



# UNI\*VERSE

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church!

September 2014  
Volume 114  
Issue 9

IF THERE IS  
IF THERE IS

MAGIC  
MAGIC

ON THIS PLANET,  
ON THIS PLANET,

IT IS CONTAINED  
IT IS CONTAINED

IN WATER.  
IN WATER.



## 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.

## Our Covenant

### To be in right relationship with each other and the world

Love is the doctrine of this church  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,  
To serve humanity in fellowship,  
Thus do we covenant with one another.

## BAUUC Staff & Leadership

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## Sunday Worship

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

Sunday, September 7, 2014

"Gathering of the Waters"

Rev. Bruce Beisner and Patti Withers

On this Ingathering Sunday, we'll celebrate by sharing the stories of our lives with our annual Water Communion Ceremony. **Please bring some water** from a source that has special significance for you. This will be a service for all ages. A Super Sunday Lunch for everyone will follow the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Sunday, September 14, 2014

"Politeness Meets Passion"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

As a church that celebrates respect for diverse beliefs, we are called to accept one another. As a church that believes in justice, we are called to resist systems and ways of being that create separation. Can we balance these two conflicting foundational values in our faith?

Sunday, September 21, 2014

"There's Always Money in the Banana Stand"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

This sermon is not about money and it's not about bananas. In the Netflix show "Arrested Development" this saying is code for one family's back-up plan in case of disaster. What are our back-up plans and where do we find hope when hope is hard to find? We'll have a Share the Plate Offering on September 21 to support the FINCA micro-lending program.

Sunday, September 28, 2014

"Tikkun Olam"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

As our Jewish neighbors and friends observe the High Holy Days, we'll explore the rabbinic concept of humanity's shared responsibility to help repair, heal and transform the world.

## 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.



To grow restless with who we are helps us move toward our ideals.

Perfection is impossible, but we all have the potential

To be more patient, more compassionate, more open-minded.

--Stephen Shick, **Be the Change: Poems, Prayers and Meditations for Peacemakers**

# Together on the Journey

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



Each Sunday morning during our worship, we say together our Covenant. These words express what we have agreed to become together as a faith community. They have historical significance because they evolved from covenants composed by Universalists and Unitarians over a hundred years ago. They have significance for us today because our membership voted to adopt them in 2013 and we are actively living them out right now.

When we say "Love is the doctrine of this church" we don't mean that love is what holds our building together. We mean that love is what holds us together. Compassion, care and love form the foundations of what we believe and how we try to live. When we say "Service is its prayer," we really mean that serving others is one of the ways that we, as individuals and as a group, connect to what is most holy and sacred in life.

Serving the world is an integral part of our mission at BAUUC. This coming fall we will be reaching out in many ways including our Fall Festival to support UNICEF, our participation in the Bay Area Turning Point Food Drive, and the Blood Drive for the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. We'll also be speaking out for justice and fairness as we participate in the Greater Houston UU Voice for Justice Rally on **Saturday, October 11**. In early September, we will begin a year-long campaign of direct advocacy work to let our liberal religious voice be heard in the areas of mental health funding, LGBT equality, and religious freedom here in Texas. Check out our church website for the list of the Community Outreach events already being planned at [www.bauuc.org/social-justice/service-justice-events.html](http://www.bauuc.org/social-justice/service-justice-events.html)

But service is not just those efforts we make outside our church walls. Service is also the sacred act of using our time and talents to contribute to the ministries of BAUUC. Whether it's helping mow the lawn, singing in the choir or joining our kitchen crew on Wednesday nights, sharing your gifts is a spiritual opportunity. It offers the chance to connect, to serve and to be transformed in the process.

In the coming months, I invite you to look over our church publications and your Weekly Briefs email and find some activity to become more involved in. Perhaps you'll sign up for one of our new Chalice Circles or agree to help staff the Garage Sale. Maybe, you'll join the Book Discussion Group or the Pagan Group. Whatever you choose, your participation and presence will bless you and us all.

Giving of ourselves is one way we bring the spirit of love to life. And as the Beatles said, "In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."

Blessings!

