



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

May 2024



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

BFUU Fellowship Hall 1924 Cedar St, Berkeley CA & on Zoom

except as noted

reading this offline? please email worshiponline@bfuu.org for link

May 5: A Service of Song; The Music of Leonard Cohen



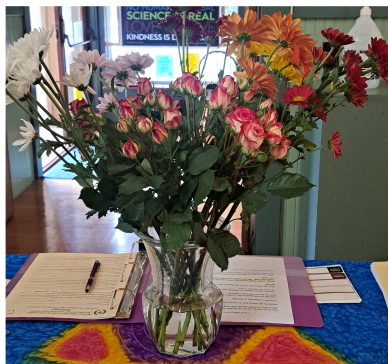
Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

Leonard Cohen (1934-2016) was a Canadian singer-songwriter, musician, poet, novelist and painter. His career spanned over 50 years and his work continues to impact and inform the realms of religion, politics, sexuality and human relationships. Formed in June 2003 by Daryl Henline and Peter Kadyk, The Conspiracy of Beards is a SF Bay Area male chorus dedicated exclusively to the musical legacy of Leonard Cohen. Now in their third decade, they bring their original, poignant and beautiful arrangements to sacred and secular venues around the globe.

May 12: Surviving to Thriving – Honoring the Nurturing Spirit on Mothers Day

Rev. Gayle Asali Dickson (she/her)

Mothers and Others: The Nurturing Spirit shows up in many forms in families and communities--Grannies, Stepmoms, Boppas and Fur Baby Moms. How can we honor and support them all?



May 19: Hope and Healing for Our Communities

Rev. Jojo Gabuya (they/them)

As a faith community, BFUU can play an active and instrumental role, particularly in meeting the needs of individuals and families struggling with addiction and overdose. BFUU can support their journey of recovery, by envisioning creative ways that align with the UU Principles, and getting support from the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse (NCAPDA), and other organizations.

May 26: Memorial Day – Honoring the Lives and Deaths of US military Men and Women

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles considers the history of American wars since the Civil War, and the prospects for world peace as we witness the turmoil of today's military crises.



Please see [page 2](#) for our shared plate partner information and [page 3](#) for Minister/Speaker bios.



Office: 1606 Bonita Ave Berkeley CA 94709
510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
Lynn/Luna Orlando, *Recording Secretary*
Anders Renee, *Office Coordinator*
Sharon Knight, *Event Space Coordinator*
Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
Shae Jewell, *Sexton*

Board of Trustees

Margaret Hurlbert, *President*
Jean Marie Stine, *Vice President*
Ben Burch, *Treasurer/Secretary*
Phoebe Thomas Sorgen
Simone Chiodini
Christine Dickson (Alternate)
Tom Luce (Alternate)

Committees

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
Chair currently vacant
Building & Grounds Committee
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Caring Community
Chair currently vacant
Committee on Ministry
Jinky Gardner, Chair
Finance Committee
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Hospitality Committee
Chair currently vacant
Membership Committee
Jeff Palmer, Convener/Chair
Music Committee
Margaret Hurlbert, Chair
Nominating Committee
Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Chair
Personnel Committee
Ben Burch, Convener/Chair
Poetry Committee
Frances Hillyard, Chair
Gene Herman, Poet Laureate
Religious Education (RE) Committee
Chair currently vacant
Social Justice Committee (SJC)
Co-Chairs Phoebe Sorgen and
Gene Herman
SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
Margaret Hurlbert, Convener
Worship Services Committee
Melissa R, Chair

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in The Communicator are those of individuals and are not necessarily those of BFUU, its officers, or its trustees.

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

April was a great month at BFUU, with two great guest speakers Cate Calson and Myroslava Fisun, wonderful bluegrass music by Erik Yates and Tom, and tacos to celebrate Earth Day, wonderful singing of the "Polar Bear" song by Phoebe Sorgen, and great singing by Rev. Ben Meyers. Rabbi Lynn also was excellent on the topic of Palestine. We had a wonderful Open Mic Night as well, with Rev Ben singing John Prine songs, a magician, and other great musicians, including Phoebe. Thanks to everyone who helped to make our services fun and exciting!

