



UNI-VERSE

BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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“Inclusivity is not ‘how do we make you a part of what we are?’ but ‘how do we become more of what you are?’” ~ angel Kyodo williams Sensei



MINISTERIAL UPDATE



Beloveds –

This month we recognize our bridging seniors, have a congregational meeting, and we look a bit ahead to our flower communion and pride celebrations in June. This is a season of celebrating our marvelous diversity of ages and orientations, and the

democratic processes that value the contributions of all our people.

At this moment, that is a counter-cultural stance. Unitarian Universalism says: “All that you are is beautiful. All that you are is sacred.” This should not be a radical statement – but it is.

Rhetoric around gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity is highly flammable at this moment. Our politics feed on anger and fear. The overall narrative is one of a single path, a single truth, one way that is right and true.

But we know there is no single way or truth. We know that we all bring our pieces and fragments of truth to form a larger whole, and that even those fragments shift

and change like a kaleidoscope as we engage one another with curiosity and open hearts.

We uplift the profusion of human variety as necessary to the collective conversation, all with valuable contributions to the larger conversation. We hold boundaries of respect and care for one another, but within those boundaries we not only tolerate but encourage different points of view. We affirm that challenging each other, loving each other, and understanding each other across differences is not only a necessary civic and political practice. It is also a faithful spiritual practice that arises from our Unitarian Universalist tradition.

Church in May can feel like a wild rush to cram in as many things as possible before summer. I imagine it is the same for any of you tied to school schedules! Let us try to take a moment to pause, here and there, to feel gratitude for one another amid all the hustle and bustle.

In Spirit and Solidarity,
Rev. Katie

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



The BAUUC board had its monthly meeting on April 15th. The 3/18/2023 board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board.

Board members discussed protocol for voting at the next congregational meeting on May 26. This will be a voting meeting. Our BAUUC bylaws require membership of at least 60 days prior to the meeting (March 28) for a member to be eligible to vote. A list of eligible voters will be posted by the sanctuary entry doors at least 10 days prior to the May 26 meeting. Proxy votes are allowed. Only one proxy vote can be delivered by a member in attendance and the proxy form must be

completed by the voting member. A quorum of 20% of the membership must be present at the meeting. The bylaws also require a slate of candidates be on the ballot.

The church board is currently waiting on a fourth bid for a new sign placement on El Camino Real. Our specifications require compliance with Webster city codes, a changeable LED message board, a memorial acknowledgement to Fran Johnson, a representation of the chalice, and of course, address, phone, web address. A team will select at least two bidders to present their best ideas and answer questions. If you have expertise in the area, let Rev. Katie or Barbara Brandon know.

The board wishes to thank the entire garage sale team of volunteers and co-chairs Liz McCorquondale and Lillian Bell. Special thanks to Marlys Dension and her committee for developing a fun and innovative Fringe Art Festival.

DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE



This month brings us together for our annual Religious Education service on May 19th. Included within the service will be our Bridging Ceremony. This custom in Unitarian Universalism recognizes and celebrates our youths' transition from high school to early adulthood. As a church, we participate in this ritual because we are part of the community that has raised and taught them (and learned from them) through their childhood and adolescence. This year we have six graduating seniors who will be participating in BAUUC's Bridging Ceremony. Congratulations to Emma Buchanan, Dante D'Angelo, Ben Elder, Lillian Ferrell, Merlova Johnson and Sage Reilly and their families.

One of the most important things we can do for our youth is to support them into adulthood, to keep them connected to Unitarian Universalism, and continue to minister to them as they become adults. At the end of the ceremony each of our

graduates will receive several gifts, one being the book *Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Adulthood*. Within that book is a poem by Aoife Barrington-Haber that I would like to share:

Prayer For Bridging

As the child leaves the doorstep, the parent prays:
Please, keep my child safe,
And give me the courage to let them go out to explore the world.

The child prays,
Watch over my parents while I'm gone,
And help them believe that I really do know what I'm doing.

