



UNI VERSE

BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Vol. 120 No. 3

March, 2020

Your commitments to
your church keep us moving...



Together on the Journey

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

Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Dr. Tamar Wasoian, dire@bauuc.org

Sexton: Lillian Bell, lillian@bauuc.org

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Choir Director: Beth Jordan, choirdirector@bauuc.org

Music Director: Cheryl Marcum, musicdirector@bauuc.org

Youth Director: Rusty Cockrell, youthdirector@bauuc.org

Our Lay Leaders

Board of Directors President: Clif Grim, president@bauuc.org

Treasurer: Mary Buchanan-Koonz, treasurer@bauuc.org

Board Secretary: Jill Veatch, secretary@bauuc.org

Membership Ministry Team: Brenda Cockrell and Claire Zimmerman, membership@bauuc.org

Service & Justice Ministry Team: Jeff Boxell

Religious Education Ministry Team: Bill Ellis

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 MARCH 1

"The Power of UU"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

Our church is a place where we bring our passions, our hopes and our aspirations and help each other to make them into reality. Our services on March 1 will be for all ages and will include great music from our Choir and personal reflections by several church members about how BAUUC has empowered them in their everyday lives.

SUNDAY MARCH 8

"It's Not Easy Going Green"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

As the effects of our Climate Crisis continue to accelerate, now is the time for meaningful action. Our UU values call us to live in harmony with our Earth and to promote sustainable lifestyles. Rev. Bruce Beisner will lead us in imagining our church community transformed into a place of less consumption, less waste and renewable energy. Our services on March 8 will feature guest musicians Tony and Bunny DiNuzzo. A Congregational Meeting will follow the 11:00am service.

SUNDAY MARCH 15

"For Heaven's Sake!"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

Some religions are about getting people into heaven. It is often said that Unitarian Universalism is about "getting heaven into people." We rarely talk about the afterlife and are more focused on the here and now. But what does our tradition teach us about heaven and immortality? Our services on March 15 will include a special offering to support Way Home Adoption.

SUNDAY MARCH 22

"Take A Liberal to Church"

Cathy Vance

During a time of personal crisis, one UU woman unexpectedly found herself in a healing circle at an Evangelical megachurch. Unitarian Universalists are caring people, but our strong suit is often cerebral rationality rather than emotion. BAUUC member Catherine Vance will share with us what she learned from the vulnerability of Christian fundamentalists.

SUNDAY MARCH 29

"Enemy of the State"

Rev. Bruce Beisner

What happens when the societal structures around us become a threat to our well-being? Many people all over the world live every day with governments and authorities that are hostile to their freedoms. Is this what is happening here? It depends on your perspective, your experience and your cultural background. We'll explore how our values call us to defend and protect those under threat and to foster a society that promote democracy, social justice and compassion.

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. Our services on Sunday March 1 will be for all ages with children and youth remaining with their families in the sanctuary for the entire service. Childcare is available in our nursery for infants and toddlers during both services every Sunday.

Together on the Journey

Rev. Bruce Beisner
Your Minister



It's Stewardship season, a time when we talk about the importance of our commitments to our church, specifically our financial commitments. Being a part of our church community offers us freedom but also calls us to be responsible. A minister friend of mine likes to use the term "faithful Unitarian Universalist" because it reminds her that our church is about more than just personal religious freedom. I like that term too because it reminds me that our values and our mission ask me and you to live in certain ways which reflect our beliefs, ways which affirm the sacredness of every life and our interdependence with one another and with the Earth.

One of the commitments that I believe Unitarian Universalism demands of us is to strive to be people who are always evolving. It is not enough for us to know some truths and practice them. We can't just rest on our spiritual or ethical laurels. We are called to be people who are eager to learn new ideas and willing to expand our horizons. We are asked to listen, to question and to welcome new experiences.

There are so many ways our ministries and our programs here at BAUUC push and prod us to discover and to grow. Our outstanding series of foreign policy speakers and discussions are giving us not only the chance to hear from learned scholars but to also grow in our connections and understandings of what is happening in our world. Our Sunday Morning Discussions, Women's Spirituality Group and Exploring Diversity Book Group offer great opportunities to explore a variety of viewpoints and ideas every week. This month I will be presenting a Wednesday night class about Unitarian Universalist answers to some of life's big religious questions.

