

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
The Midweek Update
February 28, 2018

This is a Beautiful Place

Every Sunday morning, greeting visitors, I meet people who are considering — or already making plans for — moving to Bellingham. I understand why. I was in that spot not so long ago, and my hopes for what Bellingham might be have turned out well.

It's amazing to me that so many of these visitors are explicitly looking for a Unitarian Universalist congregation — that's one of their criteria for a new home. I'm guessing, though, that they want more than "a" Unitarian Universalist congregation; they want a *wonderful, inspiring, welcoming, well-functioning, making-a-difference* UU congregation. They're right to look to BUF — a group of imperfect people aspiring to a grand mission of being all that, and more.



This place is beautiful in so many ways. Jane and I spent the past weekend in Whistler, BC, cross-country skiing. The majesty of the mountains and forests, there, is overwhelming. Still, I found myself looking forward to coming back home. I feel embraced here by the people and the land itself. I already feel a little jealous about others coming to partake, but as long as they keep coming, I'm glad to be a part of a congregation that will draw the newcomers into a community in which they can thrive.

Peace,
Paul

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Webinar: *Three Common Ways Social Justice Organizations are Unintentionally Oppressive...and how we can transform them*

11 a.m. Wednesday, March 13

This webinar will be shown on the large screen TV in the BUF library.

More info at sandrakim.com

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Sunday Services in March

March 4 - March Forth: Facing Our Fears - Rev. Paul Beckel Courage, gratitude, and generosity can all coexist with whatever life brings.

March 11 - Ministry Beyond these Walls - Rev. Tessie Mandeville and others Each of us use our passions and skills to bring Unitarian Universalist principles to life; individually, and institutionally, we minister to the wider community. So while our internal work is vital, along with the sanctuary and the beloved community we provide to one another... we recognize today the wide variety of ordained and lay ministries in which we engage beyond these walls.

BUF Marks the Passing of Long-Time Choir Librarian, Bonnie de Vera

BUF's choir librarian, Bonnie de Vera, left this earthly fellowship on January 28, 2018.

Performing a thankless and largely invisible task, Bonnie had found her niche at BUF by volunteering to serve the music program. She would spend long hours, bringing her fine-tuned organizational skills to bear, in keeping BUF's extensive music collection up to date and accessible.

Here are some tributes to Bonnie's refreshingly independent personality:

"Bonnie was devoted and thorough, ensuring not only that each choir folder was intact, but that each choir member was cared for" . . . Kevin Allen-Schmid

"Bonnie was intelligent and generous. She brought a joie de vivre to any activity."
. . . Melanie Rieck.

"Bonnie always made you feel that she had time for you" . . . Tammy Jo Meyer

"Bonnie had a keen mind and a great sense of humor. She was the neighborhood greeter and a good friend in her book group. She never knew a stranger, striking up conversations with people in cafes, lineups and wherever there were people. We will miss her." . . . Rev. Barbara Gilday

Bonnie's family held an informal Celebration of Life at the Bellwether Hotel last Saturday, February 24. As a gesture of appreciation from BUF and the BUF choirs, Kevin and Melanie performed this song for the friends and family gathered there.

Wasn't Bonnie Lovely?

Set to the tune of "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," from "My Fair Lady"

She'd just work in that room back there
Keeping track of what goes where
Far from BUF stress and care
Oh, wasn't Bonnie lovely?

Lots of music to sort and file
Lots of work, it sure took a while
And always with a smile
Oh, wasn't Bonnie lovely?

Oh, so lovely working abso-bloomin' by herself
She would never stop 'til all the music was on the shelf

She was our dear librarian
Only slightly contrarian
As tough as anyone
Oh, wasn't Bonnie lovely?
Lovely, lovely, lovely, lovely.



In Loving Memory, Bonnie de Vera

December 20, 1946—January 28, 2018

Pathways to Membership.. Now scheduled for March on three Tuesday evenings beginning on March 6th. The first Pathways meeting will be held in the Library from 7 - 8:30 pm and the next two meetings are scheduled for the Conference Room also from 7-8:30 pm.

We'll learn about the history and principles off Unitarian Universalism, finding our sense of purpose and how that intersects with BUF's mission, and the basics of how BUF works.

