

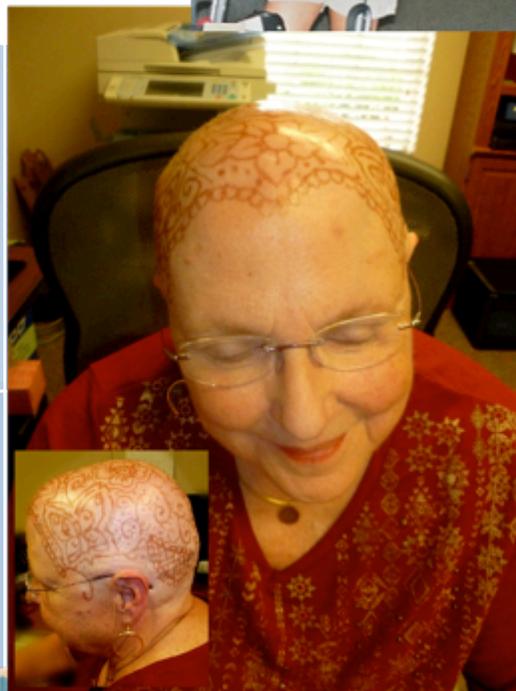
# UNI\*VERSE

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church!



July 2014  
Volume 114  
Issue 7

Seek the  
underlying  
harmonies of  
love



## ***Our Mission***

### **To change lives and heal our world**

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church actively seeks to improve our congregational, local, and global community. We encourage spiritual growth in a diverse congregation that respects the free and responsible expression of ideas. We covenant compassionate fellowship, provide a joyful environment that nurtures creativity, and collaborate with others to promote our values.

## ***Our Vision***

### **To be the most vibrant center of liberal religion at work in the world**

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church is a vibrant liberal religious home welcoming all people while advocating our Seven Principles in the Houston community and the world. Dedicated to religion, not to creed, Unitarian Universalists do not impose a list of doctrinal formulas upon our congregation. Our Church regards love of all creation and the perfecting of our spiritual nature as the unchanging substance of our religion. We consecrate to these Principles with a reverence for truth, moral character and insight, helpfulness to humanity, and the spirit of communion with the Infinite.

## ***Covenant of Loving Kindness***

We, the members of the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church, commit to practice and promote loving kindness:

- To make kindness and good relationships a priority
- To encourage and trust others
- To be patient and forgiving peacemakers
- To generously work for tolerance, fairness and equity
- To be considerate, respectful and sensitive
- To be responsible, honest and trustworthy

## ***BAUUC Staff & Leadership***

**Minister:** Rev. Bruce Beisner, [minister@bauuc.org](mailto:minister@bauuc.org)  
**Dir. Lifespan Rel. Edu.:** Patti Withers, [dlre@bauuc.org](mailto:dlre@bauuc.org)  
**Music Director:** Beth Jordan, [musicdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@bauuc.org)  
**Youth Director:** Courtney Rountree, [youthdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bauuc.org)  
**Office Administrator:** Ana Davis, [office@bauuc.org](mailto:office@bauuc.org)  
**Sexton:** Lillian Bell, [lillian@bauuc.org](mailto:lillian@bauuc.org)  
**Board President:** Claire Zimmerman, [president@bauuc.org](mailto:president@bauuc.org)  
**Treasurer:** Tony Holbert, [treasurer@bauuc.org](mailto:treasurer@bauuc.org)  
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**Cover Quote:** Jenkin Lloyd Jones, from [uquotes.tumblr.com](http://uquotes.tumblr.com)

## ***Sunday Worship***

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, July 6, 2014**

**"World Conflicts: Religion Can Be The Answer As Well As The Problem"**

**Guest Preacher: Rabbi Steve Morgen**

One often hears how "all of the world's problems come from religion." Not only is this factually wrong, it also overlooks the tremendous value of religions in general, and the ability of religions to promote peaceful coexistence in particular. As with so many other issues that face humanity in the 21st century, everything depends on how we approach the subject, and what we choose to do about it. Rabbi Morgen serves as Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Yeshurum in Houston.

