



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

October 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



October 5: Hear the Poets Speak

Various guest speakers

Experience poetry from ancient days to now, from ancient writings to the writings of our current friends, from our congregants in person and our friends on Zoom.

October 12: Learning from the Past to Enliven the Present

Jeffrey Melcher (he/him)

Humorous and sometimes serious stories from the history of BFUU. Is our redwood tree a Buddhist? Who was the activist who came in a pink leotard? Does history matter? Does it repeat itself? Are there moments of choice in the multiverse? Come reflect, sing, laugh, and ponder the universe.



October 19: Bees, Our Connection to the Cosmos

Bonnie Borucki (she/her)

Connecting the work of pollinators, especially bees, to our lives on earth. How we have benefited from the bees co-evolution with plants and how we can support that relationship.

October 26: Wings, Roots and Seeds: Emergent Wisdom from the Interdependent Web

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

adrienne maree brown describes “emergence as the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions.” How can UUs learn from birds in synchronized flight, entangled oak tree roots and the structure of dandelions and fungi and apply these lessons in biomimicry to our collective organizing?





Office: 1606 Bonita Ave Berkeley CA 94709
510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

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Chair currently vacant
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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

Hello fellow congregants,

In August, Lawrance Phillips, otherwise known as Larry, passed away at the age of 98. He was one of our choir members, and sang solos with Andy Jamieson on the piano on many occasions. I have a fond memory of him reciting "Twas the Night Before Christmas.

We will miss his warm humor, and his presence at our Fellowship.

A memorial for Larry will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday October 4th from 2-4pm.

Margaret

October Shared Plate Partner

The Poor People's Campaign

Donate: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/donate/>

In 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others called for a "revolution of values" in America. They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The Poor People's Campaign.

Today, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up this unfinished work. From Alaska to Arkansas, the Bronx to the border, people are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. We understand that as a nation we are at a critical juncture — that we need a movement that will shift the moral narrative, impact policies and elections at every level of government, and build lasting power for poor and impacted people.

Worship Service Leaders

Jeffrey Melcher (he/him)

Jeffrey Melcher, M.Div started with BFUU when he landed in Berkeley in 1996. Teacher, healer, and religious professional, Jeffrey served BFUU in multiple roles: RE teacher, interim DRE, interim office manager, delegate to GA, UU young adult organizer, VP, and President. He currently serves at UU Oakland as the Dir of Children and Family Ministry.

Bonnie Borucki (she/her)

My fascination with bees began by inviting a beekeeper's hives into my backyard around 2012. I also noticed the many types of bees thriving so abundantly in a community garden where I was a member. An increased awareness of a bee die-off, noticed first in honeybees, was also happening at this time.

In order to protect the Ashby Community Garden, some members, including myself, formed the non-profit, We Bee Gardeners, which functioned as a 501c3 for 10 years, before disbanding in 2024. During this time, we learned about local Native Bees and their tremendous connection to our local habitat.

In 2022 the Sogorea Te Land Trust purchased the garden properties through the benevolence of an anonymous donor, and renamed it "Pinnantak", which in the Ohlone Chenchenyo language, translates as "Place of the Bee." From there I became involved in a wider community education and action effort to make the City of Berkeley an official Bee City USA. That effort is still in progress, and Transition Berkeley, a 501c3 which I co-direct, has been planting native plant pollinator gardens in public locations to provide a pollinator corridor where native bees and other pollinators thrive.

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)

REV KEV was ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland on October 1st, 2023, the first day of both Filipino American and LGBTQ History Months. He serves as a Chaplain at Sequoia Hospice, Consultant for Partnership with the UU Church of the Philippines and founded the California statewide chapter of DRUUMM (Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries). His ministry is rooted in Collective Liberation where none of us are free until all of us are free.

In Loving Memory: Ann Fagan Ginger

ANN FAGAN GINGER was a beloved mentor to many at BFUU and a strong member of our BFUU community, as was Richard Challacombe whom she met and fell in love with at BFUU late in life. Her immeasurable influence on BFUU's Social Justice Committee will live on. Abbot and Esteban supervised her live-in care these last years by a Tongan family who revered her. She enjoyed their lively church. At the end, she expressed the wish to "be with Richard," extended her arms outward in an embrace, and peacefully left this plane.

