



UNI*VERSE

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church!

August 2014
Volume 114
Issue 8

Summer at BAUUC



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
Dir. Lifespan Rel. Edu.: Patti Withers, dlre@bauuc.org
Music Director: Beth Jordan, musicdirector@bauuc.org
Youth Director: Courtney Rountree, youthdirector@bauuc.org
Office Administrator: Ana Davis, office@bauuc.org
Sexton: Lillian Bell, lillian@bauuc.org
Board President: Claire Zimmerman, president@bauuc.org
Treasurer: Tony Holbert, treasurer@bauuc.org
Universe Ed.: Jeannie Haman-Plummer, universe@bauuc.org

Photo credits: Kristi Stanton, Patrick Ferrell, Jeff Boxell, Leila Johnson, Christian Schmidt

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday, August 3, 2014

"Here Be Dragons!"

DLRE, Patti Withers

Using the story "Everyone Knows What A Dragon Looks Like," this Multigenerational service will examine the dragons in our lives and what we can learn from them. Dragon T-shirts, costumes and toys are welcome. We'll have a Share the Plate Offering for the Clear View High School Scholarship Fund.

Sunday, August 10, 2014

"Religion and Science: A Sibling Rivalry"

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bob Tucker

Locked into a 'war' between science and religion, we overlook their pervasive and powerful interrelationship, and we avoid addressing the real issue—ignorance. Dr. Bob Tucker has, in his lifetime, been a researcher, educator, librarian, and minister, and in retirement, he serves on five community Boards. He was an Interim Minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston.

Sunday, August 17, 2014

"Blessing of the Animals"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

We'll celebrate our furry, feathered and scaly companions, honoring how their presence enriches our lives and offering our blessings to their lives. **Plan to bring your family pet(s) with you to church** for this extra special worship service for all ages and all species in the Cockrell Fellowship Hall. For the safety and comfort of everyone, all dogs must be on a leash with a responsible adult or youth at the other end. All other animals must be in crates, cages or aquariums.

Sunday, August 24, 2014

"Joining with the Integrating Process"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

In the 1920s, theologian Henry Nelson Weiman wrote that religion was "a way of training ourselves to join more fully with the integrating process which works through all the world to bring human lives into fellowship and to maintain interdependence between all existence." Weiman said that this integrating process was God. How do our personal and communal spiritual practices help us to join with the workings of God today?

Sunday, August 31, 2014

"It's a Living"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

Lebanese poet and philosopher Kahlil Gibran wrote "When you work with love, you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God." On this Labor Day weekend, we'll take time to reflect on how much of whom we think we are is defined by the work we do and how our spirituality is informed and shaped by our labors.

Mark Your Calendar

Water Communion Worship Services on Sunday, September 7

Plan to bring some water from a source of significance to you!

Together on the Journey

Rev. Bruce Beisner Minister

I hope this summer season finds you well. I am spending July enjoying some time for reading, relaxing and recharging my spirit. Next week, I will be leading a workshop at our Southwest UU Summer Institute on the theological evolution of Unitarian Universalism. For centuries now, UUs have been coming together to affirm the goodness of creation and to honor our calling to live together in peace and love. We love to debate and discuss theology and have a long tradition of doing it respectfully and in ways that lead to new understandings.



SWUUSI is a highlight of the summer for me, as it is for many in our congregation. Being there reminds me of the importance of community in our ongoing search for truth and meaning. Connecting to others and openly sharing our joys, hardships and insights is what church is really all about, after all.

One of the ways that I first experienced community and connection in a Unitarian Universalist church was through a program called "Small Group Ministry." Almost 20 years ago now, I signed up for this program at my home congregation in Ohio and instantly found it to be one of the best things I'd ever done. My group was made up of 8 very different people, folks I may never have had the chance to get to know outside of church. In our meetings, we talked about everything from theology to food to life after death. We shared our personal experiences and beliefs with each other and worked together on a service project to repaint the church's storage barn. It was a fun, enlightening and meaningful experience that I will never forget. Some of those people in that group became my closest church friends to this day.

