

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

April 24, 2024



All BUF services are accessible in-person or on Zoom

use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/73836362>

Passcode = BUF / Meeting ID 738 363 620

Sunday, April 28

10:30 am

Caring or Carrying: How do we best care for ourselves, each other, and the world?

Caring and *Carrying* are not the same thing. Sometimes when we lay down what's not ours to carry, more clarity can emerge about how best to express our caring. BUF member and transitions/clutter coach Carrie Koehnline will lead us in exploring this territory with special music from Su Livingston, Tessie Mandeville, Lisa Heezen, and members of the Chalice Choir.

Monday, May 6 Taize Service

Worship starts at 7 PM

Gathering music starts at 6:50pm

Share with us your Photos of all types of Carers/Caregivers

Our Sunday service on May 12, *A Celebration of Nurturing Energy*, will include slides to honor our beloved parents/grandparents/guardians of all genders and generations. If you have a photo of someone you would like to share, please send it to Genia@buf.org by May 7, along with: The name of the person in the photo, and how they are related to you. Example: *Katy Allen, mother of Genia Allen-Schmid*.

Update on Article II Changes

Many of us are familiar with Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association by-laws, in particular, the seven principles and six sources that define our faith and practice. But did you know that under UUA bylaws, we review Article II every 15 years?

In 2020 the UUA Article II Study Commission commenced such a review. They met with congregations nationwide, gathered comments, and solicited amendments to determine how Article II can better reflect the UUA as it grows.

Last year we at BUF engaged in discussions about the proposed Article II revisions. The seven principles have been replaced by six shared values: Interdependence, Pluralism, Justice, Transformation, Generosity, and Equity. Sources have been replaced by Inspirations. The core principles have endured, but in a different form.

At the 2023 General Assembly (GA) delegates voted to accept the revised Article II.

This June, the GA will vote on the final adoption of the amended Article II. A 2/3 majority is required to move to fully adopt the changes. (See https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2_final_line_num_10312023.pdf)

You can learn more about the proposed Article II changes. A conversational session will be held in June after the Sunday service. Join us!

Listening Forward

I thank you, the Board thanks you, your fellow congregants thank you for participating in the 3 “Listening Forward” sessions about the budget which we held in person and on Zoom in December, January, and April. We thank you too for your generous financial pledges to help us to prepare a balanced budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The Board will finalize its budget proposal this week and it will be included in next week’s MWU for your consideration. BUF members will be asked to approve the budget at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 19 at noon (in person and on Zoom).

This work of collaborative decision making could have been not done without help for the Board provided by our music and religious education hiring teams, the human resources team, treasurer and financial oversight team, and stewardship team leaders and canvassers.

With great appreciation,
Paul

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEK



This Sunday we explore how our Earth and its web of creatures and creation take care *of us*. We will take a look at how nature is a gift, and how being in it and connected to it allows us to live, thrive, and feel cared for.

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 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.

Volunteers Needed for Children’s RE

We are in need of adult volunteers to help with our children’s program once or twice a month. Working with our bright, curious children and their parents is a great way to find belonging and connection, and essential for our budgetary health as well. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Genia Allen-Schmid!

COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNER

Come join us in the Social Hall at BUF this Wednesday at 6:00 for our weekly Community Night Dinner. We’ll be serving peanut soup this week, along with green salad, bread and gluten-free crackers, and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person, with children under 12 free! Come and join us for an affordable, friendly meal.

CPR/AED/FIRST AID TRAINING Customized for BUF, Saturday, May 11, 1-5pm

Where: Social Hall, BUF

Why: Be ready to assist in an emergency at BUF, home, or in your community.

- Learn how to use an AED, administer overdose medication, assess a potential stroke, choke, or heart attack; perform CPR, and more. Coordinated by the BUF Safety Team, this is a condensed training to cover emergencies most likely to occur in BUF settings. This does not result in Red Cross Certification.

Cost: \$60, or request scholarship for amount you need

Trainers: Jeff and Mary Davis of Raven CPR, who offer trainings to service organizations at discounted rates.

How do I sign up? Email sarah.cat.pearson@gmail.com or text 360-224-0305 with your name, phone number, email, and if you will pay yourself or request partial scholarship

Sign up before May 8th! We must have minimum attendance or training will cancel!

Can't attend but want to make sure that we have these life preserving skills in our congregation? Email sarah.cat.pearson@gmail.com or text 360-224-0305 to tell Sarah the amount you want to contribute to sponsor someone for this training! And thank you!!!

