

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Compassion, Commitment

May 15, 2024



All BUF services (Sundays and Taize) are accessible in-person

or on Zoom. Use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/73836362>

Passcode = BUF / Meeting ID 738 363 620

Sunday, May 19

Listening Forward—Rev Paul Beckel

The UUA is on the verge of adopting a new identity statement. BUF, too, is listening to the forward call of who we are becoming. Neither process is being directed from the top-down, nor predetermined by our past. So what resources will guide and support this continual transformation?

Sunday, May 26

Flower Communion—Rev Paul Beckel

Reflecting upon the spectacular beauty of our transient selves and surroundings, we'll create a mandala of flowers and other organic treasures. **Please bring flowers**, etc., to release—both as natural beauties and as symbols of more personal things you wish to let go of.

BUF ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19, Noon

In the Sanctuary or on Zoom

Here is the BUF Board of Trustees budget proposal for 2024-25:

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-25-BUF-Budget-Proposal.pdf>

Here are the minutes from last year's Congregational Meeting that need to be approved this year:

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Provisional-Congregational-Meeting-Minutes-2023-05-21-MERGED.pdf>

Here is this year's agenda:

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Congregational-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Thank you all for your financial generosity and generosity of spirit that make all of this possible.

LET'S KEEP OUR BUF LANDSCAPE LOOKING BEAUTIFUL

We're having an outside work party at BUF Saturday morning, June 8, 9:00 AM until noon. We need your help. Please join in and help us keep our campus landscape looking attractive and clean. There are many tasks available: trimming, pruning, weeding, sweeping, and general clean up. Choose the task that suits you, and bring your favorite gardening tools, gloves, etc. We'll also have some tools on hand. Stay an hour, stay all morning, anything you do will be welcome. Bring the kids and make it a family outing. The BUF restrooms will be available. We'll supply coffee and snacks. For more information contact Michelle Fox (admin@buf.org), Ron Quinn (ronaldquinn@me.com), or Jim Reimer (jd.reimer@comcast.net).

NINE SWEET YEARS:

A Booklet Listing BUF Music Events & Choir Repertoire from 2015 to 2024

BUF congregants may be interested in perusing a booklet listing the major music events and choir songs that we have enjoyed since 2015. Here's a link to an online pdf of the booklet:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nY3G-Yy3f-cDsTJF1sp8CKVXf0PP4Snv/view?usp=sharing>

With gratitude,

Kevin Allen-Schmid

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This month's theme is Pluralism. Being a pluralistic faith means making sure everyone is welcomed and no one gets left out. This Sunday we explore ways we welcome people, and make sure everyone feels like they belong.

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.

COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNER THIS WEDNESDAY

Join us at 6:00 in the Social Hall this Wednesday night for Mulligatawny soup (with meat and vegetarian versions), along with bread, spinach curry salad, and dessert. It's a bargain at just \$5 per person, and kids under 12 eat for free!



SANCTUARY CHAIRS

This coming Sunday, May 19, three chairs will be on display in the BUF narthex. Your input, using ranked-choice voting, will determine which style is included in a proposal to the BUF Board to purchase 25-30 chairs (one third with arms) using the funds for this project raised at the annual auction in 2023.

The display chairs will be available for two full weeks, May 19 through June 2. Please look them over, try them out, and fill out a ballot ranking them in order of your preference. Because two of the chairs are on loan from other churches, we ask that you focus on comfort and style, not on the color of the wood or upholstery. Many thanks for your input!

AUCTION UPDATE



If you purchased items at the BUF auction, you should have received an email receipt with details of your purchases. If your receipt shows a balance, please follow the instructions in the email to complete payment.

If you donated items to the auction, you should have received an email letting you know who bought your items. Please note:

- If you can't find the email receipts, check your spam folder. If you're still unable, please email us at AuctionAdmin@buf.org.
- If you're hosting an event, please contact the participants sooner than later. Even if your event isn't for a while, it helps folks to know that they're on your radar!
- Visit fundraiser.bid/BUF to browse the remaining hosted events up for bid or see below. If you'd like to sign up for one of the events listed below but you're struggling with the website, please email AuctionAdmin@buf.org and we'll sign you up!