*Bruce*

*Rev. Beisner's schedule is: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the church office. Wednesday is Bruce's sermon-writing day. Friday is Bruce's day off. Bruce can be reached at 513-374-3926 or [minister@bauuc.org](mailto:minister@bauuc.org)*

## YRUU and You

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

The summer flew by and the new school year has begun. The YRUU will be meeting Sundays at 11:00 a.m. to discuss "Virtue Ethics", a Tapestry of Faith curriculum. We will also be busy making plans and preparing for the Houston YRUU Rally, which will be held at our church in January. There will be opportunities to participate in the church services for those youth interested. Any adults who would be interested in becoming an YRUU advisor and teaching on Sundays please contact me ([youthdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bauuc.org)) and I will set up a training date. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!



Peace,

**Courtney**

## Music Ministry Notes

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

Our choir returns on **September 7** for Water Communion. We are all so grateful for their talent and their commitment to this church.

Namasté Y'all!

**Beth**

Contact Beth at  
[musicdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@bauuc.org)



# Meaning Making

**Patti Withers, CRE/ML**  
**Director of Religious Education**



## **Second Sunday Food Collections**

Religious Education is beginning a new outreach initiative to help the InterFaith Caring Ministries' Food Bank. On the Second Sunday of each month (starting **September 14**), the children and youth will be asked to bring one non-perishable food item. Each class will add their items to the grocery cart in Cockrell Hall. We invite the entire congregation to join us in this endeavor on the Second Sundays!

## **What Are My Children Learning This Year?**

The answer is: how to live by our Unitarian Universalist Principles in a world that frequently seems to contradict them. To aid our wonderful teachers in their teaching toward this goal, the curricula selected for this year are:

### **Spirit Play: PreK (11:00), K/5th Grades (9:30), Room 114**

Spirit Play is a curriculum model based on the Montessori Method. The stories and Wondering Questions will use the six Unitarian Universalist Sources of Inspiration to demonstrate the UU Principles.

### **Wonderful Welcome: Kindergarten/1st Grade, Room 116**

*Wonderful Welcome* engages and challenges leaders and children alike to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.

### **Faithful Journeys: 2nd/3rd Grades, Rooms 103/104**

Through *Faithful Journeys*, participants embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions. In each session, they hear historic or contemporary examples of Unitarian Universalist faith in action. Stories about real people model how participants can act faithfully as Unitarian Universalists in their own lives. Over the course of the program, children discover a unity of faith in the many different ways Unitarian Universalists, including themselves, can act on our beliefs.

### **Toolbox of Faith: 4th/5th Grades, Room 120**

*Toolbox of Faith* invites participants to reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith (such as integrity, courage, and love) as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. The sessions use tools as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight).

### **The New You the Creator: 6th/7th/8th Grades, Room 112**

Using all aspects of the 'Creator' concept, *The New You the Creator* uses hands-on activities and discussion as it invites participants to work together and individually to investigate hidden talents and unsuspected abilities.

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 [dlre@bauuc.org](mailto:dlre@bauuc.org)*

# Religious Education for Children & Youth

## **September Sundays with special schedules:**

**September 7** – Multigenerational Water Communion;  
no RE classes, childcare open all morning

**September 14** – Opening Day for RE classes!  
Teacher Dedication during the 11:00 a.m. service

## **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.

## **9:30 a.m.**

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

The children will hear and work with stories from our first Unitarian Universalist Source of Inspiration – Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life; or, in children's language: Our own personal experiences with the spirit.

**11:00 a.m.**

### **Spirit Play (PreK), Room 114**

The children will hear and work with age-appropriate stories from our first Unitarian Universalist Source of Inspiration – Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life; or, in children's language: Our own personal experiences with the spirit.

### **Wonderful Welcome (K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Room 116**

Using stories and activities, the children create a class covenant and class rituals and learn about gifts you cannot see.

### **Faithful Journeys (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grades), Rooms 103/104**

The children write a class covenant, start their Journey Wall, and begin to associate (or reinforce) faith with action.

