



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

March 2026



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

March 1: The Whimsy and Muse of Dr. Seuss

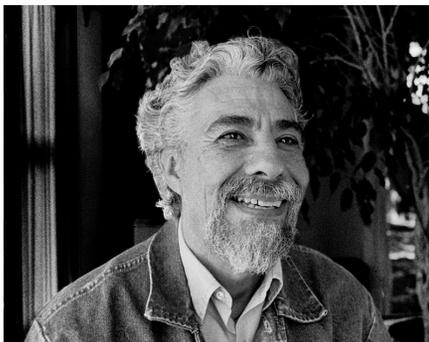
Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

A sermon (of sorts) by the Rev. Ben Meyers in honor of the 125th (ish) birthday of Theodore Seuss Geisel. "Fun is good." - Dr. Seuss

"I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. Which is what I do, and that enables you to laugh at life's realities." - Theodore Geisl



Image by ErikaWittlieb from Pixabay



March 8: Poetry, Protests, Power and Peace

Rafael Jesús González (he/him)

"Poetry is, like bread, everyone's." So says Rafael Jesús González, who was chosen as Berkeley's first Poet Laureate in 2017. He will share his life experiences as a poet, visual artist, educator, and longtime peace activist. The founder of Laney College's Mexican and Latin American Studies Department, Professor González is still marching for peace.

March 15: TBA

March 22: TBA

March 29: When Nothing Can Be Done

Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

The gift of perspective can be an affirming source of comfort, but it can also cause us pain. What can we do if we realize that we might have been much better off if we had only known then what we know now? Join us today for reflections about perspective, grief, and the grace that can help us move forward.

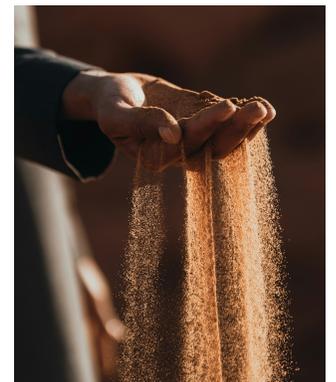


Image by NEOM from Unsplash



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

Clergy & Staff

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

Building Community

BFUU embodies so well their words “building community within and without these walls”, especially within these walls. Our Fellowship Hall hosts a vibrant stream of activity from laughing children to groups serving community needs, musical performances, artists, and activists. On a Sunday morning that I am acting as greeter, it is not unusual for a new visitor to tell me that they came to some event held in Fellowship Hall and wanted to find out more about us. I hope you will all notice when an unfamiliar face is with us on a Sunday morning, and take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them.

-Gillian Fynn

March Shared Plate Partner

Healthy Black Families

<https://healthyblackfam.org/donate>

Founded in 2013 by Vicki Alexander, MD, MPH, Healthy Black Families works at the intersection of public health, community empowerment, and cultural connection.

Our programs are shaped by the voices, histories, and lived experiences of Black families—and grounded in trust, cultural pride, and mutual care.

We bring our mission to life through three core areas of work: Community Support & Direct Services, Culturally-Rooted Programs, and Collective Action & Policy Change.

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 LGTBQ+ rights.

Rafael Jesús González (he/him)

Rafael Jesús González, Prof. Emeritus of literature and creative writing, was born and raised biculturally/bilingually in El Paso, Texas/Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, and taught at various universities before settling at Laney College, Oakland, California where he founded the Dept. of Mexican & Latin-American Studies in 1969. Also a visual artist, he has exhibited in the Oakland Museum of California, the Mexican Museum of San Francisco, and others in the U.S. and Mexico. Four times nominated for a Pushcart price, he was honored by the National Council of Teachers of English and Annenberg CPB for his writing in 2003. In 2013 he received a César E. Chávez Lifetime Award and was honored by the City of Berkeley with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 13th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival 2015. He is the first poet laureate of Berkeley.

rjgonzalez.blogspot.com

Rev. 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 Committee

YES to PEACE, Social & Eco JUSTICE!