The grandparent prays,
Thank you for this precious gift twice given.
Let me remember that my child and my grandchild is each their own person,
And let them remember that my door is always open.

Blessed be, and Amen.

Splash Day Celebration

Sunday, May 26
11:15am

BAUUC Playground

Don't forget your swimsuit and towel!



April Worship Services

Sunday, May 5

Bread and Roses

Rev. Katie McQuage-Loukas

“Bread for all – and roses too.” A rallying cry for women and for labor, the slogan demands not only fair pay but also opportunities for joy and dignity. People of all genders still struggle today to put food on the table, let alone flowers. We are called to continue the work of both the feminist and labor movements, to build a world where all may flourish.

Sunday, May 12

Justice At Work

Guest Speaker: Ryan Ruffaner

Millions of Americans want justice in the workplace, but what does that really look like? Industrial and Organizational (IO) Psychologist Ryan Ruffaner teaches the science of building justice into the heart of every organization, with actionable advice.

Sunday, May 19

Religious Education Sunday

Gloria Miller

For Earth Day Sunday we celebrate our home. Amid climate grief and anxiety, we remember that just as the earth offers us physical nourishment, the earth also offers the spiritual and metaphorical strength to seek justice and healing.

Sunday, May 26

Memorial Day

Rev. Katie McQuage-Loukas

Did you know that every year we auction a Sunday sermon? This year’s request was for a Memorial Day sermon, so watch this space as Rev. Katie develops a worship service in conversation with this year’s bidder .



Religious Education for Children and Youth

Sunday May 5 and Sunday May 12

Children and youth, kindergarten and up, will be in the sanctuary with their families for the beginning portion of our worship services today. Following the Story for All Ages, they will go to their classrooms for their Religious Education Class. Childcare for our youngest UUs is available in our nursery.

Sunday May 19

Religious Education Service and Bridging Ceremony—Children and youth, kindergarten and up, will remain in the sanctuary with their families for the all church worship service on May 19. Childcare for our youngest UUs will be available in our nursery.

Sunday May 26

Children and youth, kindergarten and up, will be in the sanctuary with their families for the beginning portion of our worship services today. Following the Story for All Ages, they will go the playground for Splash Day. Childcare will be provided during the congregational meeting.

***Religious Education Sunday and
Bridging Ceremony***

Sunday, May 19th
at 11:00am



Justice At Work

Sunday, May 12 at 11:00am

**GUEST SPEAKER:
RYAN RUFFANER**





Labyrinth Day Walk

Saturday May 4

Saturday, May 4th marks International Labyrinth Day, a global event where individuals come together to walk as one, creating a powerful wave of peaceful energy. Join us at the Sisters of Charity Villa de Matel Convent in Houston as we participate in a Labyrinth Walk. We will gather at BAUUC at 11:45AM to carpool at noon. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with the community and experience the serenity of the labyrinth. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please reach out to Kristin Gates at childcare@bauuc.org or 281-948-4312. Let's walk in unity and peace!

Young Adult Potluck Gathering at BAUUC

Saturday May 4

Mark your calendars for a night of connection and camaraderie! BAUUC invites all young adults to Cockrell Hall on Saturday, May 4, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm for an evening filled with laughter, shared dishes, and the chance to engage with Rev. Katie. Bring your fabulous self and a dish to share. It's not just an event; it's a vibrant celebration of community where you can shine and forge new friendships. Got questions? Reach out to the BAUUC at 281-488-2001 or by email at officebauuc.org. Join us and let's make memories together! See you there!

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Saturday May 4

Get ready to spice up your weekend at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist on Sunday, May 5th at 12:30pm in Cockrell Hall! Immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Mariachi music performed by a talented trio of musicians. Indulge in the mouthwatering flavors of homemade Hispanic and

Native American dishes. Dive into the rich tapestry of Hispanic cultures with a fun and interactive quiz. Don't miss out on the chance to win exciting door prizes! Admission is a suggested donation of \$13.00. Join us for a festive celebration that will leave you dancing with joy!

