

Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

BUUF News

June 2016



Lifting hearts, broadening minds, enacting justice, and honoring our interconnected web!

A Joyful Year

Rev. Sara LaWall

This is my final newsletter column before a summer break. I cannot believe we are at the end of the program year--what a year it has been! Looking back, we have much to celebrate. Here are some of the year's highlights:

Worship offered new rituals, communions and multi-generational experiences, inviting all of us to step into where the magic happens. We enjoyed a stunning reimagined water communion, an apple communion, and a rainbow flower communion. We began each month with

a Justice Sunday when worship and RE reflect the justice issue connected with our Plate Partner. We also experienced a multigenerational holiday pageant, poetry and piano, lectio divina, two extraordinary choir Sundays, an earth day service, a blessing of the bicycles, and began a monthly contemporary service and conversation circle, Soulful Sundown.

Our Social Justice Council reorganized with a new model supporting members to pursue issues that align with their own passions, address community needs, and that reflect our UU values and mission to form justice ministry teams; a refugee justice ministry team formed. The council hosted a successful Social Justice Summit featuring our Plate Partners as well as several events and programs that connected with our plate partners like the Just Mercy Book discussions and a staged reading of the Pandora's Box Project. We witnessed, rallied, and showed up at the capitol to Stand on the Side of Love for Refugees, Planned Parenthood, Close the Gap, Minimum Wage, Add the Words, and much more. Social Justice continued to be a foundational part of our UU identity and congregational life.

We hired a new Social Justice/Volunteer Coordinator; our beloved bridge received much needed renovation; 18 Jr high youth completed our sexuality education class, Our Whole Lives (OWL); we launched a new monthly newsletter; we are working on a whole new website which we hope to launch on July 1; we enjoyed an amazing celebration weekend with a beautiful Installation service followed by Celebration Sunday; and ... we welcomed more than 50 new members since September!

This list is merely a snapshot, there were so many more amazing programs, projects and activities that happened this year. And none of it would have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers and



Rev. Sara's Summer Schedule

I will be attending our annual [General Assembly](#) in Columbus, Ohio (with BUUF delegates Mary Hester, Debbie Johnson, and Wanda & Bryan Jennings) June 20-27. I will then be on vacation and study leave from July 1 - 31, returning to the office in early August. I will be available for urgent crises (pastoral or medical) and can be reached through the office staff or [the Congregational Care Team \(CCT\)](#).

leaders. So many of you pour out your heart, soul, and deep love to make this Fellowship a warm and welcoming place with engaging programs and events for all. Thank you for your great work and commitment. You are the heartbeat of BUUF and I am humbled to be part of this community and blessed to call it my home.

See you in August,
Rev. Sara

From the President

Sue Langley

And now the program year is coming to a close. Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting. We had good attendance! And thanks to all who presented information - there was much to share about the budget, potential changes in worship service times, the Program Ministry Council's work, the beginning process of the Governance Task Force, the Douglas/Chelan property task force ideas, the Social Justice Plate Partner nominees process, and the Endowment Committee's work. We passed a budget and voted on new members to the Board, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Committee. The Board has selected a date for a summer retreat to continue the work for next year.

As I think back on this year, there are many things that stand out to me, but I'd like to focus this final President letter on this: all of us in leadership positions this year were blessed to be part of Rev. Sara's first year in the pulpit. Working with her behind the scenes and seeing her capacity for compassion and leadership was a gift. She developed strong individual bonds with many in the congregation during her pastoral care work and bonding at coffee shops and other social events, as well as developing relationships with those outside of the congregation as she worked on social justice and interfaith issues. She dove right in to the administrative tasks of supervising staff and looking at all our processes with fresh eyes. She has strong connections with Unitarian Universalists leaders all over the country who strongly support her (did you notice who came to Boise for her Installation and Celebration Sunday?), and is encouraging us to take an active role in UUA and district events. She is working closely with many lay leaders to develop strong programs such as the chalice circles, Quest, adult R.E., and nurturing young lay leaders to become more involved as seen in the Soulful Sundown services and gatherings. Her worship services have been inspiring, out-of-the-box creative, inclusive, and deeply spiritual. We are blessed and lucky indeed!



