

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

March 2017

Upcoming Sunday Services

Services at 10:30 a.m.



International Women's Day

March 5: Bread and Roses

Rev. Elena Rose Vera, Worship Leader

March 8th is International Women's Day, and this year's theme is Be Bold for Change. From hearthfires to wildfires, we will explore the rich legacy of women rising up to set the world alight. How are we working for the worldwide liberation of women, as 2017's springtime bursts forth all around us? How can we all learn from the long history and beautiful present of women being bold for the sake of bettering our lives?

March 12: The Truth About Trees

Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

In a departure from our familiar conversations regarding how to re-envision the divisive wounds that have become the emergent features of our political, economic, social and even personal landscape, Rev Marsh Agobert will lead us on a nature talk. We'll enter into a world we thought we knew, guided by sciences that are not technologically based to learn how close Tolkien may have been in his vision of the Ents; his giant tree people of the ancient forests.



What can we learn from these ancient societies, their allies and enemies?



March 19: "Creating a New Paradigm at BFUU"

Lay Led Service

Members and Friends of BFUU will share through song, poetry, sharing, ritual and reflection, what creating a Beloved Community can look like!

March 26: Tree at My Window: the Hidden Life of Trees

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Carrie considers the remarkable ways of trees, as they communicate with each other, help raise their children, learn from experience, and defend against threats to survival.



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*

Reverend Dr. Carolyn Knowles,
Pastoral Care Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen,
Community Minister

Reverend Elena Rose Vera, *Minister*

Susan T. Mashiyama, *Music Director*

Deborah Hamouris,
Event Space Coordinator

Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*

Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*

Richard Sandling, *Custodian*

Board of Trustees

Doug Chambers, *President*

Elayne Ryder, *Vice President*

Nanci Armstrong-Temple

Michael Gardner

Jeff Palmer

Judith Granada-Dewey (alternate)

Board Associates

Board Emeritus Ben Burch, *Treasurer*

Holly Harwood, *Board Secretary*

Committees

Aesthetics Committee

Joanna Foley, *Chair*

Building & Grounds Committee

Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*

Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*

Caring Community

Kathy Riehle, *Chair*

Finance Committee

Ben Burch, *Chair*

Hospitality Committee

Interim Right Relations Committee

Pam Norton, *Chair*

Membership Committee

Doug Chambers, *Chair*

Personnel Committee

Kathy Riehle, *Chair*

Religious Education (RE) Committee

Doug Chambers, *Chair*

Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Gene Herman, *Chair*

Sunday Services Committee

Jeff Palmer, *Chair*



Joanna Foley

Dancing on the Side of Love BFUU's Valentine's Day Dance Party

by Joanna Foley

BFUU's Valentine's Dance Party lived up to its title, "Dancing on the Side of Love" on Saturday, Feb. 11. The band, Soul Rising, played very danceable songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Most of the 60+ guests in attendance danced joyfully during the band's two sets. Piano music by

Carl Andrews and Brett Torres enhanced the "mix and mingle" hour. Vocalists with Soul Rising are Elinor Roberts and Doug Chambers. Other vocals were provided by Susan Mashiyama and Nanci Armstrong-Temple.

Fellowship Hall was decorated with festive balloon art created by Dozo the Clown and some of the Fellowship's children in a workshop preceding the dance. A giant red heart adorned a wall; a pink archway served as a photo backdrop for selfies.

The co-beneficiary for the fundraiser was the Pacific Center for Human Growth, a Berkeley social services agency serving the LGBTQI community since 1973. Anne Mitchell spoke about the Center's goals and services. Doug Chambers, president of the BOT of BFUU, served as MC for the party.

"Dancing on the Side of Love" was BFUU's interpretation of the UUA mandate this year to re-imagine Valentine's Day as a Social Justice holiday, focused on sharing love with the whole community instead of just one particular person. BFUU says that love in an action verb.

The UUA launched "Standing on the Side of Love" in 2009 as an interfaith advocacy campaign to harness the power of love to overcome oppression and violence.

Guests at the party joined in singing "Standing on the Side of Love" and "Love Is."

Volunteers who worked on the party were Christine Dickson, Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Jeff Melcher, Jeff Palmer, Kathy Riehle, Elaine Ryder and Joanna Foley. Donated food and beverages came from La Farine Bakery, Masse's Pastries, Noah's Bagels, Poulet, Safeway, Tofu Yu, Virginia Bakery and Uncommon Grounds.



