



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

February 2026

BFUU
ZOOM
Worship Service

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

February 1: Sikh Ideology of One Universal Creator

Satinder Singh (he/him)

Sikh ideology is based on One Universal Creator and oneness of all humanity and creation. Satinder Singh will discuss about the tenets of Sikhism that emphasize that all people are fundamentally equal and one may get this realization through service and humility. The path of Sikhism involves honest living, meditation, and sharing rooted in the belief of oneness.



February 8: Across the Racial Divide: How 28 Years in Paris has Changed a Black Journalist's View of the World

Ricki Stevenson (she/her)

Ricki Stevenson began her love affair with Paris as a child. Now her Divinely guided walk of faith inspires thousands of travelers to take her Black Paris Tour! Learn more about the rich legacy of Black Paris history through the eyes of this Oakland born journalist.

February 15: Lady Bianca Sings the Blues: A Music Celebration of Black History Month

Lady Bianca (she/her)

Please join us for a musical celebration of Black History Month! Our guest speaker/musician is Lady Bianca, a local legend who has been called "The Queen of Gospel and Blues". Lady Bianca will lead us on a musical journey through gospel, jazz and blues and give us her musical insights for this important historical holiday.



February 22: Anti-Capitalism, Democratic Socialism & Gift Economy

Hank Pellissier (he/him)

Greed, Exploitation, and Hoarding are prioritized in the USA financial system that places top value on solitary profit. The result is beggars, billionaires, endless war, and eco-catastrophe. New economies are desperately needed. Democratic Socialism will be advocated, and beyond that, the community-building utopia of empathetic Gift Economics.



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

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Jojo 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

Gillian Fynn, *President*
Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, *Vice President*
Mike Gardner
Margaret Hurlbert
Sumi Hoshiko
Betsy Nachman (*Alternate*)
Ben Burch (*Alternate*), *Treasurer/Secretary*

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

Grief, horror, fury. It is hard to know what to write in such a time.

This week I have felt inspired by our fellow countrymen in Minneapolis, at the same time, exhausted by the witness of such evil.

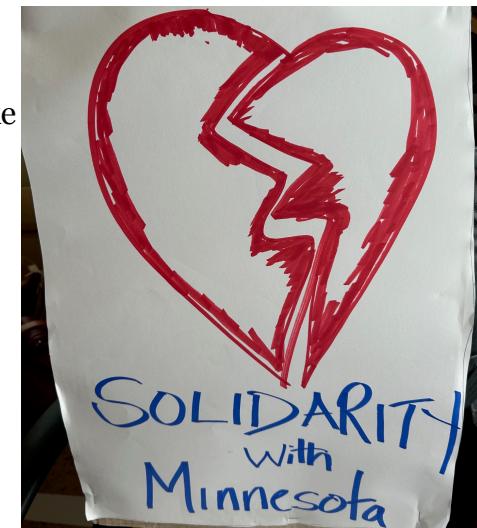
Two themes are emerging in thoughtful journalism – one is National Trauma, the other is Moral Injury. National Trauma refers more to the psychological/physical impact of watching violence and terror. Our nervous systems don't distinguish well between reality and what we see on the screen. Because we are empathetic creatures we feel as we watch our fellow citizens suffer and it haunts us even when not watching. That is exhausting and can be debilitating. We call that Vicarious Trauma.

Moral Injury is the psychological/emotional toll from the betrayal of deeply held values and moral standards. It's a soul wound. We are watching our Government betray so many legal standards and norms. Many of us feel disoriented "this is not the country I thought I lived in". They are behaving in a way that is completely antithetical to our Unitarian Universalist core beliefs. We cannot accommodate ourselves to this new reality.

One thing I know - it is important to gather together. In fellowship we can feel some stability. Solidarity brings comfort and power. I feel so fortunate that in our Bay Area there are multiple opportunities for unity and courage. Rev. Gregory reminded us on Sunday that our Unitarian values call us to participate. I was so proud that BFUU was willing to offer its space to Indivisible East Bay on Sunday afternoon for its kick off '26 meeting. Our Fellowship Hall was completely packed with citizens ready to undertake multiple tasks to turn the tide. This was so reflective of the faithful, activist fellowship BFUU is.

Shalom

gillian



Worship Service Leaders

Satinder Singh (he/him)

Satinder Pal Singh is a Structural Engineer and has been a regular attendee at the El Sobrante Sikh Center congregation for over thirty-five years. He taught Sunday School for nearly twenty years from 1995 through 2014. He has also mentored high school students in the community and has often volunteered on behalf of the Sikh Center.

Ricki Stevenson (she/her)

Ricki Stevenson, is an international journalist and founder of Black Paris Tours, now in its 28th year of introducing more than 250 thousand travelers to the rich legacy of Black history in the City of Light. Born at Oak Knoll Naval hospital, raised in East Palo Alto, Ricki dreamed of two things as a child: (1) Becoming a newscaster to tell the truth about Black people and (2) Living in Paris. Armed with an MA in History/Political Science from Stanford, she's anchored national radio newscasts from NYC, served as a United Nations correspondent, anchored and reported with KCBS (San Francisco), Financial News Network, News Travel Network, the British Sky News Network, KRON and France24 (the French version of CNN. Ricki says her life as been a Divinely guided walk of Faith that began when she was 3 years old and her Mom, a former dancer, took her to see the Josephine Baker perform.