I'll close out this final letter with some thoughts on the poem that Rev. Sara reads at the beginning of all her services. Perhaps others went through the same process as I did once I realized we'd be hearing it every week:

1. First, it just washed over me - "nice words I suppose, but didn't really catch all of them."
2. "All those Thou and Thine references...hmmm...not sure about it."
3. "So is she talking about God, or not? Still don't get the Thou and Thine thing."
4. "Ok, this could be metaphorical. I don't have to get caught up in Thou and Thine - doesn't have to be referring to God."
5. "Just breathe and let it be a meditation...peaceful"
6. "Corey Porch sure did an interesting interpretation of it with the drum when Rev. Sara was gone - how does that change its meaning?"
7. "Need-driven stranger line really stands out to me today as we are about to hear a sermon on feeding the gap"
8. "Someone else did the sermon today - didn't hear the poem - kind of miss it"
9. "'Woven whole' is an interesting phrase - that seems important today."

10. "Ok back to the hang-up with Thou and Thine - I really need to get over that"
11. "Going to church today - really looking forward to the centering poem"
12. "Ah, now that I see it in writing the line I love most is 'Thou art the deep to the deep in me calling'.
Wow! That's the line written for me."

I think the beauty of this poem is that it washes over us again and again with challenging, confusing, beautiful, spiritual words where each line might not speak to you each time, but when you need one of those lines it will rise up to be your guide that day. It has certainly kept my interest all year. What line speaks to you today?

Thou art the sum of my heart in the morning;
thou art the dawn of truth in my soul,
thou art the dew of the rose's adorning,
thou art the woven whole.

Thine is the grace to be steadfast in danger;
thine is the peace that none can destroy;
thine is the face of the need-driven stranger;
thine are the wings of joy.

Thou art the deep to the deep in me calling;
thou art a lamp where my feet shall tread;
thy way is steep, past the peril of falling,
thou art my daily bread.

Thine be the praise of my spirit uplifted;
thou art the sea to each flowing stream;
thine be the days that are gathered and sifted;
thou art the deathless dream.

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

It has been a journey being the president this year - I have learned much and was able to work with so many wise congregants, staff, and leaders. I hand off the duty to Lori Watsen. Looking forward to her insight and knowledge.

Last Board meeting of this year is June 16th at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Langley

The Congregational Care Team is Here for You

The Congregational Care Team (CCT) is a group of congregation members and friends who respond when someone in our community experiences needs and/or challenges due to illness, birth/adoption, death, or other life changes or special needs. The impact of these needs can be eased by our caring for one another, person-to-person and family-to-family.

How can the Care Team help?

Meals - CCT members provide meals in times of need.

Cards & Notes - CCT members send cards and notes to bring express the love and care of the fellowship to those in our midst in periods of transition.

Transportation - CCT members provide transportation to fellowship members in times of need, whether to Sunday worship or medical appointments.

Memorial Service Receptions - CCT members take care of all aspects of



memorial service receptions including, set-up, fruit and cookies, and other logistics.

Other Special Needs - At other times of unexpected challenge, the CCT members work together to try to meet, in a caring and supportive way, whatever other needs our community may have.



Request help from the CCT

If at any time you have a need, or if you are aware of someone in our church community in need, please contact CCT members: [Tony Zornik](#) or [Eileen Geddings](#). You may also contact the church office (658-1710) and they will help connect you with the right person. You can also find joys & sorrows cards in the seat-back pocket of the chairs on Sunday morning. Fill one out and drop in in the flowered box inside the front office and someone from the team will follow up with you.

Sharing our concerns with the BUUF community

The CCT pledges to keep the concerns and needs of our members and friends confidential. We work closely with the minister to help support members and friends in crisis. Knowing that we all have different levels of comfort and needs in times of crisis, the CCT respectfully requests that the congregation allows us, together with the minister, to help determine how and when to communicate information to the wider fellowship community, in consultation with the person(s) in need.

Sacred Spaces Celebrated this Summer

Emmie Schlobohm, Director of Religious Exploration

Have you walked around our grounds recently? Experienced the many lovingly tended spaces with all of your senses? Our Outdoor Sanctuary folks and a small group of other dedicated souls maintain our grounds with care and devotion. They are a gift to this congregation and our neighbors and the many people who utilize our grounds for holy celebrations. Our grounds are truly beautiful and the stories and history and soul of this place goes much deeper. From June 12th through September 4th, our children will be celebrating various sites on these hallowed grounds.



The older I get, the more convinced I am that the space between people who are trying their best to understand each other is hallowed ground.

— Fred Rogers —

AZ QUOTES

Sacred, holy, hallowed - these words, all connected and wrapped up in the concept of blessings and blessed, resonate within me as I think about this summer and the explorations of our children and the youth and adults who will be guiding them. Each week, we will hear its story and experience a particular sacred space with the person who created, tends, and/or knows the history and heart of that place...