Dozo the Clown!

Music at BFUU



Choir Practice and Neighborhood Sing!

Wednesday Evenings at BFUU

Join us on Wednesday evenings at BFUU for singing!

From 7 pm – 7:45 pm, we learn melodies and work on harmonies, timing, and musicality of a couple of songs that we'll sing at BFUU's Sunday services.

From 7:45 pm – 8:30 pm, we sing the songs from the first part with our wonderful pianist Andy and then relax and informally sing songs together.

Join us for either or both parts of the evening! We meet in the Preschool Kitchen. Please invite your friends and neighbors. There's no pressure to sing in the choir on Sundays. These gatherings are something BFUU offers as a service to build community.



Sharing Our Spirit and Music in the Community

In February, Susan Mashiyama and Brett Torres went around Berkeley visiting the homeless and handing out Valentine's Day cards, heart candy, cookies, and food and shared some music with them as well as information on resources to help get them off the streets. Several folks at BFUU indicated an interest in participating in the another one. Please let Susan Mashiyama know if you're interested in coming to the next one by emailing music@bfuu.org.

image by David Drexler

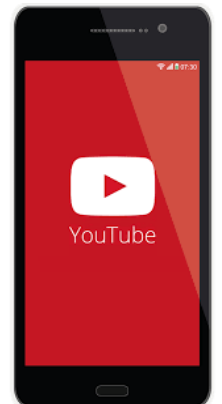
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/drexler/1368185449>

BFUU Music YouTube Channel Features Our Fabulous Musicians

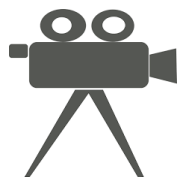
Check out some of the wonderful music being shared during our Sunday services at our YouTube channel. Here's Elinor singing a song by Stevie Wonder in honor of Valentine's Day, "If It's Magic"

<https://youtu.be/euirxuLXGHY>

Please contact Music Director Susan T. Mashiyama at music@bfuu.org if you're interested in sharing your musical gifts during a service.



Please check out our BFUU Facebook Videos Section. You may be surprised at how this "growing garden of harvest" is enhancing BFUU ability to chronical its living history and to interface with social justice concerns with community partners in the San Francisco Bay Area! We also have a growing number of Photos and Photo Albums that you may enjoy. And sharing them helps our little pebbles tossed to have some ripple effects.
<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyfellowshipuu/videos>



Community Voices



Jean Lieber

Garden Art Project and Worm Farm Need Your Help!

Jim Beatty is still looking for broken ceramic pots and plates for an art project and newspapers (black ink on white newsprint only) and eggshells for worm farm! Please leave in a neat pile in the garden behind the ramp.



Thank You!

These wonderful companies donated delicious foods for BFUU's Valentine's Dance:

La Farine Bakery	Safeway
Masse's Pastries	Tofu Yu
Noah's Bagels	Virginia Bakery
Poulet	Uncommon Grounds



Hali Hammer and Victor K
photo by Vic Sadot



Christine Driftwood
photo by Vic Sadot

Peace Symbol Event

Just a couple of pics from the 59th Anniversary of the Peace Symbol!

Fellowship Hall February 20th

A peaceful gathering full of music and comradery! This is an annual BFUU Event, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. Thanks to all for attending and to Vic for sharing the photos.

Regular Committee Meetings

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)

1st Wednesday at noon
in the Benjy Room

Buildings & Grounds

Meets once per month,
contact Ben Burch

Finance

3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM
in the Fireside Room

Hospitality, Caring and Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Social Justice

1st & 3rd Sunday 12:30 PM
in the Preschool Room

Sunday Services

1st Tuesday at 7 PM
in the Preschool Kitchen

Poetry Corner



Red Sunrise

Cool desert breeze in the shadow of the wall,
 Dusty bodies resisting, pressing together,
 Moving slowly, step by step, hearing each other's
 heartbeat,
 The smell of chocolate on a child's breath,
 On top of the wall, a baby sparrow sings.

The BFUU Congregation at the Annual Poetry Service

The nowhere that is here

Fleeting moments revisit me
 from a foggy past
 Sudden overpowering revelation
 of the sweetness of life
 known, unknown, remembered, forgotten
 of scenes so indescribably sweet, so poignant
 they took my breath away
 overcame my soul with brushstrokes
 swift, overriding everything tangible
 all attempts to assign neat words.