### **Toolbox of Faith (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades), Room 120**

The group writes a covenant and begins building their Toolbox of Faith, using a toolbox and ruler (Faith) and a magnifying glass (Questioning).

### **The New You the Creator (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades), Room 112**

The Middle School Youth write a covenant and design and decorate their chalice cloth and chalice. They brainstorm projects for the year.

### **High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades), Room 105**

Sunday mornings, YRUU meet at 11:00 a.m. in Room 105 to watch and discuss TED talks on chosen topics. Parents and youth are encouraged to join the "Bay Area UU Youth Group" facebook page for up-to-date information.

## **Adult Enrichment**

### **Sundays:**

**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, [dorisjs3d@yahoo.com](mailto: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

### **Tuesday Evenings:**

#### **Ancient Reflections Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans**

**First and third Tuesdays (September 2, 16)** ARCUUPS meets in the Conference Room (Room 131) at **7:00 p.m.** Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information watch the Weekly Briefs and Sunday announcements or contact Carol Phillips 713-208-3332, [flyingdragon goddess@earthink.net](mailto:flyingdragon goddess@earthink.net)

Hearing Assist Devices  
are always available for  
activities in the Sanctuary.  
Pick them up in the Parlor.

### **Wednesday Evenings:**

#### **September 3 through November 19 – iPad/iPhone for Beginners with Clif Grim, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Cockrell Hall**

Did you or your children get you a new fangled iPhone or iPad and you are at a loss on how to use it? Or do you have one sitting unused because you are tired of trying to figure it all out? Let your friend and fellow congregant, Clif Grim, help you out!

Over ten sessions, Clif will cover just about everything you can do on one of these marvelous, scary, useful, frustrating devices. Come to all or only the sessions you need.

- **September 3** – Introductions, Device Setup, Home Screen, Home Screen Gestures, Search, Control Panel, Wifi, iCloud, Security/Privacy, Managing App Icons.
- **September 10** – Alarms, Calendar, Reminders, Notes, Notifications
- **September 17** – Contacts, Email, Texting, Personalization
- **September 24** – No Class
- **October 1** – No Class
- **October 8** – Phone, FaceTime, Skype, Hangouts
- **October 15** – Siri, Dictation Assistant, Maps, FindPhone, FindFriends
- **October 22** – Photos, Videos, Photo Stream, Screenshots
- **October 29** – Facebook, App Store and Safari
- **November 5** – Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, SnapChat, various communicators
- **November 12** – iBook, YouTube, News Readers, Newsstand, Text Reader, Podcasts, iTunes U.
- **November 19** – iTunes, QR Reader, iWorks

**BAUUC offers childcare  
for all Wednesday night classes  
and programs!**

### **September 3 – Making a Difference through Words**

Unitarian Universalists are called to speak up about issues that they care about. This evening we will write letters to officials to express approval or disapproval of actions taken on important issues of the day. Since this is our first Wednesday night of the church year, a side benefit of this exercise is that you'll have an opportunity to chat while you write! Facilitated by DLRE Patti Withers, [dlre@bauuc.org](mailto:dlre@bauuc.org), 7:00 p.m., Room 112

### **September 10 – Expressing UU Sources of Inspiration through Collage**

How will your mind and heart express the 6 (??) Sources of Unitarian Universalist Inspiration visually? While a stand-alone project, this is a continuation of last spring's collage of the UU Principles.

For all ages, Patti Withers facilitator  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Room 112

### **September 17 – Multigenerational Vespers**

Led by Patti Withers, DLRE  
6:40 p.m., Sanctuary

### **September 17, 24 – “WHAT THE UU!!??” Discussion Class**

It is said that being a Unitarian Universalist is not easy because our churches don't live by strict doctrines, set rules or external hierarchy. We value freedom and are part of an evolutionary faith, yet we have a long heritage and a covenant that inspires how we come together in community. You are invited to join Rev. Bruce Beisner for this six-week discussion class on Wednesday nights that will delve into who we are and what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Topics include the untold stories of UU history, how we govern our church, what membership really means, and how we live our values out in the world. The class will meet on **Wednesdays, September 17, 24 and October 8, 15, 22 and 29** in the library from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Seasoned members and newcomers are both invited.