- Sarah Cox - the Courtyard Fountain
- Linda Barlow - the Herb Garden
- Paul Schlobohm - the Greene Grove
- Mary Schwartzman - the Little Bridge and the Playhouse & Playground
- Miriam Woito - the Walk Through Time
- Jolene Schow - Jeremiah's Adventure Garden
- Jay Weschselberger & Mark Zimmerer - the Labyrinth & the Peace Pole And other sacred spaces, too!

Come join the celebration any Sunday this summer and learn more about these loving caretakers and sacred grounds that are a vital part of our beloved community. It really is all about the blessings of our community and building the connections between us all.

Sights and Sounds of our Sacred Spaces

In the spirit of exploring our hallowed grounds with all of our senses, here are [some photos from last year's Celebration Sunday's activities](#) (in a short video). Thanks to Jane Rohling for her lovely photos!

Points of Connection

Sarah Olson, Social Justice/Volunteer coordinator

Hello fellow BUUFers!

May was a full month, and June is shaping up to be just as busy!

In May, I assisted Debra Smith with the live reading of the (Untitled) Pandora's Box Project, a play about reproductive rights. The reading was a successful fundraiser for Planned Parenthood (our May plate partner) and we had so many attendees we had to add two more rows of chairs! Performers included professional actors, high school theater students, and enthusiastic amateurs, and was a huge success!

In May we also moved our coffee and fellowship hour to the courtyard, allowing us to enjoy our beautiful grounds and linger longer in conversation with one another. Volunteers are still needed to make this a success, so contact me if you are interested. We need at least 3 people for set up and 3 for take down each week.

Coming up in June, we have Boise Pride Festival on June 18th! We still need volunteers for this fun event - it is a great way to represent your church and have a ton of fun, with music, costumes and community organizations. This year it will be held in Capitol Park, and we need booth staff as well as marchers for the parade. The more the merrier, and all ages are welcome!

There are always new and exciting things happening at BUUF. If you have an event to promote, or need volunteers (either ongoing or for individual events), please send me all of the information 2 weeks ahead of time. This way I can schedule a Facebook post, include it in my weekly bulletin announcement, and, soon, post it to our new website!

As always, please email me if you are interested in volunteering, or have a volunteer or social justice need.



Planned Giving

Judy Holcombe

Be part of the legacy of BUUF by allowing BUUF to be part of your legacy. There are a wide range of planned giving opportunities such as including an estate gift to BUUF in your will, charitable bequests of appreciated assets like stocks and bonds, life income gift arrangements, and gifts of retirement and insurance plan benefits.

By making a legacy gift or naming the fellowship in your will/trust, you can help strengthen the fellowship's economic security, enhance its ability to serve its members and the greater community, and create an enduring legacy that will make possible continued support for the values and programs dear to you. Doing so can be as easy as changing beneficiary designations or updating your will. And it does not mean an immediate outlay of financial resources, unless you desire to do so.

Here are a couple lesser known planned giving opportunities with potential tax benefits:

- IRA rollover gift:** in December 2015, a permanent extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover became law. If you are 70 ½ or older, making an IRA rollover gift can be used to meet all or part of an IRA minimum distribution requirement, and you pay no income tax on the gift. Donors may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to charity each year. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your taxes. It is important not to withdraw the funds prior to a gift but to have the transfer come directly from an IRA to BUUF. A sample letter is on the back.

- **Charitable gift of appreciated assets or benefits:** the assets of qualified retirement plans such as IRA, 401K and Keogh may grow tax-free for years, but distributions are taxed as income to you or your heirs. If these plans are charitably gifted in an estate, the amount may be fully deductible and other assets can then be left to family members that would not generate income taxes.
- **Naming BUUF as life insurance beneficiary:** Some folks no longer need the life insurance they purchased years earlier. If BUUF is named as beneficiary, the amount may be excluded from your taxable estate. Also, if you make an irrevocable lifetime gift you are eligible for an immediate income tax charitable deduction of its cash surrender or replacement value.

Let that your values live on!

If you have already planned a legacy gift for BUUF, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. We are working to document and create a legacy circle and we would like to know who you are (no other details required). Please contact us and we'd be happy to talk with you about how you'd like to designate your gift to be used.

Contact Rev. Sara LaWall 658-1710, or Judy Holcombe 853-1568 for more information.

BUUF is an IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) and 170(c) charitable religious organization. Copies of tax-free status are available upon request.

