



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists
510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org April 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

April 7: Lifting the Blinds on Our Implicit Bias Windows



Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

Implicit biases are the unconscious attitudes, prejudices and judgements 'hard-wired' in every person through our individual experiences, upbringings and backgrounds. They affect what we think, do and say at an unconscious level. The antidotes are awareness, curiosity and hard consistent practice. This spiritual work is imperative and the core of transforming ourselves and the world.

April 14: Green Service for Earth Day

Cate Calson (she/her) and Myroslava Fisun (she/her)

Cate Calson is a member of Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corp. educating people about the scientific truths around climate change and how we can be a part of the solution. She has graciously offered to provide an update and some insights of the climate's health and how our assistance is needed more now than ever to help with the climate crisis. She says, "It starts with love."



April 21: Pilgrimage of Hope – How Interfaith Organizing is Changing the World

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

More stories about the changing world from the liberatory perspective of multifaith organizers, and a reflection on the Gaza Interfaith Ceasefire Pilgrimage.

Photo by David Solnit



April 28: When the US Supreme Court Legalized Gay Marriage in 2015

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles describes the arguments the Court heard on April 28, 2015, its majority decision in Obergefell v. Hodges and the dissents of the conservative justices who now lead the Supreme Court.



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*
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Board of Trustees

Margaret Hurlbert, *President*
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Phoebe Thomas Sorgen
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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 friends,

Happy Spring everyone!

We now have two new banners on the Cedar St. side of Fellowship Hall: one which asks for a "Permanent Ceasefire Now" in Gaza, and one from the UUA, saying "Side With Love". Thanks for putting them up, Ed! In addition, we are improving our sound for our Zoom and in-person services, which has been going well, thanks to Paul Nordin.

Joanna Foley was the inspiration and coordinator for our service on March 10th, which featured speaker Jilchristina Vest, who has a museum and mural about the women of the Black Panthers, and artist Gayle Asali, who is a former Black Panther, and whose paintings and drawings are currently on display in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for all of the wonderful work, Joanna!

Take care,

Margaret

April Shared Plate Partner

Youth VS Apocalypse

<https://www.youthvsapocalypse.org/donations>

We are a diverse group of young climate justice activists working together to lift the voices of youth, in particular youth of color and working class youth. Our collective action aims to fight for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, and just world.

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. 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 advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

Cate Calson (she/her)

Cate's childhood was on a farm in Oregon surrounded by endless natural beauty and evidence of the indigenous people who lived on the land before her. With her BA in Communication Design/Illustration, she committed her career to uplifting small businesses and nonprofits, primarily in the humanitarian and sustainability sectors. She joined the Red Cross as a volunteer and then as an employee in the Marketing Communication Dept. for NCCR.

Myroslava Fisun (she/her)

Myroslava Fisun is a climate advocate currently studying Society and Environment at UC Berkeley. Growing up in the Bay Area, she began to notice the effects of global warming all around her and knew she had to take action. She joined environmental organizations but noticed the lack of youth-centered spaces. Following this, she began to be the voice for youth and focuses on youth representation within her current environmental work.

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

Lynn Gottlieb is Rabbi Emerita of the Congregation Nahalat Shalom in Albuquerque, NM. Now a resident of Berkeley, CA, Rabbi Lynn engages in multifaith, intergenerational and multicultural organizing in solidarity with racial, indigenous, gender justice and Palestinian liberation struggles as she teaches joyful spirituality, storytelling, ceremony, and ritual arts.

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

Starvation Israel's salvation
Against a nation of Arabs mostly muslim
My generation was bar mitzvah at thirteen
Was taught Judaism to love thy neighbor
Really disappointed the way current Israel
Is using starvation to kill

Mothers

Children

WHO ONLY WANT A SAFE AND JUST PLACE
TO LIVE...LOVE...AND PRAY

TO THEIR OWN

GOD

OR

GODDESS

Gene Herman

Community Events

April 2nd 7pm The Well of Song: an Interactive Music Experience with Women of the Well (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>

April 13 10am-11:30am on Zoom White Privilege and Multiracial Unity A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council led by Dr. Kenneth Christiansen & Rev. Richard Trudeau. To register send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com. Zoom codes will be sent the day before.

Part 1. The Term "White Privilege" -- Its Good & Bad Effects "White Privilege" is a highly emotional term. It highlights racism and racial disparity. It can be everything from a discussion starter, to an empathy block, to a guilt wedge, to a blindfold in relation to the effects of CLASS.

