



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

March 2024

Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

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

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

March 3: Diyos sa Gugma (God of Love): Building Bridges with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines (UUCP)

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

There are over 2,500 Unitarian Universalists in the Philippines in 25 congregations and 10 newly forming fellowships. Most of the churches are located in remote rural farming and fishing villages. What can UUs from the Philippines teach us about their unique expression of our shared global liberal religious faith? How can building bridges of mutuality guide American UUs on our path of becoming the anti-racist, multicultural, multi-racial church we know our faith calls to be?



March 10: Invisible No More – Celebrate the Women of the Black Panther Party

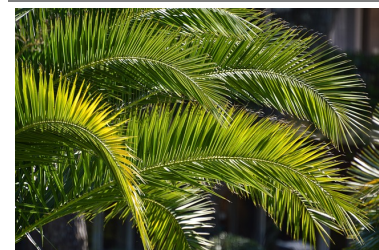
Jilchristina Vest (she/her)

Many people put up images of people they admire in their homes. But for Jilchristina Vest, the ideal place to depict the people she most admires—the women of the Black Panther Party-- was on the outside of her west Oakland home. Listen to her stories about local she-roes as you commemorate Women's History Month.

March 17: Collective Action Towards Social Change

Rev. Jojo Gabuya (they/them)

Octavia E. Butler's book, "Parable of the Sower," posits that God is Change and believers can "shape God" by intentionally working together to leverage the change around them. Amanda Gorman's spoken word poem, "The Hill We Climb," calls for collaboration, togetherness, and unity among this nation's populace. It envisions possibilities for the future. Collective action is key to social change.



March 24: Wise as Serpents, Innocent as Doves – The Message of Palm Sunday and Holy Week

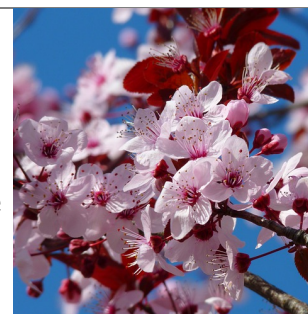
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the story of Jesus and its meaning for our time.

March 31: Resurrecting Eden

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

There is no denying that our Earth is dying. The story of Easter can be one of resurrecting our spirits, our lives, and our garden/planet. By reclaiming our true role as partners in creation, we CAN restore Paradise before it is forever lost. The service will also observe the International Transgender Day of Visibility and feature special music, stories and ritual for this special day.





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*
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Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Ben Burch, Co-Chair
Caring Community
Chair currently vacant
Committee on Ministry
Jinky Gardner, Chair
Finance Committee
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Hospitality Committee
Chair currently vacant
Membership Committee
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Music Committee
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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,

BFUU has had some positive happenings lately. The sound system for Zoom services is being overhauled by Paul Nordin, and we now have good sound on Zoom. If you have been coming Zoom services and gotten discouraged, you might want to try again. We have had some challenging issues with our solar system, which have caused some outages, but they are being addressed and diagnosed, and until we know what is going wrong, we are hooked up directly to PG&E, and shouldn't have outages unless there is a widespread PG&E outage. We have had a few new folks join the Fellowship, whom we welcome, and some wonderful services, with great singing and messages from our speakers.

Wishing you all a safe and happy end of winter,

Margaret Hurlbert
Board President

March Shared Plate Partner

CODEPINK

<https://www.codepink.org/support2024>

CODEPINK is a feminist grassroots organization working to end U.S. warfare and imperialism, support peace and human rights initiatives, and redirect resources into healthcare, education, green jobs and other life-affirming programs.

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. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann serves as a Chaplain with Sequoia Hospice. As a Queer Filipino American Unitarian Universalist, Kevin's ministry is rooted in centering people from the margins and building collective solidarity towards anti-racist multicultural Beloved Community. He received his Master of Divinity and Social Change from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2016 and completed his Chaplaincy Residency at California Pacific Medical Center in 2018. Kevin was ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland on October 1st, 2023 and is one of the founders of Bay Area DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries).

