

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

November 15, 2023

Genia and Kevin Allen-Schmid Retiring Next Summer

Congrats to Genia and Kevin Allen-Schmid, who, after decades-long careers in music and education, will retire at the end of June.

Genia has been BUF's Director of Lifelong Learning since 2018—providing oversight of our Religious Education programs for children, youth, and adults.

During the pandemic Genia responded to BUF's changing needs and opportunities by shifting her focus to community-building activities and re-envisioning lifelong learning for a post-covid world. Prior to BUF, Genia taught high school for 30 years in Montana, Germany, Tanzania, and Spain. She taught history, social studies, psychology, sex education, international studies, and ran a Model United Nations chapter and Gay-Straight Alliance.



Kevin has been BUF's Music Director since 2015. He has built up our Chalice Choir and Phoenix Ensemble, overseen and championed staff and guest musicians and directors of additional ensembles, and coordinated interfaith choral concerts and services. All along, he's been substitute teaching, and creating and directing other groups such as the Choir of the Salish Sea. Prior to BUF, Kevin was a high school music teacher and choir director in Montana, Malaysia, Germany, Tanzania, and Spain.

Above all, Genia and Kevin have been collaborators with us: providing encouragement and support for BUFsters—with and without experience—to shine their own light, and to discover their own calling as educators, musicians, and organizers of all kinds. In the months to come, Genia and Kevin's focus will be on putting structures in place to ensure that future BUF leaders will be able to adapt and thrive. The most important thing you can do in the meantime is to respond to calls for volunteers for all of the interdependent facets of BUF programs.

As grandparents and lovers of the outdoors, Genia and Kevin look forward to doing more of the things they already enjoy—and discovering whatever comes next.

Cheers, Dear Friends,

Paul

Walt Ellis Will Be Leading Taize

Beginning in January, Walt Ellis's staff role will expand in a new direction: he will be planning and leading Taize services, ably assisted by staff Keyboard Artist Andrea Rackl, and our Taize volunteer team. Walt has recently begun inspiring us in word and song in both Sunday and Taize services, and for the last two years has been in the AV booth ensuring the smooth operation of sound, image projection, cameras, and all things Zoom.

Taize, held on the first Monday evening of every month, is a candlelit service with gentle music, simple chants and quiet meditation. Services are at 7 pm in the Sanctuary and on Zoom.

New Look for the Mid-Week Update

We're in the process of simplifying the Mid-Week Update (MWU). Please know that over the next few months you'll see some changes to our format and distribution. The MWU will be on holiday, along with staff, **the last week of both November and December**. Continue to send content to mwu@buf.org, knowing that our list-serv, buf-news@buf.org, may sometimes be a better choice to spread your message.

Sunday Look Ahead

November 19

Connections and Legacy in Tanzania – Kevin Allen-Schmid
Stories of beautiful people who have made a difference in Africa. These are people Kevin knew in Tanzania, some related to BUFster Carl Nyblade. The Phoenix Ensemble will sing African songs of protest and praise.

November 26

Grief and Gratitude – Rev Rose Edington
As we complete Indigenous Peoples Month and Thanksgiving Weekend, and before we plunge into the winter holidays, let's take a look at Grief and Gratitude. Both often tend to show up during this time of year. With some inspiration from Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Rev. Rose will consider some of the dynamics of this early winter season.

Rose grew up in West Virginia, began ministry as an American Baptist in Rochester, NY, as a seminarian in the fall of 1969; transferred ordination to UU ministry in 1984 while living in Stamford, CT; held various parish ministry positions in the Boston area; completed Doctor of Ministry in Feminist Liberation Theology; shared a co-ministry with Mel Hoover in Charleston WV. She and Mel are co-ministers emeriti of the UU Congregation in Charleston WV. They moved to Bellingham in 2020 to enjoy grandparenting, the beauties of Washington State, reconnecting with retired UU ministers and spouses here, and BUF.

December 3

Generosity of Spirit – Rev Paul Beckel
Fatigue and resistance are understandable reactions to the many demands of the holiday season. So what might we do when we're pressed up against our limits of time or finances—and even our ideals of unlimited goodwill?

December 10

Holiday Music Service: “Angels Sing Glory” – BUF Choirs, Kevin Allen-Schmid, Director

December 17

Solstice – Rev Paul Beckel

December 24

Christmas Eve – Revs Barbara ten Hove and Paul Beckel

**Note that we will not have a Sunday morning service this weekend.
Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 pm SUNDAY NIGHT**

December 31

What Tends Your Wholeness in These Divisive Times? – Steffany Raynes, Su Livingston, et al.
BUF members and friends are invited to contribute music and poetry, original or old favorites on the topic of what it means to live in this time of uncertainty and change. Info on how to contribute to the service is coming soon.



2024 Virtual General Assembly: Love Unites, Stories Ignite

Virtual GA participants will receive memorable, high-impact content for faith formation, with an easy and accessible experience

- Sense of belonging in the online community, with flexible approaches for a variety of needs
- Renewed connection to the wider faith of Unitarian Universalism.
- Inspiration and support to carry forward to your local congregations and beyond.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20, through Sunday, June 23, 2024. The UUA is now accepting proposals for GA programming. You are warmly invited to [submit a Program Proposal](#) for the 2024 Virtual General Assembly. GA provides opportunities for attendees to learn and grow through educational workshops, lectures, and discussions on a wide range of topics.

