



# THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

June 2025



## Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

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

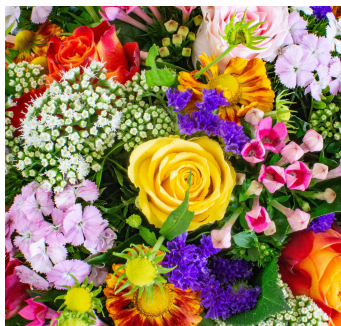
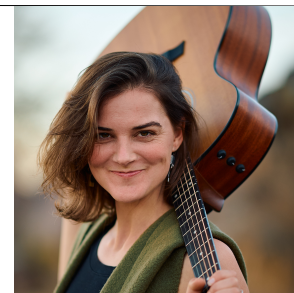
\*except as noted\*

reading this offline? please email [worshiponline@bfuu.org](mailto:worshiponline@bfuu.org) for link

### June 1: Let Us Sing!

*Te Martin (they/them)*

Amidst the heartbreak of this moment, let us sing. We sing to stand with Palestine, we sing to end racialized violence and to stand for the safety of Black lives, and we sing for the waters and the trees. We sing our joy, too. We let our bodies sound, move, and dance, as people have for millennia. Song is glue. It is fuel. It is medicine.



### June 8: The Simplest of Sacraments

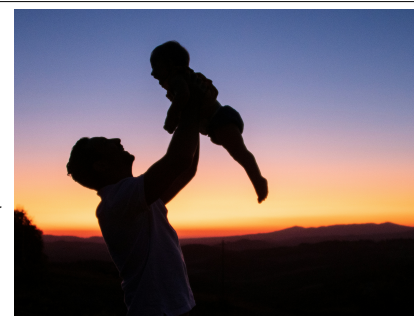
*Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)*

In 1923 the Rev. Norbert Capek created the first "Oslava Květin", or 'Flower Celebration', in Prague. In order to unite the diverse congregants of his church, he turned to the beauty of nature, with each person bringing a flower to place in a vase. Once blessed, a flower different from the one brought is picked by each person. In this way, every person knows they are necessary to form a bouquet, and a beloved community. BRING A FLOWER AND A FRIEND!!!

### June 15: The First Cry - When Fatherhood Awakens

*Prince Muraguri (he/him)*

Becoming a father changes everything. In this heartfelt Father's Day message, we explore how the first cry of a newborn awakens something sacred in a man—love, strength, humility, and legacy. Whether you're a new dad, an experienced dad, or remembering your own father, this service is a celebration of the journey into fatherhood.



### June 22: Support Frederick Douglass and his promotion of Haiti in 1893

*Tom Luce (he/him)*

Here is a statement of commitment to promote the rejection by the U.S. and other countries of Haiti due to racism. Today Haiti is in the worst situation it has been since 1804 when it abolished slavery. Frederick Douglass, as an abolitionist had to work hard on Haiti. And there is, unfortunately, a lot of racism in the U.S.

### June 29: Finding Hope in Hopeless Times

*Rev. Dr. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)*

For some of us, hope is in short supply. Current trends in politics and culture have made it hard to feel optimistic about our future as Americans, and it can be tempting to give in to helplessness and despair. Join us today for reflections about hope and strategies for resiliency and robust resistance.



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 Jojp Gabuya, *Pastoral Care 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  
Mike Gardner, Vice President  
Jean Marie Stine  
Phoebe Thomas Sorgen  
Simone Chiodini  
Ben Burch, Treasurer/Secretary (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  
Karen Dewald, Chair  
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  
Religious Education (RE) Committee  
Chair currently vacant  
Social Justice Committee (SJC)  
Chair Phoebe Sorgen  
SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)  
Margaret Hurlbert, Convener  
Worship Services Committee  
Jeff Palmer, 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

Dear fellow congregants,

May has been a productive month at BFUU! We have been planning our upcoming Congregational Meeting, which will be at 12:30 on June 15th. At this meeting, there will be an election of the Board of Trustees, and reports from the Board and committee chairs. We encourage anyone who is interested to come learn more about the Fellowship, and take part in the discussions.

We have also been planning a "Supporting our Local Immigrants" event, happening on June 1st from 3-6pm at Fellowship Hall. At this event, we will hear from speakers from local immigration organizations, and learn about ways to help immigrants in these troubled times.

Last but not least, on May 25th, we held an ordination for our beloved member Simone Chiodini. This was a special occasion, and a celebration of her service. We wish her well with her future endeavors to help people, and hope that her new life in the Canary Islands is wonderful.