Those moments so fleeting,
 so swift yet whole,
 so deep yet wide,
 so powerful yet fragile.

Yes, fragile, as if trying to hold onto them
 would make them disappear
 as quickly as they came
 from out of the nowhere
 into the here of now
 the now of never
 the never of disbelief
 of doubt
 of uncertainty
 of fear that they might never
 appear again
 to overtake the finite self
 and transform it into
 a drifting, shapeless cloud

The everywhere
 that is nowhere
 is here
 but will not stay.

**Marianne Robinson
 2006**



untitled haiku
**Sunshine and lilacs
 February's stolen a
 perfect April day**
 Holly Harwood



Featured BFUU Events



Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side. The Preschool rooms are only reservable by BFUU groups and are accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms on the 2nd floor of our Religious Education Building are not wheelchair accessible.



Transition Berkeley Presents Movie and Panel

COWSPIRACY: The Sustainability Secret

Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 PM potluck, 7-9 PM program, in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

How do our eating habits affect Climate Change?

Transition Berkeley invites you to view COWSPIRACY: THE

SUSTAINABILITY SECRET a ground breaking documentary that takes a sobering look at a destructive industry that is threatening the health of our planet. The film documents this industry's impact on species extinction, ocean dead zones, water pollution and more. Learn how we can be part of the solution. Before the film our special guest, attorney Jeff Pierce with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, will talk about efforts to combat the environmental harms of industrial animal agriculture, and highlight ways our individual choice to consume fewer animal products can help solve the problem. He'll also discuss policy changes that can be implemented at the local level to address the impacts of animal agriculture on the environment.

After we watch COWSPIRACY we'll have a time for discussion and planning local actions.

Please bring vegan snacks to share for the social gathering at 6:30. The program begins at 7pm.

This event is sponsored by Transition Berkeley and the BFUU Social Justice Committee.

Suggested Donation: \$5 – 20 to cover event costs. No one turned away for lack of funds.



Conscientious Projector Presents “13th”

Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.

The words of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution were supposed to guarantee that slavery and involuntary servitude effectively were outlawed. The exception of punishment for a crime where the “party shall have been convicted” is the loophole. As detailed in Ava DuVernay’s “The 13th”, the injustice system in America has not changed all that much since the earliest days of slavery. The statistics DuVernay puts onscreen say it all: African-Americans make up 6.5% of the U.S. population but a whopping 40% of the prison population — in a country with the highest level of incarceration in the world; up more than tenfold since 1970 and existing mostly to put away black and Latino men.

Sponsored by the BFUU Social Justice Committee.

Suggested donation \$5-\$20. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Social Justice Discernment

Sunday, March 19 at 12:30 - 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Please join Evan Junker as we continue the exciting process of what social justice issues call to us to work on as a whole congregation.

For more information, please contact Pam Norton at IRRC@bfuu.org or Elayne Ryder at BoardVP@bfuu.org.

Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events



T'ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman

Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

This practice improves health and well-being at any age.

Elders Circle

Tuesday, March 7 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

The BFUU Elders Circle meets at 11:00 AM on First Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

Aesthetics Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, March 1 at noon in the Benjy Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

BFUU Leadership Meeting

Thursday, March 9 at 7 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

BFUU Committee Chairs and all BFUU members seeking leadership and group facilitation skills are welcome to attend the monthly Leadership Meeting.

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck*

Sunday, March 12 after service (12:30 PM) in Fellowship Hall– 1924 Cedar St.

Come one, come all! Whether you have a dish to share* or not, we invite you to join us as we break bread in the spirit of loving community. If you can, please help us set up tables and chairs before and put them away afterward. In between, join in the bounty provided by members and friends. Members, friends, neighbors, and the wider community are welcome to join us.

*If you bring a dish, please also bring a printed list of all ingredients so those with allergies, interactions and dietary restrictions can enjoy the dishes they can eat and avoid those they can't eat.



BFUU Writers Groups

1-Sunday, March 12 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-no animals

2-Sunday, March 26 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-svc. animals

Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 on the 2nd Sunday of the month is for those who are allergic to animals, and/or don't need to bring service dogs to the group. Group 2 on the 4th Sunday of the month is for those with service animals and/or are not allergic to animals. You are welcome to attend both groups if you are able. Our writers group is for all levels, from beginner to experienced, and all genres, including poetry, memoir, and fiction. After a 7-minute writing exercise, we write for an agreed upon period of time. Then we read our work aloud and give each other positive feedback.

