



# UNI VERSE

BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Vol. 120 No. 2

February, 2020

## The Journey is the Joy!



## Our Church 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 which respects the free and responsible expression of ideas. We covenant compassionate fellowship, provide a joyful environment that nurtures creativity, and collaborates with others to promote our values. We provide a vibrant life span program while promoting environmentally sustainable practices.

## Our Church 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. All who are in sympathy with the simplicity and freedom of our religion are welcome to worship in fellowship at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church.

## Our Shared Values

**Integrity:** We keep our promises. Our relationships with each other, our communities and the wider world require that we live in accordance with our values and principles. We accept that integrity requires courage and we will not be silent or fail to act when our Values and Principles are threatened.

**Stewardship:** Through our words and deeds, we are building a heritage for future generations. We have the moral and ethical responsibility for the caretaking of our church and our world, not only for ourselves, but on behalf of those who are not yet here. Our role as stewards extends beyond our financial and physical assets, to include our care for all of creation and the lives that we touch.

**Respect & Compassion:** We believe in the inherent worth of all people. We honor diversity and work to nourish and sustain an inclusive environment. Our success is measured by how we include and treat each other, by the contributions that flow from our diversity, by the achievements of our community, and by the lives we change. We strive to treat people as they would like to be treated.

## Our Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Bruce Beisner, [minister@bauuc.org](mailto:minister@bauuc.org)

Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Dr. Tamar Wasoian, [dltre@bauuc.org](mailto:dltre@bauuc.org)

Sexton: Lillian Bell, [lillian@bauuc.org](mailto:lillian@bauuc.org)

Administrator: Sharlene Rothen, [office@bauuc.org](mailto:office@bauuc.org)

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Music Director: Cheryl Marcum, [musicdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@bauuc.org)

Youth Director: Rusty Cockrell, [youthdirector@bauuc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bauuc.org)

## Our Lay Leaders

Board of Directors President: Clif Grim, [president@bauuc.org](mailto:president@bauuc.org)

Treasurer: Mary Buchanan-Koonz, [treasurer@bauuc.org](mailto:treasurer@bauuc.org)

Board Secretary: Jill Veatch, [secretary@bauuc.org](mailto:secretary@bauuc.org)

Membership Ministry Team: Brenda Cockrell and Claire Zimmerman, [membership@bauuc.org](mailto:membership@bauuc.org)

Service & Justice Ministry Team: Jeff Boxell

Religious Education Ministry Team: Kathy Johnson-Throop

Finance Ministry Team: Bob Handy

Hospitality Ministry Team: Janet Ward

Building and Grounds Ministry Team: Tom Zimmerman

Care Team: LaVerne Nash



# Sunday Worship

*Sunday Mornings at 9:30am and 11:00am*

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2020**

*“What a Difference a Word Can Make”*

**Dr. Tamar Wasoian**

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

A word can name an experience or settle a conflict. But what if such a descriptive word does not exist? How do we name our pain and joy then, let alone expect the world to name it with us? Such is the Armenian experience of the twentieth century: there was and was not a word, till the House and the Senate unanimously named it so.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

*“Change of Heart”*

**Rev. Bruce Beisner**

We often think of learning and growing as a ongoing process of adding additional information to what we already know. But the deepest and most profound learning we do comes out of moments when something or someone challenges our assumptions and compels us to radically begin to think, feel and act in new ways. We'll talk about moments of transformative learning and celebrate the holiness that comes from changing our minds.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

*“From You I Receive, To You I Give”*

**Rev. Bruce Beisner**

Unitarian Universalism teaches us that our lives are interconnected. We all have a responsibility to care for others and help heal the world. We all also have times when we need care and healing and rely on those around us. As we kick-off our annual Stewardship campaign, we'll talk about how we live these truths together right here at BAUUC every day. Our services on February 16 will feature wonderful music from our Choir and an extra special Story for All Ages.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

*“The Greater Wholeness”*

**Rev. Bruce Beisner**

Unitarianism began with the affirmation that “God is one.” And many of us still think of the diverse religions of the world as simply being about different expressions of the same source of creation and goodness. But what if we are all actually worshipping radically different gods? Is there a greater wholeness and truth that holds us all together or not?

*Families gather together in the sanctuary for the first portion of our Sunday morning worship service. Following the Story for All Ages, children go to Religious Education activities. Childcare is available in our nursery for infants and toddlers during both services every Sunday.*

# Together on the Journey

Rev. Bruce Beisner  
Your Minister



What is a UU church meant to be? Is a UU church just a place for exploring different theological ideas and studying the stories of the world's great religions? It is a social gathering where we find and make new friends? Is it a community where we volunteer to serve our neighbors and publicly witness for justice? I think a UU church is meant to be all of these. But perhaps more importantly, I believe that our UU church is meant to be a place that helps us cultivate that deeper goodness within us and a place that offers us opportunities to live out that goodness together.