The learning and evolving we do together at BAUUC is not confined to our classes and educational programs. It happens in all of the times we spend together in community. Talking with others around a table at a Wednesday night dinner (now with vegan options!), teaching or just hanging out with our children and youth on Sunday mornings, and attending Sunday worship services are all moments when we encounter life in new and exciting ways. Our spirits are stretched most in those times when we are able to share personal sorrows and joys with one another and when we reach out to offer comfort and care.

Several weeks ago, the message on our church sign along El Camino Real read: "The Most Vibrant Center of Liberal Religion at Work in the World." This is our shared vision statement and I don't think it is just hollow boasting. BAUUC is a vibrant place to be these days because here we come together with all our passions, personalities and peculiarities. Here we can freely learn from one another and grow in spirit. Here we strive to be "faithful Unitarian Universalists."

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce".

Rev. Bruce Beisner can be reached at 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.



Meet The Minister

Rev. Bruce Beisner invites you to join him following the 11:00am service on **Sunday March 29** for an informal "getting to know UU" session. This will be an opportunity to connect with others, ask any questions you have about the church, our theologies, our values, our social justice and our future plans. Childcare will be provided and everyone is welcome to attend.

Board Happenings

Mattye Reymont for the BAUUC Board of Directors



The BAUUC Board of Directors was pleased to have two guest speakers at our February meeting. Kathy Troop came to report on the progress being made on the new playground installation. Wally Calloway came to speak as the lead for our new Climate Crisis Task Force.

Kathy reported that several changes have made it necessary for original quotes on new playground equipment to be revisited. One change is there are now plans to have two separate playground areas, one for younger children and another for older ones. There are also two surfacing products being evaluated with remanufactured wood chips seeming to be the best option. There is some discussion on having the playground ADA certified. A total of three companies are working up quotes for the playground and the goal is to have them all in within 3 weeks. Proposals will go before the Finance Ministry Team for review.

Wally presented a progress report on work being done by our new Climate Crisis Task Force. This group has generated much support and there are now 16 members on this task force. Wally presented a proposed resolution titled “Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church Response to the Global Climate Emergency.” After some discussion the Board voted to approve the resolution and to have it brought before the church members for a vote at the next Congregational Meeting on Sunday March 8.

The Board has now begun a careful review of the church’s Bylaws. This important document has not been a part of our annual review of policies and procedures and has not been amended since 2012. So far, we have found only minor word changes or eliminations. Upon completion of this review, the revised By-Laws will be brought before the congregation for a vote.

We are happy to report that our Office Administrator’s hours have now been increased to 30 hours per week. Sharlene Rochen’s new work schedule is posted on her office door.

The Stewardship Campaign is off to a great start. Feedback from the Stewardship Dinner has been positive, with many pledges have already been turned in. A majority of these pledges have included slight increases for the coming year. Our next fiscal year will run from July 2020 through the end of June 2021. We are hopeful this trend will continue as the total pledges and financial support will determine our operating budget for 2020-2021 and provide us the means to grow further in our mission of changing lives and healing our world.

Congregational Meeting

Our next Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday March 8 at 12:15pm in the sanctuary. Our Board of Directors and Staff will be sharing with us plans for some exciting upcoming church projects and outreach events. We’ll also have an update on the 2020-2021 Stewardship campaign and progress reports on a number of church-wide initiatives including the replacement of our playground and efforts to address the climate crisis. All church members and friends are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

Religious Education for Children & Youth in March

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.

Special Sundays in March:

March 1: Services for All Ages. Religious Education classes meet in the sanctuary.

March 8: Spring Break- Combined RE class for PreK-5th grades.

Sunday Mornings at 9:30am



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

March 15: Our Search for Meaning – Using the story Many Paths to God, the children consider what symbols are meaningful to them. They create their 4th Principle poster.

March 22: Our Words Matter – The children learn about, make, and use a Talking Stick.

March 29: Our Words Matter II – The children hear a story about Sojourner Truth and practice taking turns talking with use of the Talking Stick.

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

March 15: Do Unto Others II - The children continue learning about the Golden Rule and work on 'Good Neighbor Coupon' project.

March 22: Generosity – The class makes Play-doh to give away.

March 29: Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth – The children hear a story about parachuting cats and make a collage about balance in nature.

