

A Message From Board President Mary Arrigoni

Greetings, Members and Friends,

We are definitely in a time of transition at BUU, not only a newly elected board but we have moved from a congregation with a full-time minister to a lay-led fellowship. I have been aware of some apprehension about being lay-led but I see it as a time to explore and discover not just what direction we want to go but how we want to get there. Of course, this means more work for the Worship Arts team, but they've done a great job arranging interesting speakers for us each Sunday and I am confident they will continue to do so into the future.

It was decided before the current Board took office that we would continue to work with Rev. Sam into the next year. In order to make sure our time with her is productive the Board has established a Task Force to determine how to accomplish this. I have great faith that they, along with Rev Sam, will come up with a plan to help us continue moving forward. The task force members include Beth Dingman, Diana King, Jim Lund, Jennifer Stowell, Judy Sullivan and Richard Bolivar.

The Treasurer position is currently vacant, but thankfully Diana King has agreed to be the interim treasurer. In an attempt to make her job a little easier we have established a Finance Committee which when

combined with the work Jermain Lowe (our Church Administrator) does on the accounting software Icon, many of the treasurer tasks can be accomplished. If you are interested in being part of the Finance Committee, please contact either myself or Kathy Clark. We won't be able to match the great job that Charlie Golec did as BUU treasurer but will be attempting to fill his shoes as best we can.

Speaking of Jermain, the Board voted to give her a significant increase in salary. Without a minister and no permanent Treasurer we will be depending on her more than ever. She does a great job and is deserving of our support and respect.

It's been a lot of fun to participate in the choir this summer and I think you all have enjoyed listening to the songs that are carefully chosen by Leslie Carter our director (yes, even *Cactus Time in Arizona*). She is a great director, and we really enjoy working with her and performing for you.

After considering pros and cons it has been decided to continue with weekly Sunday services.

As we continue to grow into our roles as Board members, we encourage your input and will strive for transparency as fully as possible.

Mary Arrigoni,
President, BUU Board of Directors

“You’ve Gotta Have Hope”

- by *Bruce Sillers*

This topic of Hope has had me thinking a lot. I thought about finding some profound sources about it, but then decided to go with a more personal, simple version for these few minutes.

I’ll start with the first verse of a poem by our own Emily Dickinson:

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the
words,
And never stops at all.

Beyond the profound accounts, there’s the common or social use of “Hope.” I hope your recovery is quick. I hope you enjoy your trip. I hope that all goes well with your surgery, or with your daughter’s wedding, and on and on. I say these often, and I’m sincere; I really mean it. These past 10 months I’ve heard these directed at me, and I very much appreciated it, because I think the person noticed me, cared, and was wanting the best for me. So I won’t make light of the common social use; I think it is meaningful and essential to relationships.

But what I’ve been thinking about most is what I’m calling Implied Hope or Hope By Action. This is when hope may not be articulated or voiced or well-defined, but it surely looks like hope is present when you see how people are behaving.

One of my favorite quotes is by Langston Hughes:

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

This could just as well be —

Hold fast to hope
For if hope dies
Life is a broken winged bird
That cannot fly.

My grandparents were poor immigrants from Europe to the cold, remote North Dakota prairie. I grew up with farmers and ranchers, and routinely their crops or livestock were haled out, drowned out, blizzarded out, or drouthed out. Immigrants still try to come to our country despite the daunting odds. My grandchildren and yours are having babies. I claim no ability to read people’s minds or hearts, but I think that one thing they have in common is hope. What do you think?

Since last summer, as many of you know, I’ve been dealing with multiple health problems — more than I ever thought I could handle. I never really thought specifically about “hope” but here I am. I’m not a masochist or a real stoic, so why have I done it all?

Look around you. I would wager that almost all, if not all, of you have encountered and endured countless disappointments, ailments, heartaches, losses and pains. Yet you’ve continued to soldier on, often with grace and

smiles. You're here — living your life, thinking, laughing, loving, arguing, contributing, drinking coffee, and what all. Surely looks to me like hope, no matter what you might say about it to yourself and others. It is there! So, good on you—and me!

I find that nowadays I'm not as intellectual as I once thought I was. I glean my wisdom from multiple sources, like comic strips, novels, kids, etc. So I'll close with some lines from the musical "Damn Yankees," which was about baseball but who cares, it's the right season. I'll read it as a poem, rather than singing it.

You've gotta have hope
 All you really need is hope
 When the odds are saying you'll
 never win
 That's when the grin should start
 You've gotta have hope
 Mustn't sit around and mope
 Nothin's half as bad as it may
 appear
 Wait till next year and hope
 When your luck is battin' zero
 Get your chin up off the floor
 Remember you can be a hero
 You can open any door, there's
 nothin to it but to do it
 You've gotta have hope!

Riki's History Bits

Editor's note

BUU member Riki Renfro has been contributing a UU history column, "Who's Who in the UU," to the online magazine UUnderWorld < <https://uunderworld.com/>> Here she shares with our Occasional Unitel. Thanks, Riki!