### **Thursday Evenings:**

#### **September 25 – Taking Control: A Personal Finance Program for Women**

This program focuses on women's finances including insurance, investments, retirement, Social Security, divorce, and widowhood. Contact Bob Handy at [bobhandy@comcast.net](mailto:bobhandy@comcast.net), or check out our article in What's Happening? for information. Childcare provided.

7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Cockrell Hall

### **Second Friday Evenings:**

#### **Perennial Perspectives Book Discussion**

**September 12** – Bertrand Russell wrote The Conquest of Happiness, (ISBN 0871401622) between World War I and World War II. 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](mailto:SueBrooksMA@gmail.com)).

7:00 p.m., Library

#### **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** or 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesdays**. We hope you'll join us!

#### **Looking Ahead to October**

- **October 5, 12, 19, 26** – *Peace in the Heart*, 11:00 a.m., Susan Wildin, facilitator
- **October 9** – Dr. David Criswell
- **October 11** – Greater Houston UU Voice for Justice Rally
- **October 26** – Fall Festival
- **Tai Chi Returns!** Date TBD

## **Service & Justice**

#### **Share The Plate Offerings**

Our next Share-the-Plate Offering will be on **Sunday, September 21**, during our morning worship services. Half of all non-pledged donations will go to support the FINCA micro-lending program. The FINCA program provides "financial services to the world's lowest-income entrepreneurs so they can create jobs, build assets, and improve their standard of living." BAUUC has been participating in this program for many years and we are working towards raising enough money this year to start a new bank in the system. For more information on FINCA, please visit [www.finca.org](http://www.finca.org)

#### **Save the Date for our Fall Blood Drive!**

School has started and many youngsters are already looking forward to the deliciously gory Halloween.

More mature folks are also thinking of blood, and getting ready to donate on **November 2** in the bloodmobile at BAUUC.

# The Wider UU World

## 345 (or so) Days Until SWUUSI!

Thank you to everyone who participated in SWUUSI 2014, and to the staff for making it a success.

- We raised \$1525.00 and collected several boxes of school supplies for the Cherokee Head Start Program! What a wonderful way to serve the local community!
- We were treated to incredible music performed by Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Kiya Heartwood, Rev. Leon Dunkley, and Marc Haywood.
- We danced the night away at the SWUUSI 75th birthday party!
- The whole camp came together to participate in the new SWUUSI dinners! Our chili cook-off and pie bake-off was a huge success, and our cluster potlucks were as bountiful as they were fun!
- The two family dinners provided by Dick Hildebrand were top-notch as usual, and every meal used totally compostable utensils, cups and plates!

We hope to see you all at SWUUSI 2015 from July 19th-24th.

Come build Community with us!  
– SWUUSI

## Spiritual Activist Leadership Training

The UU College of Social Justice is excited to partner with UU Mass Action to launch the Spiritual Activist Leadership Training (SALT) program in Massachusetts. The mission of SALT is to empower young adults to cultivate peace and justice through faith-based relationship building, action, and reflection, grounded in Unitarian Universalist values. This six-month program, beginning in early 2015, is designed for young adults who are in their 20s and early 30s.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Participants will develop social change projects within their own communities while receiving ongoing training and mentorship, through a mix of weekend intensive trainings, regular Internet and phone contact, and readings and spiritual practices.

The Spiritual Activist Leadership Training program is modeled after a successful program pioneered by the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California. UUCSJ and UU Mass Action look forward to offering young adults this opportunity to focus on social justice issues in Massachusetts!

The SALT program is designed to support you in becoming the best social change leader you can be. The application launches in September at <http://uucsj.org>! For more information on SALT, including ways you can support this new initiative, click here: <http://www.uumassaction.org/uuma/about-us/salt/>

## From the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Join us next month in taking action to support climate justice! Attend the People's Climate March in New York City on **September 21** or find, support, or organize a related event in your area.

Climate change poses a threat to human rights in the United States and around the world. From women's empowerment to disaster recovery; from access to clean water to food sustainability; efforts to improve human rights are already being strained by climate change.