One of the three core values of our BAUUC community is "respect and compassion." These are words that call us to honor our diversity and affirm the sacred worth and dignity of every person. These are nice words to say. But they present us with some challenges if we are serious about actually making them an active part of our daily lives.

We are people up to that challenge! I know this because I have seen this core value of respect and compassion lived out by our community in some truly beautiful ways in recent weeks.

In mid-January, a man came by BAUUC one weekend looking for help. He had unexpectedly lost his job and was sleeping outside in the cold and rain. The people he encountered at our church kindly listened to his story and did what they could to offer assistance. This man came to church on a Sunday morning to worship with us and I was able to offer him some financial help from our Minister's Discretionary Fund. Later that week, he posted a review of our church on Google. Here's part of what he said: "Being stranded here from Colorado, I painfully tried every way suggested by the big name organizations to get help getting home. At BAUUC, every person I came in contact with treated me as I would treat any other human in need and went out of their way to assist me within their means. I heard and saw intelligent, kind, loving people confer and rely on other's experiences and intelligence in helping me. The Spirit of what a church is meant to be is what the people at this wonderful place carry in their hearts."

Since the beginning of the year, one of our congregation's most dedicated volunteers has found herself homebound and suffering from intense back pain. Our Care Team and many others have reached out to her and even scheduled daily visits to support and assist her. While we aren't set up to provide ongoing medical care, we have been able to make sure this person knows she is not alone and that we are here for her. Our Care Team offers this type of supportive outreach to lots of people all the time, in the forms of home and hospital visits, cards, calls, meals and rides. This work is not a burden, but a blessed opportunity to live our values. And you can be a part of it. If you find yourself in need, please contact our Care Team. We are here for you. If you are able to visit someone, make a meal or offer a ride on occasion, contact LaVerne Nash and she will add you to our ever-growing list of helpers.

Our statement that explains this value of respect and compassion says "Our success is measured by how we include and treat each other." We don't always perfectly live up to the ideals we profess and there are times when needs go unmet. There are always limits to the resources and time that are available. But our church is a place where we get to practice the art of hospitality and compassion over and over again. So that when that hungry stranger comes or a friend is truly struggling, we are always growing in our ability to find that place of generosity and kindness in our hearts.

I look forward to seeing you at church this month. I hope you will join us on Saturday February 15 for our Stewardship Dinner. This is a time for celebrating all we love most about being a part of BAUUC. And one of the things I love most is how we genuinely strive to live out our values together here.

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bruce Beisner can be reached at [minister@bauuc.org](mailto:minister@bauuc.org) or 513-374-3926. He is usually in the church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and works from home on other days. Wednesday is Bruce's sermon writing day and Friday is his day off.

## Board Happenings

Nick Economidis  
for the BAUUC Board of Directors



One of the primary duties of the Board of Directors is to draft and approve policies for church functions and activities. The Board endeavors to review each existing church policy, at least, once every two years. At the January meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board reaffirmed several existing policies, including the Pledge Requirement for Membership Policy and the Building Use and Rental Policy amongst others. In addition, the Board discussed a proposal for a new Cash Reserve Policy.

The Board discussed planning for its semi-annual retreat scheduled for the beginning of February. Amongst the items on the agenda for the retreat are: (1) reviewing our annual goals and progress toward these goals; (2) discussing the next steps for engaging the congregation in the process for updating our mission, vision and values; and, (3) looking for ways to be more inviting and inclusive to new people and groups.

Looking ahead, the Board also discussed plans for our next Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday March 8.

On a final note, we're looking forward to the Stewardship Dinner which will be held on Saturday February 15. With our thanks to Bob Handy and the entire Stewardship Committee for their hard work to organize and host the dinner (as well as the entire Stewardship campaign), we look forward to seeing you at the event. The Stewardship Dinner is a great opportunity to learn about the BAUUC budgeting process and how your support enables BAUUC to continue to thrive, as well as a great opportunity to celebrate everything we cherish about BAUUC.