Margaret Fuller - Lady of Wisdom and Wit, Equality and Social Justice

Have you ever wondered why the room where we gather for coffee after services is called the Fuller Room? There is a sign on the wall that says Margaret Fuller Room that you might have missed seeing unless you were specifically looking for it. She was born to a Unitarian family in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on May 23,

1810, and died too young at age 40 on July 19, 1850. Margaret's father, Timothy Fuller, was a lawyer and a



Riki Renfro

senator who believed girls should have just as extensive and rigorous classical education as boys. She studied Latin, Greek, grammar, history, math, music, and modern languages; quite the radical concept for girls in

those days. She was a particularly precocious child and was translating Virgil by age six. She grew up to be a journalist, editor, writer, poet, literary critic, translator, Transcendentalist leader, teacher and women's rights advocate.

Margaret Fuller, along with friends and colleagues like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, were major figures in the Transcendentalist Movement during the late 1820s and through the 1830s. A core belief of the philosophy is, “The inherent goodness of people and nature, and while society and its institutions have corrupted the purity of the individual, people are at their best when truly self-reliant and independent.” She and Emerson started a Transcendentalist journal they called *The Dial* in 1840. From 1839 to 1844 she conducted an educational series in Boston for women she called “Conversations.” She taught that women must fulfill themselves as individuals and were not subordinates to men. “Women in the Nineteenth Century” (1845) was considered to be her most important work in her campaign for women’s rights. In it she wrote, “We would have every arbitrary barrier thrown down. We would have every path laid open to women as freely as to men.” She called for colleges and professions to be open to women, demanded voting rights and the right to own property for women, and dove into the concept of “gender roles” which were used as part of the women’s rights movement in the 1970’s.

In 1844 she joined the *New York Tribune* as a literary critic and was sent to Rome as a foreign correspondent where she became involved with the revolution for Italian freedom. While in

Italy she met and married Marchese Giovanni Ossoli, a Lieutenant in the Italian Unification Movement, in 1849. She wrote a history of the revolution while they were in Florence, but in mid-1850 they fled Italy with their one-year-old son, Angelo, after the suppression of the republic and the fall of the Unification Movement. They all drowned in a shipwreck when their ship, *Elizabeth*, slammed into a sandbar less than 100 yards off Fire Island, New York. Their bodies were never recovered. Such a tragic loss and sad ending for the woman the *UU World* May 17, 2010, edition described as, “Our Lady of Wisdom and Wit, Equality and Social Justice.”

(References: *Britannica.com*, *Poetry Foundation.org*, *Harvard Square Library.org*, *UU World*) *UU World* published an article on Margaret Fuller in the 5/17/2020 edition.

BUU Social Justice Hopes to Renew Our Recycling Efforts

Part of our BUU Social Justice Committee (SJC) mission includes the intention “to educate about and act upon social/humanitarian, economic and environmental issues in accordance with BUU’s values and mission.”

Environmental action for the health of the planet has long included reducing wasteful use of natural and other resources, and recycling valuable materials when possible. We at BUU

are hampered in this effort by a few things, not least the fact that our waste contractor, Waste Management, doesn't offer recycling services in our area.

Members of the BUU SJC recently decided to re-dedicate ourselves to increasing our recycling efforts by offering you information, and by making it easier to recycle more stuff. To help BUU become a greener congregation, we're going to have to do it ourselves — by taking paper, glass, recyclable plastics and other materials home to recycle, and by educating ourselves about resources available to us in Green Valley.

For example, SJC volunteers have been collecting Orders of Service from the sanctuary after church and recyclable glass, cardboard and plastics from the kitchen (#1 or 2 stamped on the bottom) and recycling them at home in Green Valley.

Also, did you know that you can **recycle old toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss and related packaging** at the United Methodist Church of Green Valley at the corner of La Canada and Esperanza?

Yes, in the middle of their parking lot there is a shed with a drop-in chute for deposit anytime.



There's also a new program offered by Pima County and Hefty ReNew (the plastic bag company) for keeping harder-to-recycle plastics and much more out of landfills. It uses bright orange bags to recycle a whole new list of items.

We're planning to create an orange HeftyReNew bin at BUU for everyone's use — under a corner table in the Fuller Room. When it's full of clean, dry recyclable materials, a



committee member will take it up to the county's facility in Tucson for recycling.

Here's a partial list of what they'll accept, **must be clean and dry**:

- Pill bottles, Foam egg cartons
- Candy and granola bar wrappers
- Chip bags, Foam blocks
- Shipping peanuts, Bubble wrap
- Food storage bags
- Cereal/cracker box liners, Salad bags

Near this bin we'll also be placing a small box where you can leave used **batteries** for recycling. **Let's Make an Effort to Go Greener!**

Leadership As A Spiritual Practice



Martha House

How in the world do you connect serving in a Leadership role to it being a spiritual practice?