By the time you read this, the US may have waged disastrous war on Iran. If so, keep protesting and calling legislators. If not yet, please endorse the pledge to take action when it happens: <https://unac.notowar.net/emergency-call-to-action-for-iran/>

Sat. 3/28 will be the 3rd nationwide No Kings Day with big marches in SF and Oakland. Contact Phoebe (510-646-3596) to help with a possible 1pm march from Zellerbach Theater, where Michael Pollan speaks, down Bancroft, right on Shattuck ending at Bioneers events on Allston and Center.

Thank Goddess that awareness is growing re Ai risks. "The People vs Ai" made the cover of Time this month. **Forbes**: "Anthropic Ai Safety Researcher Warns of World in Peril in Resignation." **"The Ai Doc"** film opens in theaters March 27. It can be depressing to face this dire risk, which many Ai experts have likened to nuclear war, and it's advancing much faster than nuclear weapons did. Joan Baez said the antidote to despair is action. The antidote to Ai risk is also action. So "win win" if you call Capitol Hill, sign the statements below, sign up for **Micro Commit** (5 min. per wk), write letters to editors, compose a poem or song about it to raise awareness (send it to Phoebe please), **donate**, and/or **protest/demonstrate**.

Guido, who spoke briefly at BFUU a few months ago, is on a **protest march to Sacramento**, combined with his 2nd hunger strike, re the need for a global ban on development of AGI and Artificial Superintelligence. His last hunger strike in front of Anthropic lasted 31 days. He and Phoebe presented recently on UUCB's Humanist Connection forum.

Statements to sign: <https://controlai.com/open-statement>
<https://superintelligence-statement.org> Capitol Hill 800-826-3688

SAVE these DATES:

Sun. 3/8 10:30 am: **"Poetry, Protests, Power & Peace"** BFUU service message from **Rafael Jesús González**, lifelong peace activist, poet, visual artist and educator.

After lunch, opening reception for our new exhibit **"Marching: Photography by James Lerager"** images from protest marches.

Sun. 3/8 5pm-6:30 free Zoom program: **"Criminal Syndicates, Mafia, CIA, & Politicians: The Enterprise-Octopus as a part of the Ruling Class"** - **Dr. James McFadden**, UCB research physicist who, for 15 yrs, studied history, economics, poli sci - especially ire U.S. Empire. (not a BFUU event) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85449203697>
Meeting ID: 854 4920 3697

Social Justice Committee contd.

Sat. 3/21 noon **March to Stop the AI Race** from Anthropic (500 Howard St., SF) to OpenAI (1455 3rd St) to xAI (3180 18th St) to Dolores Park at 3pm. <https://luma.com/sok8wvee?tk=Orp3To>

Mon. 3/23 7 pm BFUU Hall - SJC public forum **“Socialism: Trillion\$ For Human Needs Not Endless Wars & Eco Destruction! Abolish ICE! Free Palestine!**

Kshama SAWANT in person! 10yr elected socialist to Seattle City Council who got the highest minimum wage in the nation, leader of the Revolutionary Workers Party/Workers Strike Back, now a candidate for US Congress, with **Jeff Mackler**, Socialist Action National Secretary, twice a candidate for US Pres., leader/founder United National Antiwar Coalition, Director Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Sat. 3/28 **No Kings Day** nationwide rallies/marches. Big ones in SF 11:30, Oakland 1pm Oscar Grant Plz. Don't miss what may turn out to be US history's very largest nonviolent protest! Contact Phoebe to help with possible Berkeley march 1pm from Zellerbach Hall down Bancroft (because hundreds of Bioneers may be “ripe for the pickin.”)

Mon. 3/30 6:30 pm BFUU Hall. **East Bay Activist Community POTLUCK**. All welcome, even if you aren't an activist. Bring whatever food you wish (except alcohol) to share. If all goes well and enough people pitch in, we might do this monthly. Attendees will be invited to briefly introduce themselves and their work or their organization(s).

For a better world, please spread the word!



Left: BFUU members Joanna Foley, Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, and Mike Kerr with members of Uhuru after the Reparations event at BFUU on January 31st

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday March 20 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: bfuusjev-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: **Eric Wong (Cedar Waxwing)** (he/him) is a musician, songwriter, and co-founder of the band The Birds I Heard. With over twenty years of songwriting experience, Eric's music has evolved alongside his own life journey. His songwriting has always been deeply personal, and more recently, it has reflected a deeper connection to the changes in his own life, including marriage and fatherhood. These experiences shape his lyrics, bringing a fresh perspective to his music that blends introspection with new emotional depth. <https://cedarwaxwing.bandcamp.com/album/baroque-folk>



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

Freestyle Dance

March 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

Thursday March 12th, 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

March 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.

