

“THE BUF BOOK”
The Adult Program Guide
Fall 2016



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
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Welcome to the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship!

Statement of Purpose

We are a liberal religious community which values the diversity of individuals and affirms the Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles. As a community, we aspire to provide a creative and nurturing environment where social, spiritual and personal development are encouraged and acknowledged. Therefore, we celebrate using ritual, music, art, literature, humor; and we endeavor to teach, to learn, and to serve both our community and the world.

Mission Statement

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship is a welcoming and diverse community of individuals and families. Through fellowship, worship and service, we nurture the personal, spiritual, and intellectual development of our growing congregation and promote respect and compassionate action for all people and our interdependent world.

Program Fundamentals

Adult programs are available to all members and friends of BUF. Childcare can be provided for most events by contacting the program organizer at least 3 days in advance of the event/activity.

COVENANT OF HEALTHY RELATIONS

We are an inclusive community that actively puts our values into action through acceptance and tolerance. We challenge injustice and seek to empower those who strive for freedom and dignity, through acts of compassion, generosity and advocacy. Our gift to the world is our belief in the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and society at large.

Individually and collectively we share in the responsibility and accountability of our actions. We honor each other's worth by engagement in thoughtful and respectful dialogue that seeks to promote understanding. In the spirit of our Covenant, we promise our mutual trust and support to one another as we strive to bring our best selves forward.

We the members, staff and ministers of BUF, covenant to affirm our commitment to each other and our congregation as we promise to:

- Warmly welcome all
- Foster a safe and nurturing environment for all members
- Embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives
- Honor and support one another in our life journeys in times of joy, need, and struggle
- Be quick to listen, slow to judge and willing to negotiate
- Accept responsibility for our individual acts
- Honor confidences
- Address our disagreements directly and openly
- See conflict through to authentic resolution
- Strive to keep our promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others, and begin again in love

LEADERSHIP TEAMS AT BUF

Board of Trustees

BUF's Board of Trustees operates within the model of Policy Governance, articulating and interpreting the congregation's vision for BUF. The board establishes policies and oversees the fiduciary responsibility of the church. Our eight board members serve three-year terms, with two or three being elected each year at our May congregational meeting. The Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Items for board consideration should relate to policy matters and can be submitted in writing at least ten days prior to each meeting via Board@buf.org.

Administrative Team

Their job is to ensure that the vision set forth by the board, within the policy parameters that the board establishes, is realized.

Human Resources Team (HRT)

The HRT ensures that BUF adheres to proper employment practices and assists staff in personnel planning and hiring decisions. Chair, Barbara Ellis-Quinn, Dr_E_Q@me.com.

Finance Team

The purpose of the Finance team is to oversee the finances of BUF including the annual budget and other financial obligations of the fellowship. Chair, Anne Newman, anknewman@aol.com.

FINANCIAL HEALTH & GROWTH

Financial Administration

Our Administrator oversees the day-to-day fluctuations of incoming and outgoing funds. The administrator is assisted by weekly collection counters and works in coordination with the Treasurer.

Tammy Jo Meyer, Administrator, 360-733-3837, admin@buf.org:
Anne Newman, Treasurer, anknewman@aol.com.

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team facilitates generosity in support of BUF's people, programs and ministry. They coordinate the annual pledge drive based on the congregation's current mission and assist new members in understanding how stewardship fits into life within this faith community. Chair, Rick Steele, rick@steelefs.com. Also Carl Nyblade, carlnyblade@hotmail.com.

Endowment Team

The Endowment Team helps to look to the future of BUF via estate planning. Contact Gil Baker, gngbaker@comcast.net or the BUF office for more information about the Endowment team.

Fundraising

BUF relies on the generosity of its members for our existence, but we know how to make that fun! BUF fundraisers are great community builders and are often called “funraisers!” We have some great annual fundraisers that really give our budget a boost and provide great bounty, joy and entertainment as well. Major fundraisers this year include:

Fall Harvest Festival— October – arts and crafts, face painting, pumpkins, and fall harvest bounty!