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk

Saturday May 18

Step up and make a difference! The 2024 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk Greater Houston is calling your name. Join us on Saturday, May 18th, at Sam Houston Park for a 5K walk along Allen Parkway. Whether you walk, cheer, or support virtually, your presence matters. Let's unite to enhance the lives of those facing mental health challenges and their families. Stand with us, stand for hope. Together, we can create a brighter tomorrow. Jane Malin leads the way as our Bay Area IMPACT Team Captain for 2024. Watch the weekly email blast for the link to support our team.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday May 26

The next congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 26, at 12:15pm in the sanctuary. This meeting will focus on voting for new board members and nominating committee members. It is important to note that only members who joined before March 28, 2024, are eligible to participate in the voting process. According to the BAUUC Bylaws dated 5/4/2014, a 60-day waiting period is required before exercising voting privileges. To check the list of eligible voters for the upcoming meeting, please use the QR Code to the right:

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, May 26th





Splash Day

Sunday May 26

Get ready for a wet and wild time! We're throwing an epic end-of-the-year splash day celebration for our children and youth. Picture this: pools, water slides, balloons, and a whole lot of fun during our regular Religious Education class time. Don't forget your swimsuit, water-friendly shoes, and towel for all the aquatic action! After the splash-tacular fun, we'll cool off with delicious popsicles. Plus, childcare will be available during the Congregational meeting. It's going to be a day to remember, so mark your calendars and get ready to make a splash!



On the Walls of Cockrell Hall

Clif Grim's photo show in Cockrell Hall this month is a body of work based on his feet and interesting things seen on the ground. He asked ChatGPT to write his artist statement: In my photographic exploration, I immerse myself in the symbiotic interplay between the terrestrial and the transcendental. Through the lens of my camera, I have embarked over the years on a journey where asphalt, cobblestone, dirt and mud becomes a canvas for existential inquiry. By juxtaposing the mundane images of my own feet with the enigmatic artifacts strewn upon the ground, I seek to unravel the mysteries of human existence and the ephemeral nature of our earthly sojourn. Clif's photographs will be up all month. Be sure to stop by Cockrell Hall and take a look.



Flower Communion

Sunday, June 2

11:00am

Bring a flower from your garden, lawn or local floral shop to share.



Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Weekly on Sunday

Interested in engaging discussions about religion, values, and current world events? Join us for our Sunday Discussions every week at 8:45am in the church Library and on Zoom. Don't miss out on the chance to connect and share your thoughts with like-minded individuals. The Zoom link can be found in the BAUUC News. See you there! To join the Zoom meeting: Watch for the zoom link in the weekly email blast.

Service and Justice Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday May 5

Our church's Service and Justice Ministry Team is dedicated to putting our UU values into action, serving our neighbors, and promoting social justice in our city and nation. Join us on the first Sunday of every month at 12:15pm in the Church Library and via Zoom to discuss and plan upcoming activities. Let's make a difference together!

Coffee & Fellowship

Weekly on Sunday

Members and friends are invited to join us immediately after the service to mingle over coffee and enjoy light snacks in Cockrell Hall. If you would like to donate snacks or help with setting them out, please use the sign-up sheet available in Cockrell Hall. Let's come together and share some quality time as a community.



Buddhist Meditation

Weekly on Sunday

Our Buddhist Meditation Group warmly welcomes everyone to join us for our weekly sessions. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner or new to meditation, our group meets every Sunday at 4:00pm in the church sanctuary. No prior experience is required, and you do not need to be Buddhist to participate. Come and experience the benefits of mindfulness and inner peace in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Family Fellowship Potluck

Sunday, May 12

Families, parents and children, bring your appetite and a dish to share for a delightful family potluck lunch! Join us at 12:30 p.m. in Cockrell Hall for a fun-filled gathering. While the children play and are cared for, parents can engage in meaningful discussions about parenting topics. Don't miss out on this perfect blend of food, fun, and parenting insights!

