



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

April 2026



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM

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

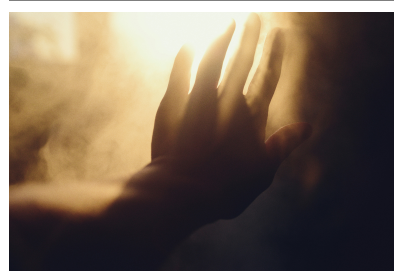
except as noted

reading this offline? please email worshiponline@bfuu.org for link

April 5: Universalism, Perhaps Our Better Half

Darlene Pagano (she/her)

I have noticed the widespread use of the term Unitarian or UU as the preferred abbreviations of our 10-syllable name of Unitarian Universalism. With either shortening, Universalist goes unnamed. The joyful, activist, open-minded, welcoming religious choice of Universalism by the Working, Artisan and Agrarian classes gets short shrift. Within our own religious movement how much is fully understood and appreciated about our second U? Today's homily is given in hopes that this OTHER sibling gets to shine as well as it deserves.



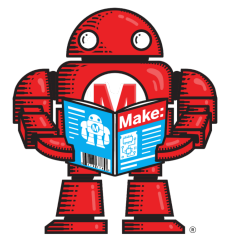
April 12: There's a Light in You

Bob Reid (he/him)

What is it you need when you are awake at 3:00am and your mind is racing? What can you recall when you need that grounding for your windblown worries? Maybe this is it! Perhaps here is something which will help when you struggle with those with whom you disagree. Try it!

April 19: Sunday Assembly Celebration - 20 Years of Maker Faire

Maker Faire Founder Dale Dougherty will share how he put into practice "If you imagine it, you can make it" to make a huge event beloved in the Bay Area and beyond for the past two decades. The first Maker Faire in 2006 at the San Mateo Expo Center brought an explosion of art, craft, engineering, fashion, green design, music, technology, and so much more to the Bay Area. Over the next decade or so, the event expanded to more than 200 licensed Maker Faires in more than 40 countries, and many more smaller events at schools. SAEB President and Maker Faire Crew alumna Michelle Hlubinka exhibited at that Maker Faire 2006 and joined its crew the next spring. She'll be in conversation with some of the key players who made the event—and a whole movement!—happen.



April 26: Mystery and Meaning

Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

In our wondrous world, there are mysteries around every corner. Living in a culture that values science and rationality, how does the unknowable fit into our lives? Join us today for reflections on the value of mystery with our guest speaker, Rev. Bonnie Dlott, who identifies as both a scientist and a mystic.



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

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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

As I write this, we are preparing to participate in No Kings 3 marches. BFUU will be represented in Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. To express our dissent with the current administration is an act of both Faith and patriotism. Faith that the values we cherish can still thrive in this country, Patriotic in the determination to restore the ideals upon which this nation was founded.

-Gillian Fynn

April Shared Plate Partner

TBA

Worship Service Leaders

Darlene Pagano (she/her)

Darlene Pagano has been with the emerging congregation, Live Oak UU Fellowship in Alameda for 16 years since its founding. As your Fellowship knows, this means that everything about us is done by US. A compulsive volunteer (and not interested in recovering) she has held multiple positions in the congregation including being one of the earliest Worship Leaders. Actually, just about every position at one time or another. Except singing in the quite beloved Choir, and that's only because she can't stay in the same key from one measure to the next.

In addition to having Live Oak Fellowship as an anchor for her fundamentally Religious Naturalist spirituality, Darlene has long oriented her life around Radical Feminism and came to Oakland in 1975 to live at the heart of what she believed to be the Progressive political center of the country. While that wasn't EXACTLY true, Oakland has been the organizing heart of her life ever since. Since retiring, she immediately became involved with KPFA, going through their Apprenticeship program and became a producer, joined the local station board as a staff representative and now sits on the National Board of the Pacifica (Radio) Foundation.

Sunday Assembly East Bay

The Sunday Assembly is a secular congregation that celebrate life. Our motto: live better, help often, wonder more. Our mission: to help everyone find and fulfill their full potential. Our vision: a secular congregation in every town, city and village that wants one. We're a non-religious community that meets up to enjoy each other's company and encourage one another to do our best. We gather as a larger group on one Sunday a month. While there's an order to our meeting, we have no doctrine, no sermons, and no liturgy. Instead, we have speakers on wide-ranging topics, sing fun lyrics, and eat lunch together. On other days between the celebrations, we also get together to have book clubs, dine at restaurants, go on hikes, see movies, and lots more. For more information: <https://www.sundayassemblyeastbay.org/home>

Bob Reid (he/him)

Oakland resident, Bob Reid was raised in the UUA. He is the son of Betty Reid Soskin. Bob has performed at the United Nations and at festivals, schools and in concerts across the United States for over 50 years. For the past 10 years he has performed with his partner, the talented singer and songwriter, Judi Jaeger.

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.

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday April 17 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: **Marcie Boyd (she/her)** is beloved songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and singer.

Featured Artist: **MZANN (Sylvia Jeffery, she/her)** is a Blues and Jazz vocalist who brings grace, feeling, and timeless elegance to every song



Freestyle Dance

April 3rd, 10th, 24th 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 April 9th, 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

April 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

New Art Show Coming Soon to Fellowship Hall!

Cathy Raingarden began sketching political protests once a week over a year ago, in January of 2025, out of a need to express her anger over the Trump administration's racist, misogynistic, and illegal actions. She has sketched in massive Indivisible marches of ten thousand people, sketched at Friday night 'dance party protests' on the Berkeley pedestrian overpass with thousands of cars supportively honking from below, and crawled through a chain-link fence to sketch an overpass protest from the highway embankment. She is always seeking to capture the emotion of each protest through the signs, the chants, and the people vehemently protesting the actions of our government. Cathy is a Berkeley based urban sketcher and illustrator. Urban sketching is drawing from real life instead of from within a studio. She carries a small sketchbook on a drawing board, and a small crossbody bag of art supplies, and has become adept at sketching while marching in a protest. She considers this her 'Self-Appointed Artist Residency' and will continue sketching protests for three more years until this administration ends.

Her show of her protest sketches, 'Protest Sketches: Voices from the Street' will open on May 3, 12:45pm-2pm at BFUU, and close on June 6, 2026.

You can learn more about her work at her website cathyraingarden.com and on her Substack Cathy Raingarden's Sketchbook



People's March illustration by Cathy Raingarden

Poetry Corner

RELAY

All praises to the hominid
 even though she's long been dead.
 No monument, no laurel crown
 buttress her renown.
 And yet, oh sapiens—
 winner of the race? recall
 she ran with us.

Frances. Hillyard

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 4/23 at 3:00pm on Zoom

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 4/19 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

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



*Ben Burch
Jean Marie Stein
Wyndy Knox Carr*

Fellowship Calendar April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting	2 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	3 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; transform: rotate(45deg); display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	4 2:30 pm - FH California Revels Spring Concert
5 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Writing Club	6 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	7 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 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 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; transform: rotate(45deg); display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	11
12 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹	13 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	15	16 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	17 <div style="border: 3px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 7 pm - FH Open Mic Night </div>	18
19 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee	20	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	22	23 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting	24 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto; transform: rotate(45deg); display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> 7:30pm Freestyle Friday </div>	25 7:00 pm - FH Song Medicine
26 10:30 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹	27	28 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	29	30 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting		

Illustration above by Pragati Choudhari on Unsplash

Image by Andrzej Wallis from Pixabay

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 MAY COMMUNICATOR:

April 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