Dining for Dollars—Open bidding for parties provided by BUF members and occurring throughout the year.

The Spring Gala – May near Mother’s Day. This fundraiser includes music, a talent show, good food, wine, cheese, dancing and a short auction.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This team is charged with overseeing overall building health and maintenance and working with the administrator to ensure our building is in good repair and well cared for inside and out, to help us live our vision of all that BUF can be for ourselves and the community. Under the leadership of George Pine, slatecreekservices@gmail.com the committee oversees the following sub-teams:

Maintenance and Repairs This team takes care of small jobs and makes recommendations for larger ones.

Yard and Landscape This team helps ensure the safety and attractiveness around our building.

Ambiance and Design This team is charged with creating a comprehensive plan for overall cohesive design including paint color, hard materials and lighting.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Buttons and Nametags

If you need a nametag or member button replacement, check with a greeter on Sunday morning to sign up for a new one or contact Esther Golde, 14kgolde@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Treats

We are always in need of tasty treats to complement our coffee and tea during our Coffee Hour after services on Sundays. Signing up in advance greatly assists in planning so that we have adequate supplies of baked goods or alternative finger foods (gluten free, dairy free, etc.). Please list ingredients in your contributions if possible. Contact: Sheryl Allen, 360-778-1170 or Sheryl@sherylallen.net or sign-up using the Sign-Up Genius on the buf.org webpage.

Community Night Dinner Committee

Most Wednesdays, members and friends are invited to share a home-cooked meal at BUF from 6-7 PM. New cooks are always welcome! If you would like guidance to coordinate and cook (or help cook) a meal, or even join the coordinating team, please contact Community Night Dinner co-chair, Frank McDonald at 503-330-6637, or frank@openaccess.org. or sign up on the buf.org webpage.

Greeters and Ushers

Each Sunday, we need friendly smiles and voices to demonstrate hospitality to newcomers and regular members alike and ushers to facilitate seating, oversee the collection, dispense assisted-listening devices, and record attendance data. If you would like to play such a role at BUF, contact Sheryl Allen, Sheryl@sherylallen.net.

Pathways to Membership: Three times yearly, a series of three classes is offered for those who wish to explore full membership. To enroll, contact Rev. Paul Beck, paul@buf.org or the BUF office 360-733-3837.

The Welcome Corner serves as a friendly island in a sea of new faces. Newcomers are greeted by an interested church member, encouraged to ask questions and provided information about our community. They can sign up for midweek email updates, take brochures or be introduced to like-minded members who happen to be nearby. Contact Jane DeBrock, janedec@c895fm.com, or Judy Kasper, kasper.jm828@gmail.com.

MUSIC PROGRAMS AT BUF

The goal of BUF's music program is to enhance the quality of worship by creating meaningful and engaging music that is diverse and of high quality to uplift our congregation and support the excellent themes explored at BUF.

BUF Chalice Choir

The BUF Choir is our main musical force. This is a mixed Choral ensemble of 30-50 singers who rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:10 PM and perform once a month. We perform a diverse range of choral music from the classical choral repertoire to traditional African, jazz, spirituals and other popular styles. The best way to join is to simply show up a little early for rehearsal and introduce yourself to our choir director, Kevin Allen-Schmidt, Kevin@buf.org.

BUF Phoenix Ensemble

The BUF Phoenix Ensemble is an auditioned group of 12-16 singers who perform once a month and rehearse from 8:10-8:50 PM on Wednesdays. In order to be in this group, it is necessary to be a

member of the Chalice Choir and have experience sight-reading music and be able to sing in several different styles. Contact the choir director for information about auditioning, Kevin Allen-Schmidt, Kevin@buf.org.