Chair Yoga, Zen, Relaxation, Flexibility, Community

Weekly on Monday and Wednesday

Get ready to elevate your yoga experience with our BAUUC Chair Yoga group! Join us every Monday and Wednesday at 10:00AM in the church sanctuary for a rejuvenating session. Whether you prefer seated or standing positions, our chair yoga exercises will help you find your inner peace and improve your flexibility. The 45-minute class is designed to help you relax, unwind, and connect with a supportive community. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your well-being and join us for some chair-iffic yoga sessions!

Care Team Meeting

Second Tuesday of Every Month

A central part of our spirituality as Unitarian Universalists involves finding opportunities to practice our values of kindness, compassion, and care. The Care Team meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:00pm in the church Library and via zoom. If you'd like to have your name added to the list of people to offer a ride, a meal, or a visit on an occasional basis, please contact Lynn Young at CareTeamLead@bauuc.org. Join us in spreading kindness and compassion within our community.



BAUUC Choir Rehearsal

Weekly on Wednesday

Are you a fan of singing? Want to spread the joy of music? The BAUUC Choir is calling all music enthusiasts to join us every Wednesday night at 7:00pm in the church sanctuary. Let's harmonize, have fun, and create unforgettable musical moments together! Contact John Marcum at musicdirector@bauuc.org for more details and to become a part of our choir family. Don't miss out on this melodious opportunity!

Vespers Services

Every Wednesday

Join us in the church sanctuary every Wednesday at 6:30pm for a serene vespers service. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the week to reflect and recharge your spirit. All are welcome to join in this peaceful moment of community and contemplation.

Knitting The Spirit

Every Friday

Are you ready to knit, crochet, or do some needlework while engaging in lively conversation? Join us every Friday at noon in the church Library and via for our Knitting the Spirit group! Beginners are always welcome - we'll help you get started on your creative journey. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we've got you covered with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Don't forget to check out our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/knittingthespirit/ for updates and the zoom link in the weekly email blast. Let's stitch together a fantastic time!

Youth Connect

Third Saturday of every month

Calling All Middle School and High School Youth! Looking to spice up your weekends? Join us for an epic hangout session filled with games, delicious food, and awesome company! Swing by the Youth Room at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Mark your calendar and don't miss out on the fun! Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers, this invite is just for you! Let's make memories together!

Community Garden Workday

Third Saturday of every month

Attention all green thumbs and nature enthusiasts! Join us in nurturing our community garden located next to the church parking lot. Our monthly workdays on the third Saturday are blooming with opportunities to lend a helping hand from 8:30 am till noon. No gardening experience needed - just bring your enthusiasm and willingness to grow together! Swing by anytime between 8:30 am and noon, and sow the seeds of community spirit with UUs!

PRIDE

Coming in June!!!

Pride Picnic Extravaganza!

Gather 'round, folks! Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2nd as we host BAUUC's inaugural Pride Picnic after the service. It's a jam-packed day of family fun with games, crafts, and more! We've got the hotdogs, fixings, and potato salad covered, but we need your culinary magic to bring your favorite picnic dish to the table. Remember your lawn chairs or blankets and spread the word to your squad and neighbors!

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP AT BAUUC

Sunday Lunch

Most Sundays

Following Coffee & Fellowship each Sunday, we extend a warm invitation to join us for lunch at a local restaurant. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and enjoy a delicious meal in a welcoming environment. Newcomers are especially encouraged to attend and become part of our community. We look forward to seeing you there! Check the weekly email blast or order of service for the weekly location. Let's share laughter and stories over a meal together!

- May 5 — Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at BAUUC in Cockrell Hall
- May 12 — Denny's, 2735 Bay Area Blvd in Houston
- May 19 — Eduardo's Mexican Kitchen, 911 E NASA Pkwy in Houston
- May 26 — Location To Be Announced (this lunch will be after the congregational meeting)

Meet 'n' Eat Women's Aligned Lunch

Weekly on Tuesday

At Meet 'n' Eat, we bring women together for delicious meals and great company every Tuesday at various outdoor restaurants. Whether you're a regular or a first-time guest, our doors are always open for you to join in the fun and connect with like-minded individuals. So come hungry and leave happy with new friends and full bellies!

