



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

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

June 2: At the Center is Love Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

One of the unique things about Unitarian Universalism is our denominational commitment to periodically assessing our beliefs and discerning how they have evolved--in both practice and expression. Right now we're in the midst of a by-law mandated process for determining changes to Article II, commonly known as the Principles and Sources. As a 'Living Tradition' that embraces our religious evolution informed by sacred, secular, and scientific understandings, the sermon will present and explore the proposed changes.



June 9: Continuing Our Collective Journey Towards Liberation: From Juneteenth to the Black Panther Party

Jilchristina Vest (she/her) and Rev. Cheryl Dawson (she/her)

As two women celebrate Juneteenth in its third year as a federal holiday, they reflect on their legacy as creators and inheritors of the Black Panther Party's mission to "serve the people—body and soul."

June 16: Ceasefire Now! Pluralism and the revision of our UU Principles and Purposes Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

As global wars rage onward, what does it mean to be revising our UU Principles and Purposes now during times our government is complicit in active genocide? How do we lean into our Unitarian Universalist values of love, justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity to build a future of collective liberation, and anti-racist, multicultural Beloved Community?



June 23: Women in Science Now

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

For too long, women were excluded from science. Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles presents the voices and person stories of women who have entered this recently liberated realm.



June 30: What Does it Mean to be a Unitarian Universalist?

In this lay led service our own BFUU members will share their personal journey and path to becoming a Unitarian Universalist and what it means to each of them to be a Unitarian Universalist. Please join us for this celebratory service filled with music and food!

Guest musicians TBA; please check the BFUU website for updates



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*
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,

May has been a great month at BFUU! We have had the Conspiracy of Beards give a service, along with two of our ministers who are members of the Beards, Rev. Ben Meyers and Tom McAninley. It was wonderful! Gayle Asali Dickson inspired us on Mothers' Day, with her positive message for women, men, and all nurturers around the world. Thanks to all of those that helped make this happen.

Take care,

Margaret Hurlbert

June Shared Plate Partner

World Beyond War

Donate: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/donate/>

Finding a way to transition to a global security system that is supported by international law, diplomacy, collaboration, and human rights, and defending those things with nonviolent action rather than the threat of violence, is the heart of World Beyond War. Our work includes all variety of nonviolent activism that moves the world in the direction of ending all war.

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.

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. Cheryl Dawson (she/her)

Rev. Cheryl Dawson, M.A., M.Div. began her lifetime of community service in the Black Panther Party. Today she continues on that path of service as a minister who offers workshops, classes and sermons for women impacted by incarceration.

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).

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.

BFUU Congregational Meeting

The BFUU Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after service on **Sunday, June 9th at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom**. Our agenda will be available soon, and we'll be electing new members to the Board of Trustees. There are three open seats for 2-year Board members, and two open seats for 1-year Board Alternates. The election process will be held as it has been recently - via survey with follow up emails/calls as possible.

The Nominating Committee endorses Margaret Hurlbert, Mike Gardner and Phoebe Sorgen for the 2-year seats, and Ben Burch and Tom Luce for the 1-year Alternate seats. For information about each of these candidates, please see their bios below and on the next page.

The Nominating Committee is grateful on behalf of BFUU for members who submitted their names for the committee's consideration.

Any member can run for an open Board seat by petition. Per Bylaw VI, E, "Additional nominees, who shall previously have agreed to serve if elected, may be placed on the ballot by written petition signed by at least ten (10) voting members of the Fellowship and filed with the Nominating Committee not later than the Saturday preceding the last Sunday before election." This year, the deadline for written petitions is **Saturday, June 3**. Petitions should be dropped in the mailbox at BFUU or mailed in time to be delivered by Saturday, June 3. Petitioners should also email office@bfuu.org or call 510-841-4824 ext. 1 and leave a message to advise that a petition has been submitted.

BFUU Board Nominees - 2-year seats

Margaret Hurlbert (*she/her*)

Margaret has been coming to the Fellowship for many years, and has been active in the Choir, Chair of the Music Committee, and has taken part in many events and concerts. She has also been active in the Social Justice Ministry. Some projects she has worked on include going to ICE detention centers and protesting the internment of children, going to Climate Change marches with BFUU, helping with concerts and dances and the ukulele group at BFUU, and organizing making soup at BFUU for Consider the Homeless.



