



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

September 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 for link



September 7: Building Atop Shifting Sand

Tyler Compton (he/him)

I talk about my experience as a young person building a career and a life at a time when it feels like everything could change in a few short years.

September 14: Resistance

Gillian Fynn (she/her)

When is Non-Violent Resistance justified? We'll review core criteria to consider. What does Non-Violent Resistance look like and can it work? Examples from history and modern events can teach us. Let's understand the One Million Rising strategy, to move from awareness and good intentions to action and non-cooperation.



September 21: Changing the Picture, Lifting the Lyric, Moving Words

Annice Jacoby (she/her)

Sharing some backstage notes on the ideals and shortcomings of Public Art for Social Good. I will share stories from many projects from Oakland youth to San Francisco unhoused. Can art make a difference? Can communities broker old divides through creative engagement? Art as agency and reclamation may not be a fix but is still transformative.

September 28: 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
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Chair currently vacant
Social Justice Committee (SJC)
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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

Hi everyone,

August was a busy and productive month at BFUU. We had a wonderful time visiting with neighbors on National Night Out, which was organized by Sumi, with wonderful food from Gillian and Joanna's muffins were great as usual.

Thanks to Sharon Knight, our rental spaces have been bustling with activity. We're happy that groups that care about the environment and other important topics have been able to use our space. A new roof has been placed on our RE building, which was organized by Ed Keating.

Some upcoming events are a block party in October and a benefit concert by Emma's Revolution in November!

Cheers,

Margaret

September Shared Plate Partner

World Central Kitchen

Donate: https://donate.wck.org/give/499865/#!/donation/checkout?c_src=navbar

WCK is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. In 2010, Chef José Andrés, ready to use his culinary knowledge and talent to help, headed to Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Cooking alongside displaced families in a camp, he was guided on the proper way to cook black beans the way Haitians like to eat them: mashed and sieved into a creamy sauce. It wasn't just about feeding people in need—it was about listening, learning, and cooking side by side with the people impacted by the crisis. This is the real meaning of comfort food, and it's the core value that José, along with his wife Patricia, used at the center of founding World Central Kitchen.

Worship Service Leaders

Tyler Compton (he/him)

I am a 29 year-old software engineer living in Oakland. I joined the First Unitarian Church of Oakland as a new UU a year ago. Moving to Oakland and broadening my spiritual horizon has had me rethink what I want in wonderful and challenging ways. I hope to share some of that with everyone in my part of the service.

Gillian Fynn (she/her)

Gillian has been an Activist for Peace and Justice all her adult life. Growing up in Africa she was exposed early to the struggle for liberation. In the 1970's, she and her family experienced civil war against the Dictator Somoza in Nicaragua. While living in Ohio, Gillian returned with Witness for PEACE, to resist Contra attacks on Nicaraguans by staying in the war zone as a buffer. She cofounded The Wayne County Peace Coalition fighting for a Nuclear Freeze and Sanctuary for displaced refugees from Central America. Currently Gillian is active in Indivisible East Bay, plus Friends of La Peña Immigration Rights.

Annice Jacoby (she/her)

Annice Jacoby is recognized for her innovative work in public art, literature and visual arts. Highlights include Street Art San Francisco: Mission Muralismo (Abrams) & Fort Point Project, opening performance at the Hague Appeal for Peace. Annice Jacoby expands art in public life with poetry, theater and media to spark ideas and institutions to examine the critical issues of the day. www.annicejacoby.com

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

This column is dedicated to longtime BFUU/SJC member, Ann Fagan Ginger, an expert on international law, the United Nations, and human rights. She transitioned on Aug 20 at age 100. Longterm BFUU friend, Esteban, recounted that, according to her caregiver, that morning "Ann expressed the wish to 'be with Richard,' extended her arms outward in an actual, metaphysical embrace, and easily, peacefully exited." Ann and author Richard Challacombe met and fell in love at BFUU. Ann founded the [Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute](#), which also houses the archives of the National Lawyers Guild. There may be a memorial at BFUU on Dec. 10, Human Rights Day. Obit coming soon.

Could Ann have planted this seed? Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur for Palestine, [called on the nations of the world](#) to send their navies to break the Gaza blockade. "Deliberate attacks on health and care workers, and health facilities, which are gross violations of international humanitarian law, must stop now. There is a moral imperative for the international community to end the carnage and allow the people of Gaza to live on their land..."

We continue standing up to the genocide. As well as recurring events listed below, on Aug 12, we rallied and marched from Union Sq. On Aug 23, Palestinians brought handcrafts, embroidered clothing, and food to sell in our Hall. "Seeds of Resistance" was an inspiring fundraiser with a film screening as well, and a full house.

Stop Billionaires, End Fossil Fuels, and Extinction Rebellion held a riveting Panel Discussion to another full house in our Hall on Aug 17. Phoebe was arrested with them the next day at Black Rock, the final stop on a Corporate Tour of Shame. See photos on page 6.