- May 7 — Mediterraneo Market and Café, 1400 E NASA Pkwy in Houston
- May 14 — Noon Mirch, 505 E NASA Pkwy in Webster
- May 21 — Great Harvest Bakery & Café, 212 S Friendswood Drive in Friendswood
- May 28 — Ryan's Smoke Houston, 103 Henrietta St in Webster

Men's Aligned HIS Lunch

Weekly on Thursday

The HIS Men's Lunch Group invites you to join us every Thursday at 11:45am for a delicious meal and engaging conversations at various local restaurants. Stay updated on the locations by checking the Mid-Week Briefs and the Order of Service. We look forward to sharing good food and great company with you!

- May 2 — Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet, 19443 Gulf Fwy in Webster
- May 9 — El Dorado Mexican Restaurant, 1962 El Dorado Blvd in Houston
- May 16 — Luka's Barbecue & Steakhouse Inc, 17052 Saturn Ln in Houston
- May 23 — King Food, 704 W NASA Pkwy in Webster



Other Groups at BAUUC

Clear Lake Small Group PFLAG Meeting

Fourth Sunday of Every Month

As part of our commitment to support LGBTQ+ people in our community, BAUUC is pleased to host the monthly gatherings of the Clear Lake Small Group Meeting of PFLAG on the 4th Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm in the church Sanctuary. PFLAG is the pioneering organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families. Join us in keeping families united in loving bonds, fostering understanding, and embracing their gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning family members. Contact the church office at office@bauuc.org for more information.

PFLAG Houston 

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group

Zoom Gathering—First and Third Tuesday of Every Month

Join our National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) free Bay Area Family Support Group at 7:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights, you can share your experiences as a Family member, caregiver or friend in a safe and confidential setting, benefit from others' experiences, discover your inner strengths, and get help to identify and use local resources. The facilitators have loved ones with serious mental illnesses. Please join us. Please pre-register for the Bay Area Family support groups at: <https://www.namigreaterhouston.org/family-support-groups/>

 **NAMI**
National Alliance on Mental Illness



Sunday June 2 — Pride Picnic Extravaganza at BAUUC!
Saturday June 29 — Houston Pride Parade


NEXT NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE
—
WEDNESDAY
MAY 15TH



Kroger Community Rewards Program

Did you know that BAUUC takes part in the Kroger Community Rewards Program? If you shop at Kroger, you can help us expand the donations the church receives as part of this easy and free program. In the past 8 months, we have received over \$300 as part of this program. All you have to do is designate that a rebate go to BAUUC from your purchases. It's easy to do and here's how:

1. Go to <http://www.Kroger.com> and click on the Community tab and select Community Rewards
2. Create an account and put in your Rewards Card number and your name
3. link to Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church (our number is 45455).

You also can do it at the service desk of your local Kroger store. If you don't have a Shopper's card, you can sign up to get one and then do steps 1-3.

BAUUC T-Shirts Are Available

We have a new supply of BAUUC t-shirts available in all sizes. T-shirts are \$25 each. To pick up a shirt, please contact the church office at 281-488-2001 or via email at office@bauuc.org



facebook
join our group +



Join our Facebook Group!

Did you know that BAUUC has a vibrant and interactive Community Facebook Group? It's the perfect place for our members and friends to connect, converse, and stay updated on all church happenings! While not everyone can post on our main BAUUC Facebook page, everyone is welcome to share and engage in our lively community group! To join the conversation, simply ensure you are logged into Facebook, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bauuc>, hit Join, and respond to the security question. We can't wait to welcome you into the group and kickstart some exciting discussions!



Celebrate your loved one or special event by donating an altar flower arrangement

Birthday, Special Event, Anniversary, or in Memoriam

Contact flowers@bauuc.org for more information



BAUUC BLASTS FROM THE PAST!