## Passing the Flame

Rusty Cockrell  
Youth Director

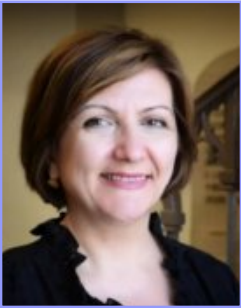


The New Year has brought increased attendance and energy to our Middle and High School classes. Each week I look into the classes I see new faces and that is great. Our middle school group is making their way through world religions. Buddhism was the focus over the first two weeks of January. We are now starting the lessons on Christianity and then Islam. The discussions and insights from our 6th through 8th graders are really impressive.

The High School group is active and consistently attended each week and they are not lacking for self-discovery and insight as they build on their own theology. Pictures and perceptions of god was very lively:) Much of the energy at the High school group is focused on the Gulf Coast Youth Rally held at BAUUC over the MLK weekend. Around 35 youth are registered to engage in spirited activities, touch groups, and social outreach over the weekend. So proud of all the hard work and dedication from our youth, parents and adults that helped make this happen. More on the Rally in the next edition of the Universe.

# Education for Faithful Living

Dr. Tamar Wasoian  
Director of Lifespan Religious Education



I had an experience of awe and wonder hearing the flow. It was so beautiful!!! It was the first time I attentively listened to my hairdressers speaking with each other. I thought, Isn't this wonderful!!! Aren't having languages a miracle! How was this even possible! What a great achievement of humanity to communicate with many diverse languages! Did you know that there are more than 7,000 languages spoken around the globe?

Here is the thing, growing up in Syria, I learned four languages spontaneously. Armenian is my mother tongue, Arabic is my neighbors, Turkish was my grandparents' and English is for movies and later for college. I studied French and Russian later on, but can't claim really knowing them. Although these are all distinctively separate languages, most of them are culturally intertwined; Armenian, Arabic and Turkish have the same Indo-European root and they bleed into each other. English, French and Russian do the same. If you know one or the other, you can catch few words here and there of the other. I love listening to people speaking their native language, try to hear and guess what they are saying. I watch their gestures and listen to their tone, just like you would listen to music. Languages sound like music to my ears and I open my heart to receive them.

Languages are magical and they have mysterious ways to 'get' into you. I never realized how well I knew Turkish till I was invited to translate for a delegate from Turkey who didn't know a word in Armenian. I never studied Turkish, but somehow listening to my grandparents stories and watching Turkish television they used to watch, earned me a language. Later on, entering the doctoral studies, this saved me time and money on language requirements.

We had a conversation about languages at one of our combined religious education classes with the children. One of them pointed out that I have an accent. I acknowledged his observation and said, "You do know what that means, right? That is because I know several other languages. When you hear an accent, you would know that the person knows at least one other language." Their eyes opened wide! They asked me how I say 'hi' in Arabic and Armenian. I encouraged them to teach me how to say 'hi' in the languages they know. There was Spanish and German in the room and many bright eyes happy to teach. Since then, every time we have combined class, the mention of languages will come up and will have a round of reciting words and phrases in languages present in the room. What a wonderful way to teach our children about diversity and inclusion, right?

Languages evolve and change. I am sure you are aware of the English spelling and the American spelling. Do you know how this came about? Back in the time of telegraph communication, when each letter costed money, people dropped the U in colour to save on the cost. Just this last week the Merriam-Webster dictionary has added 'they' as pronoun to refer to a single person whose gender identity is nonbinary.

Living in such a diverse city as Houston but driving around makes meeting people not easy. This means we need to be intentional in encountering other languages and accents. When such encounters happen, I follow these best practices that I would like to share with you. When someone tries to communicate with me and I don't understand, I simply ask to repeat what they said. I don't paraphrase it for them. I am very careful not to make facial gestures. Very many of us don't realize doing this, but it is extremely rude. Finally, I open my heart and ears to hear and listen. Sometimes such encounters stretch my mind and that is a good thing. That is a learning moment.

Words bridge worlds and separate them as well. We do not like walls at our borders, right? Then, why do we build them between us? Next time when you encounter a person blessed with the gift of the languages, please count this a learning moment.

# Religious Education for Children & Youth in February

## *Nursery and Childcare*

Our littlest ones are given loving care every Sunday between 9:15am and noon. The children engage in free play, hear stories from the UU Principles and Sources, sing songs, and work on age-appropriate crafts. Reservations are not necessary.

## *In the Classes*

### *Sundays at 9:15am- "Our Whole Lives" Classes for K-1st Grade, room 120*

Our Whole Lives is the nationally recognized 'Gold Standard' sexuality curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. These classes are our UU sexuality education program that provides honest, accurate, and age appropriate information.

### *Sundays at 9:30am- "Heart and Soul"*

At 9:30am on Sundays we will explore spiritual practices for children and youth, planned and led primarily by youth. A range of spiritual practices will be explored. Some examples are storytelling, crafts, music, and meditation. These practices can be used to ground, center and balance ourselves as we go through our daily lives. All children and youth are welcome to attend.