Many communities whose rights are already at risk—including low-income people, women, indigenous people, and people of color—often experience the greatest negative impacts of global warming and related processes like fossil fuel extraction.

As a human rights organization committed to working with marginalized people around the world, UUSC is deeply engaged in supporting communities responding to these global threats. **We invite you to join us in whatever way you can.** In September, timed to coincide with the United Nations Climate Summit, there will be a mass mobilization in support of climate justice. Here's how you can participate:

- **If you are in the New York area (or can reach New York via sustainable modes of transportation):** Participate in the People's Climate March on September 21. This may be the largest climate march in history, with an estimated one million people gathering in New York City. There are many events scheduled for the weekend, including a Saturday night interfaith worship service hosted by young adults and open to all, a massive interfaith service on Sunday morning before the march, and a gathering directly following the march at Community Church of New York, UU. RSVP for the march at <http://www.meetup.com/UU-Justice-Web-Metro-NY/events/193519382/>
- **If you are not traveling to New York:** Organize a local solidarity action or contribute to one that is already being planned. Be part of a demonstration, an educational activity, a letter-writing event, or any other gathering calling for effective global action to advance climate justice. In finding or planning local activities, consider how you can support communities in your own area that are most affected by the climate crisis and are leading efforts to respond.

Sincerely,  
Bill Schulz  
President and CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

PS. The People's Climate March is also the kickoff of Commit2Respond! A movement of supporters taking action for climate justice, Commit2Respond (<http://Commit2Respond.org>) is a collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Association, UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, and others.

# What's Happening!

## Special Services and Events

- **September 6** – RE Teacher Orientation 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Cockrell Hall
- **September 7** – Water Communion Multigenerational Worship. No RE classes meet; childcare is available for children 5 and under.
- **September 13** – Youth Ministry Training at First UU Church, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; for advisors and youth leaders
- **September 14** – First day for RE classes; Teacher Dedication during 11:00 a.m. service
- **September 19** – Multigenerational Pot Luck Dinner

## Nelson Thompson Debuts in Cockrell Hall

As of Sunday, August 17, his exhibit is complete. It will be in the gallery at least until the beginning of October. The next exhibitor—after the Great Garage Sale—is Beth Reed.

Do view Nelson's extraordinary digital art whenever you have a chance! He does it de novo in the original version of Paint, not the Corel version you may know.

Nelson's artworks are all for sale, and I understand that he has already sold one. Put in your bid to him or to me ASAP!

--Peter Bowman, Curator, BAUUC Community Art Gallery

## Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are starting this fall! Chalice Circles are the name we are using for a new start of Small Group Ministry. BAUUC has a long and successful history with variations of Small Group Ministry, including Covenant Groups and Affinity Groups. It is time to expand the idea to invite those who are new to the congregation or aren't able to take advantage of previously organized groups. We are choosing a new name to distinguish these groups from existing groups.

Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 adults who meet for 90 minutes, once or twice a month for a church year. Each Chalice Circle has a trained facilitator. Topics are provided by the facilitator or chosen by the group. Participants are asked after the second meeting to make a commitment to attend for the year. If someone is unable to make that commitment, s/he notifies the facilitator. Each summer, existing Chalice Circles are ended and new groups are formed, allowing participants to become better acquainted through the years with more and more BAUUC members and friends.

Chalice Circles provide a safe, covenantal space for discussions designed to help UU's live out our Principles in a world that frequently seems to reject them. They allow deep bonds to form between people who may or may not have been previously acquainted.

The timeline for rolling out the Chalice Circles is:

- Facilitator training, which took place at the end of August,
- Participant sign-ups beginning September 7 and continuing for three weeks,

- Chalice Circles begin in late September or early October.

Look in the Order of Worship announcements and the Weekly Briefs for specific information on methods of sign-up.

## Young Adult Group Starting Up at BAUUC

**September 7** – 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, and 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!

Bring food and soft drinks! Bring friends! Questions? Need childcare? Contact Ian Boyle at [ianpboyle@gmail.com](mailto:ianpboyle@gmail.com).