Introducing our 2016 - 2017 Plate Partners

The beans have been counted, and our Plate Partners (who each receive 25% of our offering for one month during the year) will be:

- CATCH (Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless)
- Planned Parenthood
- Idaho Humane Society
- Family Medical Health Center Refugee Program
- BUUF Fund for refugee scholarships
- Women's and Children's Alliance
- Learning Lab
- Habitat for Humanity
- Malheur County Search and Rescue

These 9 organizations will join three others (the Suicide Prevention Action Network, which was chosen last year, the Pay it Forward Fund, and the Mészkió Scholarship fund) to round out our program year. Reverend Sara and the Worship Committee will schedule Social Justice Sundays, with sermon topics that highlight the issues raised by the non-profits we've selected. The Social Justice Council will develop opportunities for BUUFers to contribute their time and talent to these organizations, and the Religious Exploration team will continue to involve our children and youth in exploring the many issues raised by their good works in the community.

Thank you, everyone who nominated organizations and everyone who voted! We look forward to another great year of Social Justice at BUUF!

Neighborly Dinners

Beginning Thursday, June 30, BUUF will be hosting regularly scheduled free dinners once each month for anyone in the area and in need of a little extra help making their food budgets stretch through the end of the month. We will be distributing flyers to our neighbors, and advertising the service within the agencies that serve low-income and homeless individuals and families.

This is a pilot project that will run through the summer, and it is partially funded by a Plate Partners collection from last year. But we need you!

We would like you to join us each month, and bring a potluck side dish, beverage or dessert to share. We will sit outside in the courtyard (weather permitting) and get to know our neighbors and each other. An entree will be provided each month--turkey, or lasagne or all-beef hotdogs.



Dinners are served buffet style from 5:30 - 6:30, with social time afterwards. Look for sign-ups in the entryways and on-line. We have recruited a group of a dozen volunteers to manage the monthly events, but we could use help with set up and cleanup and, of course, showing up (with food)!

The food sign up will be alphabetical, so...

A-F, bring a side dish to complement roast turkey (we'll provide condiments for sandwiches)

G-L, bring a green salad

M-R, bring a beverage

S-V, bring a dessert

W-Z, bring rolls or gluten free "breads"

Bring enough to serve 12 people, and there will be plenty for all who join us.

The other dates for this summer will be:

Thursday, **July 28**

Thursday, **August 25**

Thursday, **September 29**

And possibly, Thursday, **October 27**—perhaps a harvest soup pot meal using all of our collective veggies as we close down our gardens

If the program goes well, we will evaluate continuing it into another year, and perhaps making it a year-round program. Please join us to help make BUUF a truly welcoming place for all.

Deep Appreciation for Barry Hope

Barry, you're a gentle, caring man,
So kind to all you meet,
Your concern for your fellow man
Creates peace as the world you greet.

Thanks Barry, for cleaning BUUF,
It's not been an easy task.
First the Pierce Park church,
Next our new small building we ask.

And then we added on the wings,
I hope we increased your pay!

As our facility kept growing
There was always more dirt in the way.

You've dealt with all us BUUFers
For more than 30 years,
I know we haven't said "THANK YOU" enough,
So it's time we give you some cheers!

Hip, Hip Hooray! It's Barry's Day,
We'll send you a card or a call,
We'll throw some BUUF love Barry's way,
As his good deeds we may recall.

Wanda Jennings

May, 2016

Spiritual Exercises

What does it mean to be a person of play?

from Soul Matters Sharing Circle resources

Experts on the social effects of play say that people who engage in purely enjoyable and purposeless activities tend to be less violent, more empathic and trusting, and more adaptable to life's challenges. Unfortunately in our culture today, doing something without purpose is considered a waste of time - at least in our adult lives. But we need to engage in purposeless activities throughout all our ages and stages. Being deprived of play tends to make both humans and animals fixed and rigid in responding to complex stimuli; they fail to seek novelty and embrace newness, important skills for adaptation and survival.

Human beings are made for play. Play is the exuberant expression of our being. It points us to our true selves and is the fount of creativity and spirituality. The sages have known the spiritual value of play for eons; they have known that play keeps our search for meaning humble.

Try this spiritual exercise: divide a page into two columns and head one column with "Play as a Child" and the other with "Play as an Adult." Then list all the childhood play you can remember under the heading and list next all the adult play you think qualifies under its heading. When you complete both lists, see if you can find comparable activities between the two, or if you see a theme or a pattern emerging from your lists. The goal is to discover an activity that can you do in your life now that puts you in mind of those freeing and joyful times of your childhood.

When you nail down that special activity, make a two-hour play-date with yourself and engage in it!

Journal our share with a family member or friend how the exercise felt for you and what discovered you made about yourself and your life of "play."

Explore more behind the science of play with Dr. Stuart Brown in his interview at *On Being* with Krista Tippett: [Play, Spirit, and Character](#), June 19, 2014.

Next newsletter deadline: Monday, August 1
BUUF News will be sent August 8

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