Jilchristina Vest (she/her)

Jilchristina Vest is the homeowner and curator of the Women of the Black Panther Party Mural which graces the exterior of her house in West Oakland. Born in Chicago in 1966, the year of the birth of the Black Panther Party, she moved to the Bay area in 1995. She earned degrees in Black Studies, Women's Studies and Multicultural Education. As a lifelong educator and activist, Jilchristina Vest is motivated by love of community and deep appreciation for the women of the Black Panther Party.

Rev. Jojo V. 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.

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

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.

UUA Statement on Ceasefire

UUA Condemns Violence Against Gaza, Urges Immediate and Total Ceasefire

There are crystallizing moments in the course of history when, in spite of the differences that exist among us, our common reverence for life demands that we speak with moral courage and clarity on the side of love. As people of faith and conviction, Unitarian Universalists share a belief that every human life is sacred, endowed with worth and dignity from the moment of birth, with no person more deserving of freedom and flourishing than any other. Our living tradition has long maintained that the only hells that exist are those that we create for one another, here on earth.

We are watching in real time as the people of Gaza exist in a human-made hell that grows more unimaginable every day. At this point, [28,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed](#) and nearly 70,000 have been injured by Israeli attacks in Gaza since Hamas attacked Israeli citizens on Oct 7. The medical infrastructure in Gaza has been decimated, and the Israeli government continues to prevent humanitarian aid, including food and water, from reaching refugees. And this week, the Netanyahu administration has announced the forced evacuation and ground invasion of Rafah, where 1.3 million displaced Palestinians have set up a massive tent city as a last refuge. The UU Association [first joined the call for a ceasefire](#) on Oct 17, rooted in our historic positions as an organization; nearly four months later, this situation could not be more urgent.

In their [January 26 emergency interim ruling](#), the International Court of Justice found that these atrocities in Gaza plausibly constitute genocidal acts and issued an immediate order to the Israeli government to “take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II,” the United Nation’s Convention on genocide ([PDF, 4 pages](#)). While the UUA has [historically affirmed](#) the importance of the Genocide Conventions, we know there is a wide range of opinion among UUs about how this terminology is used today. What should be clear to all of us, however, is that the Israeli government’s forced displacement, punishment, and intentional inflicting of suffering and death upon children and civilians in Gaza is a moral catastrophe that our faith demands we condemn and resist.

In that spirit, the UUA reiterates our condemnation of the Israeli military’s ongoing violence against Gaza and joins again with [the growing chorus of voices](#) across the globe urging immediate and total ceasefire, the provision of massive emergency humanitarian aid, and the safe return of all hostages and prisoners.

This terrifying moment calls all people of faith and conscience to do everything in our power to push our governments to interrupt genocide, address humanitarian crisis, avert multinational war, and weave just and lasting peace across the globe.

As longtime proponents of the crucial work of the United Nations and its official agencies (see resolutions from [1965](#), [1969](#), [1972](#), [1981](#) and [2010](#)), the UUA is grateful for the nuance and thoroughness of the UN International Court of Justice’s January 26 findings. We decry the Israeli leadership’s ongoing rejection of all ceasefire proposals and outright flouting of the ICJ’s findings and directives in its ongoing military assault.

The UUA further condemns the US government’s unabated complicity in the crisis in Gaza, from providing massive military aid to Israel to slashing funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees. Without international pressure, the Netanyahu administration will undoubtedly follow through on their vow to achieve “total victory” by decimating the entirety of Gaza. We call for the US government to stop funding Israel’s military machine, and to leverage its unrivaled influence upon Israel and in the world community to intervene and stop the attacks on Gaza.

Each day the assault on Gaza continues brings us closer to the brink of calamitous international war. Tensions continue to escalate among nations, and violence has already transgressed national borders and international waters. As a faith community that has historically advocated for peaceful resolution of conflict and protection of international law, we believe it is imperative that the global community

respond decisively to mitigate ongoing harm and prevent further catastrophic loss of life. This terrifying moment calls all people of faith and conscience to do everything in our power to push our governments to interrupt genocide, address humanitarian crisis, avert multinational war, and weave just and lasting peace across the globe.

