

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

September 6, 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 Paul

A Trip to Remember, A Relationship to Grow



In traveling to Bellingham last month, Rev Tamas and Kato Balazs, from our partner congregation in

Magyarszovat, Romania, gave us a great gift. On the cusp of retirement, they took their first flight ever—to a place where almost no one spoke their language—in order to more deeply ground the relationship between our congregations...and to help us understand the historical depth (and theological breadth) of our Unitarian heritage.

Thanks to our Hungarian-fluent BUFsters Reka Zoltan and George Bor, Tamas and Kato were able to enjoy Seattle, and the beauties of Whatcom County. And we were able to enjoy their presence in small groups and at Sunday services. These photos capture a bit of the service on **August 20**, with Reka accompanying Kato and Tamas singing traditional Hungarian songs, and Tamas offering a blessing around BUF's kopjafa.



As partner congregations, we have now exchanged the hosting of travelers (though we must acknowledge that they have hosted 50 of us over the years). What's next? For one thing BUF needs new leadership to keep this relationship going. Please consider helping with this; don't hesitate just because you haven't been involved in the past or haven't traveled to Magyarszovat.

We'll also need real creativity and humility going forward, as global relationships (among UUs in the Philippines, India, Burundi, the Czech

Republic, Australia and many other countries) are being re-envisioned to ensure that there is more mutuality rather than dominance by first-world UU organizations. Here's more about the transition toward international U/U collaboration:
<https://sites.google.com/uua.org/in-tl-uu-collaboration/home>

Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism are not static. Even as we honor our traditions, we celebrate our evolving relationships and our hopes for continuing trust, fellowship, and mutuality.

Peace,
Paul

Lunch with Paul - Please join me at BUF for bring-your-own lunch and conversation every **Tuesday at noon.**

Sunday Services

Sept 10. Water Communion – Rev Paul Beckel
This is our annual ceremony recalling how water sustains and connects all beings. Please bring a bit to pour into our common bowl as we consider the meaning of water in our individual and collective lives.

Sept 17. Why is there Good in the World? – Rev Paul Beckel

The classic theological question, “Why is there evil in the world?” is the wrong question. I won’t go so far as to say it’s an evil question, but it’s hard enough to get away from today’s horrors and threats, so let’s reflect instead on what initiates and sustains the love coming to and through us.

Appreciations!

Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove, Coordinator of our 2023 Summer Services

As the summer service season ends on Labor Day Sunday, let me take a moment to thank the many folks who made the ten services **(July 2-Sept. 3)** so special. (And I ask forgiveness in advance if I’ve missed someone.)

Our Primary Worship Leaders: Carrie Koehline, Steffany Raynes, Jaco ten Hove, Barbara Gilday, Drew Betz, David Curley, Brian Womack, Tamas Balazs, Paul Beckel, Kevin Allen-Schmid, Anna Matheson, Rachael Weasley and Barbara Wells ten Hove.

Our Celebrants: Carrie Koehline, Steffany Raynes, Rod Haynes, Pam Graham & Su Livingston

Our Musicians: Melanie Reick, Andrea Rackl, Jaco ten Hove, Su Livingston, Joel Johnson and Lisa Kusick

Our Tech Team: Jeff Copeland, Jim Reimer, Albert Snow, Walt Ellis, Mark Allyn, & Quinn Williams

Our Childcare Providers: Eloise Reynolds, Anna Vickers, Lucy Magor, Aria Williams, Cory Sherman, Eli and Emma Kusick.

There were many others who provided support as readers, musicians and just helping out not to mention all the wonderful folks who did the various jobs that always

need doing on Sunday mornings. And, of course, all of you who made the effort to come and be a part of worship week after week. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I had a fabulous time offering my experience and support as we all assured that the summer services were as meaningful as the services are the rest of the year. Hope to see you in September!

Annual Church Retreat Resumes with Daytime and Overnight Options



Join us at Saturna Resort on Silver Lake for the All Church Retreat on Saturday, October 21. Or stay overnight Friday through Sunday.

Professional camp leaders will provide engaging activities and inspiring music-making both outdoors and in the beautiful waterfront lodge. Meals will be provided all day Saturday, from breakfast thru our evening program around the fire ring - including s'mores of course!

Located outside Maple Falls and situated right on the water, the resort has a warm, roomy lodge, swimming docks with canoes and paddle boards, and 113 acres of forest to explore. For those staying overnight, cabins have Queen beds or single bunks with full kitchens, indoor toilets, and hot showers. RV and camping spots are also available. More details to come; in the meantime check the Saturna website [here](#).