Children’s Religious Education

This week’s theme is focused on **Gratitude**, how we can renew our trust in life’s goodness and abundance by being grateful. Through a story, games and art, we will learn about how our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to notice the many everyday joys and gifts that we already possess and are all around us.



Children will start in the sanctuary 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 to 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.

Community Night Dinners and Game Night Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6:00



This Wednesday night's dinner features Ribollita soup, packed with vegetables, white beans and optional Italian sausage, served with Caesar salad, bread and dessert for just \$5 per person. Kids under 12 are free! Our community dinner is every Wednesday evening from 6-6:45 PM in the Social Hall at BUF and everyone of all ages, is welcome!! Stay after dinner to play card-oriented games – Fluxx or Sea, Salt, and Paper or Gubs. Or bring your own card game or board game to play!

Women's Retreat

Are you interested in helping to plan this year's Women's retreat in March? It's lots of fun choosing and developing a theme, helping plan the day's flow and working with a small group of enthusiastic women. If this sounds like it would be up your alley, please contact genia@BUF.org – we'd love to have you be a part of the team!

The Thanksgiving Day Potluck Is Back

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23 – 1 PM set up and socializing, 3 PM dinner
We will provide turkey, you will provide the trimmings!
RSVP Mark Allyn allyn@well.com. Please indicate how many people and what you plan to bring.

Humanitas

The promise of a high-paying contract job brought Sally to Bellingham. Having recently lost her husband to cancer, she and her two children were looking for a fresh start and this seemed to be the place to do that. They found a comfortable house to rent and settled into their new life. Without warning the company decided to make her position a permanent one and offered her job to someone else. She was suddenly without a job and had no way to pay the \$2,000 a month rent. She came to us hoping for a way to keep her children in their new home. As much as we wish we could have paid her rent for the month, that amount of money was more than the whole network together could come up with. Although we were not able to help her with rent, we were able to fill her car up with gas which allowed her to continue searching for a new job.

The Nyblade Legacy in Tanzania

This Sunday, November 19, I will present two views of Tanzania and Tanzanians today, with music, slides and videos collected during my trip there last summer. Come hear stories of beautiful people, some related to Carl Nyblade, who have made a difference in Africa. We'll all sing inspiring African songs from our hymnbook together. The Phoenix Ensemble, and Andrea Rackl will play stirring music by piano composers from the African diaspora.



People I Love in Tanzania

Kevin Allen-Schmid

BUF Music Director, kevin@buf.org

Choir members click [HERE](#) for BUF Choir Resources Folder

Regifting and Repurposing Treasures Sale Update

The sale is over and we celebrate so much of what happened. First, we celebrate the many BUFsters who volunteered before, during and after the sale. It would not have been possible without the 25+ people who stepped up to help. Second, we celebrate the amazing number of items that were donated to the sale. Quite frankly we were overwhelmed and pleased to have a full house of goods for sale. Third, we celebrate that we made close to \$2000 on the sale. Fourth, we celebrate that we were able to help many folks by donating the unsold items to local charities that help people, animals and the environment. We donated to support Whatcom Humane Society, Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Lydia Place, Friends of the Library, and ReSources. We mindfully kept the load on the landfill at a bare minimum. Lastly, we celebrate the support we gave to the BUF community in allowing people to let go of some of their excess material goods. Everything went to a good cause.

How to Submit Content for the Mid-Week Update

Content must be received on Monday by 10 AM. Submit via email and include an attached Word doc, single spaces, Georgia 12 font. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. 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

360-733-3887 Buf.org. admin@buf.org Sign up for the Mid-Week Update and/or the BUF News Digest at <https://wp.buf.org/news/communication-sign-ups/>

BUF Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thurs., Nov. 16, 2023	9:45am	Mindfulness Meditation Group	Library
	10:00am	Pastoral Care	Conference Room
	12:30pm	Flowering Cherry Meditation	Sanctuary
	2:00pm	Hospitality Meeting	Conference
Sunday, November 19, 2023	10:00am	Children's Religious Education	contact genia@buf.org
	10:20am	Sunday Service, in person and Zoom	Sanctuary, Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/738363620 Passcode is BUF Phone: (669) 900-6833
	11:30am	Coffee Hour after Service	Social Hall
	4:00pm	YRUU	Social Hall and back patio
Monday, November 20, 2023	7:00pm	Black Lives Matter Program Meeting	
Tuesday, November 21, 2023	12:00pm	Buddhist study group via zoom	via zoom
	12:00pm	Lunch with Paul	Social Hall
	6:00pm	3rd Tuesday Chalice Circle	Conference
	7:00pm	BUF Board Meeting	Flex room, with OWL
Wed., Nov. 22, 2023	9:30am	Humanitas in Person	Sanctuary
Thursday, November 23, 2023	9:45am	Mindfulness Meditation Group	Library
	12:30pm	Flowering Cherry Meditation	Sanctuary
	1:00pm	Thanksgiving Dinner at BUF (Dinner at 3pm)	Social Hall