

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

January 2, 2019

We received a note this week from the UUA: **“Thank you, BUF, for keeping your promise.”**

The UUA, like BUF, is a covenanted community. BUF is a community of individuals; the UUA is a community of congregations. Thus our statement of principles begins, *“We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote....(the inherent worth and dignity of every person, etc).”*



So, as BUF depends on individual members, the UUA depends upon member congregations for financial support (and for volunteers, moral support, etc). BUF has a long tradition of fulfilling our full recommended financial contribution to the UUA —

Another apt comparison to congregational membership: BUF contributes to the UUA not in a fee-for-service relationship. Our contribution is in support of the full breadth of the UUA mission, which includes not only support to congregations but also the furtherance of our liberal religious message, and principles, well beyond our own walls.

For example, the UUA helps teams and congregations to collaborate with organizations in the larger community that work for environmental sustainability, racial justice, sexuality education, voting rights, and many other pragmatic implementations of our principles.

The UUA develops curricula for children and adults, publishes hymnals, provides regional services for congregations such as consulting on finances, program development, ministerial settlement, and conflict management. The UUA holds workshops for volunteers all over the U.S., and training for professional staff: ministers, religious educators, administrators, and music and membership professionals.

So the UUA thanks you, BUF, for being a part of all of this work — these expressions of over two centuries of shared learning and commitment.

Peace,
Paul



What's up with RE?

Our Religious Education program year (July 2018 through June 2019) has been one of intentional transition. Staff turnover, a re-envisioning of the program, and an extraordinarily generous gift led to our hiring of interim staff for twelve months while we consider long-range goals and educational methods.

We've appreciated the creativity and initiative of Genia Allen-Schmid and Kevin Allen-Schmid who served as Interim RE Co-Directors

through December. From January through June 2019, Genia will be the sole Acting-Director. RE Assistants Carol Sheppard and Rhys Smoker will also continue through June on a temporary basis.

This fall, the BUF Board set up a seven-member task force to create a multi-year plan for use of the \$100,000 gift, which was designated to ensure the development of a more robust RE program at BUF. This plan will include recommendations regarding staffing (potentially continuing or expanding the role of RE assistants — which were new for this interim year), and recommendations regarding expenditures for other materials, equipment, training, and program support. The long-term challenge will be to ensure that, as the gift money is spent over the years, our pledge income will grow proportionately so that the expanded program will eventually be fully supported by pledges to our annual budget.

Meanwhile, our Human Resources Team is gearing up to advertise nationwide for our new Director of Lifelong Learning. Screening and interviews will take place this spring for hiring a new DLL this summer.

Thank you for your ongoing support of BUF Religious Education!

Thanks for your Thanksgiving Contributions in Support of Homeless Youth

We've received a note of thanks from our friends at First Congregational Church in Bellingham. They are raising \$1,000,000 to create space in their building for use by a nonprofit to serve Bellingham. For the foreseeable future, that nonprofit will be Northwest Youth Services, which will use the space as a day center for youth experiencing homelessness.



Last month at our interfaith Thanksgiving Service, attended by people from many faith traditions, we took a collection and raised \$870 to support The Ground Floor project. Their gratitude extends to BUF and to the many other allies in and around Whatcom County.

Upcoming Sunday Services:

January 6 Be Careful what you Wish/Pray For: Last Sunday I shared a reading that included these words: “We’ve come so far, so fast, that we need to stop and let our souls catch up with us.” Someone reminded me afterward of some more-ancient words: “What shall it profit anyone, if they shall gain the whole world, and lose their own soul?” This leads me to think of still another familiar phrase, “Be careful what you wish for.” Consider biotechnology, and artificial intelligence, and “advances” of all kinds. Not that we need to reject them all, but care and thought — and acknowledgement of the possibility of unintended consequences — need to precede our decision making.

Next Taize Service is January 7 at 7pm in the Sanctuary at BUF.

New Beginnings is our theme, with more to come in the January 2nd MWU. ~Tessie Mandeville
See more below in Events section

BUF-SEJC Special Collection January 2019, Restorative CommUnity Coalition

What if?

We could replace the prison industry by a social enterprise that strengthens our economy and creates safer communities?

What if?

Such enterprises nourished relationships and offered creative solutions to social problems?



This is the vision of the Restorative CommUnity Coalition (RCC) whose mission, in turn, is to reclaim the lives of incarcerated people by means of economic, systemic and social change.