This fall you will have a chance to experience "Small Group Ministry" at Bay Area Church. In September we will begin the formation of what we're calling "Chalice Circles" and invite you to join in. You'll have the opportunity to become part of one of these small lay-led groups that will meet regularly between October and June 2015. Discussions will be facilitated by a trained leader and will be based on resources from the UU Small Group Ministry Network.

If you've never been part of a Small Group Ministry Circle (or if you have many times before), I encourage you to look for the sign up information that will be coming soon. This is a great way to explore your spirituality and also get to know new people on a deeper level at the church.

Blessings!

Bruce

Rev. Bruce Beisner will return from his summer break on **August 11**. He will be back in the pulpit to lead our "Blessing of the Animals" worship services on **Sunday, August 17**.

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. 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.

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.

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.

Meaning Making

Patti Withers, Director of Religious Education, CRE/ML



MULTICULTURE WEEK

The children now know all about the cultures, dances, and food of Russia, Spain and Turkey. Ask them to demonstrate the Flamenco or Troika, or compare dates and figs with lark bread. The rooms are in process of being re-purposed for the fall, even as the glow of Multiculture Week lingers on.

We send immeasurable thanks to the people who brought the settings to life and made the week possible:

Teachers

Russia

Heather Hibbetts
Melissa Magdaleno

Spain

Ann Elder
Jamie Whetmore

Turkey

Megan Reilly
Courtney Rountree

Helpers/Floaters

Kate Buchanan
Olivia Halprin
Sarah Halprin
Jeannie Haman-Plummer
Akorren Johnson
Kristi Stanton
Rebecca Throop

Decorators

All of the teachers, plus:

Andy Hibbetts
Akorren Johnson
Glenn Johnson
Merlova Johnson
Jessi Jordan
Zhivanna Magdaleno
Andy Moore
Carol Phillips
Clara Phillips
Josie Plummer
Ruelah Plummer
Keegan Taylor
Peter Taylor
Eric Whetmore

Baker (Turkey)

Justin Reilly

Fez Creator

Carol Phillips

Photographers

Jeannie Haman-Plummer
Courtney Rountree
Kristi Stanton
Patti Withers

Childcare

Kristi Gates
Leila Johnson
Lauren Parks

Church Staff

Lillian Bell
Ana Davis

COVENANT CIRCLES

This fall we are introducing Covenant Circles as a new Adult RE program. Each Circle will have a trained facilitator and 8-10 members. They'll meet monthly and follow a general Small Group Ministry model with one topic per session and discussions featuring appreciative listening. Look for more specific information in the September Uni*verse, Weekly Briefs and Sunday announcements.

In faith,

Patti

*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*

Religious Education for Children & Youth

August Sundays with special schedules:

August 3 – Multigenerational Dragon Service. Dragon T-shirts, stuffed dragons, etc. are encouraged. Live dragons should be left at home. (see August 17) No RE classes meet; childcare is open all morning.

August 17 – Multigenerational Animal Blessing Service. No RE classes meet; childcare is open all morning.

August 31 – Sundaes Sunday. All children and youth meet together in Cockrell Hall to make ice cream sundaes and celebrate the summer.

Nursery and Childcare

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

9:30 a.m.

Spirit Play (K-5th)

The children will hear and work with stories from our Seventh Promise, which concerns environmental situations and issues.

11:00 a.m.

K-5th

The children meet together in Cockrell Hall to hear stories, discuss, and participate in activities dealing with environmental situations and issues.

6th-8th Grades

The Middle School Youth watch and discuss a Simpsons episode.

9th-12th Grades

The High School Youth attend the worship service on Sunday mornings during the summer. For further information on our Youth program contact Courtney Rountree at youthdirector@bauuc.org.

Adult Enrichment

Sundays:

The **Conservative Covenant Group** will discontinue meeting on Sunday mornings at the church until further notice. Please contact Peter Taylor at peter.a.taylor@earthlink.net for further information or to be put on the email list.

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.

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, dorisjs3d@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

August 26

Chalice Circle Facilitator Training
Library, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evenings:

Ancient Reflections Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

Aug. 5: Lughnasadh & Lammas Sabbat ritual.