10 minute feisty video as we remember her: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92y21uFXLsc&feature=youtu.be>

Scroll way below the photos and her numerous awards for another video and an opportunity to add condolences, memories, etc.: <https://everloved.com/life-of/ann-ginger/memories/>

OBITUARY Ann Fagan Ginger (July 11, 1925 – August 20, 2025)

Ann Fagan Ginger, a fearless and visionary American attorney, writer, educator, and civil rights pioneer, passed away peacefully on August 20, 2025, at her home in Berkeley, just weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday. A towering figure in human rights and international peace law, Ann founded the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute and received a lifetime achievement award from the National Lawyers Guild. Her seven decades of unwavering dedication to justice inspired generations of activists, lawyers, and scholars.

Born on July 11, 1925, in East Lansing, Michigan, to radical parents of English-Quaker, Irish-Catholic, and Lithuanian-Jewish descent, Ann's commitment to social justice took root early. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1947, one of only eight women in her class. Despite her credentials, law firms wouldn't hire her because, in her words, "it didn't occur to them [...] that a woman could be a lawyer." She began her career as an administrator at the National Lawyers Guild, the first step in what would become an extraordinary legal journey spanning seven decades.

Ann practiced labor law in Ohio (1948-1952) before moving to Boston with her then-husband, historian Ray Ginger, whom she had met at Michigan. During the McCarthy era, Ann and her then-husband refused loyalty oaths, leading to their expulsion from Harvard Business School and relocation to New York City. For twenty years, Ann was barred from practicing law because she refused to take a loyalty oath and was targeted by the FBI. During this challenging period, Ann served as an administrator and later editor of *The Guild Practitioner* for the National Lawyers Guild while raising two sons, Thomas and James Ginger. She also spearheaded efforts to dismantle McCarthyism, including arguing and winning the case *Raley v. Ohio* (23 April 1959) before the U.S. Supreme Court, upholding the due process rights of a target of Ohio's state-level Un-American Activities Committee. In 1955, with remarkable foresight, she launched the Civil Liberties Docket, a groundbreaking archive of civil rights litigation that became an essential resource for lawyers and activists nationwide.

In Loving Memory: Ann Fagan Ginger cont.

Ann's courage in the face of adversity defined her activism. In 1962, she was the only woman lawyer at the first joint meeting of Black and white attorneys in the South, co-sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta. There, she was photographed alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and many other civil rights leaders, speaking in favor of the movement and presciently predicting the coming Women's Rights Movement. Two years later, during Berkeley's Free Speech Movement protests, she was photographed atop a police car on the same day Mario Savio delivered his iconic speech - a powerful symbol of her lifelong commitment to free expression. In the early 1970s, she defended Angela Davis, amplifying her role in the civil rights movement.

In 1965, Ann founded the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in Berkeley, naming it after educator and political philosopher Alexander Meiklejohn, whose eloquent First Amendment advocacy during the Cold War she deeply admired. Under her leadership, MCLI became a powerhouse for legal research, education, and advocacy, training hundreds of interns and volunteers while publishing influential works and providing crucial amicus briefs to courts. In 1995, she spoke at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, amplifying her global influence. In 2009, through MCLI, she presented a report at the CERD conference in Geneva, introducing the Oscar Grant case and exposing U.S. failures to meet obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, while advocating for the Cuban Five.

Ann pioneered the integration of public international law, military law, and constitutional law into what she termed "peace law," a legal innovation that helped secure acquittals for nuclear weapons protesters and other activists. Her expertise made her a sought-after expert witness and lecturer at institutions including U.C. Hastings, Santa Clara University, and San Francisco State University. She also taught Labor Law and Constitutional Law from 1974-78 at New College of California in SF. Students recall her as a GREAT teacher who made Constitutional law relevant to the issues of the day.

Her legal achievements were groundbreaking. She authored or edited two dozen books, including *The National Lawyers Guild: From Roosevelt Through Reagan* (1988), *Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal* (1998), and the award-winning *Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11* (2005). Her scholarship emphasized the enforceability of international human rights treaties in U.S. courts, a field she essentially created. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she exposed human rights violations, advocating for justice for affected communities. Throughout her career, Ann's support for conscientious objectors helped many navigate their legal cases, reflecting her commitment to peace and individual rights.

Ann's impact extended far beyond the courtroom. Serving alternately as Chair or Vice-Chair of Berkeley's Peace and Justice Commission over 13 years beginning in 1986, she wrote the resolution establishing Berkeley as a Human Rights City and likely influenced the city's 1986

In Loving Memory: Ann Fagan Ginger cont.

Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act. She spearheaded Berkeley's groundbreaking effort to become the first U.S. city to file compliance reports with international human rights treaties; work that began around 2009 and influenced a 2010 California State Assembly resolution encouraging other localities to follow suit.

Her lifetime of service earned numerous honors: Outstanding Woman of Berkeley (1990), a Lifetime Achievement Award from Berkeley's Commission on the Status of Women (2009), a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Lawyers Guild, and recognition from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (2019), whose California leaders called her a "jewel."