Opportunity for Hospice Volunteers

Hospice volunteers are special people who provide assistance to those who are facing the end of life. They may provide companionship while a caregiver takes a break, perform light chores, or offer a listening ear to those in need. They also have the choice to volunteer in patient's homes or local nursing homes, assisted living, or the hospice house. Some volunteers prefer to help in a more indirect way, such as delivering medications, working in the office, or knitting shawls or sewing quilts. Those interested in learning more are invited to attend an Informational Meeting to be held

Saturday, March 24th, 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
Hospice Administration Building, Lower Level
2800 Douglas Ave., Bellingham

For further information please contact me at 360-788- 6892 / dgillespie@peacehealth.org. Thank you, Dianne Gillespie, Whatcom Hospice Volunteer Coordinator



The PWR Regional Assembly in Portland, Oregon (April 27-29) has something for people of every age. In addition to the main programs for

adults, we'll have a UU Kids Camp for ages 5-14, a Youth Assembly for ages 14-18, and high-quality childcare for infants to age 4. Families can spend time together, too, sharing the experiences of the opening ceremony, the Sunday morning worship, mealtimes, and more. Because of our UU commitment to including children and youth, the PWR is covering much of the cost of the programs for young people. The registration fee is just a portion of what it costs for these engaging, inclusive, and faith-building programs.

The Pacific Western Regional Assembly promises to be an experience that deepens UU identity and fosters hope and resilience in people of all ages. Register now and join us in Portland this spring!

Thanks! In faith, Tandi

Rev. Tandi Rogers | Congregational Life Staff | Pacific Western Region

Phone (253) 278-4646 | trogers@uua.org

C2C Invites BUF to Join with Them in New Statewide Climate Justice Initiative

Community to Community, BUF's Partner Organization, has been a core planning team member of the coming state-wide ballot initiative on equitable climate justice. C2C, as a rep for Front And Centered, will continue to be involved with the Oversight Board once (if) the ballot initiative passes. Front And Centered is a coalition of 60+ organizations representing people of color in Washington State (<http://frontandcentered.org/>). The group working on this initiative (Alliance for Jobs and

Clean Energy) includes: tribes, health organizations, Front And Centered, big environmental organizations, labor groups, utilities, government representatives and businesses. The ballot initiative is expected to be submitted by the end of this month. Its main focus is on 1) setting a truly emission-reducing carbon fee structure, and 2) directing a percentage of the resources it generates toward groups and communities most heavily impacted by emissions, climate change and displacement; as well as investing in clean green jobs and initiatives.

How can BUF join with C2C to move this initiative forward? *Collect Signatures *Host forums and speakers *Share the word with other UU congregations in the state *Learn & share in other ways If you are interested in participating, please contact Kara Black (karab@treefrognight.com, 360-676-2300)

Interfaith Coalition Auction

BUF will be contributing a basket of Locally Sourced Foods for our contribution to the Interfaith Coalition Auction on Saturday, March 24th at 5:30 pm. We need lots of food donation items: wines, jams, pickles, cheeses, chocolate, bread, crackers, granola, etc. anything local (or Washington state). I will have the basket in the foyer of the fellowship. Please drop your contribution.

Also, consider attending the Auction which always sells out...The \$65. ticket includes dinner, silent auction, live auction, entertainment. I saw some of the auction items and it looks amazing. Tickets at www.interfaith-coalition.org

~ Ann Stevenson



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR BUF WOMEN'S RETREAT!

The 22nd annual BUF Women's Retreat will take place April 27-29 at Camp Casey. This is a great opportunity to get to know the other women at BUF on a deeper level. Camp Casey is an alcohol, drug and tobacco free facility on Whidbey Island near the Coupeville ferry terminal. You can register during Sunday Coffee Hour or download the registration form online at BUF.org. Cost for the whole weekend is \$110 and \$40 for Saturday only. Camperships are available as we want all BUF women to be able to attend. Theme this year is "A Room With a View - Making Space For You" and our main workshop features our own Carrie Koehnline! Stop by our table in the social hall on Sunday mornings for more details and to sign up.



SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT BUF—Check out the Blo Do you ever wonder what our SEJC (Social & Environmental Justice Committee) has been up to? Do you know about one of our ministry action teams like Humanitas or Black Lives Matter but not about the others? Well, welcome to the SEJC Blog (<https://sejcatbuf.blogspot.com/>). As the current chair, I plan to post monthly to give everyone a peek into all the amazing work YOUR SEJC is doing. By the way, many of the ministry action teams have their own blogs too! Check them out at <http://buf.org/ministryaction-teams>. - Linda Fels

Help select next year's Social Justice Collection recipients! Do you have a favorite non-profit organization? Is their focus social or environmental justice? If so, please encourage them to apply by our March 31st deadline. The Social and Environmental Justice Committee's (SEJC) Guiding Principles and Application are on the BUF website at <http://www.buf.org/giving-beyond-buf>. This year, the major part of the application will be limited to 250 words. Non-profits can download the applications and email them to Kara Black at karab@treefrognight.com. Feel free to contact Kara with any questions (676-2300)



Coffee House Acoustic Open Mic BELLINGHAM UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP



Friday, March 16th
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
1207 Ellsworth Street



The theme for the evening is
"Changing Times"

Acoustic musicians, singers, writers, storytellers, jokesters, and performers are invited to present for 10 minutes each. Material related to the theme is optional, yet encouraged. Sign in to perform at 6:15 p.m.