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Cockrell Hall**

## September Getting to Know UU Potluck

**Friday, September 19** – Join us for our Getting to Know UU potluck dinner to kick off the beginning of a new church year. We'll share food, play some games, enjoy friendly conversation and, best of all, have the opportunity to get better acquainted with one another. Bring a friend, a newcomer, but most of all bring yourself and help us celebrate an exciting new year. Any questions? Contact Brenda Cockrell at 281-488-2767 or [brendac@bauuc.org](mailto:brendac@bauuc.org).

Family-friendly, alcohol-free, **6:30 p.m., Cockrell Hall**

## Personal Finance Ministry Team Offers Financial Workshop for Women

**Thursday, September 25**, we offer "Taking Control: A Financial Workshop for Women." For women only, this workshop will be led by a local woman who is a financial professional. It is one of a series of similar personal finance workshops being offered in 2014 and 2015. Others will be Financial Management, Investment Fundamentals, Retirement and College Funding.

Bob Handy, who leads the Personal Finance Ministry Team and is a financial professional, says he has found that women, especially those who are single, divorced or widowed, have important financial concerns including making smart and careful investment decisions, saving on taxes, paying for college tuition and long-term care, retiring in comfort, and reducing estate taxes. This workshop is geared to address those issues and other financial concerns.

Each participant will receive a personal workbook (\$10.00). This valuable resource is loaded with information, questions, exercises, and worksheets that will help them apply what they learn. The workbook was developed especially for this workshop, and contains important points to remember. Covered are practical ideas from realistic case studies, as well as strategies for making one's money work harder, helping to keep more of what one earns, investing for retirement, and planning for estate distribution.

The workshop is open to all. The cost of the workbook is the only fee charged. Please pre-register by email at [pfmt@bauuc.org](mailto:pfmt@bauuc.org).

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Cockrell Hall**

## Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, September 21, 12:15 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**

Tentative agenda:

- The church's financial situation, specifically the results of last spring's Stewardship Campaign and the anticipated deficit for the coming fiscal year.
- Report on this past year's "Big 4" outreach events, their impact on the church and the community, and plans for future community outreach events.
- Recognition corner – contact [president@bauuc.org](mailto:president@bauuc.org) to nominate your favorite volunteer!

## Parents of UU Children Covenant Group Open House

**September 21** – Are you the parent of a UU child? Do you wonder how you'll help your child keep their UU principles in a contradicting world? Come, bring your kids, and join other parents just like yourself for an evening meal and get to know the Parents of UU Children Covenant Group. We may be just what you're looking for!

Childcare is provided for \$5.00 per child. For more information, contact group leaders Jeannie Haman-Plummer ([jeanniehplummer@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniehplummer@gmail.com)) or Wendy Whittenberg-Ferrell ([wendy\\_wf@comcast.net](mailto:wendy_wf@comcast.net)).

**4:30 – 7:00 p.m., Cockrell Hall**

## All-Church Pool Party

Everyone is invited to join in the fun on **Saturday, September 27**, at the home of Rev. Bruce Beisner and Jim Beisner. Come, relax by the pool, and enjoy some great BAUUC-style fellowship. We'll have hot dogs, burgers and veggie burgers on the grill. Please bring a side dish to share as well as your swimsuit, towel and a lawn chair. The party will be from **4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** and all ages are welcome. Bruce and Jim live at **2920 Sugar Wood Drive** in League City. For directions, please contact the church office.

## Meet the Minister

All newcomers and new members are invited to stay after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, September 28**, for an opportunity to informally gather with Rev. Bruce Beisner. Bruce will be available to answer any questions you have about the church, our ministries and about Unitarian Universalism. Long-term members are also welcome to join in. We'll gather in the **Sanctuary** at about **12:15 p.m.**

## ALL-CHURCH GIANT GARAGE AND PLANT SALE

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

**September 28 through October 4, you are needed.**

We will be working Monday – Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Thursday – Friday we will work from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday we start work at 7:30 a.m., close the sale down at 12 noon, and then clean out the church and load the leftover donations onto the Interfaith Caring Ministries truck for sale at their store.