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

March 15: The Power of Shine II - The group hears a story about how words can hurt. They practice substituting 'put-downs' with 'pull-ups'.

March 22: The Power of Action – The group hears a story about climate change.

March 29: The Power of Action II – The group continues their consideration of climate change.

What's Religious about Sexuality Education?

In liberal religious sexuality education, we seek to provide roots and wings for our young people. The roots are our Unitarian Universalist religious traditions and values, which accept participants and value them for who they are so they feel good about themselves and their sexuality. The wings are the freedom they have to make meaning of their own lives; the opportunity to clarify their own values and apply them to their own experiences; and the strength to develop into their own true, best selves. The Our Whole Lives curriculum help transform a cultural climate of fear and confusion into a new reality of lives lived congruent with the values of the inherent worth and dignity of each and every person.

Here at BAUUC we offer "Our Whole Lives" sexuality education from K-1 through grades 10-12 every other year. We are currently having a class for children in grades K-1 on Sunday mornings at 9:30am.

"Our Whole Lives" helps our children and youth make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, these classes provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. The curricula include activities that help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills, a safe and supportive environment for learning, acceptance of diversity and social justice approach to inclusive sexuality education. Parent orientations affirm parents as their children's primary sexuality educators and all facilitators are completely trained in the curricula.

While "Our Whole Lives" is secular, it is not value-free. The program gives clear messages about self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. For more information on Our Whole Lives, please go to owl@uua.org.

Passing the Flame

Rusty Cockrell
Youth Director



There is continued energy and excitement with both the Junior High and High School groups these days. We had 10 middle school youth on the first Sunday in February. The middle schoolers continue to engage and learn about various world religions. Buddhism, Christianity and Islam have been explored over the past month. We are excited to have Justin Reilly back with us. So glad he is doing well.

Our high school youth have had a busy past month and half. Over the weekend of January 17-19, BAUUC hosted a regional Youth Rally. We had 6 youth from our church participate -three first timer rally-iers. Overall, 34 youth from across Texas attended. The weekend was filled with activities, social time, great food and social justice outreach. We had 9 youth and 3 adults work sorting clothes at the Interfaith Caring Ministries shop. We made toys for cats and dogs for a local pet shelter, and we made Valentine's Day cards for local seniors. We also made posters to recognize and honor Martin Luther King Day. I have been receiving very positive personal feedback from the youth that attended.

I am very pleased at the continued spiritual journey and amazing discovery happening with the "Building Your Own Theology" curriculum in our high school class. Lively discussions, debates and insight are a weekly standard. One of the recent lessons asked the youth to develop their own 10 commandments. I leave you with the BAUUC High School youth's 10 Commandments:

1. Treat others how they want to be treated
2. Being generous is pretty dope!
3. Don't be a Racist, Homophobic, sexist, etc....
4. If can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all, but you can if #3
5. Approach everyone, including yourself with kindness.
6. Be respectful to everyone, and their stuff, and everything
7. Have an open mind - learning mindset
8. Acknowledge our connect with the world
9. Leave it better than you found it
10. Stand up for what you believe in



Adventures in World Cultures 2020

"Adventures in World Cultures" is a BAUUC's uniquely-UU version of Vacation Bible School. Every summer since 1992, our rising K-6th grade children and their friends gather for four days of fun, activities, and learning about cultures near and far. In these four days teachers lead hands-on, fun-filled activities involving food, customs, heritage and history in classrooms transformed to reflect the studied culture by decorators. In the past we have experienced a Viking longboat, an erupting Hawaiian volcano, the peaceful ambiance of a Greek island and a safari in Botswana. This year's Adventures in World Cultures will take place on July 6-9, 2020.

Many hands make light work, so we need you to volunteer for a few hours! Do you have artistic talents? We can use your skills! Can you staple paper to a wall? We can use your skills! Do you like to paint scenery? All that paper needs to be painted! Can you use a computer to look up information and photos about a culture? We need you! Do you enjoy working with children? We have teaching and helping positions open. Are you good in organizing and sorting? We have tons of papers and shelves to organize every day. Cannot do any of these but still want to help? Yes, we need you! For more information about the program or ways to volunteer contact Tamar Wasoian at dlre@bauuc.org.