Mike Gardner (*he/him*)

My adventures with BFUU began when my first wife and I were married in Fellowship Hall in 1967. We began attending and were inspired by the spiritual message of the minister, Clark Olsen, and his activism, and that of the Social Action Committee, now the SJC. We joined the Fellowship and became active members. In 1980 I stepped away from BFUU. However, after years of trials and tribulations I realized that again I was seeking to grow and express a sense of spirituality for both my political and scientific interests. In 2014 I rejoined BFUU, along with my wife Jinky. Since then I've been a member of the Ministerial Relations Committee, a member of the Personnel Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees.

BFUU Board Nominees - 2-year seats continued



Phoebe Thomas Sorgen (*she/they*)

Phoebe became a BFUU friend 30 years ago when she enrolled her boys in the RE program. She became active via the Social Justice Committee, which she eventually chaired. After becoming a BFUU member, she was elected to the Board when BFUU transitioned from lay led and hired Rev. Kurt Kuhwald in hopes of increasing membership. She served on the then newly reconstituted Personnel Committee, and has also been on the Aesthetics and Nominating

Committees. For effective peace, democracy, and human rights advocacy, Phoebe was a 2005 Outstanding Woman of Berkeley and 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. As a Peace & Justice Commissioner, she wrote many Resolutions that were adopted by the City of Berkeley. Phoebe is on the Steering Committees of Move to Amend and Berkeley Citizens Action, she also serves as a BFUU Board of Trustees (appointee) because our beautiful BFUU community means

BFUU Board Nominees - 1-year Alternate seats

Ben Burch (*he/him*)



I grew up in Davis, and attended a UU Sunday school at the Davis Fellowship (later Church) in the '60s, and was later involved in LRY (UU youth group) there as well. After flirting with anthropology and East Asian studies (BA and MA), I got a library degree, and worked in that area until my retirement in 2009. I was already active in BFUU at that point (having joined around 1997), and continue to do, having served on the board several times. Currently serving as Treasurer, I hope to continue to play a role in making BFUU a sustainable beacon for our 7

principles, as well as continuing to move us toward truly building a beloved community, and at the same time encouraging us to bring our principles to our participation in the broader local community.

Tom Luce (*he/him*)



In 2000, Tom joined his hometown – Barre, Vermont – UU Church because they were the only church supporting the same-sex marriage law. As an already defrocked Catholic priest for having married, this was a final departure. And now another personal social justice fight. After retiring from teaching in his hometown and moving with wife, Judy, to Berkeley in 2005, Tom, as a member of Oakland UU, began working in 2006 with Cynthia Johnson on the “Declaration of Peace”, a national campaign for stopping the Iraq war that was proposed at the GA in Louisville Kentucky as an AIW. Soon after, he joined

BFUU and has continued to promote antiracist work, e.g. convincing BFUU to endorse the #8 Principle calling for accountable antiracism work.

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



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

Friday June 21 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: Marcie Boyd singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, teacher, activist, and longtime PMN member - sings with Occupella and the LaPeña Chorus <https://peoplesmusic.org/Sys/PublicProfile/49461067/4386840>

Featured Artist: **Alison Hart** is an author, musician, and music educator. National Book award-winning author Isabel Allende praised Alison's debut novel *Mostly White* (Torrey House, 2018) as "So compelling it gave me goosebumps from the very first lines..." Other works include a poetry book *Temp Words* (Cosmo Press, 2015). Hart is a mixed-race Passamaquoddy Native American, Irish, Black, Scottish, and English woman of color, whose work centers on intergenerational trauma and healing. For more info go to: www.ahartworks.com

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 June 14th

***New* Writing Group!**

Meeting June 2nd

*1st Sundays 1pm-3pm in
the Fellowship Hall Lobby*

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.

Live Swing Band and Dancing

Friday 6/14

7:30-10pm

Join for this special event in Fellowship Hall

East Coast Swing lesson 7:30-8:00 with recorded music followed by DANCE, mostly with live music.

Social Justice Watch

At the May Social Justice Committee meeting, in support of Gaza, we unanimously agreed to endorse the Aug. 19 march on the Chicago Democratic National Convention, organized by a broad coalition of progressives including the National Lawyers Guild and Code Pink.

We encourage attendance at local protests. Safety reminders: Don't wear dangly or valuable jewelry or tied neck scarves. If you think you may be arrested, write the Lawyers Guild helpline number on your arm 415-285-1011, and bring necessary prescription meds in their original containers.