So you can see there are a lot of hours to cover with workers. If you can donate 2 – 3 hours here and there, we can cover all those hours with workers.

Really, working the garage sale is fun. We do yoga on Monday and Wednesday with the Yoga group. We get first dibs on purchasing donated items. We get fed. And UU'ers are FUN to work with.

If you can donate some time, e-mail Nelda Tuthill at [natuthill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:natuthill@sbcglobal.net) or watch the News Briefs for a link where you can indicate when you can work and that will be forwarded directly to Nelda. (Isn't electronic technology wonderful?)

Ellie Childs has agreed to chair the plant sale again. (YEAH!!!) Fall is a good time for planting after all this heat so demand will be high in the plant sale area. You can talk to Ellie about any plants you can pot up and donate. Or if you would like to work with Ellie with the plant area, she will welcome the help.

Remember, this is an ALL-CHURCH fundraiser so give of your time and donations.

## Space Physicist to Speak at Local Church on Lunar Solar Power

**October 9** - Dr. David Criswell, Space Physicist and retired Director of the University of Houston's Institute for Space Systems Operations (ISSO) will speak at 7:00 p.m., at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church (David is our own Paula Criswell's husband).

Dr. Criswell is an advocate of a Lunar Solar Power (LSP) System that would collect sunlight on the Moon's surface, convert it to useable energy, and beam that energy to receivers on Earth. The system can be built on the Moon from lunar materials he argues, and operate on the moon and on Earth, using existing technologies. He will explain this system and how it could provide low cost alternative energy to any location on earth.

Among other positions, Dr. Criswell is Former Associate Director of the Texas Space Grant Consortium, Organizer and first Director of the California Space Grant Consortium for the University of California. He was Director of the Consortium for Space & Terrestrial Automation and Robotics (CSTAR), and Senior Staff Scientist and programs director at the Lunar and Planetary Institute.

As Director of Proposal Evaluation Program for Universities Space Research Associates, he organized and directed the review of over 6,000 proposals and 21,000 external reviews. He has conducted extensive research into space/terrestrial solar power and industrialization, moon/solar wind interactions, automation and robotics, auroral physics, satellite and sounding rocket instrumentation, surface seismology, magnetospheric and wave phenomena.

Appearing under the auspices of the Church's Speaker and Events Ministry Team, the program is free and open to the public (donations are accepted).

**7:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

## AROUND the BAUUC World in 365 DAYS!

Up, up and away to the annual BAUUC Services Auction on November 1, 2014.

We will explore the cultures of the Ministries of BAUUC as well as have a great time discovering all the great services, items and events that are donated for all to bid, YES BID, up, up and away to the highest bidder.

The Services Auction is a time to ride the basket upward to BAUUC's future and down to Earth home grown fun. Please join all by marking on your calendar for **November 1 at 6:00**

**p.m.** in Cockrell Hall as the landing site of our Services Auction balloon. Come prepared to have a landing party dinner and a bidding party competition for all the wonderful world-wide services, items and events donated by generous members and friends. Please think about volunteering on the Services Auction Committee. To volunteer contact Janet Ward at [janward@comcast.net](mailto:janward@comcast.net)



## Join Us for Lunch?

### Sunday Lunch Schedule

**September 7** – Super Sunday Lunch, **Cockrell Hall, 12:15 p.m.**, for all ages. \$7.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child under 12 years old.

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

Restaurants for September:

- **September 2** – Chinese/Indian/Japanese: **Genghis Grill Mongolian Stir Fry**, 510 W. Bay Area Blvd.
- **September 9** – Mexican: **Los Ramirez**, 16630 El Camino Real
- **September 16** – **Tommy's Seafood/Oyster Bar**, 2555 Bay Area Blvd.
- **September 23** – Thai/Vietnamese (Asian Fusion): **Spring Roll Express**, 435 El Dorado Blvd. #8, Houston, Texas
- **September 30** – Italian: **Pomodoro's**, 1303 E. NASA Parkway

### Lunch with Liberals

Lunch with Liberals is changing its meeting place. On **Wednesday, September 3**, we will meet at **11:30 a.m.** at **Savannah Cafe & Bakery**. It is located on Hwy 3, just before Clear Lake City Blvd. 14020 Galveston Road (Hwy 3), Suite 180, Webster, TX 77598. Questions? Call Susan Schlueter at [281-660-3988](tel: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)).