Foremost RCC recognizes and identifies the challenges experienced by incarceration, namely regarding employment, housing, and, social and emotional aspects. The organization provides support and service to the individuals and their families. For example, RCC helps its clients by providing for basic means such as bus passes, to offering complex services such as, guidance and counseling through case management, vocational support, finding housing and transport, and referring to local services.

RCC seeks volunteers for a variety of purposes such as a social media support to organizing administrative systems. To learn more about these complex issues, please attend the BUF Sunday Forum by RCC on January 13, 2019.

Sita C. Amba-Rao/Kara Black, SEJC Members

A word from Genia Allen-Schmid, your Interim DLL January 2019



I recently read the article “What White Children Need to Know About Race”. This month’s RE theme is centered on racial justice (see following) and this article reinforces how important it is for us, as parents, and a congregation, to deliberately discuss race with our children. According to this article, liberal white parents often think it’s enough to simply tell our children that we are all the same and that they should “not see race”. In fact, research suggests that “fear of perpetuating racial misunderstandings, being seen as racist, making children feel badly, or simply not knowing what to say” prevents many white

parents from taking time to discuss the deep, historic roots of racism and the racist system we operate under today.

As a high school history teacher one of my favorite units in US history was the Civil Rights movement. Showing the powerful film series “Eyes on the Prize” never failed to stir deep emotions in my students. Young people have a deep and natural sense of justice and many of them became furious with the system of the Jim Crow South. Then when we examined racism and bigotry right here and now, in a personal context, I could see them struggle with their feelings of denial and shame and then shift towards empowerment as we identified actions we could take to effect change. It was pretty clear this was new territory for most of them and they reveled in it.

We learned from Reverend Rogers last spring in fact, that parents are the most important teachers of their children in spiritual and ethical matters. School classes and Sunday Morning RE are good starting points, but children draw on their families for their values and worldview. If we, as a society and as a fellowship, want to achieve racial justice we need to take the time to engage with our children on this topic.

This month in RE we will be role-playing micro-aggressions, examining structural racism and practicing ways to be inclusive and welcoming. We will look at stereotypes, differences and common ground. Please encourage your children to discuss what they are learning. Ask questions, listen and draw them out. If we can get over being uncomfortable and have those hard conversations about race, we parents can be the most important teachers of all.

JANUARY RE Theme: Welcome Table with Black Lives Matter

Jan. 6 Project Sunday (kids start in sanctuary and are sung upstairs)

Classes will explore how “We are different, we are the same”, with hands on activities and stories illustrating how to be inclusive and welcoming.

Jan. 13 Experience Sunday (kids start in sanctuary and are sung upstairs)

Classes will continue to explore how “We are different, we are the same”, through art projects, stories and learning about being an ally.

Jan. 20 Intergenerational Sunday (pre-school sung upstairs)

Children will share what they have learned about being inclusive and an ally. RE team members and Black Lives Matter will facilitate small group discussions about racial justice ending with a message of hope and healing

Jan.27 ARTS SUNDAY (kids start in sanctuary and are sung upstairs)

Kids will sing with Australian choir director Elana Andrews who leads a highly regarded Roma Children’s choir in Romania. These songs will be performed on February 10 for our intergenerational service.

PWR District Chalice Lighter Programs

The four boards are currently re-examining the districts' Chalice Lighter Programs and are putting the programs on hold as they figure out a new structure and a staffing model for these programs. Donors should know that any funds received from automated withdrawals continue to go into their district's Chalice Lighter fund. If you have questions or concerns, please contact members of your district board at one of the following addresses: mddboard@pwrुua.org, pcdboard@pwrुua.org, pnwdbboard@pwrुua.org, pswdboard@pwrुua.org.

2018 Christmas Breads Spread

This year we had an amazing variety of Christmas breads and rolls, plus brownies and bars, for our annual Christmas Breads Spread! It was a delight to behold four large round tables laden with delicious baked goods and to enjoy tasting several with coffee after the service. Sincere thanks to all the following wonderful bakers who made it such a success: Beth Nyblade, Bev Smith, Bharti Kirchner, Chris Backus, John Stewart, Judy Fruhbauer, Kathy Wahto, Lee Willis, Leslie McFee, Linda Berg, Linda Fels, Pam Ives and Su Livingston. And thanks also to Leslie DeBrock, Jane DeBrock and Dick Kasper for help with set up and clean up.

