

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

October 11, 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](#)

Words from Paul

Fire Safety



I'm grateful to our ad hoc "evacuation team." Michael Berres, Felice Davis, Jim Reimer, Kathy Wahto, Genia Allen-Schmid and I have developed a plan for evacuating all areas of the building in case of fire. I've invited those who will be most likely to be in a position to help, in an emergency, to do a trial run this coming Sunday at noon: Staff, Religious Education volunteers, Celebrants, AV Techs, Ushers, Greeters.... I anticipate we will learn some things through the trial run, then we'll finalize and post our evacuation maps, and plan to do a full scale drill at the end of a Sunday service.

Don't worry, you'll get plenty of advance warning before we do a live drill for the first time next spring. And don't feel left out this weekend; we can use lots of "extras" in our trial run. The more people familiar with the plan the better, so feel free to join us at noon in the sanctuary.

In the meantime, please note that the emergency exits from the sanctuary (as you face the stage) are the doors to your front-left and back-left. Both of these exits lead to I-Street, which we'd cross...to wait on the opposite lawn until we received an all clear from the Fire Department. Note too that the right-front door is not an emergency exit. Nor are the main sanctuary doors—which only lead you back into the building.

Also in the meantime, well, all of the time, 1) consider your own mobility limits when you choose where to sit. The front-left exit from the sanctuary has a ramp. And 2) consider the safety needs of everyone when you move chairs and pews around. This planning process has made me newly conscious of the imperative for barrier-free aisles. Folded folding chairs are often left in the aisles in all four corners of the sanctuary. If you find them there, please move them to the I-Street exit area (away from the exit path, of course).

I've seen many situations in which BUFsters have responded to unpredictable difficulties with calm, ingenuity, and compassion—especially when working as an impromptu team. Thank you for always being on the lookout for one another.

Peace,
Paul

Sunday Service Zoom Link:
Meeting ID 738 363 620

Worship starts at 10:20am

<https://zoom.us/j/73836362>

**Passcode is BUF Phone: (669)
900-6833**

Lunch with Paul at BUF

Please join Paul for a bring-your-own lunch and conversation every Tuesday noon.

Sunday Service October 15

Acknowledge the Loss - Rev Paul Beckel

Sometimes we respond to loss by not noticing it, or avoiding the reality. Today we'll consider ecosystem losses and grief in general, and how--while in some cases we need to grieve again and again--acknowledgement is the way through to re-empowerment.

Sunday Service October 22

Seeing with New Eyes, Going Forth

We'll complete the cycle we began exploring during the past two Sundays: gratitude, grief...and now, "Seeing with new eyes and Going forth." This service will involve reflections on hope and courage, uplifting music by *rEvolve* (the musical trio who will be leading our weekend retreat during which we'll have dived deeper into these themes) and perhaps some sharing of insights from retreat participants.

Sunday Service October 29

I approve this Message- led by Beth Nyblade

Satire is the traditional weapon of the powerless, the scourge of bigots and tyrants. With election day around the corner, we could use a bit of humor to help us maintain the equilibrium we'll need to continue the hard work of democracy.

...And it's Halloween weekend, so please come in costume!

Board Notes: from Drew Betz

Greetings BUF Community! Your Board wants to update you on our plans for raising funds and stewarding our congregation financially for this fiscal year.

We are a self supported congregation and all of our funds come from members, friends, building use and the community at large. We have a variety of ways in which we gain support: our major Stewardship Campaign, and two fund raisers - the Rummage Sale, aka the Pre-Season Re-gifting and Re-purposing Your Treasures Sale and the Auction/Gala. We want to give all of our members and friends the opportunity to be of service in these efforts.

The Board met with key leaders and agreed to the following dates:

- The first event will be the Rummage Sale on November 11th.
- The Stewardship Campaign will kick off in mid-February.
- The Auction/Gala will be held on May 4th, meetings will start in January.

The Board encourages all members and friends to help out with at least one of these important events. There are many ways in which your time and talent can be used and we need everyone's help to make these successful.

Please say yes this year. Sign-ups continue for the Rummage sale this Sunday.