In that spirit, we offer our prayers to all those working to mitigate harm and stop the atrocities, from journalists and doctors and humanitarian workers on the ground, to Israeli citizens and Jews across the diaspora faithfully engaging and courageously protesting the right-wing Netanyahu regime, to global multi-faith and secular movements advocating for ceasefire. We urge UUs to listen deeply, especially to the voices of Palestinians whose lives and communities have been the vast majority of casualties of this war, and to think critically about the ways the US is complicit in enabling this disaster to continue.

Like many, we dream of an enduring peace in the Middle East. Israelis and Palestinians deserve real and lasting safety, as do all people in the Holy Land. Long-term diplomatic solutions that honor international human rights and religious freedom are essential. However, in this critical moment we must pressure our leaders to turn back from this precipice of unspeakable violence, or this dream will not have a future.

We call upon all UUs to open our hearts and be present to the depths of human suffering in this moment – not just by one group, but by people of many nationalities, identities, and religions. We commit to identifying and mitigating the evils of anti-Semitism, anti-Arabism, and Islamophobia in our own tradition and to address their toxic legacies wherever we encounter them. Our faith rejects all forms of nationalism and supremacy, and insists that we struggle for multiracial, multi-religious democracy in our own nation and across the world. We encourage all UUs to take action in solidarity not only with global movements for ceasefire, but with liberatory pro-democratic movements of all kinds that are working toward a future that contains the conditions of possibility for a true and enduring peace.

Social Justice Watch

Reparations AND Middle East Ceasefire NOW!

BFUU's Social Justice Committee generally meets after socializing on 3rd Sundays. On Feb 18, we agreed to support the CA Legislative Black Caucus' efforts for reparations by lobbying Nancy Skinner: 916-651-4009.

Yet it was Gaza that was foremost on most of the nine attendees' minds. After Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb gave informative talks in our Hall re Palestine/Israel, the Board ordered a banner to display outside proclaiming Love Demands a Ceasefire Now. Give Capitol Hill a "peace" of your mind often: 800-826-3688. Also ask Congress to [demand that Biden reinstate UNRWA funding](#). We'll channel our grief and rage into action – an interfaith group is organizing a 22mile (the distance from Gaza City to the Rafah crossing refugee camp) Pilgrimage for Gaza Ceasefire. , and it's fine to join for shorter legs. More info in Community Events on [page 7](#).

Resources:

- ▶To request alerts for related LOCAL rallies, vigils etc., email: bayarea@jvp.org
- ▶Code Pink and others host frequent related local marches, street theater, NVDA, etc. posted on the [IndyBay calendar](#) at [IndyBay.org](#)
- ▶AROC posts events here too: <http://www.araborganizing.org/events/>
- ▶[Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVP.org) tells Congress "Stop fueling genocide." (It is US taxes, ~\$10 million/day, that fund the IDF and its weapons.) Action page: <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/take-action/>
- ▶Middle East Children's Alliance also has [events](#) and [action](#) pages.

Poetry Corner

Nyet-en-yahoo

Nyet-en-yahoo

The American Israeli

Who, of course, couldn't make it to Mandela's Memorial

Nyet-en-yahoo

Who wants the world to know about the 'real' Iran

This real American Israeli

who

Continues to endorse

the

illegal occupation of Palestine

Continues to support

the

illegal blockade of Gaza

Who

does not have the concept of negotiation

in his vocabulary

Who

refuses to admit that

Israel

has the largest and only

stockpile of nuclear weapons in the entire middle east

Hello ... duh ... duh ... duh

Jimmy Carter, former President, Nobel Peace Prize winner

Writes about the apartheid state of Israel

Bin-ya-min
American Israeli
knows crap
about
PEACE.

He is all about
war
and
fear

Sound familiar
American NRA- Teabaggers
American Israelis
one in the same
two of a kind

One pair
does not beat
a full house
of Palestinians.