### *Sundays at 11:00am*

### *Spirit Play (Pre-K) Room 115*

In Spirit Play, after hearing a story, the children choose their activity from an array of choices. The Spirit Play stories are tweaked to be age appropriate.

### *Love Surrounds Us (K-1st Grade) Room 120*

**February 2: "Acceptance II"** - The children take a tour of the church Building.

**February 9: "Love Surrounds Us in Ritual"** - The children learn about the Flower Communion and participate in one.

**February 16: "Our History I"** - The children hear a story about Universalist circuit-rider Rev. Nathaniel Stacy. They make a history chain and a UU magnet.

**February 23: "Our History II"** - Today's story highlights Henry David Thoreau's cabin and his simple life-style.

### *Moral Tales (2nd-3rd Grades) Room 114*

**February 2: "Welcome One and All II"** - Using a folk tale from the Middle East, the children consider the value we put on behavior.

**February 9: "Welcome One and All III"** - The children discuss the value of appearance and play a game about Welcoming All.

**February 16: "Seeing Other with Awe"** - The children practice being welcoming and consider 'What if a Messiah is among us?'

**February 23: "Do Unto Others"** - The children hear the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of the Golden Rule.

### *Sing to the Power (4th-5th Grade) Room 112*

**February 2: "The Power of Silence I"** - The children learn about the power of the air and the silence. When they clear away the buzz of constant distractions they can listen to what is truly important.

**February 9: "The Power of Silence II"** - In this session the children practice silence themselves and by listening intently to the sounds around them, they learn about the cost of the incessant noise of our modern world.

**February 16: "The Power of Shine I"** - The group hears a story about a boy who is bullied at school. They practice interrupting bullying situations.

**February 23: The Power of Shine II"** - The group hears a story about how words can hurt. They practice substituting 'put-downs' with 'pull-up'.

**An exciting night of celebrating  
all that we love most about our church.....**

Don't miss our BAUUC

**2020 Stewardship  
Kick-Off Dinner**

**Saturday February 15 at 5:00pm**  
at the Clear Lake Islamic Center

In February, all BAUUC members and friends will be asked to reaffirm their commitments to our church community as we begin our annual Stewardship Campaign. During this time, everyone will be invited to make their pledge for the coming 2020-2021 church fiscal year. This is an estimate of how you will plan to financially support the life and ministries we share together here at BAUUC. The campaign will kick-off with a huge Celebration Dinner on Saturday February 15 at 5:00pm at the Clear Lake Islamic Center. The night will include a free dinner meal, entertainment, information on the finances of the church, and lots of fun activities for children and youth in the Islamic Center's indoor play areas. Please plan to join us. Just RSVP at [stewardship@bauuc.org](mailto:stewardship@bauuc.org) or complete the RSVP card in the parlor outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

# Growing in Spirit

## CONNECTION Groups

### ***New Connection Groups Now Forming!***

Our small group ministry program here at BAUUC offers you the chance to gather with 10-12 other people on a regular basis to explore your spirituality, share your experiences and just get to know others on a deeper level. This year, our Connection Groups will have a new format. They will be meeting once-per-week over a four week period. Groups are now scheduled to take place in February, March and April. Each group has a facilitator who will provide the topics. Participants are asked to make a commitment to attend the whole four sessions. NOW is the time to sign-up for one of these groups because participation is limited. Our February Connection Group will be led by Alok Kalia and will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm. We will have two groups meeting in March, one on Tuesday mornings and Thursday mornings at 10:00am led by Tamar Wasoian and one on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm led by Gerry Carr. Our April Connections Group will be led by Gillian Wells and will meet on Thursday evenings at 6:00pm. Please look in your Sunday Order of Worship for the sign-up form or contact Director of Lifespan Religious Education Tamar Wasoian at [dlre@bauuc.org](mailto:dlre@bauuc.org) for more information on how you can be part of this meaningful and engaging part of church life here at BAUUC.

### ***Wednesday Night Services***

On Wednesday evenings, you are invited to join Rev. Bruce Beisner at 6:40pm in the sanctuary for a brief but meaningful time of readings, songs, prayer, meditation and the sharing of personal sorrows and joys. Come and check out this weekly opportunity to connect with your spirit and with others following dinner on Wednesday nights at the church.