Also from the Board: The BUF Board will host a listening session about the plan to replace some of the sanctuary pews with chairs on Thursday October 12 at 7PM on Zoom. Please come and share your thoughts about the plan.

Meeting ID: 738 363 620

Meeting passcode: BUZoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/738363620>)

Annual All-Church Retreat October 20-22! The theme: Reconnection

Join us at Saturna Resort on Silver Lake for the All-Church Retreat October 21. Professional camp leaders will provide adults and children with engaging, fun activities and inspiring music-making outdoors and in the beautiful waterfront lodge. Meals will be provided all day Saturday, starting with a welcome breakfast bar at 8:00 and ending with a special evening program around the fire ring - including s'mores of course! Registration for the day is \$45 per adult, \$25 for teens, and free for under 12.



For those wanting to extend their time at Saturna the resort still has plenty of bunk beds in the comfortable bunk house. For housing, please contact Genia at genia@BUF.org and she will send you a payment form. To register for the Saturday retreat, click [HERE](#), or paste <https://buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com42> into your browser.

MUSIC NEWS -

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

Kudos to the Chalice Choir for their dazzling performance of "Simple Gifts" last Sunday with Barry Ulman on clarinet. Kudos also to the "Because Ensemble," accompanied by Chad Nuckles-Flinn on guitar.

Now we continue with this MONTH OF FANTASTIC MUSIC at BUF!

This Sunday, October 15, the Phoenix Ensemble will present an achingly beautiful piece called "Lost Words Blessing," featuring each member of the ensemble in a short solo.

October 20-22 will be the much-anticipated BUF Family Retreat at Silver Lake, to be led by Canadian musical trio **rEvolve**. Please register for the full day on Saturday at this link: <https://buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com42>

All private cabins are taken, but bunks and camping are available. Please contact Genia at genia@buf.org for more info and to reserve Friday or Saturday overnight accommodation.

The retreat will conclude with a Sunday service back at BUF on October 22, featuring **rEvolve** and the exciting music and sharing activities from retreat participants.

On Sunday, October 29, Special music will be provided by vocal soloist Jessica Cartwright accompanied by TJ Anderson on the piano.

See ya there,

Kevin Allen-Schmid, BUF Music Director. kevin@buf.org 406-858-0142

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“We Are the Middle of Forever,” Climate Change Presentation October 12. From 7-8:30 p.m. “How, Then, Shall We Live?: Practicing Kinship and Taking the Long View Amidst the Climate Crisis,” Majestic Ballroom, downtown Bellingham, 1027 N. Forest St.

SEJC is joining the Multifaith Network for Climate Justice and other organizations in supporting a Bellingham Friends Meeting presentation by Dahr Jamail.

Dahr Jamail will discuss the gravity of our times from a climate perspective, then share indigenous wisdom from “We Are the Middle of Forever,” which provides perspective, grounding, and healing.

Dahr Jamail is an American journalist who was one of the few unembedded journalists to report extensively the 2003 invasion of Iraq. He spent eight months in Iraq and presented his stories on his website, “Dahr Jamail's MidEast Dispatches.”

In January 2019, he published the book *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption* about his mountaineering adventures where he witnessed glaciers melting and expressed despair at the future catastrophe of global warming.

SEJC Collections for Oct: Immigrant Resources & Immediate Support (IRIS)

“It is my...privilege to...do a very small part in helping those whom they (the IRIS) minister to, who have so little, and who have faced unspeakable difficulties and challenges.” IRIS supporter, J. Anderson.

Last Sunday at the BUF service, Leta Sanchez, an immigration lawyer and founder, and Norma Suarez, Executive Director of the IRIS spoke about the purpose and activities of their organization. The IRIS was formed as a non-profit to help immigrants who fled from imminent danger of violence and extreme poverty in their countries, and who, locally, faced layers of barriers to navigate the bureaucratic system.

The officials gave examples of immigration cases in crisis including a man who continued to work long hours to care for his family, until a doctor warned him that he would die unless he had a prescribed surgery. The outreach of IRIS included families who fled the war in Ukraine and are seeking asylum in the U.S.

