



# THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

February 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](mailto:worshiponline@bfuu.org) for link*

## **February 4: Reparations in the Beloved Community**



*Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)*

Reparations is not simply material payback in the form of restitution for harm done. It actually points to a deeper, spiritual imperative. Join me in exploring this deeper imperative as we commemorate Black History Month and the UUA's 'Siding With Love' activities.

## **February 11: Faith/Spirituality and Health**

*Rev. Jojo Gabuya (they/them)*

*Guest Musician Evelie Delfino S  les Posch*

What is the relationship between faith and health? How can this relationship benefit us? Affirming the connection between faith/spirituality and health is central to our well-being as humans who are also spiritual beings. Let us share one another's practices and/or stories on how we leverage our health (physical, mental, emotional) to strengthen our faith/spirituality.



## **February 18: Won't You Celebrate With Me?**

*Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson (she/her)*

The words of the poet Lucille Clifton capture the spirit of survival and resistance familiar to many Black people throughout the African diaspora. What does it look like to celebrate in solidarity?

## **February 25: Giants of the Planet - What Elephants Teach Us**

*Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)*

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles tells us what we've learned about these extraordinary creatures, and what their wisdom imparts to us humans to become better animals ourselves.



*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

I hope everyone had a nice holiday season, and Happy New Year!

We have had some wonderful guest musicians come recently, and plan on having more in the future, thanks to the help by Melissa our chair of the Worship Services Committee. Our sound has been improving for Zoom services, with a few issues that we hope to solve soon. Thanks to everyone who has been working hard on the services, it really helps!

Take care,

Margaret Hurlbert  
Board President

## February Shared Plate Partner

### Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

<https://ellabakercenter.org/donate/>

The Ella Baker Center organizes to shift resources away from prisons and punishment towards opportunities that make our communities safe, healthy, and strong. Named after civil rights hero Ella Baker, we mobilize Black, Brown, and low-income people to build power and prosperity in our communities.

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)**

Rev. Ben Meyers is a resident of Oakland, and serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider for Bridge Home Hospice patients and their families in Alameda County. 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 faith-based communities throughout the country to accelerate the adoption of clean energy—especially solar—as a moral imperative.

### **Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)**

Reverend Jojo V. Gabuya is a Filipinx non-binary/transgender interfaith minister, Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador, and a diversity and inclusion leader. They are practicing the Dao philosophy and Veganism to create a healthier, safer, and more stable world for ALL. Rev. Jojo is currently training as an InterPlay Leader: Unlocking Body Wisdom. They are also participating in the Empowering Faith Leaders Program, which addresses Addiction and the Overdose Crisis.

### **Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson (she/her)**

Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson is a preacher, pastor, and prophet. Riana is passionate about speaking the truth in love, offering a constant invitation for people to see themselves as beloved, and providing various ways to respond to the command to love God, self, and neighbor. She is the Birthing Pastor of Miriam's Song Church.

### **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.

## Poetry Corner

### The Other Six Million

Six million refugees, battered, scarred  
and betrayed by indifference and injustice.

The other six million, not those starved to death or gassed and burned in ovens,  
but buried by 60 years of deception and denial.

These are the six million displaced by war and occupation.

Are these Palestinians the forgotten six million?  
The other six million,  
forever frustrated in their striving for international justice.

Dispersed and dispossessed  
The other six million.

Israel is a homeland for those brutalized by bigotry and war

When will Palestine become a safe haven and homeland  
for the other six million,  
brutalized by diaspora, occupation and apartheid.

Where is justice for this other six million?

Gene B. Herman  
Berkeley CA

11/20/07





## Community Events

### **Sundays 1pm** Internet Technology Addicts Anonymous (Benjy Room)

Could you use some support stepping back from the electronic realm? BFUU is pleased to welcome our newest group, Internet Technology Addicts Anonymous. (BFUU hosts several 12 step groups. Check our calendar to find times: <https://bfuuwp20230804.live-website.com/blog/calendar>).

### **Feb. 6th 7pm** The Well of Song: an Interactive Music Experience with Women of the Well (Connie Barbour Room)

Presented by Regenerative Arts Alliance: Join in a creative flow of song, movement, and mindfulness, facilitated by live music. We will sing, stretch, dance, write, and celebrate our human connection! Please register here: <https://shop-sharonknight.com/products/the-well-of-song-an-interactive-music-experience-with-women-of-the-well>

### **Feb. 25th 4:45pm** The Fellowship of the Spiral Path (Fellowship Hall)

The Fellowship of the Spiral Path, AKA Spiral, is an association of neo-pagan groups in Northern California, including, but not limited to, reconstructed European traditions, Earth religion, and Goddess religion. All who are interested in exploring neo-pagan paths are welcome. Learn more: <https://thespiralpath.org/>

### **Feb. 29th 5:30pm** Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (Fellowship Hall)

Are you prepared for an emergency? Get your household ready with the Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network. Learn more here: <https://bdpnnetwork.org/>

Hi, there!