### ***Wednesday Night Discussions: Practicing Our Faith***

On Wednesday nights February 12, 19 and 26 at 7:00pm, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education will lead a series of discussions based on the book "Practicing Our Faith" by Dorothy C. Bass. This book offers reflections on various spiritual practices as a way of connecting our beliefs with our everyday lives. We will be having conversations together that will spread to many contexts, each of which presents unique opportunities for noticing, discussing, and living the practices of faith. The February 12 discussion will center on "Times of Yearning." The February 19 discussion will be about "Honoring the Body" and the February 28 discussion will focus on "Hospitality." The class will meet at 7:00pm in the church library. Childcare will be available if requested in advance by contacting Dr. Tamar Wasoian at [dlre@bauuc.org](mailto:dlre@bauuc.org).

### ***Great Decisions Foreign Policy Speaker Series***

Great Decisions is a national, eight-week U. S. foreign policy study-discussion program sponsored nationally by the Foreign Policy Association in New York (FPA). Eight of the country's most pressing foreign policy issues are examined and discussed by hundreds of thousands of Americans throughout the country. Here at BAUUC, we will be presenting Great Decisions discussions on Thursday mornings, afternoons and evenings starting on Thursday February 6. In addition to these groups, we will be presenting special guest speakers on some of the topics on Tuesday evenings in February as well. On Tuesday February 11, we will welcome Jim Blackburn, professor in the practice of environmental law in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University, teaching courses in sustainable development and environmental law. Mr. Blackburn will speak about "Climate Change and the Global Order." Additional



Tuesday night speakers in the series will include presentations on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, China's Road into Latin America, and Artificial Intelligence and Data. The Tuesday night speakers are free and open to everyone.

### ***Living Peace Workshops***

"Living Peace" is a series of workshops to help us all be more connected to one another and to ourselves. These monthly gatherings on Sunday afternoons will be facilitated by Susan Wildin, MD, CPC and based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg on Nonviolent Communication. The first workshop in the series will take place on Sunday February 2 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in room 131. The discussion theme will be "Choose Self Compassion!" Additional workshops are scheduled for Sundays March 1, April 5 and May 3 and will touch on themes of compassion, empathy, anger and honesty. Each workshop stands alone so anyone can participate. Please preregister by going to [www.wildins.net/workshops.php](http://www.wildins.net/workshops.php) and following the link. For more information, please contact Susan Wilden.

### ***Sunday Morning Discussions***

There are some lively and engaging conversations about spirituality, social justice and current events happening every Sunday morning here at BAUUC. The BAUUC Adult Discussion group meets in the church library each week starting at 10:45am. In February, the discussions will focus on the 1619 Project and Black History Month with short videos followed by open discussion. Newcomers are always warmly welcomed! For more information, contact Bob Tomlinson.

## *Buddhist Meditation*

The Buddhist Meditation Group meets at 7:00pm on Sunday evenings in the sanctuary. You may sit in a chair or on the floor or bring a mat, stool, or pillow to sit on to meditate. We are usually finished about 8:00 to 8:30pm. You do not need to be Buddhist to participate. For more information, please contact Doris Smith.

## *Women's Spirituality Group*

Our BAUUC Women's Spirituality Group meets the second and fourth Thursdays from 10:00am to 11:30am in room 131. The group will meet this month on Thursday February 13 and Thursday February 27. Come and join us as we share our lives and deepen our spirituality. For more details, please contact Julie Blanford.

## *Nine Waves Grove Druid Group*

BAUUC is pleased to offer meeting space to the Nine Waves Grove, a local Neo-pagan Druid group belonging to ÁrnDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship (ADF). The group gathers each Friday night in June at 7:30pm in Cockrell Hall for ritual and discussion. Anyone who wishes to attend in a spirit of sharing and hospitality is welcome, regardless of personal beliefs. For more information on the group and their activities, please visit [www.ninewavesadf.org](http://www.ninewavesadf.org).

## *Watch Sermons Anytime*

If you miss a Sunday service or just want to hear a particular message from our minister or a guest speaker again, you can watch video recordings of recent sermons on our website. Just visit [www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org) and click on "Recent Sermons" in the Worship drop down menu.



## *Houston Women's March*

On Saturday January 25, over 20 BAUUC members took part in the 2020 Women's March in downtown Houston to publicly show our UU support for women's rights!



# Service & Justice

## *Blood Drive on February 16*

What do hearts, red roses and blood have in common? They are all red and may be connected with Valentine's Day. So be a sweetheart, give someone a rose, and sign-up to donate blood. The Blood Center Donor Coach will be here at BAUUC on Sunday February 16, and you can sign up now outside Cockrell Fellowship Hall. Thank you for saving lives!