**Sunday, July 13, 2014**

**"Defying Not-So-Great Expectations: A Bone-Deep Love of Unitarian Universalism"**

**Guest Preacher: Rev Darcy Roake**

How do our UU "not so great expectations" make us unable to see the forest of deep love for our faith through the trees of individual demands and needs? Rev. Roake will explore, through poetry and prose and stories of her own, how we can defy our expectations and choose to (madly! unreasonably! wildly!) love Unitarian Universalism, each other and our world. Darcy is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and currently serves in Stewardship and Development at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Sunday, July 20, 2014**

**"Buddhist Pizza: Make Me One With Everything"**

**Guest Preacher: Julie Lambert**

Come and learn what a freelance disciple has learned about suffering and peace, and why peace is easier. Julie Lambert is a practicing Buddhist with a lingering identity as a follower of Jesus. She teaches and preaches in Unitarian Universalist churches; works as a nanny, artist, and writer; and was our Director of Lifespan Religious Education here at BAUUC from 2009 to 2012.

**Sunday, July 27, 2014**

**"The Least of Things"**

**Guest Preacher: Chris Jimmerson**

Sometimes we make things that are really not all that valuable more important than they really are. Paradoxically, sometimes we miss that the seemingly smallest of gestures can make all the difference. After spending time as a chaplain at the largest level one trauma hospital in Austin, these are among the many lessons Chris has learned – sometimes the hard way, and sometimes through the humor and amazing resilience of others. Chris Jimmerson recently graduated from Meadville Lombard School of Theology and completed a ministerial internship at Wildflower Church in Austin.

**Our minister, Rev. Bruce Beisner, is away this month on his summer vacation and study leave time. He will be leading a workshop from July 20-25 at the Southwest UU Summer Institute and will be returning to the pulpit at BAUUC in mid August.**

## Together on the Journey

**Rev. Bruce Beisner**  
**Minister**

One of the highlights of my summer is going to be attending the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Providence, RI. General Assembly is an annual gathering of thousands of UUs from across the country for five days of amazing worship, speakers, workshops and public witness events. For me, it will be a chance to catch up with old friends from across the country and enjoy some time with my ministerial colleagues.



The theme of this year's General Assembly is "Love Reaches Out." Like so many themes for conferences and gatherings, this theme sounds a little broad and could probably mean just about anything. What I think it means is that our faith calls us not only to nurture goodness, compassion and respect within ourselves as individuals, but also to offer them to those who surround us.

We often talk about this as service to others and we do a lot of outreach to help and assist those in need. But it also means speaking up for justice and fairness in our communities and sharing our religious beliefs and tradition with others. Our congregation is a part of the new "UU Voice for Justice" network. UUV4J involves all the UU churches in the greater Houston area and is an effort to organize and mobilize to get our liberal religious voice heard on issues of LGBT equality, religious tolerance and reproductive justice. We're connecting the members of all our churches through a text network so that we can quickly and effectively turn out for public witness protests and vigils in response to happenings in our city and state. To get plugged in to UUV4J, just send an email to Lynn Young at [lynnyoung12@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnyoung12@yahoo.com) with the mobile phone number where you'd like to receive text alerts. Watch for more details on "practice actions" in the Houston area in the coming months.

This month, while I am away for summer leave, we will be welcoming some great speakers to our pulpit on Sunday mornings. You won't want to miss messages by our former Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Julie Lambert; student minister, Chris Jimmerson from Austin; and UUA staff member, Rev. Darcy Roake. Our young people and religious education team are gearing up for Multiculture Week and we'll have a Super Sunday Lunch on July 13.

I will be out of the office from June 23 to August 8. Two weeks of this time will be spent attending the UUA General Assembly and the Southwest UU Summer Institute. The other weeks will be time for vacation and professional development. In case of a pastoral care emergency, please contact Board President, Claire Zimmerman, and she will get in contact with me.

Blessings!

*Bruce*

## Music Ministry Notes

**Beth Jordan**  
**Music Director**

When the BAUUC Choir and special musicians are at rest, Fay Bryan and Eric Whetmore continue playing the piano for the summer services. They are the glue that binds the parts of the service together.

We are all so grateful for their talent and their commitment to this church.

Namasté Y'all!