-Margaret Hurlbert

## June Shared Plate Partner

### Benin Lesbian Safe House

sponsored by Humanist Mutual Aid Network

Donate: <https://www.thehuman.team/ourmosturgentneed/donate-any-amount-you-want-1-1000>

The Benin Lesbian Safe House provides shelter to lesbians in the Benin Republic, a small traditionally homophobic nation in West Africa. Five lesbians live in the Safe House and it serves as a community center for many other lesbians in the city of Ouidah. Lesbians in Benin frequently experience homelessness, family rejection, and violence. The Safe House provides trauma counseling and vocational classes in preparing probiotic and fermented food and beverages.

All donations will go towards paying the \$250 lease on the Safe House for the upcoming year.

## *Worship Service Leaders*

### **Te Martin (they/them)**

Te Martin is a song-keeper and ritual artist. They have been shaped by Ocean, Redwoods, circus arts, and theater games. They facilitate oral tradition singing classes and workshops that focus on song as a tool for collective liberation, somatic regulation, and ancestral connection. Te served as co-organizer of Thrive Street Choir in the bay area for six years. Listen to their album, “[Water & Bones](#)” and music video, “[May This Body Be a Bridge](#)”.

### **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.

### **Prince Muraguri (he/him)**

Prince Muraguri is a development economist who recently returned to his home country Kenya after working at UC Berkeley. Passionate about using data for impact, he works on research that informs policy across Africa. Now navigating life as a new dad together with his partner Patriciah, Prince is embracing the joys and challenges of raising their growing family.

### **Tom Luce (he/him)**

Now 87, born in Barre, Vermont, I chose to go to the Catholic seminary in 1956 and one of my classmates was Max Dominique, a Haitian from a leadership family, the reason why I chose to go to Haiti in 2004. Because of my relationship with my wife, I participate in a local Catholic parish, St. Columba, Oakland, where I was asked to develop an international service program, [HopeForHaiti:Education/HHE](#), in 2010 since I had already developed some community based groups in Port-Au-Prince. This group has survived and is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year providing school for a total of 1,000+ students in the inner-city communities of Martissant and Grand Ravine.

### **Rev. Dr. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)**

Since retiring after 11 years of ministry with the Napa congregation, Rev. Bonnie Dlott had the privilege of serving the UU congregations in Santa Rosa and Petaluma as a contract minister. Rev. Bonnie is a Bay Area native and spends her time communing with nature, cooking, traveling, and playing with her two grand babies.

## *Social Justice Watch*

### **Social Justice Watch by SJC chair Phoebe Thomas Sorgen**

Sat. May 31 PROTEST genocide and deportations at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield 10 am to 1 pm. If you wish, learn the Flash Mob Crosswalk Dance!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZS\\_LxsUFWLRBo3Mdx1yESE\\_iVYNHnPiQ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZS_LxsUFWLRBo3Mdx1yESE_iVYNHnPiQ/view?usp=sharing)

Dancers wear red, white, green, and black clothing. Bring flags, keffiyehs, and signs.

[www.peoplesarmsembargo.org](http://www.peoplesarmsembargo.org)

Carpool: <https://www.groupcarpool.com/t/wx8omt>

Right of Return Pilgrimage for Palestine

Sun. June 8 starts in Alameda 7am, ends in Berkeley 7pm

4:30pm (UC Berkeley - W Berkeley Shellmound, 2.9 miles)

6:30pm (Shellmounds - Berkeley Marina, 4.6 miles)

Sign up: <https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/2025/04/right-of-return-pilgrimage/>

Nationwide Actions - No Kings Day Sat. June 14 <https://www.nokings.org/>

SF Dolores Park 11:30 gather, noon march to Civic Center, rally 1-2pm

On May 18, we were proud to host a standing room only kick-off for the CA Fair Elections Act campaign. Many elected officials spoke who may not have been elected were it not for public financing of their campaigns. Young Assembly member Alex Lee, joint author SB 42, was especially inspiring. He had not expected to be elected, and has taken off running! To even the “pay to play” field, help get SB 42 passed so that there can eventually be public financing all over the state. **[Please sign the petition for SB 42!](#)** Volunteers are needed: <https://www.yesfairelections.org/>

3rd Friday Open Mics are delightful. Phoebe hosts on June 20 featuring Rev. Ben Meyers. Come and enjoy!