~Judy Kas



Humanitas - Helping People In a Pinch

We are sometimes visited by women in late middle age (or older) who struggle to make ends meet. In spite of an education and/or years of work experience, it is unlikely that their lot in life will improve in the near future. A place to sit and have a hot cup of coffee, a conversation in a warm and friendly atmosphere and a little monetary assistance, be it only once a year, can bring a measure of comfort. Jane, for example, was diagnosed with a neurological disease which affects her memory. As a result she can no longer work. She also needs surgery on her ravaged knees. Because of domestic abuse, she has quietly suffered from PTSD for many years. She has just qualified for state disability. As she is still able to drive her small car, we gave her a voucher for gasoline so she can drive to group counseling sessions rather than a painful walk to the bus stop.





Lummi Food Bank

Let the holiday season of GIVING include your food donations for the Lummi Food Bank. The need is especially great this time of year and all donations are appreciated. Should you wish to contribute monetarily each month, information is available at the BUF office. If you would prefer an automatic monthly donation, Kathy Wahto, our BUF Administrator, can help you set up an EFT (electronic financial transfer) through the office.

Thank you for your generosity and Happy Holidays to you and your family.

~ Carole Dukes, for the BUF Native American Committee

January 2019 Calendar of Regularly Scheduled Activities & Meetings

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Humanitas	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Writers Group	12:00 PM	Conference
Owl Parent Meeting	6:45 PM	Flex room and classroom 1
Treble Voices Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM	Sanctuary

Thursday, January 3, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Gabriels Art Kids	12:30 PM	Social Hall
Evolutionary Psychology	1:00 PM	Conference Room
Mindfulness Meditation Group	2:00 PM	Sanctuary
Bud Anderson Raptor Class	6:30 PM	Social Hall
Chamber Community Orchestra	6:45 PM	Sanctuary
12 Step Group	7:00 PM	Classroom 1 or 2

Sunday, January 6, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday Forum	9:15 AM	Conference Room
Worship	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
Coffee Hour in the Social Hall	11:30 AM	Social Hall

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Partner Church Committee Meeting	12:00 PM	Flex
Mei Hua Chinese School	3:00 PM	Classrooms 1,2, 3 plus Conference
YRUU (High School Youth)	4:00 PM	Classroom 4
12 Step -Sunday	7:30 PM	Conference room

Monday, January 7, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Life Exercise	4:30 PM	Flex Room
Taize Service	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
Audubon Society	7:00 PM	Conference Room

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lunch with Paul	12:00 PM	Social Hall
Stewardship Monthly Meeting	4:30 PM	Conference
Whatcom Art League	6:00 PM	Social Hall
Spirit Chalice Group	6:30 PM	Conference Room
12 Step Group - B	7:00 PM	Classroom 1 or 2 upstairs
Chorale Rehearsal-Whatcom Sound Jazz Singers	7:00 PM	Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Humanitas	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Community NIght Dinner	6:00 PM	Social Hall
Black Lives Matter Ministry	6:45 PM	Conference
Chalice Choir	6:45 PM	
Phoenix Ensemble	8:10 PM	
Treble Voices	8:10 PM	

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES JANUARY

Fall and Winter Office Hours at BUF

Monday through Thursday, 9am-3pm
Minister's Schedule- Tuesday through Friday

Sunday, January 6

Sunday Forum: Making Space for New Beginnings with Carolyn Koehnline

9:15 AM. If we want to set intentions and bring something fresh into our lives for the New Year, we need to open up some room. That means taking a fresh look at what has become clutter for us, and refraining from immediately filling the spaces we open up. It means clarifying what we're attempting to bring in, while staying open to the possibilities that may be coming our way. Come join this interactive workshop where we'll explore Making Space for New Beginnings in our homes, heads, hearts, and schedules.

Facilitator and BUF member Carrie Koehnline is a psychotherapist, journal therapist, author, and artist. She is also the creator of Gentle Approach Coaching to support clutter clearing, navigating transitions, and creative endeavors. She has two books: *Confronting Your Clutter* and *The Bear's Gift*. Her upcoming book, *Clearing Clutter as a Sacred Act* will be available in mid-January 2019. <http://www.GentleApproachCoaching.com>



10:30 AM Worship January 6 Be Careful what you Wish/Pray For: Last Sunday I shared a reading that included these words: “We’ve come so far, so fast, that we need to stop and let our souls catch up with us.” Someone reminded me afterward of some more-ancient words: “What shall it profit anyone, if they shall gain the whole world, and lose their own soul?” This leads me to think of still another familiar phrase, “Be careful what you wish for.” Consider biotechnology, and artificial intelligence, and “advances” of all kinds. Not that we need to reject them all, but care and thought — and acknowledgement of the possibility of unintended consequences — need to precede our decision making.

11:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Social Hall

12:00 PM Partner Church Committee Meeting-Flex Room

4:00 PM YRUU (High School Youth)-Loft

Monday, January 7

Come and Find the Quiet Center

A new UU Taizé Service at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship—It's for Parents, too!

7:00 PM Taize Service - First Monday of the month

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded
lives we lead, find a room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed.

Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes
that we can see all the things that really
matter. Be at peace and simply be.

--Shirley Erena Murray

Taizé offers an opportunity for quiet reflection in the midst of our busy lives. It is a service of candlelight, simple music sung in a chant-like manner, readings and silence. Sensitive accompanied on the piano by Andrea Rakl, we will hear Taizé melodies, beautiful yet powerful in their simplicity. To inspire reflection during this intimate one-hour oasis of calm, readings are offered from carefully selected writings on a particular theme each month. Following a time for silent meditation, there is an invitation to light candles as prayers for peace, healing, or for whatever is on your mind or in your heart.



January's theme is: New Beginnings

Parents, this is for you, too! It's an opportunity for you to have one hour to yourselves for quiet centering while your children are lovingly cared for upstairs in our RE rooms.

Taizé services are the creation of a monastic community in Taizé, France, founded in the 1940s by a Swiss man known as Brother Roger. They are now services offered all over the world. We have created our own UU-style Taizé service that draws from one of our sources: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

For questions or comments please speak with Rev. Tessie Mandeville, BUF Community Minister, or Ms. Andrea Rackl, pianist.

Friday, January 11

3:00 PM C2C Town Hall

Sunday, January 13

9:15 AM Sunday Forum

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Social Hall

Social and spiritual sustenance for BUF's Men

Our regular semi-monthly (or bi-weekly, depending on how you're counting) meeting will occur this coming Sunday, in the BUF conference room, at the regular time of 12:15 to about 1:30pm. As usual:

- 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 -- we try to talk about how we are not what we've been doing. We'll have egg timers to encourage brevity.
- We'll avoid cross talk during the discussion, but followup questions are welcome.
- As always, we'll observe a policy of confidentiality.
- Feel free to bring your lunch or a snack to share.

4:00 PM YRUU (High School Youth)

Tuesday, January 15

Willamette University Concert in the BUF Sanctuary

Friday, January 18

3:00 PM Beloved Conversations Retreat in Social Hall

6:30 PM BUF Coffee House in Flex Room

Saturday, January 19

8:30 AM Beloved Conversations Retreat in Social Hall

Sunday, January 20

9:15 AM Sunday Forum

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Social Hall

4:00 PM YRUU (High School Youth)

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Event: Keeping the Dream Alive!

7:00 pm. In honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Community Food Co-op hosts Keeping the Dream Alive! On this evening, we celebrate Dr. King's notion of a "Beloved Community," with ceremony, song, presentations, and community sharing. King envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings.

As this annual event continues to evolve, we are excited to move to Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship to better accommodate presenters, musical performances, informational tabling, and increased attendance. Special guests include host Amanda Grelock; welcome by Joshua Olsen and William John Xwelwelat'se; keynote presentation by Terrance Morris; and music by Checo Toomaso, Peter Ali, and The 60-Voice Unitarian Choir.



As always, we invite the community to share a poem, story, or song focused on diversity, human rights, or related issues. Please limit your presentation to three minutes or less, to leave time for others to share. Contact karlm@communityfood.coop to sign up.

Friday, January 25 through January 27 **Bellingham Folk Festival!**

February 1st

UUA Accepting Comments Deadline on “The Corruption of Our Democracy” Statement of Conscience

Delegates at the 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, OH, selected "The Corruption of Our Democracy" to be the 2016-2020 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations.

Comments are being accepted on the draft statement of conscience and are due by February 1, 2019. Please check out the UUA CSAI site at <https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais/corruption-of-our-democracy> for additional information on the study and commenting procedures.