## *Climate Crisis Task Force*

BAUUC's new Climate Crisis Task Force met for the first time on Thursday January 16. Our goal is to organize and prioritize responses to the climate crisis for both individuals and the congregation. At our first meeting we identified three paths which we plan to implement:

1. Educate ourselves, our congregation and our community on the immediateness of the Climate Crisis through continuation of Green Sanctuary and other educational programs.

2. Propose that the church adopt a formal statement at the March all church meeting stating our understanding of climate change and our goals for responding, such as, adopting the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Build a Movement for a Green New Deal" (<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/build-movement-green-new-deal>), endorsement of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act proposed by the Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/>), commit to the "Ready for 100" campaign proposed by the Sierra Club (<https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/campaign>).

3. Undertake projects which will reduce our carbon footprint of the church building, such as energy conservation and installation of solar electric panels.

If you would like to join us, our next meeting is planned for Thursday February 13 at 7:00 pm in the library. For details, please contact Wally Calaway.



## *Exploring Diversity Book Group*

Our church is committed to promoting a society and community where all people are respected and celebrated. A vital part of growing in our understandings of each other is to find opportunities to hear the stories and experiences of people with diverse perspectives. Our Exploring Diversity Book Group meets regularly to discuss works by authors from a variety of backgrounds. The group is currently reading "The Buddha in the Attic" by Julie Otsuka. This book is a poem and a tale of the lives of a group of Japanese 'Picture Brides' brought to San Francisco in the early 20th century, from their perspective as workers, wives, and mothers. It chronicles their lives and time spent in internment camps during World War II. The Book Group will gather on Thursday February 20 at 1:30pm in the church library to discuss the book and to share our own experiences. For more information, please contact Jane Malin.

## *Green Sanctuary Program*

Learning about how we can protect our environment and promote positive change is the mission of BAUUC's Green Sanctuary Program. On Wednesday February 5 at 7:00pm, we will be watching some short videos on climate change and have discussion about them. Please come and join us in Cockrell Hall following our Community Dinner and Wednesday Night Service on February 5.

## *Super Sunday Lunch & Learn on Environmental Justice*

Following our 11:00am service on Sunday February 23, we will be having a big lunch for everyone in the Cockrell Fellowship Hall. Following our meal, we will welcome guest speaker Brent Sullivan from the new Houston area group "Extinction Revolution." This non-profit organization advocates for changes in public policy around Climate Change through direct action. Please plan now to join us on February 23 and learn more about how you can be part of the revolution needed to address and cope with what's happening to our environment.

## *Share the Plate Offerings*

On a regular basis, we take a special collection during our Sunday services to support the work of a non-profit organization which promotes our religious values in the world. In January, a special collection was taken to support the work of the Clinic Support Access Network which provides transportation and resources to those seeking abortion care here in Houston. Our next "Share the Plate" Offering will happen on Sunday February 23 during both morning services. Half of all cash and half of all checks marked with "share the plate" in the memo line will go to a local organization working to address Climate Change here in Houston.

### *Amnesty International*

The next monthly meeting of Amnesty International-Bay Area will be on Monday February 3 at 6:30pm in Cockrell Hall. The guest speaker will be a leader in the Innocence Project and will speak about that organization's work to exonerate wrongly convicted people through the use of DNA testing and to reform the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend. For more information, contact Bob Tomlinson.

### *Service & Justice Ministry Team Meeting*

Our church mission is to "change lives and heal the world." You are invited to help organize upcoming community outreach and advocacy efforts by attending the next meeting of our Service & Justice Ministry Team on Sunday February 2 at 12:15pm in the church library.

### *Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays*

As part of our commitment to support LGBT people in our community, BAUUC hosts the monthly meetings of the Clear Lake group of 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. PFLAG meetings are on the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary. The next meeting will be on Sunday February 23. For more information, please call the Houston area PFLAG helpline at 713-467-3524.

### **CONNECT TO BAUUC ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



We're on social media.  
Like us and follow us today!

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BAUUC](http://www.facebook.com/BAUUC)

And be sure to LIKE, COMMENT and SHARE our posts when you see them!



### *Our Care Team is Here for You!*

A central part of our spirituality as Unitarian Universalists involves finding opportunities to practice our values of kindness, compassion and care. The BAUUC Care Team offers outreach to those in need in our church community. This outreach includes phone calls, cards, meals, hospital and home visits, and assistance with transportation. If you are ill, feeling down or just need a little support, please contact our Care Team coordinator LaVerne Nash at 281-326-1404.