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in this amazing and successful event. If you're interested in being a part of the team next year, please contact us at auction@buf.org.

[Learn to Play Texas Hold 'em Poker with Haven Silver](#)

Saturday, May 18, 2:00 PM

[The Longest Day - an Afternoon with Snacks hosted by John Jurceka](#)

Saturday, June 8, 3:00 PM

[Pantoum Party hosted by Carrie Koehline and Tessie Mandeville](#)

Saturday, June 8, 2-4:30 PM

[Que Syrah Shiraz Wine Tasting hosted by Cindy Denchfield](#)

Saturday, June 8

[Fermented Hot Sauce Class hosted by Chris and Annie Sorich](#)

Sunday, June 9, 3-4:30 PM

[Tapas and Meze Buffet hosted by Beth Nyblade](#)

Saturday, June 22

[Games and Taco Bar hosted by Kara Black](#)

Sunday, June 23, 4:00 PM

[Garden Party hosted by the two Barbaras in the Quinns' backyard](#)

Saturday, July 13

[Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by the Phinneys and Allens \(2 seats left!\)](#)

Saturday, August 24, 5:00 PM

[Dessert & Jewelry party hosted by Beth Nyblade](#)

Event date TBD

[Tarot Card Party hosted by Naomi Gary and Khore Phoenix](#)

Event date TBD, Saturday in late summer

[Art Quilt Prayer Flag Workshop hosted by Drew Betz](#)

January 5, 2025, and January 11, 2025



GATHERING OF THE EAGLES MAY 19-27 BELLINGHAM EVENT, MAY 25

Our infamous bridge-builder, Freddie Lane of Lummi Nation, is again organizing the Gathering of the Eagles (GOTE) event. This year will continue the tradition of the canoe journey throughout the islands; however, the main event will take place on May 25 from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM in Bellingham amongst the Ski to Sea activities. Guest speakers, music and welcoming ceremony, water blessings, and GOTE canoes will be landing at Waypoint (waterfront) starting at 9:00 AM. About 11:00 AM, we'll move up to Maritime Heritage Park, where traditional protocol and speakers will continue, and there will be Indigenous food and arts and crafts vendors. Coastal Jam (with Indigenous music and dancing) will take place about 3:00 PM. For more details, check out the GOTE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348680987204571>. Event sponsors include GOTE organizing team, Children of the Setting Sun Productions, Friends of the San Juans, and Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment. All events are open to the public.

PEACE AND TRUTH HEALS (PATH) SPEAKING TOUR WITH BROTHER MOJI AGHA, MAY 30

A retired mental health professional and university educator in psychology and related social sciences (including conflict resolution), brother Moji Agha (a Sufi "monk" or dervish—with a vow of service and poverty) left a promising career well over two decades ago, shifting his extensive education and experience to the healing of "Grandmother Earth." Brother Moji Agha has distilled the essence of his (almost) five decades of

scholarship and especially “civility” activism into the currently unfolding Peace and Truth Heals (PATH) initiative. We invite you to join us in a time of exploring what these three aspects of his PATH (Iranian Nonviolence—Native/American Truth and Reconciliation—Intersectional Circles/Chambers of Compassion) movement calls for and the role we can play in embracing nonviolence and compassion to bring healing and change to our times. Acknowledgements by Bishop Desmond Tutu, Prof. Noam Chomsky, Prof. Cornell West, Prof. Richard Falk, and more. For more information visit: <https://juustwa.org/program-areas/issues/first-american-indian-nations/resources/speakers-and-presenters/brother-moji-gha/>

MIDWEEK UPDATE MOVES TO SUMMER SCHEDULE AFTER NEXT WEEK

The MWU will be published and distributed every other week following the May 22 edition. Look for it in your inbox on June 5, 19, July 3, 17, 31, August 14, and 28. We will return to weekly issues on September 4.

HOW TO SUBMIT CONTENT FOR THE MID-WEEK UPDATE

Content must be received by 10:00 AM on the Monday before the distribution date. Submit via email and include an attached Word doc, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 font. Avoid any formatting, including bullets. Limit: 200 words. Submittals may be edited for space and clarity. Submit your content to MWU@buf.org

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

Office phone:360-733-3887, buf.org or 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/>