Karen Hao's Empire of AI is well researched: By 2030 data centers may use more energy than all of India via nukes/coal. By 2027 artificial Intelligence could use half the amount of fresh water that the UK uses. Just one of Microsoft's projects near Phoenix is about the size of 650 football fields. There's huge resistance in the Global South, with mega data centers planned in drought-stricken areas. Kenyans' labor exploited! US artists' and writers' work stolen towards making their work obsolete! Massive job losses due to automation! Bigotry and inaccuracies in search results. AI sometimes lies and blackmails, has caused suicides. It's rushed, sloppy, out of control. So development of AGI and ASI (General and Super, meaning smarter than humans) must be stopped until if/when it is safe. "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority." — Statement on [AI Risk](#), signed by hundreds of experts including top AI companies and scientists. More info here: <https://controlai.com/>

Marjorie, Betsy, Margaret, Hank, Mike, more sang for justice & peace on University Ave. On Aug 16 we protested at multiple locations for Voting Rights-nationwide actions. On Aug 17, Phoebe and Gillian helped banner against fascism on Berkeley's pedestrian bridge.

Immigration defense continues.

Social Justice Watch cont.

Appreciation to Hank who drafted a fine City of Berkeley Apology & Commitment to Reparations for African Americans, as well as a plan for Alameda & Costa Costa County to Provide Free Public Transportation. Ask him how you can help.

Next year, don't miss Tom Luce's "white party" end of summer fundraiser for Haiti—way fun for a good cause!

ACTIONS, PROTESTS, MARCHES

Friday Aug 29 10:30-12:30 NOISE PROTEST at the Israel Consulate (456 Montgomery) SF (and there was one there Aug 22)

Monday Sept 1 Labor Day 11-1pm [MARCH](#) from 16th/Mission to Delores Park, SF

for working class power against fascism, for racial justice, immigrants, LGBTQIA+, gender justice, public services, human rights

Every Friday March and Make Noise for Gaza. 5pm Downtown Berkeley BART. March up Shattuck to the farmers market.

Every Saturday 12-1ish Takedown Tesla on 4th St.

1st Fridays 5-5:30 Dance for Democracy, Strawberry Creek Park

2nd Fridays 5-6pm Sing for Justice & Peace, University Ave between Acton/Bonar (open mic and protest)

3rd Fridays 7-9pm BFUU Open Mic (tradition of protest songs, and everything is welcome: comedy, poetry, etc)

4th Fridays 4:30-6:30 [Protest at Open AI](#), 1455 3rd St., SF

Sundays 6-8pm Stop AI pub meetings at Raleigh's on Telegraph Ave.

Sundays Aug 31, Sept 14 & 28, 3-5pm, banner for democracy on Berkeley's pedestrian bridge

More protests/events: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible-east-bay/>

[https://www.indybay.org/calendar/event_week.php?](https://www.indybay.org/calendar/event_week.php?day=7&month=9&year=2025&topic_id=0®ion_id=0&news_item_status_restriction=0)

[day=7&month=9&year=2025&topic_id=0®ion_id=0&news_item_status_restriction=0](https://www.indybay.org/calendar/event_week.php?day=7&month=9&year=2025&topic_id=0®ion_id=0&news_item_status_restriction=0)

Petition to save US landline telephones: <https://www.turn.org/savelandlines>

They are more reliable in emergencies. Many elders depend on them, and people disabled by Electromagnetic Radiation (aka microwave illness), and rural communities where cell coverage is spotty.

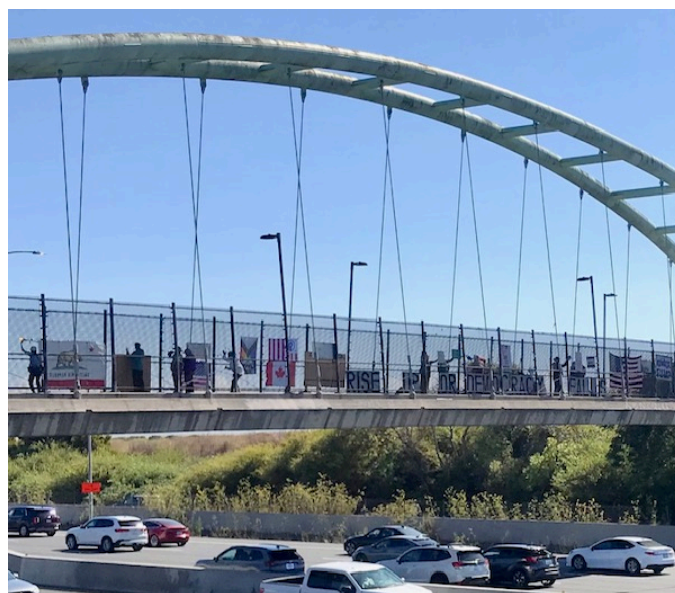
Petition to Shut Alligator Alcatraz: <https://www.change.org/p/shut-down-alligator-alcatraz-no-donation-required>

BFUU Social Justice Photos



Phoebe raised a fist while being arrested 8/18 for "interfering with business" at Black Rock inc. in SF with 15 others from Stop Billionaires and Extinction Rebellion's Corporate Tour of Shame. We also protested Chubby Insurance and Chase Bank. The night before, panelists at BFUU included Texans, someone from Louisiana, and a Native American woman. All told of suffering and family member's deaths due to fossil fuel extraction. While listening, we painted protest signs. More photos:

<https://kunstena.smugmug.com/Politics-1/Demonstrations/2025-Demonstrations/2025-Aug-18-SF-Walk-of-Environmental-Shame>



Above: Signs read "Rise Up Or Democracy Falls" on August 16. Meets every two weeks on Sunday 3-5pm.