And let me know if you can volunteer!
Thanks, Genia Allen-Schmid
genia@buf.org

Art in the Narthex



Sarah Burgoyne is a 34-year-old, self-taught artist who has lived in Bellingham for 15 years. She is an active member of the community and believes in supporting local businesses as well as other artists. She graduated from VIVALUXX school of makeup art in **2015**.

She has been primarily working as a makeup artist but is also inspired by the beautiful nature in the Pacific Northwest, and has begun her journey with pyrography. The freedom and confidence that artistic expression gives her is what makes art so important. Getting to share that with her community is a dream come true.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

UUA and UUSC Back Trans-led Organizers in the U.S.A

As many of you know, our trans and gender expansive beloveds are under attack and being criminalized in many US states right now. This is so serious that they fit the criteria of internally displaced people (IDPs) by the United Nations. The UUA and UUSC are partnering directly with frontline trans-led organizing to create safety networks and direct support for Beloveds who need to relocate, access healthcare across state lines, or stay as safe as possible where they are.

Because of safety concerns for these trans organizers, we are prioritizing security over transparency right now, which allow us to move together in deep trust during these crucial, scary times. For that reason, if you are interested in donating, we ask that you give generously and without asking for detailed information about our partners.

Please know, though, that all donations move directly into the hands of trans-led organizers and are used to support trans and non-binary people in accessing resources and support they need to survive and thrive.

We are deeply grateful to First Parish Malden for serving as the fiscal sponsor for this work, and we encourage you to give as abundantly and courageously as you are able by visiting [this link](https://firstparishmalden.breezechms.com/give/online) (<https://firstparishmalden.breezechms.com/give/online>) and selecting "Give to Trans Fund" in the first drop down menu.

If you are interested in volunteering for this work, please reach out to Henry Ohana. Volunteer roles include but are not limited to:

- Housing Host
- Welcoming Team Member
- Care and Passenger Accompaniment
- Mutual Aid and Welcome Village Coordination
- Operational/Administrative Volunteer

SEJC Special Collections September 2023, BUF Humanitas Ministry



Humanitas is a weekly alms program with the Community Resource Network, reaching out to local citizens who are struggling to rebuild lives turned upside-down as a result of an unfortunate decision or circumstances beyond their control. The need is great and growing. BUF's Humanitas Ministry Action Team provides support to local people in need by listening to their stories and offering limited, emergency, financial assistance in a safe, warm and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Humanitas updates their work every month with a brief report of their service to needy recipients, which we publish in the MWU. A Humanitas story follows.

Humanitas Ministry in Action

As more states turn the clock backwards, we here in Washington are starting to see Gender Refugees. Which means we are starting to see them at Humanitas as well. They are having to flee their homes because of no longer being allowed to live their lives in safety.

A young man name Al came in not sure where or how to start over. He fled his home in Texas after having spent months inside, feeling like his life was in danger if he went out. Hearing that Bellingham was a haven he came with nothing other than what would fit in a suitcase. We were more than happy to help him with clothing and a list of other resources to help him on his journey.

Unfortunately, his story will become increasingly common. I wish we could say this is unbelievable here in America in 2023 but this is the new reality. Thanks to your continued generosity we can help whoever walks through our doors every week. Details to apply for support appear on the BUF website.



September 23 (please note new date), **10:00 a.m. Kanaka Maoli of Maui, virtual 10:00 a.m. Pacific time, 7:00 a.m. Hawaii time**

Aloha Mai Kakou! and E komo mai (welcome!) We the Kanaka Maoli of Maui invite you to begin a relationship among Original Nations and Peoples of the world. To learn about each other as individual peoples and to share our culture through our stories and songs.

Join us for an intercultural, interfaith sharing of experience and knowledge of the social, cultural, economic, legal, and environmental issues that impact the health and well-being of our collective Nations and our Planet.

No single individual, organization, or nation can or should bear the emotional, mental, physical, financial, or spiritual responsibility for finding solutions to today's overwhelming challenges. The urgent questions and growing social, cultural, and environmental inequities we face in these times create the need for collective strategies. We must all learn how to work together for our collective survival and that of our Grandmother Earth and all our relatives.