Meanwhile, keep protesting for democracy, against genocide, etc. outside Tesla on Saturdays at noon, at Ashby/College Fridays 5pm, many other choices:

<https://www.indybay.org/calendar/>

**The Social Justice Committee will meet after lunch on Sunday June 1st instead of our usual 3rd Sunday** (the all congregational meeting will be on the 15th), followed by the fab Immigrant Rights event at 3pm.



## *"Behold! Be Bold!" Art Shows at BFUU*

Since 2017, BFUU has hosted an on-going series of art exhibitions on the walls of Fellowship Hall. "Behold! Be Bold!" provides recognition and display space for underrepresented artists to showcase and sell their work.

Almost everyone has artistic talent. But very few persons of color, women and LGBTQIA+ artists have equal opportunities to share their creative visions of beauty and resistance with the wider world.

Hundreds of people visit Fellowship Hall each week--students from the New School, participants in dance and music programs, churchgoers, social justice activists. The art works displayed on the walls add a visual dimension to the primary purpose for which visitors come to BFUU.



*Above: Youth Spirit Artworks had an exhibition at BFUU and the young artists got to learn how to install the art themselves.*



*Above: Photo from Richard Man's photography exhibit about the lives of transgender people*



*Above: painting by Edythe Boone*

*Right: Virginia, Rev. Gayle Dickson, Joanna, and Elayne Ryder*



**On June 22, a reception for the latest exhibition will open at 1:00 PM.** in Fellowship Hall. It will feature the first touring show of art from **ArtEsteem**, a community arts education program in Oakland.

ArtEsteem, founded in 1989, serves school age children through on-site classes. The organization presents a large show to the community once a year. Selected pieces from the most recent show will be on display when the artists speak about their work in a Q&A format.

This will mark the eleventh show for Behold! Be Bold!. Previous participants have included *Edythe Boone*, famed local muralist, *Jimi Evins*, abstract artist, *Guy Colwell*, painter and cartoonist (also BFUU's sexton at the time) and *Rev. Gayle Dickson*, former graphic designer for the Black Panther Party newspaper.

## BFUU Sponsored Events



# BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

**Friday June 20 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

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

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

**Featured Artist: Rev. Ben Meyers** (he/him)

Over the past 30 years, Rev. Ben Meyers has served as a parish minister, hospice chaplain, and social justice/community minister for churches and non-profits throughout Northern California, including 4 years as minister of BFUU.

He now lives in Oakland and enjoys spending time singing, preaching and using his cooking skills for preschoolers in West Oakland. His passion is helping people adopt clean energy as a moral and spiritual imperative. A proud parent of a transgender child, he is also a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

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## Freestyle Dance

*June 6th, 13th, 27th, 30th and June 19th 7:30 - 10:00 PM in 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. **FREE for BFUU Members!**



## Berkeley History Club

*Wednesday June 11th, 7 - 9 PM and Potluck dinner at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall*

Come build community with people who enjoy conversations around historical topics. For more information write [eventpartner@bfuu.org](mailto:eventpartner@bfuu.org)

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## 1st Sundays Writing Group

*June 1st at 12:30-2 PM 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.



## *More Community Events*

### **Well of Song with Sharon Knight**

*Thursday June 5th 7-8:30pm in Connie Barbour Room*

Let's make expressive music and sound together! We'll drop into an improvisational vocal flow that combines technique, melody, and harmony with authentic expression to experience the healing connection of singing together. Come exactly as you are, and know you are safe to express whatever you need to express. Drums and percussion instruments welcome. Sliding scale donations of \$15 - \$30 per session appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds. REGISTER HERE: <https://shop-sharonknight.com/products/the-well-of-song-an-interactive-music-experience-with-women-of-the-well>

### **Breathe Move, Play! Interplay with Rev. Jojo and Cindy Phillips**

*In person: 2nd and 4th Sundays 1pm-2:30 in Fireside Room (6/8 and 6/22)*

*Online: 1st and 3rd Sundays 1pm-2:30 on Zoom (6/1 and 6/15)*

Unmute you body. Bring in your creativity. Experience the Joy of Living in the Moment! Refresh your soul and find amusement. Retrieve the Wisdom of your body. Build Community and Strengthen you Connections! \$5-\$15 donations accepted, no one turned away for lack of funds.