Above: The Golden Rule peace boat at the Berkeley Marina



Left: Stop AI meets Sundays 6-8pm. Free "Stop AI" T-shirt for attending a protest (SF 4th Fridays 4:30) or 3 meetings.

In Loving Memory

In memoriam

Lawrance Phillips

December 29, 1926 to August 9, 2025



Opera singer, revolutionary, fighter for a better world.

He was a lover of music, history, science, and nature.

He never stopped questioning, asking why,
or accepting easy answers.

He had a great sense of humor.

Beloved friend, relative, comrade.

Memorial service is being planned

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday September 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

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: bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Host: **Hali Hammer** (she/her) Award-winning singer/songwriter. A founding member of Occupella which plays at political rallies/causes. Bass player and vocalist in Jump-In which performs "folk & oldies." The ReSisters, trio performing political parodies. The Hali Hammer Band performs her originals, plus those of Randy Berge (guitar) and Paul Herzoff (harmonica.) <http://www.halihammer.com/wp/>



Featured Artist: **Mark Lemaire**'s guitar compositions and songs are shaped by many years as recording engineer and producer for everyone from the San Francisco Symphony to Rolling Stones' producer Jimmy Miller. While the playing can be complex, it's not about showing off. The compositions are the thing: they take you to unexpected places that just "feel right" when you arrive.

<https://www.marklemaire.com/>



Breathe Move, Play! Interplay with Rev. Jojo

In person: 2nd and 4th Sundays 1pm-2:30 in Fireside Room (9/14 and 9/28)

Unmute your 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

Freestyle Dance

September 5th, 12th, 26th 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 September 10th, 7 - 9 PM, 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

1st Sundays Writing Group

September 7th 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.

Community Voices and Events

Well of Song with Sharon Knight

Thursday September 4th 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. 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>



Photo by Viva Luna Studios on Unsplash

Divination Fair and Pagan Networking Day

Saturday September 27th 11am - 8pm in Fellowship Hall

Admission: Sliding scale donation (No one turned away for lack of funds.)

TAROT, RUNES, ASTROLOGY, PALMISTRY, I CHING, DOWSING and more? Several Pagan groups join us with READINGS (priced by readers)

Covenant of the Goddess (CoG) celebrates its 50 years with local Pagan groups, OTO, Spiral Path, Reclaiming, Adocentyn Research Library (ARL) etc. with Information Tables and Readers. For more information, join us or to volunteer, email glennt13@gmail.com



BFUU hosted our first neighborhood **National Night Out** on a lovely warm evening on August 5th. National Night Out is an annual campaign where communities across the country come together with the aim of fostering a sense of community, promote neighborhood spirit and help neighbors learn more about public safety.

We enjoyed meeting many interesting neighbors – some long-time residents as well as some new young families who recently moved to the area. We enjoyed some great refreshments, too – many thanks to those who brought goodies!

We were lucky to have Berkeley District 4 Council Member Igor Tregub and a number of his staff attend and chat with us. Our local police also attended and we were able to ask them questions and get to know our local officer. Many thanks to everyone who attended!

We looking forward to hosting a block party/open house later in the fall as well!

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

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 9/25 at 3:00 PM on Zoom.

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 9/21 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 9/3 at 5:00 PM

Please contact 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)

3rd Sunday noonish - after service

contact [SJC Chair Phoebe](#)

Worship Services

1st 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, 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 September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	3 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	4 7:00 pm - CB Well of Song 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	5 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; transform: rotate(45deg); width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	6
7 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club	8 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	9 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	10 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	11 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	12 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; transform: rotate(45deg); width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:30pm Freestyle </div>	13
14 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	15 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 6:30 pm - FH Move!	16 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	17	18 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	19 <div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic* - FH </div>	20
21 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee	22 Communicator Deadline 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 6:30 pm - FH Move!	23 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	24	25 3:00 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	26 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; transform: rotate(45deg); width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	27 11:00 am - 8:00 pm - FH Divination Fair
28 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	29 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 6:30 pm - FH Move!	30 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;"> HAPPY BIRTHDAY </div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; color: #00AEEF; margin-top: 10px;"> Barbara Myers Betsy Nachman Phoebe Thomas Sorgen Cheryl White </div>			

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

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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 OCTOBER COMMUNICATOR:

September 22, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Please email office@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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