Aug. 19: Discussion concerning Pagan systems other than Celtic. Individuals will research and report back to the group.

For more information watch the Weekly Briefs and Sunday announcements or contact Carol Phillips 713-208-2332, flyingdragongoddess@earthlink.net or CarolTLP on Facebook).

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

Wednesday Evenings:

August – Sad that the choir is on hiatus until September? Not in the choir, but enjoy getting together with friends to sing? Come join us for informal get-togethers to sing each Wednesday this summer at 7:30 in the evening. Please bring multiple copies of any songs you're interested in singing.

Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

Second Friday Evenings:

Perennial Perspectives Book Discussion

The Perennial Perspectives Book Discussion Group will not meet in August. The group will resume in September.

September 12 - Between WWI and WWII Bertrand Russell, a Unitarian until he turned against all religion, wrote *The Conquest of Happiness* (ISBN 0871401622). He considered WWI mass insanity, was imprisoned for pacifism, protested the Vietnam War, and was married four times.

October 10 - 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.

November 14: Erich Fromm's *You Shall Be as Gods – A Radical Interpretation of the Old Testament & Its Tradition*, (ISBN 9780805016055). Psychoanalyst Fromm examines the evolution of God.

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).
Library, 7:00 p.m.

Other Daytime Weekly Happenings

We offer many activities at the church during the week, too! *Ageless 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**. Our *Knitting the Spirit* group meets on the first and third **Fridays** at 10:30 a.m. We hope you'll join us!

Looking Ahead to September

- **September 3** - Wednesday Night Dinner and programming resumes
- **September 6** - RE Teacher Orientation, Cockrell Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **September 13** – Youth Ministry Training for Houston area Youth Advisors and youth leaders
- **September 14** – Opening Sunday of school year for Religious Education Programming

The Wider UU World



UBarU is a Unitarian Universalist retreat and conference center in the Texas hill country. Every summer the camp hosts week-long summer camps for children and youth from around the Southern UU Region. This year several members of BAUUC participated in the summer camps as campers and staff, taking advantage of accommodations in the brand-new Dwight and Marie Brown Facility. (Honestly—beds were still being assembled the day before kids arrived!) Clara and Lillian F. attended the primary camp where they learned about our UU values and history, enjoyed activities at Mo-Ranch and watched a Fourth of July sunset from atop Enchanted Rock. Clara says that everyone should attend 'because it's awesome!' Patrick Ferrell was on staff in the kitchen, and Audrey Peres was a Junior Counselor during the primary camp and a camper during the senior camp. Also from BAUUC was Ryan Hoffland, Director for the Junior camp.

Ask any of these folks about UBarU and consider planning for next summer—it's awesome.

News UU Can Use

PFLAG at BAUUC

August 24 - 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.

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>! 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 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!

What's Happening!

Young Adult Group Starting Up at BAUUC

A Young Adult Group is starting up here! It will serve members and friends of BAUUC, ages 18-35. The first event is a potluck supper. We'll mingle, then eat together, then socialize some more. Kimberly Hulseley will run the social program. She was a sorority social chair at A&M, so you know it'll be good!

When: Sunday, September 7, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: At our church, in Cockrell Hall

What to bring: Bring food and soft drinks! Bring friends!

Questions? Need childcare? Contact: Ian Boyle, ianpboyle@gmail.com

The BAUUC Super Garage and Plant Sale is scheduled for October 2 - 4

Start your fall cleaning now. Ask your neighbors for garage sale items. They will appreciate the opportunity to clean out closets, bookcases, and cupboards, even the garage and yard. Did you upgrade your furniture this year? We will help you get big items to the church. Not using your lawn equipment anymore? We have a huge outdoor sale. Got baby and children items that have been outgrown and taking up space? Box them up and get them out of your house.

Also, we always need children's hangers, toys, and equipment. Take any adult clothing to the Interfaith Caring Ministries resale shop, since we don't include clothing in our sale. We do accept shoes, handbags, jewelry and accessories.

We take books, CDs, DVDs, electronics, household items, linens, sports equipment, toys, camping equipment, holiday items and decorations, and arts and crafts supplies. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items will be in demand.

