevin@buf.org)**

Music news will resume August 9.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2023-2024**

Alex Gilman, President - Daria Haynes, Vice President - Drew Betz, Secretary - John Stewart,  
Treasurer, - Jim Reimer, Trustee - Beth Nyblade, Trustee - Stephanie Sarver, Trustee - Lew  
Phinney, Trustee - Lin Skavdahl- Trustee, Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

<b>BUF CALENDAR</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
August 7, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09">https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?</a> pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
September 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09">https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?</a> pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
October 2, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09">https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?</a> pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
November 6, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09">https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?</a> pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
December 4, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09">https://zoom.us/j/97456974163?</a> pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org