**Beth**



## YRUU and You

**Courtney Rountree**  
**Youth Director**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, but don't forget to make time for our movie nights. The YRUU Star Trek and Philosophy nights have changed to Thursday nights. The two July dates are **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on July 3 and July 31**. Throughout the summer stay up to date on events by checking the Bay Area UU Youth Group page on Facebook. If you have any questions or plan to attend one of the dates please email me at [youthdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bauuc.org).

Peace,

**Courtney**



## Watch/Listen to Sermons Online

If you miss a Sunday worship service, you can watch recent sermons on our website. Just visit <http://www.bauuc.org> and click on the Video Audio Recordings icon on the home page.



## Donate to BAUUC via Paypal or Credit Card

So you want to make donations to BAUUC electronically? Go to [www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org). Navigate to Contact Us, Make a Donation. You can use Paypal even if you don't have a Paypal account. Just follow the instructions for "Don't have a PayPal account?" If applicable, enter a note under "Add special instructions to the seller" whether using PayPal or a credit card. You can even set up regular, recurring payments!

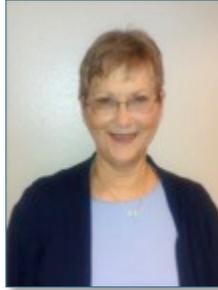
## Healthy Congregation Team

The leadership and staff of BAUUC are interested in your comments, compliments and concerns about our worship and programs. Please share your thoughts with the members of the Healthy Congregations Team: Rusty Cockrell, Catherine Williams, Judy Heilig and Rev. Bruce Beisner.

# Meaning Making

**Patti Withers, CRE/ML**  
**Director of Religious Education**  
**EXPERIENCING THE UNEXPECTED**

I recently visited Berlin, Germany. It's a beautiful city, full of new construction and re-built historic buildings. And my clearest memories aren't of buildings at all, but of three memorials or monuments that graphically represent emptiness.



Bebelplatz Memorial

## **Bebelplatz**

The first memorial, located in front of the Opera House, is the site of the huge book burning of 1933. There are two plaques. One reads: *In the center of this square on the tenth of May, 1933, National Socialist students burned the works of hundreds of free authors, publishers, philosophers, and scientists.* The other bears this 1820 quotation from German author Heinrich Heine: *That was merely a prelude. Wherever they burn books, eventually they will burn people too.*

The memorial itself is a square hole in the ground covered with hard plastic. Upon looking down, one sees row after row of empty library shelves.

## **Bohemian (Bethlehem) Church**

This monument represents freedom of conscience and immigration. The actual church was built between 1733 and 1735, representing one of the most positive chapters of relations between Germany and Bohemia. King Fredrick William I of Prussia welcomed Czech refugees fleeing their homeland for religious reasons and allowed them to settle in Berlin. It was a testament to the religious tolerance of the Prussian State.

In 1943, the church was badly damaged by bombing. Later, in 1963, it was demolished and the site incorporated into the facilities of Checkpoint Charlie.

In a city that has rebuilt any number of public buildings and churches to look exactly as they did before the war, this monument is built on the exact footprint of the original church in a steel tubing silhouette.

The street art inside the church outline is titled "Houseball" and represents the very few belongings the Czech refugees brought with them.

## **Holocaust Memorial**

The designer of the Holocaust Monument has left the meaning of the design up to each observer. The blocks are of similar width but varying heights. Most are straight up; some are tilted. The ground dips toward the middle in waves. As you walk around the light varies and it's common to hear echoing footsteps or voices. I found the monument to be sobering from the edges and disorienting while among the taller blocks. Either purposely, or ironically, the monument is within sight of the Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate.

Like most cities, Berlin has more than one aspect. I'm so glad I was able to see more than rebuilt 'historic' buildings.

In faith,

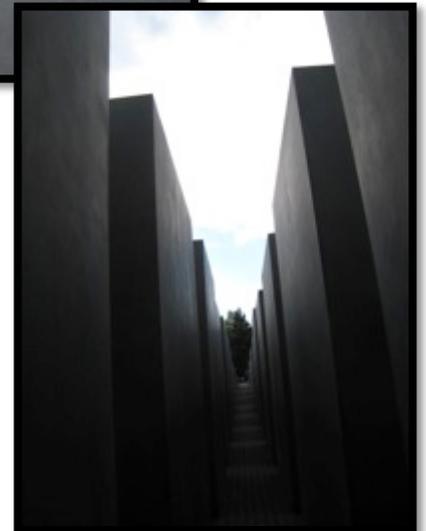
**Patti**



Bohemian Church



Holocaust Memorial



Patti's schedule is:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday she's at the church.  
Tuesday she works from home.  
Friday is her day off.  
Patti can be reached at [dire@bauuc.org](mailto:dire@bauuc.org)

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

## Nursery and Childcare

Our littlest ones are given loving care every Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The children engage in free play, hear stories, sing songs, and work on age-appropriate crafts. Reservations are not necessary.