As attorney Peter Goldberger wrote in celebrating her centennial, "Her intellect, courage, creativity, and determination make her a worthy role model for all those who strive to combine the highest professional standards with a dedication to steady principles." Rev. Daniel Buford, former MCLI Director, called her "the oracle of justice" — a sentiment echoed by hundreds of interns, colleagues, and activists who regarded her as a beacon of human dignity and freedom.

Ann is survived by her son, James Ginger, of Berkeley. She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Ginger, a lawyer who passed away in 1998 from multiple sclerosis complications, and by her beloved companion of over 20 years, J.R. "Richard" Challacombe, a writer, photographer, journalist, environmentalist, anti-imperialist, and WWII conscientious objector, who died in May 2020. Ann was previously married to Ray Ginger and later to James F. Wood; both marriages eventually ended.

Ann's legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched and the legal precedents she established. Her century of courage, intellect, and unwavering commitment to justice continues to inspire all who strive for a better world.

A memorial service will be held in honor of United Nations/Human Rights Day, a day Ann deeply cherished. The service is planned for Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 2:30 pm. (This will happen at BFUU if there are enough people willing to organize it.)

A second service celebrating Ann's life will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 2:30 pm at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., where she was a long-time member.

Details will be announced on the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists website (bfuu.org) and on the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute website (mclihumanrights.org) and Facebook page. Donations may be made to the Ann Fagan Ginger Legacy Fund to support publication of her work in human rights and peace law, including her forthcoming memoir. Those touched by Ann's life are invited to share memories and stories to celebrate her enduring impact on justice and humanity with stories, photos, and memories on her tribute page at: <https://everloved.com/life-of/ann-ginger/>

Food Resources

Thanks to Social Justice Committee Ardys for caring about hunger in Berkeley and bringing it up at a meeting. Thanks to Craig for offering to research food resources and following through. In addition to resources listed below, the Dorothy Day House provides prepared meals twice daily and numerous homeless services: <https://www.dorothydayhouse.org>

MEAL & FOOD RESOURCES

PLEASE NOTE: Participants may not be enrolled in more than one meal program (Onsite Lunch or Meals on Wheels) at a time.

Tri-City Café Lunch

Delicious and healthful hot lunches are offered at SBSC, NBSC, Emeryville and Albany Senior Centers. Details on days, times and locations are listed on [page 5](#).

For more information, contact NBSC at 510-981-5190 or SBSC at 510-981-5170.

Mercy Brown Bag

Mercy Brown Bags will be available for pickup at the Berkeley Senior Centers
No Distributions on Holidays

North Berkeley Senior Center Dates: 1st & 3rd Friday's : 8/1/25 1:00PM-3:00PM / 8/15/25

&South Berkeley Senior Center Dates: 1st & 3rd Friday's : 8/1/25 11:00AM -2:00PM / 8/15/25

Berkeley Meals on Wheels:

Meals on Wheels provides up to (7) meals per week to participants based on eligibility. If you live in Berkeley and want to find out if you qualify for Meals on Wheels, call (510) 981-5250 or email Seniors@cityofberkeley.info. **NOTE: Meals on Wheels participants are considered homebound and therefore would not be participating in the senior center activities & lunch program at the same time**
Other Local Meals on Wheels Programs

Albany: (510) 524-9122 Emeryville: (510) 209-1028
Oakland/San Leandro/Hayward/Castro Valley/San Lorenzo: (510) 582-1263
West Contra Costa County: (510) 412-0166

CalFresh (Formerly Food Stamps)

CalFresh provides money for nutritious food for those who meet income eligibility criteria. Alameda County Food Bank can help with eligibility questions and getting signed up. Phone number for application & interview: (510) 272-3663

Alameda County Food Bank

Phone: (510) 635-3663 Website: <https://www.accfb.org/get-food/>
The helpline will connect you to a source for groceries and a hot meal the same day.

Berkeley Food Network

Where: 1925 Ninth Street
When: Tuesday & Thursday 11am-3pm, 5pm-7pm

Berkeley Food Pantry

Where: 1600 Sacramento St
When: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 2pm-4pm

Pantry at South Berkeley Senior Center in Collaboration with the Berkeley Food Network

UPDATE - additional pantry day! Starting in August 2025, the Pantry at South Berkeley Senior Center in Collaboration with the Berkeley Food Network will be held every Second AND Fourth Monday of each month 2pm-3pm (excluding holidays). Please bring a reusable bag for seasonal produce, eggs, protein, bread, shelf-stable items and frozen vegetarian meals.