Shasta Pettijohn, musician, songwriter and coordinator for this event will serve as M.C.
Contact her at starsong816@gmail.com for more information

Humanitas - Helping People In a Pinch

A former fisherman from Alaska, William is homeless with nothing but the clothes he is wearing. All his belongings were stolen, including his wallet, social security card and ID. He wants to work but so far hasn't found anything. We gave him a voucher for clothing at Value Village and a recommendation for AccessID at the Bellingham Library, a group who will help him get the documents he needs to replace the stolen ones. He offered to help clean BUF, his way of "paying it forward" and feeling useful. Paul happened to be in the sanctuary at the time, so he accepted William's offer and put him to work for a while. We all shared good deeds!

~ The Humanitas Team.



Lummi Food Bank



Keep Lummi Food Bank in your thoughts. Maybe think in the line of donating a meal for a family putting together ingredients for a hearty soup, chili, or entre. If every family or every unit could commit to something that would serve more than one person just think of the substantial impact BUF could have. A shopping basket for your donations is in front of the elevator. Thank you for your donations.
~ Carol Dukes

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, February 28

Community Night Dinner at 6pm in the Social Hall
With Spaghetti and Italian Sausage, also Vegan spaghetti.
Green tossed salad, garlic bread, and for dessert: pineapple upside down cake, gluten free brownies, ice cream

Choir Practice 6:45pm in the Sanctuary



Thursday, March 1

A Miracle of Mindfulness

Following the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Flowering Cherry Sangha Mindfulness Meditation Group takes part in meditation, study, discussion, and chanting. Join us at in the Meditation Room downstairs every Thursday at 2:00 pm. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. For more information contact David Gillespie at davidgillespie72@gmail.com.

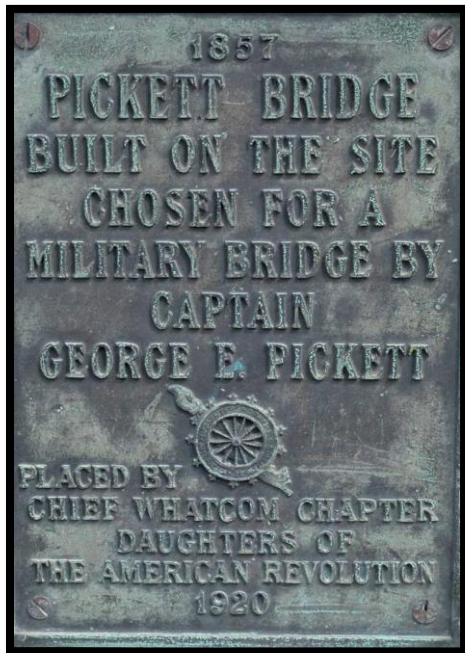


7:00 PM Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Friday, March 2: No events or activities

Saturday, March 3

Whatcom Civil Rights Project – The Deep North Conference



SAVE THE DATE! The Deep North Conference is a one-day conference addressing racial equity and present day liberation work in the Deep North of the Pacific Northwest. This means examining and starting to undoing racism, white supremacy and a settler colonial mindset which we take for granted, especially nestled up here in the rainy, green Northwest.

REGISTRATION: Registration is recommended since seating is limited. The fee is \$50 (a sliding scale is available for limited means and students). Groups and organizations are encouraged also to attend.

9 AM - 5:45 PM at BUF with MORE DETAILS TO COME
6:00 PM RE 3rd floor commitment

Sunday, March 4

8:00 AM Canvass Kick Off Breakfast

Science of Mindfulness 9:15 Library

Sunday Forum: Keeping Your Brain Young

9:15 a.m. Linda Goggin, MD, BUF member, and board-certified family physician will be discussing strategies to prevent and reverse memory loss. Until the past several years in medicine's history, Alzheimer's disease has been experienced as a universally progressive decline. New understanding of the molecular switches within neurons—and how to cultivate new neuron growth—gives hope to many with Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases.



March Forth: Facing Our Fears - Rev. Paul Beckel. Courage, gratitude, and generosity can all coexist with whatever life brings. 10:30 a.m.

11:45 AM BUF Family Promise meeting with Sarah Lane

11:45 AM Kids' Choir

4:00 PM YRUU (High School Youth)

Monday, March 5: No Events or Activities

Tuesday, March 6

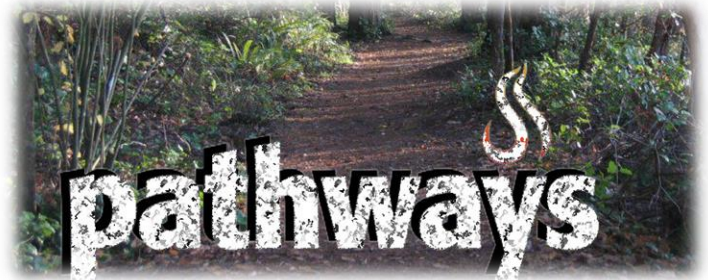


6:30 PM Book Club 2

7:00 PM Newcomer Chalice Circle

Pathways to Membership At Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

We'll learn about the history and principles off Unitarian Universalism, finding our sense of purpose and how that intersects with BUF's mission, and the basics of how Library.