For some that probably sounds like an oxymoron. For me, part of my spiritual practice is giving to others - the people, places, things, organizations, etc., that enrich my life and make me whole. Whether that is PBS, BUU, an art museum, a food bank, Genesis House or even my family. In addition to monetary gifts, giving often takes the form of service. To me, that expresses my gratitude in a more personal way and demonstrates my commitment. It

also can reflect the value of what I receive in a deeper and more concrete way than simply a gift of money. I believe that the gift of service can increase what we receive as well. At Borderlands, I find inspiration, safety & solace, a sense of connection & fun to name a few. Most of the pieces that make up BUU and make us the place we are require some form of organization and structure. From the intricacies of creating a Sunday Service, the different committees for fun, or social justice, those doing work such as Worship Arts, Communication, Building & Grounds and more. Your Board - those driving the train making sure we protect our investments & follow the guidelines required to continue to be certified as a non-profit and so much more. All of these jobs require leaders. If no one felt called to serve we would not have a spiritual home. I personally need BUU in my life and the many ways it feeds me, makes me feel gratitude, makes me feel whole. It is that gratitude and the gifts I receive from all the parts that make BUU what it is — THAT is what drives me to serve. If you volunteer for being responsible - even for one of the simpler leadership jobs - you may find it fulfilling too. Most of the time it feels good to give of oneself I think. I may not earn a Nobel Prize, but I have shared a piece of myself to help others in some way. For me, that feels mighty good.

Rising To the Occasion

by Randy Mitchell

“Oh, we never know where life will take us
We know it’s just a ride on the wheel.
And we never know when death will shake us,
and we wonder how it will feel.”

Those words from singer/songwriter Karla Bonoff took on a special significance when I heard them for the first time shortly after my mother’s tragic and sudden death. Barely 60 years old with her golden years spread out before her, she passed from this life in an instant when the small plane in which she was a passenger crashed in a Wyoming canyon. She had her ride on the wheel and I think it was a good ride, but her unexpected death shook us – her children and grandchildren. How did it feel? After the shock subsided, it felt like a hole in our hearts.

We weren’t prepared for the sudden death of a close family member. I rose to read my own lyrics. The walk to the podium was one of the longest walks in my life, but when I faced the family and friends assembled in honor of my mother, I took a deep breath and found a strength that I didn’t know existed, deep down in my battered spirit. The power grew as I read this song. The emotion I was feeling carried the words, and the words carried the listeners to a place

where my mother still lived, danced, and flew. That strength allowed me to rise to the occasion.

Although my mother’s death required a response, eulogies are rarely extraordinary. To draw on inner strength and convert sorrow and grief into something beautiful was what made the response extraordinary. It was clearly not something I could’ve planned or prepared for; it was the serendipity of the moment that allowed me to rise to the occasion.

What does it take to rise to the occasion? Skill? Knowledge? Attitude? While all of these attributes are useful, rising to the occasion takes something more.

First, rising to the occasion takes kindness. Kindness is a quality that should never be taken for granted or diminished as a lack of toughness. Instead, kindness should be viewed as strength – particularly strength of character that transcends all our talents and gifts. The kindness that I received from my mother came through my song and became one more gift to her family and friends.

Second, rising to the occasion takes grace. Grace is the serendipity of the moment that calls us to respond as best we can with whatever good will that lies within us. Grace is our way of giving for all that we are, all that we have, and all that we know. It was grace, inspired the memory of my mother, that got me on my feet to read the song.

Finally, rising to the occasion requires courage. Courage is the quality of mind and spirit that makes it possible for us to respond to danger, need, or adversity. Courage is not bravado, bluster or boastfulness; it is humility in action; Mark Twain tells us, “Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear.”

My father passed away a few years later. I was at peace with him when he died, and, unlike the circumstances of my mother’s death, I knew it was only a matter of time. At his memorial service, I once again had the chance to rise to the occasion. Sharing humorous stories about him from his Depression-era roots through his active duty as the father who helped to raise two families, I got to be his son once again, illustrating the joy and humor that he brought to his family and friends. There was as much laughter at the memorial service as there were tears, and my words carried the listeners to a place where he still lived, sang, and joked. Inside me, in a place I didn’t know existed, there was the strength I didn’t know I had. That strength once again allowed me to rise to the occasion.

That strength may very well be inside each one of us, waiting to be called forth in response to a need for kindness, grace, or courage. I sincerely hope that this gets a rise out of you!

What are examples of times you or others close to you have risen to the occasion?

- from Mitchell, Randy L., 2004, *Flying through clouds*. Madison, WI: Atwood Publishing.



August/September Birthdays

August

3 Anne Golec
6 Charlie Golec
6 Perce Wilson
15 Kathy Clark
15 Marcia Weary
19 Marla Daugherty
27 Lori Clemens
30 Angelika Trudeau
31 Diana King

September

4 Sandra Mills
7 John Lazaruk
15 Randy Mitchell
16 Irene Heinert
16 Leslie Militzer
29 Martha House

“We all go to different churches or no churches, we have different favorite foods, different ways of making love, different ways of doing all sorts of things, but there we’re all singing together. Gives you hope.” - Pete Seeger