This Zoom event features: Sharing and Strengthening of Cultural Knowledge and Practice, Special Guests, Presenters, Film and Performers with Contemporary Story, Song and Dance. The event is sponsored by *InterNātional Indigenous Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC)*, which came out of the Standing Rock camps opposing DAPL.

Register here:

<https://www.storiesandsongs.org/register/virtual-one-day-aug-19>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stay Alert to Online Scams

Dear Friends,

In today's digital age, it's essential to stay vigilant against online scams. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated in their tactics, making it crucial for us all to be cautious. Key points to remember:

1. **Protect Personal Information:** Never share online your sensitive details like Social Security numbers or financial information.
2. **Verify Requests:** Be cautious of unsolicited messages or calls requesting personal information. Verify the sender's identity through trusted means.

3. **Think Before You Click:** Don't click on suspicious links or download unknown attachments. It could be a scam.
4. **Stay Informed:** Keep up with the latest scams. Knowledge is your best defense.
5. **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels off, don't proceed. Seek advice from friends or family.
6. **Report Suspected Scams:** If you encounter a scam, report it to authorities or relevant agencies.

Remember you are not alone in this digital landscape. If you ever come across a suspicious situation or have doubts about an online offer, feel free to reach out to your fellow group members or trusted individuals for advice. By working together, we can help one another stay informed and safe online. Alex Gilman, gilmanalex@gmail.com

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!**

Mid Week Update Fall Schedule - the MWU resumes weekly publication Sept 6th.

Oct 7-8 · BUF Creativity Exhibition, 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 October 7/8 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 or Pam Graham at pam.graham1@icloud.com or pamg6986@gmail.com.

Cooks Needed for Wednesday Night Dinners starting Sept. 20th



We are gearing up for Wednesday Night Dinners starting **Sept 20**. 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 if you want to learn more.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Regular Sunday children's RE resumes September 10th

Our formal Sunday morning Religious Education program resumes this coming Sunday with our traditional water communion. We will have a special water communion

for young families early on in the service and encourage children to bring a small container of water from a special adventure this summer so they can take part.

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. After the family-friendly water communion children will head upstairs where a variety of age-appropriate lessons and activities will be provided.

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

Pathways for Parents Sessions coming up!!

This Pathways offering will be held during church on **September 17, 24 and October 1**, so parents of young children can attend while their children are taken care of. Learn about the UU tradition and BUF in relationship with your peers. It will be fun, engaging and build your sense of belonging to the community.

ADULT RE FALL COURSE OFFERINGS



We are excited to announce the launch of several Adult Religious Education courses and workshops this fall!

We're starting with a Pathways for Parents workshop, followed by UU History (Freedom of Belief) and another Pathways workshop for folks new to BUF. **In November** we will launch a four-session workshop on Spirituality in Practice. These learning events all promise to be engaging and enlightening for all participants.



Bring your curious mind and open heart!

For Course details and to register for any or all sessions click here (you can copy this link into your browser as well). wp.buf.org/learning/adult-programs/ Additional questions, please contact genia@buf.org!

VOLUNTEERS - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Oct. 7-8 BUF Creativity Exhibition. BUF Social Hall. Volunteers and planners needed. Email Jan Cavitt at jadacad@gmail.com or Pam Graham at pam.graham1@icloud.com or pamg6986@gmail.com.

MUSIC NEWS -

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

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 2023-2024

Alex Gilman, President - Daria Haynes , Vice President - Drew Betz, Secretary - John Stewart,
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Phinney, Trustee - Lin Skavdahl- Trustee, Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
September 10, 2023	---	Regular Children's Religious Education resumes Sundays at BUF. Contact Genia with questions or concerns: genia@BUF.org .
October 2, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/97456974163? pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org
October 7-8, 2023	TBA	BUF Creativity Exhibition, BUF Social Hall. Hours to be announced. For details contact Jan Cavitt at jadacad@gmail.com or Pam Graham at pam.graham1@icloud.com or pamg6986@gmail.com

October 20-22	---	BUF Annual Church Retreat, Silver Lake, Saturna Report. Resort details at this address: info@campsaturna.com
November 6, 2023	7-8:00 pm	Taizé https://zoom.us/j/97456974163? 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 https://zoom.us/j/97456974163? pwd=WkdHQ3UzRlNyYzFBMGRwQTJsY0lZdz09 Meeting ID: 974 5697 4163 Passcode: BET If you have any questions, please email Rev. Tessie at Tessie@BUF.org