7:00 PM Racial Justice Coalition in Social Hall

Wednesday, March 7

10:00 AM Humanitas
6:00 PM COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNER
6:00 PM Finlandia Foundation

*Voices
of BUF*

6:45 PM Chalice Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM Phoenix Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM Women's Ensemble

Thursday, March 8

A Miracle of Mindfulness Following the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Flowering Cherry Sangha Mindfulness Meditation Group takes part in meditation, study, discussion, and chanting. Join us at in the Meditation Room downstairs every Thursday at 2:00 pm. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. For more information contact David Gillespie at davidgillespie72@gmail.com.



7:00 PM Larry Hildes- Karen Weil Benefit Concert

Friday, March 9: No events or activities
Saturday, March 10: No events or activities

Sunday, March 11

Science of Mindfulness, 9:15 Library
9:15 AM Sunday Forum

Ministry Beyond these Walls - Rev. Tessie Mandeville and others

10:30 a.m. Each of us use our passions and skills to bring Unitarian Universalist principles to life; individually, and institutionally, we minister to the wider community. So while our internal work is vital, along with the sanctuary and the beloved community we provide to one another . . . we recognize today the wide variety of ordained and lay ministries in which we engage beyond these walls.

11:45 AM Kids' Choir
Brunch at the Hearthfire Grill

Dungeons and Dragons

A time for momentarily setting aside this reality and indulging your imagination! BUF's Dungeons and Dragons game group meets at 12:00 pm in the I Street Vestibule. Join us in this fantasy game, as we guide our heroes through quests for treasure, battles with deadly foes, daring rescues, courtly intrigue, and much more.

12:00 PM Teacher Training

Social and spiritual sustenance for BUF's Men

Our regular semi-monthly meeting of the BUF men's group will occur this Sunday, in the BUF conference room at our usual time of 12:15 to about 1:30. I hope to see you there. As usual, our ground rules are:

- All men are welcome, including newcomers and friends.
- We try to avoid politics and sports.
- We'll start with two minutes each for a brief check-in -- try to talk about how we are not what we've been doing.
- We'll avoid cross talk during the discussion.
- As always, we'll observe a policy of confidentiality.
- Feel free to bring your lunch or a snack to share.

LGER 6pm in Flex

Monday, March 12

5:00 PM C2C Forum on H-2A Visas and Guest Worker Programs

HARNESSING THE POWER OF LOVE TO CREATE CHANGE



Black Lives Matter Ministry Team meeting will be held on at 6:00 PM. The BUF Black Lives Matter Ministry Action Team seeks to nurture the social, spiritual and personal development of congregation members in the exploration of how racism and privilege impact our congregation, our community, and our nation. In particular, we acknowledge the targeted violence which impacts black people disproportionately. We are committed to harnessing the power of love to dismantle racism and white supremacy across our communities and to creating spaces inclusive of people of all races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. We meet consistently, every second and fourth Monday of the month at 6pm in the Conference Room.

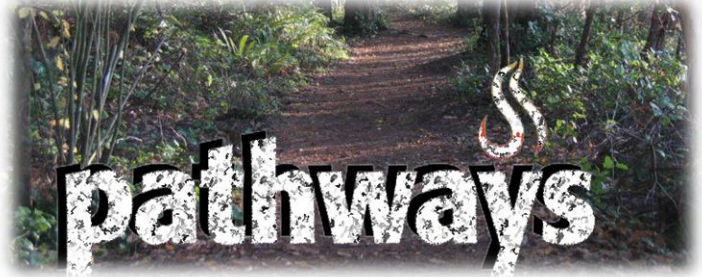
Tuesday, March 13



6:00 PM IT Committee
6:30 PM Chalice Circle Laura Shelton

Pathways to Membership At Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

We'll learn about the history and principles of Unitarian Universalism, finding our sense of purpose and how that intersects with BUF's mission, and the basics of how Library.



Wednesday, March 14

10:00 AM Humanitas
6:00 PM COMMUNITY NIGHT
DINNER

*Voices
of BUF*

6:45 PM Chalice Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM Phoenix Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM Women's Ensemble

Thursday, March 15

Following the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Flowering Cherry Sangha Mindfulness Meditation Group takes part in meditation, study, discussion, and chanting. Join us at in the Meditation Room downstairs every Thursday at 2:00 pm. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. For more information contact David Gillespie at davidgillespie72@gmail.com.

Friday, March 16: No events or activities