### *Family Fellowship @ BAUUC*

Families and children will be getting together for two fun and enjoyable events this coming month. On Wednesday February 5, we will have a Family Game Night starting at 6:30pm. Bring your family, join our Wednesday Night Community Dinner at 6:00pm and stay for a night of games with the other families. Can't make it to dinner? Just come for games at 6:30pm. On Sunday February 16, all families are warmly invited to join others for a potluck lunch after the 11:00am service. Come, bring your kids, and join other parents for a time of connection and support as we enjoy lunch together. Childcare is provided. These gatherings are open to all parents and children of any age. For more details, contact Jennifer Ross-Nazzal.



### *Young Adults Get Together*

BAUUC's new group for young adults offers a great opportunity to meet new people, explore your spirituality, serve your community, and just have fun! This group is for adults aged 18-35 and will be meeting next on Saturday February 1 at 6:30pm in room 103/104 at the church. We will be exploring ways we can help the church and the community and planning outreach activities. The Young Adults Group will also be having additional meetings each month for fun, social events to allow folks to get to know each other better. If you are interested and need more information, please contact Teagan Bourne at [yag@bauuc.org](mailto:yag@bauuc.org) or 281-309-1439.

### *Ageless Yoga*

Do you need a good stretch? Our weekday afternoon Yoga program uses easy stretching and exercise for all ages. Most exercises are done sitting or standing holding onto a chair. Sessions end with a brief meditation. Do your health a favor and join the group on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00 to 1:45pm in Cockrell Hall.

### *Knitting the Spirit*

Our group of church members and friends who are into fabric arts meets on Friday mornings for knitting, crocheting, needlework and lively conversation. You are invited to bring whatever project you are working on. Beginners are always welcome; we'll teach you. Knitting the Spirit will meet this month on Friday February 7 and Friday February 21 at 10:30am in room 131.

### *In the BAUUC Community Garden*

Our recent workdays in the BAUUC Community Garden have been some of the best. In December, there was a workforce of twelve gardeners! BAUUC is on the Prairie Pollinator Pathway, which means we will be planting pollinator plants in our garden to attract bees and other pollinators. Patrick Ferrell arrived early and installed a Prairie Pollinator Pathway sign and one of his bee houses. Bruce Meltzer weeded his bed after loaning it for growing donated sweet potatoes. Both Bruce and Patrick have been members since 2012. Robert and Susan Strahan worked on their bed that has a variety of greens and snap peas. It was a pleasure to welcome the family of Kimberly (Kimi) Clark, her two children and her parents, Kelli and Larry Travis, as volunteers. They made short work of pulling a lot of grass roots from the plot where we will be planting Prairie Pollinator seeds. Anne Bechard is another new volunteer who also helped with this task. Beatriz Perez-Sweeney worked on her beds and helped out with weeding the donation beds. We appreciate Ivar's efforts in the garden as well as all the other jobs he does around our church. Although the sky was threatening rain, our gardeners showed up in January. A number of interesting and pretty plants are growing strong: snap peas with purple blooms, Swiss Chard, and Mexican mint marigold, whose leaves and flowers are edible and taste like licorice. New volunteers are always welcome. For more details, please contact Nathan Veatch, or check out our garden blog at [www.bauucgarden.org](http://www.bauucgarden.org).

### *Get Real! Women's Support Group*

Come join us the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm for GET REAL! This is a new women's support group designed to address the issues that real women tackle every day. As a group we hope to explore different topics that are unique to women and come together to promote positive community outreach. The next meetings will take place on Thursday February 6 and Thursday February 20 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in room 103/104 at the church. For more information, please contact Nicole Nastasi. Child care will be provided upon request. Please email Tamar Wasoian at [dire@bauuc.org](mailto:dire@bauuc.org).

### *Mental Health Support Groups*

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presents regular support groups for individuals living with severe mental health issues and for their family members and friends. Both groups meet twice a month here at BAUUC. Meetings this month will be on Tuesday February 4 and Tuesday February 18 at 7:00pm in Cockrell Hall. For more details, contact NAMI of Greater Houston at 713-970-4419.

### *Ultimate Monday Juggling Meet Up*

On the last Monday of each month, our BAUUC sanctuary is the place to be to practice and learn your juggling skills. The Ultimate Monday Juggling Group meets to share skills and build community through play. Beginners are welcome and toys are provided. All participants are required to sign a waiver and minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The Juggling Group will gather next on Monday February 24 at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Laura Dean.