HUMANITAS MINISTRY

Special occasions are tough for families who are just barely getting by. When you have one that involves buying for all the children in the family it is especially hard. Martha, a young mom with 3 small children came in hoping to find some help with getting her children an easter basket. It was a pleasant change from the requests we normally get. Some may find it a frivolous one considering we can only help once a year. But for her, at that moment, that was what she needed the most. We were happy to send her on her way with a voucher to a local store to shop for her children.

Thank you again for your support which allows us to make a child's holiday special.

FIND THE BUF CALENDAR ONLINE

The complete calendar of BUF events and building uses is available on our website under the News tab or by following this link <https://73940468.view-events.com/calendar/73940468/month>

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/>



**Are You Ready for a Great Party?
It's the BUF Auction!**

Entry and Raffle Tickets On Sale Now!
Online at <https://fundraiser.bid/BUF>
or at BUF on Sundays.

**Your \$25 ticket includes extraordinary food, a costume parade, fun
with friends and the chance to support BUF.**

Raffle Tickets are \$5 for one, \$10 for three

We Really Need Volunteers! To learn more or to offer to help - email Auction@buf.org or sign up at [Auction Sign Ups](#).

**Can't Make it to the Event or Want a Head Start on Bidding?
Online Bidding Takes Place Between April 28-May 1.
Register or Purchase Tickets to Bid.**

The auction Catalog is Amazing – check it out at: <https://fundraiser.bid/BUF>

Here's a sample of the more than 115 fabulous things on offer:

*Events: Teddy Bear Cupcake Party, Murder Mystery,
Winchester Mtn. Hike*

Items: Lap Quilt, Vintage Earrings, Bird of Paradise Print

Services: Acupuncture, Home Organizing, Velvet Rope Hair Salon

And the Live Auction Will Include:

*Samish Island Sojourn, Arizona Homestay, and more!
Plus Paddle Call!*

Auction Items May Be Dropped Off at BUF after church through May 1.
No Large Items, please! If you're unsure, contact Barbara at revbabs10@gmail.com

*This is BUF's biggest Fundraiser and we need you to attend,
buy raffle tickets, and bid on these fabulous items.
Bring your Friends!*

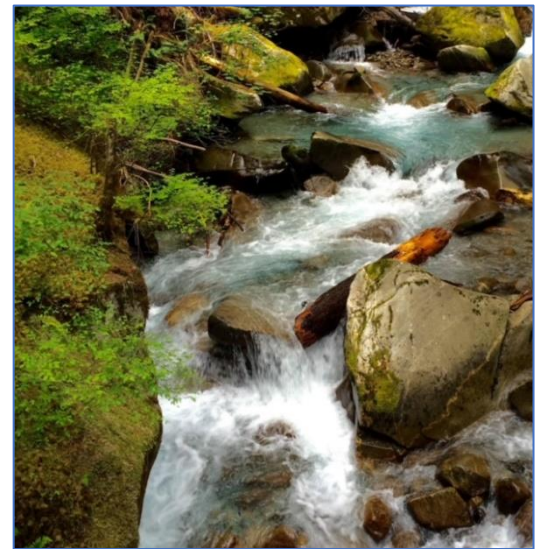
Need More info? Pick up an Auction FAQ at BUF.

POEM FROM APRIL 21 SERVICE Thanks to the Earth

Trophic Cascade

By Camille T. Dungy

After the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone and, as anticipated, their culling of deer, trees grew beyond the deer stunt of the mid century. In their up reach songbirds nested, who scattered seed for underbrush, and in that cover warrened snowshoe hare. Weasel and water shrew returned, also vole, and came soon hawk and falcon, bald eagle, kestrel, and with them hawk shadow, falcon shadow. Eagle shade and kestrel shade haunted newly-berried runnels where deer no longer rummaged, cautious as they were, now, of being surprised by wolves. Berries brought bear, while undergrowth and willows, growing now right down to the river, brought beavers, who dam. Muskrats came to the dams, and tadpoles. Came, too, the night song of the fathers of tadpoles. With water striders, the dark gray American dipper bobbed in fresh pools of the river, and fish stayed, and the bear, who fished, also culled deer fawns and to their kill scraps came vulture and coyote, long gone in the region until now, and their scat scattered seed, and more trees, brush, and berries grew up along the river that had run straight and so flooded but thus dammed, compelled to meander, is less prone to overrun. Don't you tell me this is not the same as my story. All this life born from one hungry animal, this whole, new landscape, the course of the river changed, I know this. I reintroduced myself to myself, this time a mother. After which, nothing was ever the same



Steffany Raynes also mentioned the book **THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE, The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis** by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac. THANK YOU, Steffany.