Growing in Spirit



"Unitarian Universalist Q&A" Discussion Class

What does Unitarian Universalism teach us about god, salvation, human nature, justice and our relationship to other people and to the Earth? As a non-creedal and open religious tradition, we do not claim to have simple or complete answers to such questions, but we do offer important perspectives for engaging with them. Rev. Bruce Beisner invites you to join him on Wednesdays March 11, 18 and 25 at 7:00pm for a lively and fun exploration of our UU approaches to the big spiritual questions of life. Feel free to bring your own questions about our church and our religion and we'll talk about them together. This discussion class will take place in the church library and childcare will be provided if requested in advance by emailing dire@bauuc.org.

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.

Living Peace Workshop

"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 next workshop in the series will take place on Sunday March 1 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in room 131. The discussion theme will be "Choose Empathy!" Additional workshops are scheduled for Sundays April 5 and May 3 and will touch on themes of anger and honesty. Each workshop stands alone so anyone can participate. For details, contact Susan Wildin.

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. Newcomers are always warmly welcomed! For more information, contact Bob Tomlinson.

Foreign Policy Speaker Series

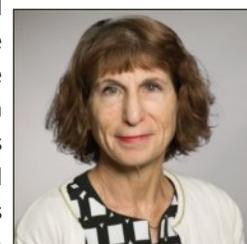
Throughout the month of March, our Great Decisions Foreign Policy Series is presenting weekly discussion groups here at the church every Thursday on a variety of topics of importance in our world today. We are pleased to be partnering this year with our friends from Webster Presbyterian Church to present discussions at their congregation each week in addition to the discussions happening here at BAUUC. The Great Decisions series is also presenting several special guest speakers on topics related to these discussions on Tuesday nights this month. These presentations are free and open to the public.

On **Tuesday March 3 at 7:00pm**, we will welcome Sergeant Louis Carballo from the Vice Division Training and Special Projects Division of the Houston Police Department. Sergeant Carballo will be speaking about "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" and efforts here in Texas to combat forced servitude, kidnapping and the sex trade.



On **Tuesday March 17 at 7:00pm**, we will present a program about "China's Influence in Latin America" with guest speaker will be Dr. Daniel Perez Liston. Dr. Liston is an associate professor at the University of St. Thomas-Houston whose research focuses on international finance.

On **Tuesday March 31**, Great Decisions will present a speaker on the study-discussion topic "Artificial Intelligence and Data." Our speaker, Ariel Aaronson, is the author of the Foreign Policy Association's briefing booklet section of the same title. She is a Research Professor of International Affairs and Director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub. She conceived of and directs the Hub, which aims to educate policymakers, the press and the public about domestic and international data governance issues from digital trade to public data governance.



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.

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 and click on "Recent Sermons" in the Worship drop down menu.

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 March 12 and Thursday March 26. 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.

Houston UU Music Festival

Unitarian Universalists from across the Greater Houston area will be gathering on Saturday March 28 for this annual family event at the Unitarian Fellowship (located at 1504 Wirt Road in Houston). Come and enjoy outstanding performances from some very talented UU musicians, including BAUUC's own "Just Us" folk band. There will be food, arts and crafts booths, children's activities and more. The Festival is presented by the UU Network of Houston and the Houston Peace & Justice Center. Admission is free! For more information, please visit www.uuhouston.org/services/free-music-festival.



Armand Bayou Trash Bash

BAUUC members will be joining our friends from the Clear Lake Islamic Center to participate together in this year's Armand Bayou Trash Bash on Saturday March 28. We'll be gathering with hundreds of our neighbors from across the Clear Lake area to clean up Bay Area Park and the natural areas around the Armand Bayou Nature Preserve. Please mark your calendar and plan to be there. The Trash Bash will take place at Bay Area Park and runs from 8:30am to 1:00pm. Free lunch is served and it is a very kid-friendly event. We will car pool with the members of the Islamic Center from our church parking lot at 8:00am. Further details will be made available in the coming weeks.



Texas Health & Environment Alliance Speaker

Learning about how we can protect our environment and promote positive change is the mission of BAUUC's Green Sanctuary Program. On Wednesday March 4, we will be welcoming Jackie Young, the founder of Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA). Jackie founded THEA, after she discovered it was the environment in her community that caused her family and animals to become ill. THEA works to safeguard public health by preventing exposure to harmful contaminants, striving to restore our precious environmental resources for current and future generations. The group has been heavily involved in the legal process surrounding the Superfund clean-up project at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. Please join us for this informative program on March 4 at 7:00pm in Cockrell Hall following our Wednesday night dinner and worship service.