Good Grief Group

Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 PM in the Minister's Office – 1606 Bonita Ave.

A gathering place to share the experience of grief and loss. To join, call BFUU at 510-841-4824.

BFUU Board Meeting

Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

UUA/PCD/UU & Affiliate News & Events

Pacific School of Religion (PSR) and our Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) warmly invite you to “Borders and Identity,” our 2017 Earl and Boswell Lectures. Halfway through the first 100 days of Trump’s presidency, Borders and Identity will explore how migration across all kinds of borders—both physical and metaphorical—is reshaping our understanding of identity across boundaries of race, culture, religion, gender identity, and nationality.



Borders and Identity is an engaging weekend of workshops, worship, direct action, and community building March 17-18 in **Berkeley, California**. Our goal is to equip leaders to stand for justice with all those on the borders and margins.

Our keynote speaker will be Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, immigration activist, and founder of Define American (<https://defineamerican.com>.) Vargas has spoken about his multiple “coming outs” as both undocumented and gay. The keynote address is free of charge to the public.

Space is limited for both the conference and the keynote address, so please register at <https://psr.edu/earl-17/>. A limited number of partial conference registration scholarships are available. CEUs are available at an additional cost.

Additionally, the workshop “Open & Affirming 2.0: Strategies for Expanding Your Welcome,” will center on making faith communities LGBTQ-inclusive.

Torah Told Different: Stories for a Pan Poly/Post-Denominational World Book Party

March 6, 2017 | 7:00pm PSR Badè Museum 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA
Torah Told Different: Stories for a Pan Poly/Post-Denominational World recounts the tale of a parallel reality in which a Third Temple rose and fell in antiquity, women were ordained in the fifth century CE, and alternate sages and texts are woven together with ones better known from the “historical” Jewish textual tradition. Ramer’s contemporary midrash challenges the reader to reflect on the nature of history, text and tradition, and to imagine a more inclusive future for the Jewish people and all humanity.

This event is free and open to the public. We will open with a light reception. Sponsored by CLGS.

RSVP via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1649692155331768/>



Andrew Ramer teaches in the USF Swig Program. He is an ordained Maggid (sacred storyteller) and the author of numerous books and articles.

Other Community Events held at BFUU



Women & Song, a womens singing group

Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris


2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 - 8:30pm, Preschool Kitchen, 1606 Bonita Ave.
\$20-\$10, sliding scale

Women & Song are looking for a few good women to sing & laugh with us! Each rehearsal we learn traditional and contemporary songs & rounds, including some originals. Women & Song have been meeting regularly for over a decade and welcome new singers. If you can hold your own on a round or maybe read a bit of music, you’re welcome!

Reserve your space!

510/910-2574 or deborahj@djhamouris.com

Fellowship Calendar March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 12 pm Aesthetics Subcommittee Mtg 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:30 pm Sunflower* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Choir Sing!	2 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Transition Berkeley Presents Cowspiracy*	3 6 pm AA Men's 7 pm Soul Motion	4 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
			5 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	6 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	7 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Sunday Svcs Committee Meeting	8 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Choir Sing!
12 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm 2nd Sunday Potluck* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 1 (no animals)* 8 pm AA Mtg	13 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	14 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	15 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:30 pm Sunflower 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Choir Sing!	16 11:45 am AA Meditation	17 6 pm AA Men's	18 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
19 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 SJ Discernment* 8 pm AA Mtg	20 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion <p style="text-align: center;">April Communicator Deadline</p>	21 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	22 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Good Grief Group* 7 pm Choir Sing!	23 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Women & Song 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	24 6 pm AA Men's	25 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
26 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 2 (svc animals)* 12:30 Hospitality, Caring and Membership Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	27 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	28 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	<p style="text-align: center;">Mark Your Calendar!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCD Assembly May 5-6, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pacific Central District Assembly will be nearby at Mt. Diablo in Walnut Creek CA! Details are being worked out but you can put this on your calendar!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UUA General Assembly June 21-25, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark your calendar and set up your savings plan - 2017 General Assembly June 21-25 in New Orleans, LA. Details at http://www.uua.org/ga</p>			

* denotes Fellowship event

Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action.

BFUU OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3

Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri

Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Office Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT *COMMUNICATOR*: March 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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