Community Voices

BFUU has fans from afar!

*Email received after Hank's 2/22 service
"Anti-Capitalism, Democratic Socialism & Gift
Economy"*

Hello from Berlin, Germany.

I have no idea why the YouTube algorithm just showed me the live stream of your service.

But it felt like stumbling into a room and I really enjoyed your vibe so I decided to stay. I'm a 33 year old journalist who only ever knew catholic church. Now I spent my Sunday evening with you, listening to your music, reading along on your fun call and response element, and chuckling about the Barbie and Ken poem.

Your dedication gives me hope in these trying times!

And your music and humor and warmth just made my day. Thank you, all you wonderful people! You seem like a great community. (And the fascists are bound to lose) -Marie



The Berkeley City Council • 2026

Flip the Berkeley City Council 2026 is a coalition of community groups and concerned residents working to bring integrity and accountability back to our city government by electing council members committed to: Housing as a human right that includes building truly affordable housing and maintaining rent control, Zoning that prioritizes our small businesses and local communities, Transparency in governance, Respect for constituents and their concerns, Police accountability and limiting government surveillance, and Unequivocal support for human rights and free speech.

Elections for City Council will take place in November in four of Berkeley's eight council districts: 1, 4, 7, and 8 ([district map here](#)). Berkeley needs City Council members who respect the residents and will put the public, not special interests, first. We are bringing together grassroots groups and community organizations from across Berkeley to provide support, logistics, and training for prospective candidates who share our desire to flip the current City Council.

If you are interested in running or just want to get involved to bring democracy and accountability back to the Council, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at FlipTheBCC2026@protonmail.com

Our next meeting is Sunday March 1st @ 2pm @ 1834 University Ave.



BFUU Presents



Marching

Photography by James Lerager

Opening Reception

Sunday, March 8, 12:45 PM

Q & A, gallery tour, and refreshments

1924 Cedar Street, Berkeley CA 94709

Art Show and Reception for James Lerager's photography exhibit, "Marching" in Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday March 8th.

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 3/26 at 3:00pm on Zoom

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

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Wednesday 3/4 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](#)

Poetry Corner

Thought like rain
edges toward unknown
terminals, down windows
changing, changing the view

Frances. Hillyard



Mike Kerr
Jean Lieber
Damon Guthrie

Fellowship Calendar March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	2 7:00 pm - FH Underbelly Dance	3 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	4 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	5 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	6 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	7 6:30 pm - FH Transition Berkeley Movie Night
8 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 12:30 pm - FH Art Show Reception 1:00 pm - FR Interplay	9 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	10 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	11	12 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 7:00 pm - FH Berkeley History Club	13 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	14 7:00 pm - FH Women's History Month Concert
15 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee 2:00 pm - Z Interplay	16 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 7:00 pm - FH Underbelly Dance	17 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	18	19 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	20 7 pm - FH Open Mic Night	21
22 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 1:00 pm - FR Interplay	23 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing 7:00 pm - FH Socialism Today	24 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	25	26 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting	27 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	28
29 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 1:00 pm - FR Interplay	30 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	31 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	Join us in celebrating International Women's Day with a concert featuring Bay Area luminaries Maggie Forti & her band Three Rivers, plus The Andrea Prichett Band and special guests Shelley Doty, Irene Sazer and Michaelle Goerlitz, Jeff Hobbs and more! \$20 tickets available on Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-day-concert-maggie-forti-andrea-prichett-shelley-doty-more-tickets-1980242142555			

Transition Berkeley and the Gill Tract Community Farm invite you to attend a **Movie & Potluck** where we will watch and discuss the film [Occupy the Farm](#), directed by Berkeley filmmaker Todd Darling. The film tells the story of a community's fight to save public land for urban farming, profiling an ongoing social movement that started with the 2012 occupation of the Gill Tract in Albany, California. **Doors will open at 6:30pm, with the movie starting at 7:00pm.** \$10 suggested donation, NOTAFLOF

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 APRIL COMMUNICATOR:

March 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