Please make a difference in the lives of these immigrants and refugees through your generous contribution to IRIS. For additional information: www.irisnw.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Night Dinners and Game Night this Wednesday at 6:00



The freezer is full, so we're reheating a variety of scrumptious soups, including Moroccan lentil, tortellini and chicken. Dinner also includes salad, bread and dessert. The cost is a bargain at \$5 per person, and kids under 12 free!

Our community dinner is every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 6:45 in the Social Hall at BUF.

After dinner, we can play around with words! We will have Code Names, Bananagrams, Unspoken Words, Poetry for Neanderthals, and others. Feel free to bring your own word games or any game you want to share!

Pre-Holiday Re-gifting and Re-purposing Your Treasures Sale Nov 11, 2023, 9 am - 3 pm in the BUF Social Hall

Donation List:

Children's toys, books, games, clothes
Kitchenware (includes limited small working appliances and cookbooks), pots, pans, dishes, tools
Holiday items
Coffee table quality books (Art, Travel, Photography, Cookbooks, Gardening).
Sporting goods (no weapons) Tools Gardening Supplies
Knick knacks/collectibles/artwork Craft Supplies
Homegoods (Linens, bedding, towels etc, all in good condition.
Small furniture Costume Jewelry
Music (CD's Vinyl, music books, small instruments)
Games, Cards and Puzzles

Please don't donate adult clothing, paperback and hardback books EXCEPT as detailed above, weapons, anything that is torn, stained or broken. We hope to provide a list of alternative sources for donations.

Donation times: Sunday 11/5, 9am - 1 pm, Weds., 11/8, 5-6:30 pm, Thurs. 11/9, 10am - noon, Fri. . 11/10, 9am - 1 pm. Pick up can be arranged if needed.

We need volunteers

- to help with donations on Sunday 11/5, Weds 11/8, Thursday 11/9. See times above
- Set-up on Friday. 9am - noon, noon - 4pm
- Day of sale volunteers to assist shoppers, keep tables tidy and inviting, cashiers, greeters. Shifts: 9am - noon, noon - 3pm
- Clean-up crew: 3-5 pm.

Sign-up at our table on Sundays or contact Drew Betz, drewlenore@me.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This month's theme is The Gift of Heritage and on Sunday we will explore indigenous peoples' heritage in a more truthful way. Through stories, video and activities we will learn about powwows and the Jingle Dance, including how

dancing has provided, and still provides, resilience and healing for indigenous people.

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 Children's Focus we will head upstairs where we will explore our theme through stories, activities, games and art.

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

Adult Religious Education FALL 2023

To register for a class, just click on the appropriate link, in blue. If that doesn't work for you, just copy and paste the addresses listed below in blue into your browser. If none of this sounds doable, no worries! We can register for you on Sunday mornings at coffee hour (just visit our table), or email me at genia@BUF.org and I will register you.

Pathways with lunch

Saturday, October 28

10:00-2:00

Pathway sessions welcome new members, visitors, or anyone interested in knowing more about the UU tradition and BUF. These fun and informative sessions introduce participants to each other and to Unitarian Universalism.

Register: buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com212555

Spirit in Practice

11:00-12:30

Wednesday, November 1, 8, 15, 29

Spirit in Practice will be an opportunity to explore and cultivate regular practices that connect us with the sacred ground of our being, however we understand it. Whichever path we follow in this diverse congregation, the Spirit in Practice workshop will offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich our faith journey.

Register: buf.breezechms.com/form/buf.breezechms.com2125551767

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

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, Treasurer, - Jim Reimer, Trustee - Beth Nyblade, Trustee - Stephanie Sarver, Trustee - Lew Phinney, Trustee - Lin Skavdahl- Trustee, Rev. Paul Beckel, ex officio

BUF CALENDAR		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
October 7-8, 2023	---	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. Professional retreat leaders the musical trio rEvolvE. Resort details at this address: info@campssaturna.com . Also contact genia@BUF.org
October 22	Noon-1:30p m	Men's Group in the Conference Room Contact Jeff.copeland@gmail.com with questions.

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
November 12, 2023	Noon-1:30pm	Men's Group in the Conference Room Contact Jeff.copeland@gmail.com with questions.
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