Gene B. Herman
Berkeley, Dec. 2013

Community Events

March 6th 7:30pm Warheads to Windmills: Preventing Climate Catastrophe & Nuclear War Wednesday (Fellowship Hall)

Enjoy nuts, desserts and tea while considering how to prevent anthropogenic disasters, because nuclear war and climate chaos are nuts, and tea/talk with Timmon is comforting. Author Timmon Wallis, PhD, member of the International Coalition Against Nuclear, the team that won a Nobel Prize for achieving the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Free and open to the public (donations appreciated)
<https://warheadstowindmills.org/book-tour/>

March 5th 7pm The Well of Song: an Interactive Music Experience with Women of the Well (Connie Barbour Room - not wheelchair accessible)

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>

March 23rd Pilgrimage for Ceasefire in Gaza (Various locations in East Bay)

Organized by Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, the march will probably start that morning at Cesar Chavez Park and go by places of worship where banners are displayed including BFUU! We hope to offer refreshments for the ceasefire pilgrims. Details will be in BFUU weekly announcements.

BFUU Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday March 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

BYO potluck refreshments (optional) Suggested donation \$10–\$20 No one turned away.

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee www.BFUU.org

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

Host: **Dave Welsh**

Dave “Redd” Welsh is a labor and blues pianist/singer.

Featured Artist: **Vox Mamas**

This eclectic 4-woman vocal/instrumental group performs a wide range of styles and genres: Indigo Girls covers, swingy jazz standards, soulful Latin American ballads, and lighthearted parodies by group member Marcie Boyd. Shimmering harmonies, surprising solos and much more!



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.

Shoe free and fragrance free

Some work-exchange is available.

*All Fridays except Open Mic nights and holidays

sponsored by BFUU



Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

*Jean Lieber
Damon Guthrie*

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.

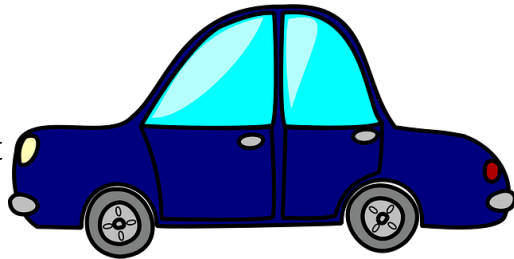
She also hosts a small group, "Living Longer" on Zoom. For an appointment or to find out more, email Rev Carrie revcarrie@bfuu.org.

Request for Community Support

Dear Congregants,

I have received several requests for help from our members for rides to doctor appointments, and to see family members. If you have an interest in helping with this, please let me know.

Thanks,
Margaret Hurlbert



Have any extra low maintenance potted plants or succulents lying around?

Donate your plants to the BFUU Office!

Anders and Sharon would like some green friends to keep them company in the office.



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 Wednesday at 5:00 PM

contact [WSC Chair Melissa R.](#)

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 Melissa worshipservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 3/28 at 3:00 PM BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 3/20 at 11 AM

Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 3/7 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 3/17 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 3/5 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 3/6 at 5:00 PM

Please contact Melissa at worshipservices@bfuu.org

some committees meet as needed - please see full committee list on [page 9](#)

Fellowship Calendar March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 					1 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	2
3 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹	4	5 11:00 am Wisdom Circle 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ 7:00pm Well of Song [CB]	6 5:00 pm WSC Meeting * 7:30 pm Warheads to Windmills [FH]	7 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	8 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	9
10 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ <div>Set your clocks forward 1 hour!</div> Catered lunch following service	11	12 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	13	14 1	15 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*	16
17 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting	18	19 Caring meeting with ministers * 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	20	21	22 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	23 East Bay Interfaith Gaza Ceasfire Pilgrimage
24 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 4:45pm Spiral Path [FH]	25	26	27	28 3:00 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg *	29	30
31 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ Easter Sunday	Other notable dates this month Daylight Savings - March 10 New Moon - March 10th 1:02am Spring Equinox - March 19th Full Moon - March 25th 12:00am					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 ¹ meeting link

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 APRIL COMMUNICATOR:

March 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Please email office@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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1606 Bonita Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709

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T: 510-841-4824 | **E:** office@bfuu.org | **www.bfuu.org**