BUF Women's Ensemble

This group rehearses at 8:10-8:50 PM on Wednesdays. Any woman who would like to sing with a group of other women is invited to join; Membership in the Chalice Choir is not a requirement. Contact Karen FitzGerald for information, Karen@karenfitzgerald.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Become a Religious Education Teacher

Our volunteer teachers are committed, energetic, and positive models for our children and youth. They use a variety of Unitarian Universalist curricula as the prime resource and learn a lot about our denomination themselves in the process. Teachers attend training sessions and then work in rotating teams, generally teaching 2 to 3 Sundays per month on their rotation. Two teachers are scheduled together in each class, and each week they trade off responsibilities for leading and assisting. New teachers spend some time assisting before being expected to lead classrooms. The curricula and supplies are prepared for them in advance.

We have teachers who return year after year, but we also offer opportunities for new people to be involved as classroom teachers, substitutes, and in many other ways. Regular RE Teachers must sign a code of ethics and receive a Washington State Patrol Background Check on crimes against persons. For more information on how to become a classroom teacher or volunteer with children, please contact BUF's Director of Learning, Jennifer Smith, Jennifer@buf.org.

Become a “Coming of Age” Mentor

The Coming of Age is a program that supports the development of a religious identity with youth in 7th and 8th grade. Each mentor is assigned to a youth and they participate in various activities together, such as orientation, special workshops, a weekend retreat, and many other social and educational events throughout the year development. For more information contact our Director of Lifelong Learning, Jennifer Smith, Jennifer@buf.org.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are a wonderful form of small-group ministry that encourage both newcomers and longtime members to deepen their connection to our faith community. These groups of five to ten members meet regularly, usually monthly, in each other's homes for structured discussions. The Director of Lifelong Learning (DLL) oversees this program and provides topics. Each session involves questions, sharing, and discussion, sometimes based on readings. Contact our Director of Lifelong Learning, Jennifer Smith, jennifer@buf.org.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The SEJC affirms and promotes peace, justice and equality through action, education and raising awareness within our community and the wider world. Chair of this committee is Linda Fels, felsntp@gmail.com.

This committee is divided into various Ministry Action Teams. These are groups of members who are addressing a particular issue for which they have a strong passion. For more information about any of these Ministry Action Teams go to: <http://buf.org/ministryaction-teams>.

Black Lives Matter Ministry Team: This 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. We work with many partners in support of the Black Lives Matter movements. Contact Lauralee Carbone, LLLLola@msn.com, 360-676-8649 or Erika Moore, wellblackwomyn@gmail.com.

Climate Justice Ministry Team: Promotes awareness and action focused on climate change and its impact on vulnerable human and natural communities. Contact Deb Cruz: dwcruz@comcast.net.

The sub-team for **Alternative Transportation** helps BUF members and friends consider transportation methods that leave a light carbon footprint. Contact Rick Dudley, dudleyfdn@yahoo.com.

Fair Trade Project Team: The purpose of this team is twofold: to offer fair trade products for sale to Sunday service attendees and to raise monies for social justice and environmental justice projects. You can find this team selling fair trade coffee and chocolate products during our coffee hour. Contact Susan Thurn, sdthurn3@gmail.com.

Humanitas: Humanitas is a weekly alms program reaching out to local citizens who are struggling to rebuild lives turned upside down as a result of an unfortunate decision or circumstances beyond their control. Its mission is to provide support to local people in need by listening to their stories and offering limited, emergency, financial assistance in a safe, warm and non-judgmental atmosphere. It is open each Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. and can be accessed from the "I" Street entrance. Contact: Barbara Gobus, bdgiadem@gmail.com.

Immigrant Rights Team: This team is committed to supporting the immigrant population of Whatcom County and beyond. The team works to identify any of those individuals who will need some kind of assistance. The team also lobbies State and Federal government agencies, to improve humane and just conditions for these folks. This team has rotating leadership. Contact Ana Stevenson, stevensonberres@gmail.com, Judy Kasper, kasper.jm828@gmail.com, Mike Betz, mwbetz@comcast.net, Kara Black, karab@treefrognight.com, or Ursula Zvilna, germama40@yahoo.com.