### July 6

9:30 a.m.

#### Spirit Play (K-5<sup>th</sup>) - Room 114

The children will hear and work with a story from our Unitarian Universalist Promises (Principles).

11:00 a.m.

#### Pre-Multiculture Week lesson (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

The group will learn about Spain.

### July 13

9:30, 11:00 (K-5<sup>th</sup>) - Cockrell Hall

The children will prepare food for the Multiculture Super Sunday lunch.

### July 20, 27

9:30, 11:00 (K-5<sup>th</sup>) - Cockrell Hall

The children will hear a story and participate in a related science experiment as we examine our Humanist Source.

## All Summer

### Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

Throughout the summer, Middle Schoolers may join the K-5<sup>th</sup> group or attend the worship service with their families.

### High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Throughout the summer, the senior high youth will attend the worship service with their families. They will hold Star Trek nights on **Thursday, July 3 and 31**. For more information contact Courtney Rountree at [youthdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bauuc.org).

**Note:** Children may move up to next year's school grade whenever they are ready.

### July 7-10

Multiculture Week, 9:00 a.m. – noon, pre-registration required.

**"To attain happiness in another world we  
need only to believe something, while to  
secure it in this world we must do something."**

**--Charlotte Perkins Gilman (Unitarian, author,  
reformer)**

# Adult Enrichment

## Sundays:

9:30 a.m.

**Conservative Covenant Group** We provide a forum for a diversity of viewpoints within the UU movement. Sometimes we pick an online article beforehand as a suggested discussion topic, but we often discuss current events. Newcomers are always welcome. Peter Taylor leads. Room 131

10:45 a.m.

**Adult Discussion Group** Join us every Sunday for diverse discussions centered on common texts on spirituality, humor, current events, and more. Susan Schlueter leads. Room 131

7:00 p.m.

The BAUUC **Buddhist Meditation Group** meets in the Sanctuary. Choose to sit in a chair or on the floor, or bring a mat, stool, or pillow to sit on while you meditate. We usually finish about 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. You don't need to be Buddhist to participate, so join us! Facilitated by Doris Smith, [dorisms3d@yahoo.com](mailto:dorisms3d@yahoo.com).

Our evenings progress as follows:

- 10 minute greeting chat and/or discussion.
- Chanting
- 20 minute silent meditation
- 10 minute walking meditation
- Chanting and closing

## Tuesday Evenings:

### Ancient Reflections Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

**July 1** – Patriotic Ritual for National Wisdom led by Carol Phillips

**July 15** – Decorating personal ritual stones (group craft)

For more information watch the Weekly Briefs and Sunday announcements or contact Carol Phillips, [flyingdragongoddess@earthlink.net](mailto:flyingdragongoddess@earthlink.net), or CarolTLP on Facebook.

Conference Room (Room 131), 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday Evenings:

**July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** – Do you enjoy singing with friends? Join us, whether you can carry a tune or not, for singing of comic, boisterous tunes! Or, bring along some sheet music or lyrics to share. Play an instrument? Bring that, too! Contact David Bosserman for more information!

Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

**July 2 – Wednesday Night Dinner Out and About:** Join us at Market Seafood (16580 El Camino Real, Clear Lake City, 281-488-2722) at 6:00 p.m.

## Second Friday Evenings:

### Perennial Perspectives Book Discussion

**July 11** - Carl Sagan's The Varieties of Scientific Experience – A Personal View of the Search for God (ISBN 1594201072).

**August 8** - Bertrand Russell, a Unitarian until he turned against all religion, wrote The Conquest of Happiness, (ISBN 0871401622), between WWI and WWII. He considered WWI mass insanity, was imprisoned for pacifism, protested the Vietnam War, and was married four times.