Part 2. Changing the Conversation. White Privilege can also be seen as an inventory of resources available for genuine antiracism work that collaboratively addresses discriminatory laws and policies.

Social Justice Committee

Reparations for wrongs against Black people!

Thanks to BFUU members DAMON GUTHRIE for writing the 1st drafts and to JOANNA FOLEY for inspiring him.

BFUU sent a longer version of the letter below to Buffy Wicks and Nancy Skinner. Please contact your CA Assembly member and state Senator. This abbreviated version fits in Wick's online [contact portal](#).

In support of reparations for people negatively affected by policies created to intentionally disadvantage those of African descent, the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists supports the 2024 CA Legislative Black Caucus Reparation Priority Bill Package's comprehensive approach to harms from generations of racist laws, focusing on 5 areas of reform: education, civil rights, justice, health & business. BFUU urges passage of the package's 14 Bills, a step towards a more just society coming to terms w/ our shameful past that created much inequity, undue suffering & intergenerational trauma. We seek guidance from those most affected.

We support the CA Legislative Black Caucus in this well researched Bill Package. Assembly member Reginald Byron Jones Sawyer, Sr.: "...We will endeavor to right the wrongs committed against black communities through laws and policies designed to restrict and alienate African Americans. These atrocities are found in education, access to homeownership, and to capital for small business startups, all of which contributed to the denial of generational wealth over hundreds of years."

Ours is the 1st state to consider reparations. The task force was created after George Floyd's murder. Bravo to lawmakers who committed to exploring how discriminatory policies contributed to Black residents facing higher incarceration, less wealth, and worse health. Please take a careful look at this Package and support these steps to help correct today what was done yesterday. May we count on you to follow through on recommendations from the Task Force? Their 1,000-page report details how the CA government supported slavery and dozens of discriminatory laws. The Assembly Judiciary Committee approved ACR 135, a resolution acknowledging the role of CA lawmakers who worked to advance slavery here.

Please do all you can to help all 14 bills clear the policy committees and to ensure that they're passed before September. Thank you!

CONTACT INFO

Nancy Skinner: senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov

(510) 286-1333, (916) 651-4009

Buffy Wicks: <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD14>

(510) 286-1400, (916) 319-2014

BFUU Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



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

Friday April 19 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: **Phoebe Thomas Sorgen** is a voice teacher, former opera singer, and longterm activist/organizer who takes pride in her many arrests for acts of conscience.

Featured Artist: **Reverend Ben Meyers** has been a Unitarian Universalist minister, organizer and activist, currently living in Oakland, CA. He is also a guitarist, singer and storyteller who uses music as a platform for transformation, health and wholeness. Ben is also a grandfather and proud parent of a transgender child. He served as minister to BFUU from 2009-2013 and continues his relationship with the congregation as preacher and musician.

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

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!

Ben Burch

Sharon Colligan

Wendy Knox Carr

Jean Marie Stine

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.



Pictured L to R: Joanna Foley, Jilchristina Vest, Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Gayle Asali Dickson, Phoebe Sorgen

BFUU celebrated Women's History month with a special service honoring to the women of the Black Panther Party. Jilchristina Vest, founder of the West Oakland Mural Project, shared an inspiring story about converting her home into a mini museum dedicated to the women of the Black Panthers. Several former Panthers attended, including Gayle Asali, who spoke about her experience creating art, publishing, and distributing the weekly BPP newspaper. Asali's art is currently on display at BFUU and available for sale. The service ended with a delicious Caribbean lunch catered by Oakland's CocoBreeze restaurant. Thanks to Joanna Foley for organizing this service.

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.](#)

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 4/25 at 3:00 PM BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 4/16 at 11 AM
Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 4/4 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 4/21 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 4/2 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 4/3 at 5:00 PM
Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org

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

Fellowship Calendar April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 11:00 am Wisdom Circle 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹ 7:00pm Well of Song [CB]	3 5:00 pm WSC Meeting*	4 2:00 pm COM Meeting*	5 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	6
7 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service*¹	8	9 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	10	11	12 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	13 10:00 am Zoom White Pirivilege event by UUMUAC
14 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service*¹ <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Fellowship Potluck* following service </div>	15	16 Caring meeting with ministers* 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	17	18	19 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*	20 Communicator deadline
21 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service*¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting	22	23 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	24	25 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	26 7:30 pm Freestyle Friday*	27
28 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service*¹	29	30				

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

Alison Balano (L) and Sharon Knight (R) will lead a Well of Song at BFUU on 4/2 at 7pm

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