Amnesty International

The next monthly meeting of Amnesty International-Bay Area will be on Monday March 2 at 6:30pm in Cockrell Hall. Come and learn more about how you can be an advocate for human rights and to end abuses here in the United States and around the world. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend. For more information, contact Bob Tomlinson.

Lunch & Learn About Adoption

On Sunday March 15, our BAUUC Service and Justice Ministry Team invites you to come and learn more about work to serve the thousands of children currently in the Foster Care system here in Texas. Following our 11:00am service, we'll have a special All-Church Lunch in Cockrell Hall. The menu will include vegan and kid-friendly options and everyone is welcome to attend. After our meal, there will be a short presentation from a speaker from Way Forward Adoption highlighting that group's efforts to serve children in need in our communities.

Exploring Diversity Book Group

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 March 5 at 1:30pm in the church library to discuss the book and to share our own experiences. For more information, please contact Jane Malin.

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 February, a special collection was taken to support the work of Bay Area Turning Point which provides shelter and vital services to those affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse in our local community. Our next "Share the Plate" Offering will happen on Sunday March 15 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 Way Forward Adoption, a Texas-based non-profit agency which serves the thousands of children and youth currently in our Foster care system.

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 March 1 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 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 March 22. For more information, please call the Houston area PFLAG helpline at 713-467-3524.

Climate Crisis Task Force

The Climate Crisis Task Force met in February to finalize a resolution entitled, Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Response to the Global Climate Emergency which has been submitted to BAUUC's Board. The resolution outlines a set of possible directions and actions which BAUUC and its members should consider in order to address the climate crisis. The Task Force is submitting the resolution with the recommendation that the Board present it to the congregation for a vote. Based on our UU values of caring for the earth and all people, it is time for our congregation to join other UU congregations and the UU Association in making a public commitment to take actions which reduce our carbon footprint and to set an example to our community. The Task Force has also contacted Solar United Neighbors (SUN) of Texas, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that educates homeowners about solar energy and provides consumer protection and support for those looking to go solar. SUN also organize grassroots, regional projects, called "co-ops," that are cost and commitment-free for homeowners interested in learning about solar energy. BAUUC was asked to become a partner with SUN for the newly forming East Houston Co-op. The Board agreed to become a partner and anticipates that the church will host a co-op membership recruitment program in the Spring. The next meeting of the Climate Crisis Task Force will be on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the library. All are welcome to join and participate in our efforts.





Creating Community

Potluck Dinner & Games Night

Our next All-Church Potluck Dinner will be happening on Saturday March 21 at 5:00pm in Cockrell Hall. Following our meal, we'll enjoy playing all your favorite board games. Bring yourself, your family and whatever games you like to play. Also, please bring some food to share and an appetite to win!

Young Adults Get Togethers

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 Saturdays March 7 and March 21 at 6:30pm in room 103/104 at the church. We will be getting to know each other better and exploring ways we can help the church and the community and planning outreach activities. If you are interested and need more information, please contact Teagan Bourne at yag@bauuc.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. The next meetings will take place on Thursday March 5 and Thursday March 19 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 dlre@bauuc.org.

Family Fellowship

Families and children will be getting together for two fun and enjoyable events this coming month. On Wednesday March 4, 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 March 15, all families are warmly invited to join others for a potluck lunch 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 details, contact Jennifer Ross-Nazzal.

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 March 3 and Tuesday March 17 at 7:00pm in Cockrell Hall. For more details, contact NAMI of Greater Houston at 713-970-4419.

Day Trip to Camp Hearne

Our next Day Trip for those 55+ will take place on Friday March 13. We will be traveling to excursion to Camp Hearne Historic Site in Hearne, Texas, 20 miles northwest of Bryan/College Station for a visit to the WWII prisoner of war camp housing 4800 German POWs. The camp was commissioned in 1942 to house prisoners from all three Axis powers during the conflict. After the war it was abandoned for 70 years. Today there stands a single replica of a barracks which contains exhibits explaining the history and artifacts of prisoner artwork and objects during incarceration. After lunch at the Dixie Cafe, we will visit the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan, Texas that feature fossils, antique farming equipment and a discovery room with 15 varieties of live animals and many other exhibits. Transportation for our Day Trips is provided by a bus from the Harris County Precinct 2 program for seniors. Costs for the outing on March 13 will be \$8.50 plus lunch. A sign-up sheet in Cockrell Hall is posted to reserve your spot. For more information, contact LaVerne Nash.