Take Care,
Margaret

May Shared Plate Partners

1st and 2nd Sundays: **Healthy Black Families**

<https://healthyblackfam.org/donate>

Providing people with knowledge, skills and strategies to make social systems and policies more equitable for Black people and communities.

3rd and 4th Sundays: **Hope for Haiti Education**

<https://stcolumba-oak.com/hope-for-haiti-scholarshipdonations>

HHE works with the Grand Ravine Community Human Rights Council in Port-Au-Prince to provide full scholarships for children in Haiti to attend school.

If you'd like to contribute to the collection plate you can do so directly via [PayPal](#), by sending a check payable to "BFUU", 1606 Bonita Ave, Berkeley CA 94709, or by contributing on [our website](#). Note that BFUU sends the share payments in the month after the plate share. If you'd like the shared plate partner to receive your donation more quickly, please donate directly to them via the link in the description above. Note that donations made directly to other organizations are not tracked by BFUU.

Worship Service Leaders

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

The Rev. Ben Meyers loves living near Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA. His ministry spans 28 years: half of that time as a parish minister and half as a social justice/community minister. He is the proud father of two sons and loves spending as much time as possible with his two-year old grandson. His passion is working with individuals and faith-based communities throughout the country as a Solar and Clean Energy consultant. His mission is to accelerate the adoption of clean energy as a moral and spiritual imperative. As a proud parent of a transgender child, he is also a vocal ally and avid advocate for LGBTQ + rights.

Rev. Gayle Asali Dickson (she/her)

Rev. Gayle "Asali" Dickson is an artist, a former member of the Black Panther Party from 1970-1976, and a retired ordained minister. While in the Party, the mantra Gayle operated under was "Serve the People Body and Soul." Some of her art work currently graces the walls of Fellowship Hall.

Rev. Jojo Gabuya (they/them)

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya is a non-binary and transgender interfaith minister, diversity and inclusion leader, and an eco-spiritual person. They is practicing the Dao philosophy and Veganism to create a healthy, safe, secure, and a sustainable world for ALL. Rev. Jojo is an embodied engagement leader and soul care provider, especially to those who are searching for acceptance, compassion, connection, meaning, and purpose in life.

Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles describes herself as a recovering psychologist and recovering attorney, who graduated from Starr King in 2011 and was ordained to UU ministry in 2013. Along with providing pastoral care at BFUU and preaching at Bay Area churches as a guest speaker, she writes poetry, short stories, and is working on a memoir.

Regular Committee Meetings

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)

Meets as needed

contact [Aesthetics Committee](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,

contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Caring

meets as needed

contact [Caring Committee](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Jinky Gardner](#)

Finance

Meets as needed

contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Hospitality

meets as needed

contact [Hospitality](#)

Membership

meets as needed

contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

Music

meets as needed

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Nominating

meets as needed

contact [Virginia Hollins-Davidson](#)

Personnel

Meets as needed

Contact [Ben Burch](#)

Poetry

Meets as needed

contact [Frances Hillyard](#)

Religious Education

Meets as needed

contact [RE Committee](#)

Social Justice Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Social Justice (SJC)

3rd Sunday noonish - after service

contact [Phoebe and Gene](#)

Worship Services

1st Thursday at 5:00 PM

contact [WSC Chair Melissa R.](#)

Community Events at BFUU

The Well of Song: Interactive Music Experience with Women of the Well

*Tuesday May 7th at 7pm in the Connie
Barbour Room*

Sharon Knight and Alison Balano create chant, meditation, and improv-based music to facilitate creative flow spaces within which to do inner work.

All who want to sing, dance, and play are welcome! Musicians need to be able to play a scale and know where the notes are on their acoustic instrument. There is no written music, all you need is an openness to play from your spirit. Message Alison if you want to be a part of the band at womenofthewellmusic@gmail.com.