**September 12** - Krishnamurti's Think on These Things, (ISBN 0060916095). Krishnamurti throws light on the emotions of ambition, greed and envy, the desire for security, and the lust for power - all of which he shows to be deteriorating factors in human society.

Newcomers are always welcome! Books can be purchased at local bookstores, online, or checked out at the library. Contact Sue Brooks for more information ([SueBrooksMA@gmail.com](mailto:SueBrooksMA@gmail.com)). Library, 7:00 p.m.

### Other Daytime Weekly Happenings

We offer many activities during the week, too! Age-less Yoga is offered on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** at 1:00 p.m. Or you can join in a game of *Mahjong* at 1:45 p.m. on **Mondays**. We hope you'll join us!

### Looking Ahead to August and September

- **August 26:** Chalice Circle Facilitator training, Library, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **September 6:** RE Teacher Orientation, Cockrell Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## The Wider UU World

### SWUUSI is coming!!! SWUUSI is coming!!!

#### July 20 – 25, 2013

What's SWUUSI, you say? The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute, SWUUSI, offers opportunities for faith development, education, entertainment, and recreational activities for *all ages* at the amazing and beautiful Western Hills Guest Ranch, in Sequoyah State Park, near Tulsa, OK. Whether it be relaxing in the sun, discussing in the classroom, or singing in the choir, SWUUSI offers something for everyone!

For those of you who haven't been in a while, registration is a little different now (we have gone high tech). To register, please follow this link <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/2014swuusi.html>.

You will be asked to register each member of your family, using a common family ID and individual ID's for each person. After you have done the initial registration, you will be able to register for SWUUSI 2014. In the future when you register for an event, you will be asked for these ID's, and your personal information will auto populate. After you have registered yourself into the system, you

can make changes when needed (everything except the family ID).

If you have problems, feel free to drop Camille Peres a note ([peressc@mac.com](mailto:peressc@mac.com)). She has registered her family and is happy to help walk you through it!

### Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Families Camp

The first annual UUMF will be held **August 15-17** at the UBarU Retreat & Conference Center. Registration will begin soon! <https://sites.google.com/site/uumfcamp/home>

## Service & Justice

### Share The Plate Offerings

Thank you for your generosity! We were able to share \$534.00 with PFLAG in June. On July 6, we will share the plate with Interfaith Caring Ministries. Suzy Domingo will speak to us about what is happening there.

### ICM Resale Store News

ICM Resale store will pickup from you home. We are always in need of resale items. Your contributions go to help families in your community!

--Ruth Bastain

## What's Happening!

### Attention Day Trippers

Have we got a deal for you. Starting in September and beyond we will join the Harris County Precinct 2 program for bus trips to take groups on day trips six times a year. There are many destinations, so if you have an idea of what you'd like to see, where you'd like to go, please inform one of the Day Tripper persons below. Precinct 2 bus trips will originate at the church for a \$3.00 donation, plus any entrance fees. Rules for these trips are limited to those over 55 and no children are permitted on the buses. The smallest group allowed is 9 persons, so a firm commitment is needed when bus trips are scheduled. Also no transportation will be provided to any gambling, winery, or brewery establishments. Suggestions for trips so far have been to the Painted Churches; the Castle in Bellville; Washington on the Brazos; the downtown Candlelight trip in December; Houston Heights and many others, so please get your ideas in to LaVerne Nash, Dallas Riggan, or Gay Plank. Let's travel!

### Join Us for Lunch?

#### Sunday Lunch Schedule

**July 13** - Super Sunday Lunch, Cockrell Hall, 12:15 p.m., for all ages. Eat lunch and then visit Russia, Turkey and Spain - the rooms decorated for Multiculture Week.

#### Lunch with Liberals

**July 2** Join us at The Egg and I (557 W. Bay Area Blvd) on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there! Questions? Call Susan Schlueter at 281-660-3988.

## H.I.S. Men's Lunch Group

Our BAUUC Men's Group invites you to come and have lunch with them on **Thursdays** at 11:45 a.m. We gather at a restaurant in the Clear Lake area for food and conversation. All men are welcome to join us. For upcoming lunch locations, see the Weekly Briefs and Sunday Order of Worship or contact Peter Taylor ([peter.a.taylor@earthlink.net](mailto:peter.a.taylor@earthlink.net)).