## News We Can Use

### PFLAG at BAUUC

**September 28** – 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](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!

### Are you a BAUUC Greeter?

Yes! We're all greeters for BAUUC, so let's start the new church year by wearing our nametag each week, so that new comers can know who we are.

Did you know that if someone has a hand-written nametag on they are a first-time visitor? Say hello, introduce yourself, invite them to have a cup of coffee.

If someone is wearing a stick-on printed tag, they have visited in the past and may want to know more about us. Talk to them, invite them to an event, tell them about us.

Let's welcome everyone with a smile.

And if you'd like to get even more involved, we need more cheerful faces as official greeters at both Sunday services. We will have a training session soon, so if you would like to be a greeter/usher please let our Membership Lead, Brenda Cockrell, know at 281-488-2767 or [brendac@bauuc.org](mailto:brendac@bauuc.org).

## 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, Betty Clark and Rev. Bruce Beisner.

## 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!

## 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.

## 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.

## Day Tripper Announcement

BAUUC is now a member of the Harris County Precinct 2 Senior Citizen Program whereby we are eligible for their activities and transportation for those 50 and over. We joined so that we could have buses take us on day trips in and around Texas. We are allowed three trips in a six-month period and two trips are already in place. The first trip will be **Tuesday, November 4** to the Painted Churches near Schulenberg, and the second trip will be **Friday, January 16** to Washington on the Brazos. There is a minimal charge for these trips plus any entry fees to museums that need to be paid in advance so that we can have a correct head count. At least nine people are required to go or, I will have to cancel the trip. More information will be forthcoming as the November 4th trip to the Painted Churches approaches. The bus will come right to the church door and take us on our journey. I hope many of you who enjoy or would like to enjoy day tripping

will join us. For more information regarding Precinct 2's bus trips, please call LaVerne Nash, 281-326-1404 or email [czechnash@gmail.com](mailto:czechnash@gmail.com).

## Board Happenings

Your Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 18. Our main focus this month was to get a clear understanding of where we ended our last fiscal year financially, so that we can discuss our approach for the future at the upcoming retreat. The year ending June 30, 2014 produced a \$42,581 deficit, about \$8,000 worse than budgeted. Expenses ended on budget, as did pledged income (thank you to all who paid your pledge!) However, unpledged income was about \$9,000 less than expected, accounting for the larger deficit.

At our upcoming retreat, the Board will spend time considering strategies for our financial future. We will consider all options, and will come to the congregation to discuss some of our ideas at the Congregational Meeting on September 21. We hope you will attend. We need your input.

Your Board of Directors,  
Claire Zimmerman  
Virginia Kennedy  
Tony Holbert  
Mark Sheehan  
Verva Densmore  
Samantha Johnson  
Doug Miller  
and Catherine Williams

*Are you on Social Media?  
So are We!*

*You can Follow, Like,  
and keep up with us here:*

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/BayAreaUUChurch>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BAUUC>

Picasa:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/BayAreaUU>

Google+:

<https://plus.google.com/+BayAreaUnitarianUniversalistChurchHouston/posts>

*We hope to see you online!*



**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**

September 15, 2014

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

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

**Wednesday Nights at the Church are Back!**

Beginning September 3, join us for a mid-week repast and programming.  
Cockrell Hall, 6:00 p.m.

**In-Gathering and Water Communion**

September 7  
Sanctuary, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services

**Young Adult Group Forming**

Geared toward YAs 18 to 35, Potluck, September 7  
Cockrell Hall, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Getting to Know UU Potluck**

Bring a dish and your family and friends, Friday, September 19  
Cockrell Hall, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Taking Control: A Financial Workshop for Women**

Childcare provided, Thursday, September 25  
Cockrell Hall, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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



**Jim Goodwin celebrates his 94th birthday.**