Please register here: <https://shop-sharonknight.com/products/the-well-of-song-an-interactive-music-experience-with-women-of-the-well>



Alison Balano (L) and Sharon Knight (R) will lead a Well of Song at BFUU on 5/7 at 7pm

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism



Dr. Nida will give a talk at BFUU on 5/16 at 6pm

Drangsong Foundation Presents: Prana and Mind

*Thursday May 16, 6pm-8pm
Fellowship Hall*

Join Dr. Nida for his first teaching in Northern California in the last years, as a part of the opening of the Drangsong Foundation. He will speak on the interrelationship between prana, breath and mind. How the body, internal energy, and consciousness are related according to the teachings of Sowa Rigpa (Tibetan Medicine) and Vajrayana Buddhism. Dr. Nida will share meditation practices working with breath for health and longevity.

Suggested donation \$40

Other UU Community Events



You're cordially invited to Evelie's BeneFest III Birthday FUNdraiser!



When: Saturday May 11th, 7:30PM. (Doors may open at 7PM)

Where: UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd Kensington CA 94707

Who: Everyone and YOU!

Get Tickets Here: <https://bpt.me/6297629>

If you are NOT able to attend in person, please feel free to click on the option to Pay What U Want. It's a minimum of \$3 and not limited to how many tickets you can buy to donate.

Beneficiaries: The Women's Refugee Commission, www.womensrefugeecommission.org

Confirmed prayerformers (ensembles & soloists) are: Anne Almendral & Conrad, Chie Kwon, Claudine Tong, Daniel Winslow Schmidt directing UUCB Gamelan Ens., Dayang dela Cruz (my niece), Datu Montilla (my grandnephew), Doug Chambers, Francisco Herrera, Fred Doddsworth, Flory Rosario & dance troupe, Jedi Sâles, Kathy Riehle, Kismat-Mahal Chant Ens, MAHAL EthnoFusion Music | Myth | Magic Ens, Marcie Boyd, Merry Minstrels, Mystic Muses, Nancy Donald, Sadaya, Sahib-Amar Khalsa, Sheila Rubin, Sophie Soltani, Sridevi Ramanathan, Tala Justo, Tisay Opaon, Violetta Osgood, Zingari Brazilian & Classic Jazz Ens

Faith Lands Development Fair

Thursday May 16th, 3pm to 6pm

Mt. Diablo UU Church
55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA

Join us for a panel conversation and fair with affordable housing developers, architects, and consultants about how faith-based institutions can engage in housing projects. Learn how congregations and a development team can work together to create housing while stewarding faith lands. Attendees will be able to speak with various professionals and learn more about the development process.

Presented by East Bay Housing Organizations

RSVP: <https://ebho.salsalabs.org/faithlandsdevfair/index.html>

ECHOES OF BELONGING: HOME, CONNECTION, AND SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE

A Bay Area DRUUMM Gathering
for BIPOC Unitarian Universalists

SPRING RETREAT

SATURDAY | MAY 4, 2024

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OAKLAND

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

685 14th st @ 11am-4pm (doors open 10:30am)



RSVP: bit.ly/baydruumm



BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



**Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic
Now, 3rd Fridays**

Friday May 17 at 7:00 PM

**Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Comedians, Storytellers, etc.
Sign-ups begin 6:30. Perform or just come to enjoy! Show time 7pm**

Host: Lady Driftwood

Featured Artist: **Andrea Prichett** is a Berkeley-based singer songwriter formerly with the feminist folk trio "Rebecca Riots". She is also an activist who weaves together songs and stories that uplifts both the personal and political.

BFUU legendary Fellowship Hall

1924 Cedar Street (at Bonita Ave)

One block east of MLK Way, Wheelchair Access on Bonita

BYO potluck refreshments (optional)

Suggested donation \$10–\$20 No one turned away. Volunteers needed!

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee To get low volume Social Justice announcements/alerts,
email: bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Freestyle Fridays 7:30-10pm

Weekly* Dance in the BFUU Fellowship Hall

There's no instruction. Our dancing DJs play a wide range of music to get you moving – world, funk, blues, pop, electronic, oldies, and more.

Requested donation \$20, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Some work-exchange is available.

*All Fridays except Open Mic nights and holidays

sponsored by BFUU



New Writing Group Starting May 5th

*1st Sundays 1pm-3pm in the Fireside Room**
BFUU is sponsoring this **free** writing group open to word lovers from all levels of experience. Bring pen and paper for writing or a piece that you would like to receive supportive feedback on.