Interweave: A group organized to support the LGBTQ community through education, social and political events. The group is open to all LGBTQ identified persons in the community. Members must align with the goals of Interweave which revolve around the 7 principles. Interweave is a member driven group. Members plan and carry out events with some oversight from the Interweave advisory board. To join this group please see Marian Beddill, Cathy Campbell or Alison Youde. Or you can email your name and email address to buf.interweave@gmail.com.

Native American Connections: This team is working to support, honor, appreciate, and work compassionately with, and for, indigenous peoples locally, nationally, and internationally. Contact Beth Brownfield: bethbrownf@aol.com.

Reclaiming Democracy: This team works to raise awareness of corruption from money in the American political process, and to build support for solutions to this problem. We are currently focused on anti-corruption legislation at all levels of government and a U.S. Constitutional amendment clarifying that corporations don't have full "personhood" rights." Contact Wendy Czopp, wmczopp@gmail.com.

SEJC Monthly Collections Team: One Sunday a month, BUF members are invited to give to an SEJC collection for a non-profit organization serving in one of the following areas: women and children, environment, poverty/homelessness, peace and human rights, social and economic justice, and health. This ministry action team manages the collections. Contact Betty Scott, betty@mamascott.net.

PARTNERSHIPS:

BUF Community to Community Partnership (C2C): In May 2012, the BUF Congregation voted in favor of establishing a formal partnership with Community to Community Development (C2C), a local organization that works in the areas of food sovereignty (including fair trade, healthy and sustainable farming, farm worker rights, environmental justice, and nutrition education), immigration reform, civic education, leadership development-- particularly with youth, women's rights, eliminating racism and racial profiling, prison divestment and other social change movements. Much of their work is inspired by the teachings of Cesar Chavez. BUF'S special C2C team was established to ensure that we reach the goals set forth in the partnership resolution. Contact Rosalinda Guillen, rquillen275@gmail.com, or Minister Paul Beckel, paul@buf.org.

AFFILIATIONS:

Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County: Interfaith Coalition consists of 44 diverse congregations (including BUF) focused together on housing for homeless families. BUF has been a member of Interfaith from the beginning. Our congregation participates in the fall coat drive, several members volunteer at the Severe Weather Shelters and we donate our entire Christmas Eve collection to the Coalition. Our members also donate to Interfaith's most important fundraiser of the year - the annual spring auction. Contact Leslie Warmoth, leslie623@centurylink.net.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: UUSC is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis. UUSC also engages local communities through its service-learning program. You can find information on joining here: <http://www.uusc.org>.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Worship Arts Committee: The Worship Arts Committee collaborates with the Minister and other staff to create worship experiences that encourage those who attend to explore ideas and inspire them to action. The team schedules and mentors celebrants, and provides coordination for all Sundays when the Minister is not in the pulpit. For more information contact Carrie Koehline, carolyn.koehline@yahoo.com.

Publicity: Our Publicity Team ensures that BUF has a visible presence in the larger community. Worship services, public forums and events are featured in the Bellingham Herald and other community publications. Contact Rachel Smith Manrique, rsmanique@comcast.net, 360-920-7638 or Nancy Steele, nancy@ruvara.org.

CARING GROUPS

Pastoral Care Team: The Pastoral Care Team is a lay-group of trained care providers who receive ministerial supervision and support in their pastoral work with members. Pastoral work typically involves short-term emotional support and counseling as well as help for day-to-day needs such as meals, rides, etc. If you are in

need of pastoral care, please contact Ginny Baker, gngbaker@comcast.net, 360-752-1550, or the BUF office.