This is Sharon, the new Event Space Coordinator here at BFUU. I want to remind our community that you can rent the Fellowship Hall, as well as three other spaces in our Education Building on Bonita, for your gatherings, meetings, celebrations, parties, dances, and possibly more, so long as it strengthens and supports the values of the Fellowship. We've recently updated our website with new photos of the rooms, and you can view them at <https://bfuu.org/blog/rental>. You may contact me at [rooms@bfuu.org](mailto:rooms@bfuu.org) whenever you'd like to discuss hosting an event. It will be my pleasure to facilitate this with you!

-Sharon



*Alison Blano (L) and Sharon Knight (R) will lead a Well of Song at BFUU on 2/6 at 7pm*

## BFUU Events



# BFUU OPEN MIC



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

**Friday February 15 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 (Christine Dickson)

Featured Artist: TBA

### **BFUU legendary Fellowship Hall**

1924 Cedar Street (at Bonita Ave)

One block east of MLK Way, Wheelchair Access on Bonita

Windows open for covid safety so DRESS mindfully!

Stay home if you think you might be contagious.

**BYO potluck refreshments (optional)**

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

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee [www.BFUU.org](http://www.BFUU.org)

To get low volume Social Justice announcements/alerts, email: [bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net)

## **Freestyle Fridays 7:30-10pm**

Weekly\* freestyle 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



## Community Voices



*Happy Birthday!*

*Eva Doucette*

*Margaret Hamilton*

*Susan Mashiyama*

*Syl Scherzer*

### 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](mailto:revcarrie@bfuu.org).

### MEMO FROM THE BFUU OFFICE:

2022 Contribution Statements were mailed out on Wednesday Jan 10, 2024. If you made a donation in 2023 and haven't received a statement, please contact Anders: [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org) or call 510-841-4824 ext 1

### Greetings from the new BFUU Office Staff!

Anders, the Office Coordinator, and Sharon, the Event Space Coordinator, are delighted to be working together again - they both worked at The Raven's Wing Magical Co-op before it closed last year. You can read their bios on the [staff page of the website](#) or stop by and introduce yourself!

### New Office Hours:

**Tuesday 9am-12pm Friday 1pm-5pm**

\*Anders will not be in the office Friday 2/2 and Tuesday 2/27. Sharon is only available by appointment.



### 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)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday noonish - after service*

contact [Phoebe and Gene](#)

#### *Worship Services*

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 5:00 PM*

contact [Worship Services](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:revcarrie@bfuu.org) to schedule an appointment.

**Worship Service** on Sundays at 10:30 AM

All are welcome to attend Worship Service!

Please contact [worshipservices@bfuu.org](mailto:worshipservices@bfuu.org) for committee information.

## Monthly Meetings

**Board of Trustees Meeting** 4th Thursday 2/22 at 3:00 PM BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

**Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers** on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2/13 at 11 AM

Please contact Rev. Carrie at [revcarrie@bfuu.org](mailto:revcarrie@bfuu.org)

**Committee on Ministry Meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 2/1 at 2:00 PM

This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.

Please contact Jinky at [COM@bfuu.org](mailto:COM@bfuu.org)

*Elders Circle - please see Wisdom Circle below*

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 2/18 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at [sjc@bfuu.org](mailto:sjc@bfuu.org)

**Wisdom Circle** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2/6 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** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 2/1 at 5:00 PM

Please contact [worshipservices@bfuu.org](mailto:worshipservices@bfuu.org)

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



# Fellowship Calendar February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 2:00 pm <a href="#">COM Meeting*</a>  5:00 pm <a href="#">WSC Meeting*</a>	<b>2</b>  7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service*</a> <sup>1</sup>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00 am <a href="#">Wisdom Circle</a> 1:00 pm <a href="#">Rev. Carrie office hours*</a> 7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice*</a> <sup>1</sup> 7:00pm Well of Song [FH]	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service*</a> <sup>1</sup>  <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">             Fellowship Potluck* following service           </div>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">Caring meeting with ministers*</a>  1:00 pm <a href="#">Rev. Carrie office hours*</a>  7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice*</a> <sup>1</sup>	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b>  	<b>15</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>16</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">             7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*           </div>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service*</a> <sup>1</sup>  Noonish - after service <a href="#">SJC Meeting</a>	<b>19</b>  <b>President's Day</b>	<b>20</b> 1:00 pm <a href="#">Rev. Carrie office hours*</a>  7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice*</a> <sup>1</sup>  <b>Communicator deadline</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3 pm <a href="#">BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*</a>	<b>23</b>  7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service*</a> <sup>1</sup>  4:45pm Spiral Path [FH]	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  5:30pm BDPNN [FH]		

## Please Plan Ahead:

Direct links to meetings/registration have <sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:office@bfuu.org) or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.

\* Fellowship event

<sup>1</sup>meeting link

Photo by Oladimeji Odunsi from Unsplash.com

## *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](mailto:rooms@bfuu.org)

Anders Renee - Office Coordinator  
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1  
Email: [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org)

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR MARCH COMMUNICATOR:**

February 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Please email [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org) with submissions.

## **Address Correction Requested**

### **Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists**

1606 Bonita Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709