*Fireside Room is upstairs in the RE building and not wheelchair accessible



Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

David Yandle

Gail Penso

Tom Luce

Pastoral Care/Small Group

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles' in-person office hours **in the BFUU Office** are **Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.**

Please note that Rev. Carrie will be in the BFUU Office, but we are not allowed to use the restrooms on the ground floor of the RE building while New School is in session.

She also hosts a small group, "Living Longer" on Zoom. For an appointment or to find out more, email Rev Carrie revcarrie@bfuu.org.

Shirley Taylor Memorial Service

*Saturday May 4, 1- 3pm
Fellowship Hall and on Zoom*

Come share your fond memories of dear Shirley with friends and family.

Rev. Ben Meyers will officiate.

Memorial written by Gene Herman:

On Wednesday March 20, 2024 we said goodbye to our dear friend Shirley Taylor, who, while on hospice, died peacefully at age 102 surrounded by her loving family. She grew up in New York City's, Washington Heights went to HIGH school there, and lived in Philadelphia area when her family relocated. Shirley eventually moved to San Francisco, married a WWII vet, had one loving daughter Jan and later divorced Jan's father. As a single mother, Shirley worked as a secretary in SF public school system, and with SF Police Department at their Gun Range Facility. Shirley joined the San Francisco UU and connected with Syl Scherzer where they participated in fundraising events together, for groups such as the farm workers. Eventually she moved to Berkeley, to be close to her daughter in her aging years. Shirley joined BFUU and was a known delightful presence. She participated in Gene's QI Gong/Tai Chi classes until age took its toll. Shirley leaves behind a loving daughter Jan, and two adoring grandchildren Annalisa and Jonathan.



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024**

BFUU Call for Delegates!

**2024 UUA General Assembly
June 20 - 23, 2024**

**BFUU is seeking two delegates to
attend the virtual UUA General
Assembly.**

Please contact any Board Member - Margaret Hurlbert, Ben Burch, Jean Marie Stine, Simone Chiodini, Phoebe Anne Thomas, Christine Dickson, Tom Luce - if you are interested in being a delegate!

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. BFUU is only allowed two voting delegates, but anyone may attend GA.

[Registration](#) for GA is open now and rates are reduced for most attendees before May 15.

Weekly Meetings

BFUU Choir Practice on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM
Choir members practice songs for worship service and fun!
Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Rev. Dr. Carrie Office Hours on Tuesdays 1:00 -5:00 PM in BFUU office
Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org to schedule an appointment.

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM
All are welcome to attend Worship Service!
Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 5/23 at 3:00 PM BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 5/21 at 11 AM
Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 5/2 at 2:00 PM
This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.
Please contact Jinky at COM@bfuu.org

Elders Circle - please see Wisdom Circle below


Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 5/19 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 5/7 at 11:00 AM
Come one, come all! Join us for lively conversation. We may even solve some of the world's problems... or not. We'll have fun trying.

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 5/1 at 5:00 PM
Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org

****some committees meet as needed - please see full committee list on [page 5](#)****

Fellowship Calendar May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 pm WSC Meeting * May Day	2 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	3 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	4 1:00pm Memorial for Shirley Taylor - FH
5 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00pm Writing Group - FR	6	7 11:00 am Wisdom Circle 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ 7:00 pm Well of Song - CB	8	9	10 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	11
12 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ Fellowship Potluck* following service	13	14 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	15	16 6:00 pm Prana and Mind talk with Dr. Nida - FH	17 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*	18
19 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting	20 Communicator deadline	21 Caring meeting with ministers * 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	22	23 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg *	24 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	25
26 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹	27 Memorial Day	28 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	29	30	31	

Please Plan Ahead:

Direct links to meetings/registration have ¹ after the link.

Other links send an email to the convener – please allow time for a reply.

If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.

* Fellowship event ¹meeting link

Save the Dates!

BFUU Congregational Meeting June 9th at 12:30pm

UUA General Assembly (virtual) June 20-23

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

Tuesday 9am-12pm Friday 1pm-5pm and by appointment

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Sharon Knight - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Anders Renee - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR MAY COMMUNICATOR:

April 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Please email office@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709