And again there will be plant sale. Gardeners, start transplanting!!

We will begin accepting merchandise after the second service **Sunday, September 28**, and continue to accept donations through noon on **Wednesday, October 1. NO LATER!!**

The Garage Sale is a major fundraiser for the church, but it is also considered a service to our community. Since this is an "ALL-CHURCH GARAGE SALE," we need every volunteer we can get to help with the set-up and sale. No prior garage sale experience required. So mark your calendar for the week of **September 28 – October 4** and donate as much time as you can.

If you would like to volunteer or have a question, contact Nelda Tuthill at natuthill@sbcglobal.net or call 713-882-6792.



Join Us for Lunch?

Sunday Lunch Schedule

August 10 – Super Sunday Lunch, Cockrell Hall, 12:15 p.m., for all ages. (\$7.00/adult, \$2.00 per child 12 and under)

Lunch with Liberals

August 6 Join us at The Egg and I (557 W. Bay Area Blvd) on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. This month we will celebrate the life of Barry Schlueter.

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).

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.

Service & Justice

Pride Parade Recap



The Service and Justice ministry capped off a passion-filled month of LGBT Pride activities with our participation in the Houston Pride parade on June 28. Over 30 proud members and friends from BAUUC joined other UUs from across our region to march together to celebrate equality and justice for LGBT people. It was a memorable, energizing event for all. Other activities during the month included five heart-felt testimonials from members during services on why we march and a special "Lunch 'n' Learn" featuring a panel discussion about the issues facing the Transgender community, led by BAUUC member Ann Elder and Julia Oliver. We heard personal

stories and discussed the challenges and hardships that members of the transgender community face on a daily basis. Thanks to all who participated! Your time and commitment are very much appreciated.

Share The Plate Offerings

Thank you for your generosity! We were able to share \$379.52 with Interfaith Caring Ministries. On August 6 we will share the plate with the Clear View High School Scholarship Fund.

Board Happenings

The BAUUC Board of Directors held its July meeting on the 14th at the church. We started off by welcoming two new members, Tony Holbert, the new Treasurer, and Samantha Johnson.

The Board reviewed a proposed schedule of church events, made some changes (the July 2015 Board meeting was pushed back a week to accommodate SWUUSI), and adopted. Congregational meetings for the coming year will be held on Sept 21st, Dec 7th, March 1st, and May 17th.

We then discussed topics for the agenda of the September 21st congregational meeting, including results of the Stewardship Campaign and the church's overall financial status, additional fund-raising events for the coming year, a report from the Strategic Planning for Facilities Team on its initial conclusions about future needs of the church regarding facilities, and a presentation from the Service and Justice Team on the past year's "Big 4" projects, how they went, and ideas for future projects.

With a smaller-than-usual number of pressing items on the agenda for this meeting the Board took some time to discuss in general terms the responsibilities of the Board. What is it that the Board of Directors is supposed to do? The following were mentioned: Overall management of church resources, financial and material, and adoption of an annual budget for the church, adopting policies to guide the function of church administration and the ministry teams, high-level oversight of church administrative function, long-range planning for the church, running congregational meetings, creating and appointing members to committees of the board, as opposed to committees of the congregation, such as the Nominating Committee and, when needed, a Ministerial Search Committee, whose members are appointed by and responsible to the congregation. This topic will be further discussed at next month's Board retreat.



Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church
17503 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77058
281-488-2001
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

August 15, 2014

Send submissions to universe@bauuc.org

What's Happening at BAUUC...

Share the Plate, August 3

Half of our non-pledge donations go to Clear View High School Scholarship Fund
Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Super Sunday Lunch, August 10

All are welcome! \$7.00/adult and \$2.00/child under 12
Cockrell Hall, 12:15 p.m.

Chalice Circle Facilitator Training, August 26

Library, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sundae Sunday, August 31

Children and Youth, Join us for an ice cream sundae to celebrate summer!
Cockrell Hall, 11:00 a.m. Service



Children in Multiculture Week 2014 learn about the Blue Mosque from Turkey's lead teacher, Megan Reilly

See the complete church calendar at www.bauuc.org