Neighbor to Neighbor Program (N2N): N2N, an extension of the Pastoral Care Team, serves members who need help while providing opportunities for members who want to help. For example, we might supplement care being provided by family members or other BUF members; or we might reach out to someone in need who is too shy or isolated to ask for help. It is expected that most referrals will come from within our fellowship. To become a volunteer please contact Alan Watts, awatts225@comcast.net, or Kathy Watts, k.watts@comcast.net or call them at home before 9 PM, 360-371-2397.

Memorial Service Reception Team: In an effort to assist and support families, as they grieve the loss of a loved one, we have created a Memorial Service Reception Team at BUF. The mission of the team is to provide support and assistance with the logistics of a reception including simple food recommendations and presentation, help with set up, and clean up, immediately following a memorial service at BUF. To be successful, this will require a commitment from a number of volunteers, who are willing to be on a registry, in order that at any single given time there would be enough helping hands, on short notice, to help provide the above-mentioned logistics for a reception. At this time, we are hoping to expand our list of volunteers. If you are willing to participate in this effort to help, please contact Alan and Kathy Watts at 360-371-2397 before 9:00 p.m., or Alan Watts at awatts225@comcast.net, or Kathy Watts@ k.watts@comcast.net. Please provide your contact information.

AFFINITY GROUPS AT BUF

Book Group:

BUF's monthly book discussion group is held in the small downstairs meeting room. For titles, dates, and locations, contact Jan Cavitt, jadacad@gmail.com, home 360-392-0708 or cell 206-949-4835.

Dinners with Eight: This program provides members with opportunities to gather at each other's homes for relaxed potluck dinners and conversation. Signup for the year usually occurs in early September. Contact Nancy Steele, nancy@ruvara.org.

Dragonfly Quilters: The Dragonfly Quilters usually meet on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00-noon in the Social Hall. Quilts are created for BUF ambiance, as well as fundraising. All skill levels are welcome. Contacts: Drew Betz, drewlenore@comcast.net and Francie Gass, franciful@gmail.com.

Life Exercise: This program of gentle movement is drawn from Chinese Tai Chi and Japanese health exercises. All levels of fitness are welcome. The group meets on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 PM in the Flex room. Contact Lee Seaman, lseaman@seamanmedical.com or 360-527-2585.

Meditation Group: The Flowering Cherry Sangha Mindfulness Meditation Group meets each Thursday from 2-3:30 PM in BUF's meditation room. We follow the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, including meditation, study, discussion, and chanting. Chairs are provided; bring a cushion if you wish. Contact Ken Lane, kenflane@yahoo.com.

Men's Group: This group encourages men to come together for social and spiritual sustenance. Friendly, fraternal conversations provoke reflection, insight, humor, and enduring friendships.

Meetings take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month after the service. Men of all ages are welcome. Contact Ron Quinn at rdquinn@cpp.edu.

Writer's Group: A small group of people who love to write and share their writings with each other. Contact Jan Krouskop, jan@krouskop.net.

Young Adult Group (YAG): YAG provides an opportunity for members and friends ages 20-35 to deepen relationships and explore what it means to be in a spiritual/religious community. Contact Alison Youde, alisonyoude37@hotmail.com.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS:

Coffee House/Open Mic: Usually held the 3rd Friday of the month, 7 to 9 PM. Acoustic musicians, singers, writers, jokesters, and performers are invited to present for about 10 minutes each. Original work is encouraged. Sign in to perform at 6:45 p.m. Light refreshments are available; donations for covering the costs will be appreciated. Shasta Pettijohn, musician, songwriter and performer serves as coordinator. For more information contact her at starsong816@gmail.com.

Sunday Forums: A regularly scheduled series of talks by BUF members or other community members about social and environmental topics of interest to the congregation. The forum takes place at 9:30 AM on irregularly scheduled Sunday. Contact Jan Cavitt, jadacad@gmail.com.

*This BUF Book is
current as of
October 2016
and
generally contains
limited descriptions
of the many
groups and activities
that occur at BUF.*

*For more
detailed information
go to buf.org.*