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.

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 March 30 at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Laura Dean.

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 Fridays March 6 and March 20 at 10:30am in room 131.

In the BAUUC Community Garden

Our most recent Workday in the BAUUC Community Garden on February 14 was a very productive one due to the continued efforts of our gardeners. Jane and David Malin harvested bok choy, Swiss chard, kale, and snap peas from a donation bed. Siok Hong Chen-Sabot will deliver them to the ICM Food Bank. Deandra Newcomb finished the arduous job of digging the roots out of two beds. George Becker then spread prairie wild-flower seeds in these beds as part of our continuing efforts in the Prairie Pollinator Pathway Program. Patrick Ferrell has made several bee houses for this program and he installed one in our garden. Tamar Wasoian took the harvested radishes and will make pickles with them. She plans to bring a jar for us to share at our Annual Garden Potluck on August 15. Our next workday in the garden across the street from the church will be on Saturday March 21 from 8:00am to 11:00am. Volunteers are always welcome. Now is the best time to enjoy working in the garden, not too hot or too cold. For more information, please contact Nathan Veatch.



Jane and David Malin harvest several veggies from a donation bed.

CONNECT TO BAUUC ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BAUUC

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



Super Sunday Lunch

Following our 11:00am service on Sunday March 15, everyone is invited to gather for a delicious lunch in the Cockrell Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a great meal 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! Vegan 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, vegan 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 March 1 at Boondoggle's (4106 East NASA Parkway in El Lago)

Sunday March 8 at Salata (1780 East NASA Parkway)

Sunday March 22 at Eduardo's Mexican Kitchen (911 East NASA Parkway)

Sunday March 29 at Sawa Restaurant and Grill (16608 El Camino Real)

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 Tamar Wasoian at dlre@bauuc.org.

Tuesday March 3 at Mediterraneo Market & Cafe (18033 Upper Bay Road)

Tuesday March 10 at Frenchie's Italian Restaurant(1041 East NASA Parkway)

Tuesday March 17 at Akimi Sushi And Stir Fry (1354 East NASA Parkway)

Tuesday March 24 at Noon Mirch -Cuisine of India (505 East NASA Parkway)

Tuesday March 31 at Tommy's Seafood Restaurant (2555 Bay Area Boulevard)

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 March 5 at Mom Alone Mexican Grill (1111 East NASA Parkway)

Thursday March 12 at Mediterraneo Market & Cafe (18033 Upper Bay Road)

Thursday March 19 at Denny's (2735 Bay Area Boulevard)

Thursday March 26 at Salata (1780 East NASA Parkway)

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 March 11 at 11:30am Marinas Mexican Restaurant & Bar (located at 3500 West Main Street in League City)**. For more information, contact Sonia Hernandez.

News UU Can Use

It's Stewardship Season!

This is Stewardship Season here in your church community! All members and friends of BAUUC are asked to let our leadership know the level of financial support you will be able to offer your church in the coming 2020-2021 fiscal year, which begins in July of this year. Our congregation is an independent institution that relies completely on the generous giving of our members and friends to sustain the many diverse programs, learning opportunities, social events and community outreach we offer. Recommended giving in between 5% to 10% of your annual income, but we gratefully welcome pledges of any amount. If you have not already done so, please make your 2020-2021 pledge today by filling out a pledge card and placing it in the box outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. You can also mail your pledge card to the church office, send an email to stewardship@bauuc.org or go online to www.bauuc.org/2020pledge.

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.

Blood Drive in February

Our Valentine's weekend Blood Drive here at BAUUC was a huge success. 25 members and friends donated blood and with the double red cell donations we were able to provide 28 units of life saving blood and products to the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Thank you all, stay healthy, and get ready for the next Blood Drive which is coming on October 25!

Becoming a Member

Now is the perfect time to become a member of our 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. 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.

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 ensure 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

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

March 15, 2020

Send submissions to universe@bauuc.org

