

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Community, Compassion, Commitment
May 22, 2024



**Annual Report from the President of the BUF Board of Trustees,
Alexander Gilman**

and ballot results from the May 19, 2024 Congregational Meeting:

<https://wp.buf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Presidents-Annual-Report-ballot.pdf>

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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.

This will be a shorter service in the sanctuary followed by a 0.4 mile trek (or drive) down Dupont to Whatcom Creek to release the mandala.

At noon in Fouts Park, there will be a George Floyd memorial event.
There will be plenty of time to get to the Creek and back so you can join both events.

June 2

From Baby to Bridging—Rev Paul Beckel, Genia Allen-Schmid, and BUF Teens

We'll begin with a child dedication, end with a send off for our high school graduate, and in-between we'll hear from our middle-schoolers about their visits this year to houses of worship of a variety of faith traditions.

June 9

What a Wonderful World: Choir Finale

The BUF Choirs, pianists, and additional instrumental accompanists, directed by Kevin Allen-Schmid, bring their best of 2023-24.

June 16

Farewell to Genia and Kevin

With hoopla and gratitude for Genia and Kevin Allen-Schmid, we will honor their ministries to BUF and celebrate their retirements.

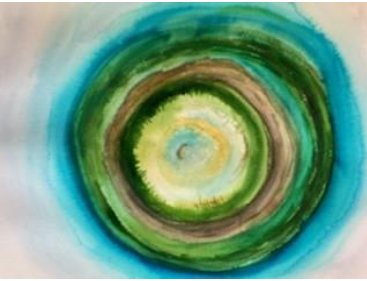
Potluck afterward—please bring food to share.

Sunday June 23

Livestream from the UUA General Assembly

Join thousands of UUs from around the country gathering to sing and to reflect on our vision for our future.

More here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>



TAIZE SERVICE

JUNE 3, 7:00 PM

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a meditative service with singing, candles, and guided meditation.

The theme of the June 3 service will be Meditation on Breath. Join us in person or on Zoom at 7:00 PM. Bring a friend.

This service provides respite from the chaos of the world. All are welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTION FOR MAY 2024: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES (DVSAS)

“Everyone deserves to be safe.” DVSAS.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services supports people affected by such abuse of power and leads the community to end these abuses. The organization provides prevention education and training programs to community groups about the dynamics of sexual assault. We provide information on how to support individuals in unsafe relationships, giving a clear perspective on the reality of these issues and why they are so complicated.

The organization has a number of volunteer opportunities, from filing to advocacy work. Interested people can apply at the link: <https://www.dvsas.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Your contributions are highly appreciated and can be sent to the BUF office throughout May.

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This month we’ve been exploring what it means to be a pluralistic faith, and one of the ways we demonstrate this is by *celebrating* differences, not just tolerating them. This week is filled with a story and games celebrating the diversity that adds richness to our lives. Older children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for our annual flower communion.

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
MAY 22, 6:00 PM**

Join us at 6:00 in the social hall this Wednesday night for thick and tasty potato and leek soup, along with bread, a green salad, and dessert. It's a bargain at just \$5 per person, and kids under 12 eat for free!

**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.



Humanitas Ministry

We had a group of men come in this week who are living at the shelter. A few came from Honduras, some from El Salvador. All of them are hoping to find a job soon. They came to us asking for help getting shoes and clothes, as one man said, so that he can look presentable before asking someone to give him a job. We had the privilege to help them on this next step of their journey in building a new life for themselves and their families.

**PEACE AND TRUTH HEALS (PATH) SPEAKING TOUR
WITH BROTHER MOJI AGHA
MAY 30, 6:30-8:30 PM, BUF SANCTUARY**

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/>

DEEPEN YOUR ENJOYMENT OF UPCOMING BUF CHOIR SONGS

Music can be so fleeting—we hear it and then it’s gone—but here’s a chance for BUFsters to maximize their enjoyment. Click on these YouTube links to hear and watch videos of our upcoming choir songs. There is great beauty and inspiration in these songs, which all bear hearing many times over.

All Too Soon, by Stephen Hatfield

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b1-lhOvffE>

Canada In Springtime, by Chris Dedrick of the 1970s band “Free Design”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdU84_Qiqjk

For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bDoMflYErE>

I Dreamed of Rain, by Garrett, arranged by Nickels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APvcIaw-sr8>

I Love You/What A Wonderful World, arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_qfeE0TjyY

Make Me Cry, by Jacob Collier (to be presented June 2 by kids and parents)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ra77qWfXv1c>

May Night (Mainacht), by Johannes Brahms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M69CRPZEdE>

Pilgrim Spring, by Reginald Unterseher

<https://reginaldunterseher.com/pilgrim-spring/>

Soon Ah Will Be Done, Spiritual arranged by William Dawson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHrn8HMDFTA>

Kevin Allen-Schmid

BUF Music Director, 2015-2024

MIDWEEK UPDATE BEGINS SUMMER SCHEDULE

After this edition, the MWU will be published and distributed every other week, on June 5 and 19, July 3, 17, and 31, and 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/>