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday October 17 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

Host: **Marcie Boyd** is a Berkeley-based singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, social justice activist, and ESL teacher. She's a member of La Peña chorus, Occupella, Vox Mamas and several other vocal groups. She loves learning and teaching songs in different languages. Featured Artist: **TBA**

Breathe Move, Play! Interplay with Rev. Jojo

On Zoom: 1st and 3rd Sundays 1pm-2:30

In person: 2nd and 4th Sundays 1pm-2:30 in Fireside Room

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 your Connections! \$5-\$15 donations accepted, no one turned away for lack of funds. RSVP by email josefina.gabuya@cst.edu



Freestyle Dance

October 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st 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 October 8th, 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

October 5th 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



For the whole family!

Come celebrate the Supermoon
with seasonal song and dance
from China!

來與 Revels 一起慶祝今年的第一個
超級月亮！

MID-AUTUMN LIGHTS

中秋同樂日

歡迎全家一起來

Sunday, October 5

3-5 p.m.

BFUU Fellowship Hall

1924 Cedar St.

Berkeley



Learn songs about the moon
from children's music
educator Vita Hsieh and
actor/singer Joann Wu, share
stories and traditions of the
Mid-Autumn Festival and
sample festive foods.

In English and Mandarin, all
voices and ages welcome, no
experience necessary.

跟兒童音樂專家 Vita老師
和演員加欣學唱與月亮有關
的歌曲，分享中秋節的典
故，與大家一同起舞，品嚐
中秋美食。

活動以國語和英語進行。
歡迎所有歌唱水平和舞蹈水
平的參與者，無需經驗。



Free for kids; adults \$20
suggested donation

californiarevels.org



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 10/23 at 3:00 PM on Zoom.

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 10/19 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 10/1 at 5:00 PM
Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

Regular Committee Meetings			
<i>Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)</i> Meets as needed contact Aesthetics Committee	<i>Finance</i> Meets as needed contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Nominating</i> meets as needed contact Virginia Hollins-Davidson	<i>Social Justice Ministry</i> meets as needed contact Margaret Hurlbert
<i>Buildings & Grounds (B&G)</i> Meets once per month, contact Ben and Abbot	<i>Hospitality</i> meets as needed contact Hospitality	<i>Personnel</i> Meets as needed Contact Ben Burch	<i>Social Justice (SJC)</i> 3 rd Sunday noonish - after service contact SJC Chair Phoebe
<i>Caring</i> meets as needed contact Karen Dewald	<i>Membership</i> meets as needed contact Jeff Palmer	<i>Poetry</i> Meets as needed contact Frances Hillyard	<i>Worship Services</i> 1 st Wednesday at 5:00 PM contact WSC Chair Jeff Palmer
<i>Committee on Ministry</i> meets as needed contact Jinky Gardner	<i>Music</i> meets as needed contact Margaret Hurlbert	<i>Religious Education</i> Meets as needed contact RE Committee	

Pastoral Care with Rev. Jojo

Pastoral/spiritual care provides soul companioning to any BFUU member/ guest care seeker, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, beliefs, status, and other divisive demographics. Soul companioning helps care seekers listen for the spiritual misery they may be experiencing, without changing or compromising their own faith convictions.

Rev. Jojo offers in-person pastoral/spiritual care, either at the care seeker’s home or, at the BFUU Minister’s Office at 1606 Bonita Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709. For appointments, please call [+1\(209\)-693-8947](tel:+1(209)-693-8947), or email: revjojo@bfuu.org.

Rev. Jojo will be attending the UU Ministers of the East Bay’s Retreat on October 17-19, 2025 at Maria Villa Del Mar in Santa Cruz, CA. They will not be available for pastoral care while on retreat.



Fellowship Calendar October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	2 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	3 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	4 2:00 pm - FH Larry Phillips Memorial
5 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club 3:00 pm- FH Mid- Autumn Lights	6 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	7 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	8 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	9 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	10 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness 7:30pm Freestyle	11 7:00 pm - FH Joy of Singing
12 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	13 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	14 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	15	16 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	17 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic* - FH	18
19 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ Congregational Meeting - 12:30pm FH	20	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ Communicator Deadline	22	23 3:00 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	24 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	25 3:00 pm - FH OLOC Fall Dance
26 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay with Rev. Jojo	27	28 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	29	30 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	31 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

*Abbot Foote
Brett Torres
Mike Gardner*

*Rev. Simone Chiodini
Rev. Tom McAninley*

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

Anders Renee - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER COMMUNICATOR:

October 21, 2025 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