RSVP by email [josefina.gabuya@cst.edu](mailto:josefina.gabuya@cst.edu) or [tenniscp@gmail.com](mailto:tenniscp@gmail.com)

### **Immigration Rights Community Presentation**

*Sunday June 1st 3pm-6pm in Fellowship Hall*

**OUR MISSION** is to educate our congregation and the wider East Bay community about organizations and individuals who have been helping vulnerable immigrants for decades, how they have been helping, and how we can help them protect our friends and neighbors who are being threatened, detained, and deported during the second Trump Administration.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:** Bay Area Center for Immigration Evaluations (BACIE), East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Friends of La Peña, Indivisible East Bay's Immigration Committee, Ingrid Roberson, Chief Deputy Supervisor of Public Instruction, CA Dept. of Education, Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights, Lifelong Medical Care

I. 3pm **SHARP** to 4:15pm: presentations from our attending agencies with time for Q&A

II. 4:30pm to 5: Friends of La Peña and East Bay Sanctuary Covenant will give an introductory version of their immigrant rights trainings they do twice a month at La Peña.

III. 5:15pm to 6pm: Refreshments will be available. A table will be set up for each of the presenters, where you will be able to chat with them and pick up printed materials.



## 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)

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

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

## Monthly Meetings

**Board of Trustees Meeting** 4th Thursday 6/26 at 3:00 PM on Zoom.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday **\*\*Meeting on 1st Sunday in June\*\*** 6/1 after service (noonish)

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

**Worship Service Committee Meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6/4 at 5:00 PM

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

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

contact [SJC Chair Phoebe](#)

**Worship Services**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 5:00 PM

contact [WSC Chair Jeff Palmer](#)

## Pastoral Care with Rev. Jojo

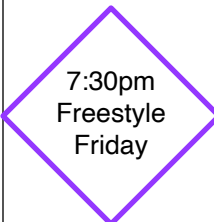
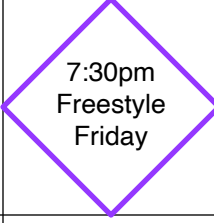
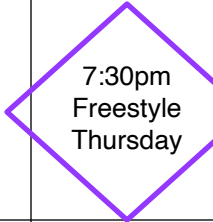
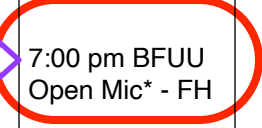

**Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)** is a Pastoral Care Provider whose ministry focuses on befriending hostility, tending to stress and trauma, and mending brokenness that affect one's health and well-being as a person. Rev. Jojo helps BFUU members and guests in connecting with a Sacred Reality, developing radical compassion, practicing revolutionary love, and unlocking their body wisdom through InterPlay and other somatic practices. **They** is currently holding in-person meetings, either at the BFUU Minister's Office or, at the home of anyone in need of pastoral care, by appointment. To schedule an appointment, kindly email [revjojo@bfuu.org](mailto:revjojo@bfuu.org), or call (209) 693-8947.

Rev. Jojo is an ordained minister in the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples SF, which was co-founded by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman. **They** is a member of the Eco-Preacher Cohort at the BTS Center, a Certified InterPlay Leader, and a Happiness and Well-being Coach.





## Fellowship Calendar June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service</a> <sup>*1</sup> 12:30 pm - FH Lobby Writing Group 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing  6:30 pm - FH MOVE!	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <sup>*1</sup>	<b>4</b> 5:00 pm <a href="#">WSC Meeting</a> <sup>*</sup>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm -CB Well of Song	<b>6</b>  7:30pm Freestyle Friday	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service</a> <sup>*1</sup>  1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	<b>9</b> 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing  6:30 pm - FH MOVE!	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance  7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <sup>*1</sup>	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7:30pm Freestyle Friday	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service</a> <sup>*1</sup>  12:30 - FH + Z Congregational Meeting	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing  6:30 pm - FH MOVE!	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <sup>*1</sup>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7:30pm Freestyle Thursday	<b>20</b>  7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic* - FH	<b>21</b> <b>Communicator            Deadline</b>
<b>22</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service</a> <sup>*1</sup>  1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm - FH MOVE!	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <sup>*1</sup>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:00 pm <a href="#">BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg</a> <sup>*</sup>	<b>27</b>  7:30pm Freestyle Friday	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30 am - FH+Z <a href="#">Worship Service</a> <sup>*1</sup>	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm - FH MOVE!	 All are welcome to attend this meeting where BFUU members will vote on new Board members for 2025-2026				

**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

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

*Ingrid Kepler-May Margaret Hurlbert*  
*Jack Sawyer*  
*Jeff Palmer*  
*Melissa R.*  
*Steve Ogden*

## *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**

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 12pm-4pm or 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 JULY COMMUNICATOR:**

June 21, 2025 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

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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**T:** 510-841-4824 | **E:** [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org) | **www.bfuu.org**