Check the indybay calendar for protest notices: https://www.indybay.org/calendar/?page_id=12

For Gaza vigils and protests, also look here: https://www.araborganizing.org/events/?area=south_bay

Via the interfaith coalition that organized the ceasefire banners and 22-mile pilgrimage: Fri, May 31 - prayers, fasting, and action at Senator Padilla's SF office. Processional 10-11am. Walk from Embarcadero to his office: 333 Bush St. Pray-in led by diverse faith leaders. We will also paint a street mural. Sign up and learn more: bit.ly/InterfaithPrayIn

Recognizing that many differences of opinion are due to differing info sources, SJC members shared trusted news sources: <https://www.ConsortiumNews.com>, <http://www.DemocracyNow.org>, Free Speech TV also available online 24/7 <https://freespeech.org/>, PalestineLegal.org, Project Censored <https://www.projectcensored.org/>. A guest likes Redacted.com and Jimmy Dore <https://jimmydore.com/>.

Tom Luce is our liaison for the Berkeley Faith & Justice Coalition which represents 3,000 families. He wrote a report on the May 16 Town Hall where city leaders answered pointed questions about the fight for racial equity in Berkeley. BFJC's chief aim is an equitable city for the health, safety and wellbeing of all. Focus areas include homelessness and housing, violence prevention and interruption, police accountability, youth development and educational equity, health, climate justice and workforce development. Let Phoebe or Tom know if you'd like to join Tom in this ambitious endeavor.

Joady Guthrie has a petition to rename a nation: Israel-Palestine.

Gene Herman's recent poem commands the US: "About face!" His letter to Joe Biden states, in part: One of the messages of 9-11 was the plight of the Palestinians - never addressed, so Oct 7 delivered another message - addressed by revenge and retribution, which does not address the underlining issue....a safe just respectful place for Palestinians to live. Stop shipping arms to Israel. PEACE Is the only path. We need accountability. The warring parties need to put down their weapons and use their words

talk to each other

communicate

NEGOTIATE

SEND the BELLIGERENT PARTIES to a RETREAT in HAITI. LET THEM SPEND 4 WEEKS TWOGETHER in PARADISE...maybe they will learn how to get along with each other.

NO WEAPONS on RETREAT - Lock up weapons in a garage or barn.

Gene also envisions Congress passing a Green Bill of Rights for Mother Earth.

We hope you're all inspired to give CAPITOL HILL a peace o' your mind daily! 800-826-3688

To help save PEOPLES PARK, at 1pm on Saturdays come to the Grassroots House, 2022 Blake St. just west of Shattuck.

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

Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 6/27 at 3:00 PM BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 6/18 at 11 AM

Please contact Karen Dewald at caring@bfuu.org

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 6/6 at 2:00 PM

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

Please contact Jinky at COM@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 6/16 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 6/4 at 11:00 AM

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 6/5 at 5:00 PM

Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org

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 [Karen Dewald](#)

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.](#)

Fellowship Calendar June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;">Please Plan Ahead:</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Fellowship event ¹meeting link</p>						1
<p>2 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service^{*1}</p> <p>1:00pm Writing Group - FH Lobby</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 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</p>	<p>5 5:00 pm WSC Meeting[*]</p>	<p>6 2:00 pm COM Meeting[*]</p>	<p>7</p> <div style="border: 2px solid purple; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>7:30 pm Freestyle Friday[*]</p> </div>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service^{*1}</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>12:30 pm BFUU Annual Meeting FH+Z</p> </div>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours[*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice^{*1}</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>7:30 pm Live East Coast Swing Band and Dancing</p> </div>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service^{*1}</p> <p>Noonish - after service SJC Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Caring meeting with ministers[*] 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours[*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice^{*1}</p>	<p>19 Communicator deadline</p>	<p>20</p> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>Summer Solstice</p> </div>	<p>21</p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; width: 150px; height: 50px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic[*]</p> </div>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service^{*1}</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours[*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice^{*1}</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg[*]</p>	<p>28</p> <div style="border: 2px solid purple; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>7:30 pm Freestyle Friday[*]</p> </div>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service^{*1}</p>	<p><i>Happy Birthday!</i></p> <p><i>Steve Ogden, Margaret Hurlbert</i></p> <p><i>Jack Sawyer, Jeff Palmer</i></p> <p><i>Ingrid Kepler-May, Melissa R</i></p>				<p><i>Note: Starting in July, Rev. Carrie will hold Zoom office hours only. Contact her to make an appointment: revcarrie@bfuu.org</i></p>	

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

Wednesday-Friday 10am-4pm or 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 SUMMER (JULY AND AUGUST) COMMUNICATOR:

June 19, 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

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Office: 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 | Fellowship Hall: 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709

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