## Meet n' Eat Women's Lunches

**Meet 'n' Eat** is the Women's Lunch Group of BAUUC. We meet every **Tuesday at noon** at area restaurants for food and fellowship. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

For upcoming restaurants, we have an email list, updates in the Order of Service, and a Facebook Page called "Meet 'n' Eat". If you wish to be added to any of these, please contact Carol Phillips at [flyingdragongoddess@earthlink.net](mailto:flyingdragongoddess@earthlink.net).

## News UU Can Use

### PFLAG at BAUUC

**July 27** - BAUUC is pleased to offer meeting space to the Clear Lake chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The group works to keep families together in loving relationships, helping them understand and affirm their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family members. Each monthly meeting is a small group discussion where parents and other family members share their journeys and learn from one another.

For more information, please call the Houston-area PFLAG helpline at 713-467-3524. Cockrell Hall, 2:00 p.m.

### The Care Team

If you are experiencing an illness or need support, our Care Team is here for you. The Care Team offers phone calls, cards, meals and assistance with transportation to those in need in our church community. If you need care or support, please don't hesitate to contact our Care Team. Call the church office or contact Laverne Nash at 281-795-5836.

## Worth One Thousand Words?

Do you have pictures of BAUUC activities you'd like to share with the congregation? Do you want to see more pictures than we can fit into the Uni\*Verse? We have an answer for you in our Picasa albums at [https://picasaweb.google.com/BayAreaUU!](https://picasaweb.google.com/BayAreaUU) You can even email pictures there to share (we moderate the content). Here's how to do it: send your photos via email to [bayareauu.uploadphotos@picasaweb.com](mailto:bayareauu.uploadphotos@picasaweb.com) with the word "Photos" as the subject. You can send in up to 20 Mb of pictures (six or so high resolution pictures) per email. So send in those pictures, or just bookmark the site as one more place you can see what's going on at BAUUC!

## Becoming a Member

Membership is a privilege and an honor not to be taken lightly. To be a member you must be sixteen years of age or older, make a financial pledge and sign our Membership Book. Becoming a member is not merely about money. You are also saying that you are in agreement with our values and principles, and will join our efforts to "Change lives and heal our world". After 60 days from signing, you are eligible to vote at our congregational meetings, serve in any leadership position, and receive the *UU World* magazine. If you have been visiting us and feel you have found a home with us, we welcome you to membership. If you are considering membership, now is a perfect time to join and share the many joys of being part of this loving community. Please talk with Brenda Cockrell or Rev. Bruce Beisner.

## Board Happenings

This month the Board discussed and approved the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board also reviewed pledges from our current fiscal year and pledges for the upcoming fiscal year. Particularly, we focused on ways to make pledging easier and procedures that would ensure that members are made aware of BAUUC's finances on an ongoing basis.

--Catherine Williams, for your Board of Directors

**"Seek the underlying harmonies of love  
And the overarching rainbow of hope,  
Rather than the surface distinctions of creeds and of sects.  
Work for peace in religion."**

**--Charlotte Perkins Gilman (Unitarian, author, reformer)**



**Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church**  
17503 El Camino Real  
Houston, TX 77058  
281-488-2001  
[www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday Worship Services**

9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Religious Education for All Ages**

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Next UNI\*VERSE Deadline**

July 15, 2014

Send submissions to [universe@bauuc.org](mailto:universe@bauuc.org)

## *What's Happening at BAUUC...*

**Share the Plate, July 6**

Half of our non-pledge donations go to Interfaith Caring Ministries  
Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Multiculture Week, July 7-10**

Our annual children's camp where the cultures of the world come to BAUUC  
Cockrell Hall and RE Wing, 9:00 a.m. - noon

**Super Sunday Lunch, July 13**

Get a taste of Turkey, Russia, and Spain, our Multiculture Week Countries, \$7.00/adult and \$2.00/child under 12  
Cockrell Hall, 12:15 p.m.

**Guest Preachers in July**

July 6 – Rabbi Steve Morgen  
July 13 – Rev. Darcy Roake  
July 20 – Julie Lambert  
July 27 – Chris Jimmerson

**See the complete church calendar at [www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org)**