### *Super Sunday Lunch*

Our next all-church Super Sunday Lunch will take place on Sunday February 23 following the 11:00am worship service. We'll enjoy a great meal together in the Cockrell Fellowship Hall prepared by our volunteer kitchen crew. Cost will be \$7 for adults, \$2 for children and free for visitors, newcomers and anyone with limited finances. Everyone is welcome! Vegetarian options and kid-friendly fare will be available.

### *Wednesday Night Dinners at the Church*

Come to church on Wednesday nights and enjoy our weekly Community dinner starting at 6:00pm in the Cockrell Fellowship Hall. Each week our kitchen crew works hard to prepare a delicious meal, including dessert. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$2 for children and free for anyone with limited finances. Vegetarian and kid-friendly options are always available.

### *Lunch After Church on Sundays*

Following our 11:00am worship service each Sunday, a group of BAUUC members and friends goes out for a meal at a nearby restaurant. Everyone is welcome, especially newcomers. For more information, please contact David Throop.

**Sunday February 2** at Mom Alone Mexican Grill (1111 East NASA Parkway)

**Sunday February 9** at Angelo's Pizza & Pasta (400 Bay Area Boulevard)

**Sunday February 16** at Delicias Latinas Mexican Restaurant (18119 Egret Bay Boulevard)

### *Meet & Eat Women's Lunches*

The women of BAUUC gather for lunch each Tuesday at noon at a local restaurant. For more information, please contact Irene Delgado.

**Tuesday February 4** at Akimi Sushi and Stir Fry (1354 East NASA Parkway)

**Tuesday February 11** at Thai Spice Noodle House (300 Bay Area Boulevard)

**Tuesday February 18** at Bon Appetit Café (18027 Point Lookout Drive)

**Tuesday February 25** at Mom Alone Mexican Grill (1111 East NASA Parkway)

### *H.I.S. Men's Lunches*

The men of BAUUC gather for lunch each Thursday at 11:45am at a Clear Lake area restaurant. For more information, please contact Peter Taylor.

**Thursday February 6** at King Food Chinese Restaurant (704 West NASA Parkway)

**Thursday February 13** at Luka's Barbeque (17052 Saturn Lane)

**Thursday February 20** at King Food Chinese Restaurant (704 West NASA Parkway)

**Thursday February 27** at Luby's (1600 NASA Road 1)

### *Lunch with Liberals*

Join our lively group for some good food and great conversation on the second Wednesday of each month at a Clear Lake area restaurant. The next "Lunch with Liberals" will be on **Wednesday February 12 at 11:30am at Bon Appetite Cafe (18027 Point Lookout Drive)**. For more information, contact Sonia Hernandez.

# News UU Can Use

## *It's Easier Than Ever to Make a Contribution to BAUUC*

You can now make a payment on your pledge, contribute to our Sunday offerings, pay for Wednesday night dinner or make any type of donation anytime. Simply go to our church website at [www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org) and click on "Support BAUUC." You can securely and easily use your credit card to make any type of contribution there. You can also go to [Paypal.com](http://Paypal.com) and set up a Paypal account. Then download the Paypal app to your mobile device. Pay to [office@bauuc.org](mailto:office@bauuc.org) and include a note about the purpose of the payment.

## *Becoming a Member*

Now is the perfect time to become a member of BAUUC community. Membership is a way of growing in commitment and connection to your faith and your church. To be a member, you must be 16 years of age or older, make a financial pledge, and sign our Membership Book. If you have been visiting us and feel you have found a home here, we welcome you to membership. Please speak with Membership Ministry Team Leads Brenda Cockrell and Claire Zimmerman or with Rev. Bruce Beisner about signing the book.

## *Photo Directories*

Photo Directories of BAUUC members and friends are now available. You can pick up a paper copy in the church office or download the entire directory online at our church website at [www.bauuc.org](http://www.bauuc.org). Click on the "Get Connected" tab to find the link to the Directory. To access this file online, you will need to enter the password, which can be obtained by contacting the church office at 281-488-2001 or [office@bauuc.org](mailto:office@bauuc.org).

## *Healthy Congregation Team*

Here at BAUUC we strive to follow our "Covenant of Loving Kindness" and create healthy and supportive relationships. From time to time, conflicts will and do arise among us. Our Healthy Congregation Team is here to help mediate disagreements between our members and friends and to offer fair and unbiased support in these situations. The Team also works with our members to insure that everyone follows basic behaviors of respect and courtesy. If you are having difficulty or conflict, please don't hesitate to contact any our Healthy Congregation Team members: Tony Nastasi, Julie Blanford, Gerry Carr and Rev. Bruce Beisner.



## 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 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

### Sunday Worship Services

9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### Religious Education

Sundays at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### Next Universe Deadline

February 15, 2020

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