Lady Bianca (she/her)

Lady Bianca is a Gospel and R&B vocalist/pianist and producer with roots in Kansas City, MO. Raised by a father who taught her Texas Blues piano as a child, Bianca's formal training began at age nine with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where her exceptional talent garnered her a full four year scholarship. Bianca's first paying gig was at the age of seventeen with Quinn Harris & The Masterminds and it was Harris who bestowed the title of Lady Bianca as she was "so pure and conservative". Since then, Lady Bianca has evolved into an icon in the San Francisco Bay Area and is widely known as the "Queen of the Blues and Gospel".

Hank Pellissier (he/him)

Hank is founder/director of Humanist Mutual Aid Network, a nonprofit working mostly in Africa. He lives in Piedmont with his wife Carol, they raised two bio-daughters, and they're now guardians of a foster refugee girl from Ethiopia, plus Hank has a bio-son (he was the sperm donor to two lesbian friends). Hank is currently a contracted education writer for GreatSchools.org, he was previously managing director for a futurist think tank, the Institute for Ethics & Emerging Technology, and a columnist for Salon.com, SFGate.com, and NYTimes (SF edition) His main interest is wealth distribution/global egalitarianism/poverty alleviation; he just launched a website titled Eat The Rich. He also writes limericks and doggerel, decades ago he was a performance artist and a SF Slam Poetry co-champion.

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday February 16 at 7:00 PM

Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Comedians, Storytellers, etc.

Sign-ups begin 6:30. Perform or just come to enjoy! Show time 7:00pm

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: bfuusjv-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Host: Hali Hammer (she/her) Beloved singer/songwriter, activist, and teacher, cofounder of Occupella.

Featured Artist: Amity Rose (aka Meghan McGeary, AEA, SAG-AFTRA) is a powerhouse vocalist and performing songwriter whose musical tales unfold like the petals of a wild rose, leaning towards the moody, cinematic, mythical and fantastical. Jazz, Folk-rock and Americana meets chanson in her original music and interpretations of select covers. Vocals, piano & guitar. Her 2017 album release "What They Came For" is available on all streaming platforms, CDs at shows only. FMI: Youtube: [@amityrose6703](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6703) www.amityrosemusic.com



Breathe Move, Play! Interplay with Rev. Jojo

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

In person: 2nd and 4th Sundays 2pm-3:30 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

February 6th, 13th, 27th 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 February 11th, 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

February 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.

Poetry Corner

What is it stirs the air, that feeds my blood
and touches with bright wingtips
the silence under my heart?

Thought, a thorough designation
of rhyme and reasons?
Emotions throbbing with the hot earth's
core?

Love flexible and flowing
humble and grand.

Love
in the silence under my heart—flowers.

Frances. Hillyard

Below: Phoebe with a new teen friend and an old friend Aya de Leon, poet/author/line dance leader on MLK Day in Oscar Grant Plaza



Community Voices

SF Bay Area Friends of Standing Together Presents:



MARCH 1 | 12:30PM | TICKETS
New Parkway Theater 474 24th St., Oakland, CA | tinyurl.com/mnf4hkhb



SF Bay Area Friends of Standing Together present: A special screening of award winning documentary **“The Other”** at the New Parkway Theater in Oakland on March 1st, 12:30-2:30 PM.

This eye opening documentary explores the complex relationship between Israelis and Palestinians and the transformative journey that ensues when they meet ‘the other’ amidst the conflict and occupation. The film is a testament to what we are all capable of as humans. Filmed from 2017 to 2023, it includes reflections from peacebuilders and anti-occupation activists post-October 7th.

Tickets:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sfbayareafriendsofstandingtogether/2015564>

Film website and trailer:

<https://weuncoverfilms.com/theother/>

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 Thursday 2/26 at 3:00pm on Zoom

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 2/15 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 2/4 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: josefina.gabuya@cst.edu



Fellowship Calendar February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am - FH+Z <u>Worship Service</u> * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	2 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 7:00 pm - FH Underbelly Dance	3 7:00 pm <u>Choir Practice</u> * ¹	4 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	5 7 pm - CB Medicine Theater 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	6 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	7 9 am - Courtyard New School Open House
8 10:30 am - FH+Z <u>Worship Service</u> * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club 1:00 pm - FR Interplay	9 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	10 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm <u>Choir Practice</u> * ¹	11 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	12 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	13 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	14 7 pm - FH Junkyard Choir
15 10:30 am - FH+Z <u>Worship Service</u> * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	16 President's Day 7:00 pm - FH Underbelly Dance	17 7:00 pm <u>Choir Practice</u> * ¹	18	19 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	20 7 pm - FH Open Mic Night	21 12 pm - 4 pm - FH Meher Baba Birthday Celebration
22 10:30 am - FH+Z <u>Worship Service</u> * ¹ 1:00 pm - FR Interplay	23	24 7:00 pm <u>Choir Practice</u> * ¹	25	26 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting	27 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	28 10 am - 4 pm - FH Insight Meditation Offsite Retreat



Syl Scherzer

Susan Mashiyama

February Shared Plate Partner

Hope for Haiti

<https://stcolumba-oak.com/hope-for-haiti-scholarshipdonations>

<https://stcolumba-oak.com/hopeforhaiti-food-program>

Hope for Haiti works with the Grand Ravine Community Human Rights Council in Port-Au-Prince to provide full scholarships for children in Haiti to attend school. In 2024 HHE also started providing lunches for children at school.

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 MARCH COMMUNICATOR:

February 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

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Office: 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 | Fellowship Hall: 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709
T: 510-841-4824 | E: office@bfuu.org | www.bfuu.org