



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

June 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

June 7: ABOLISH ICE NOW! Lessons in Resistance from Minneapolis *Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)*

Our deepest faith values tell us we must ABOLISH ICE NOW! “What Minneapolis taught me is that resisting authoritarianism requires trained, sustained resistance, grounded in truth telling and faithful witness.” 1) Resistance must be trained. 2) Sustained resistance matters more than one-day action. 3) Non-cooperation is a moral strategy.

Twin Cities based MARCH (Multifaith, Antiracism, Change & Healing) is a pro-queer coalition of multiracial faith leaders in Minneapolis / St Paul who sent a nationwide call for clergy to come to Minneapolis JAN 22-23 and be in solidarity with the ICE OUT OF MINNESOTA campaign. Over 700 ministers answered that call with over 200 UUs! All of us have a role to play in the resistance. You are not alone!



June 14: My Work in the World

Angie Watson-Hajjem (she/her)

Angie will speak about exploring the spiritual journey of finding one's purpose in life, their calling and how that is manifested.

June 21: A Feminist Faith for the Common Good

Gregory Stevens (they/he)

A Feminist Faith for the Common Good explores how faith communities have challenged systems of patriarchy, domination, and exclusion while nurturing more just and compassionate ways of living together. Rooted in the feminist notion that liberation is collective, this worship gathering calls us to build communities where care, dignity, and shared flourishing are at the center of public life.



June 28: Why Symbols Matter

Jim Freschi (he/he) and Jay Roller (he/him)

The meaning of many of our society's religious and national symbols has recently been turned upside down or ignored. It's up to us to be aware of this trickery and to defend the value symbols like the Statue of Liberty represent to our nation and ourselves. Jim Freschi wrote this homily, but due to issues with his voice, his friend and fellow Live Oak member, Jay Roller, will present it.

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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Clergy & Staff

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Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
Chair currently vacant
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Caring Community
Karen Dewald, *Chair*
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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

Sunday June 14th will be an important Congregational meeting. We will gather in Fellowship Hall after lunch. Please plan to be there and participate in the governance of BFUU. The energy and spirit of our members determines our contribution and impact “within and without these walls”.

Your Nominating Committee will present recommended candidates for openings on the Board of Trustees for you to vote on. We will also have presentations and sign-up sheets for the important committees in which you are invited to contribute your interest and skills.

I do hope you decide to attend and be part of setting our course for the next twelve months.

Peace, Courage, Wisdom.

Gillian

June Shared Plate Partner

The Pacific Center

Donate here: <https://www.pacificcenter.org/support-us>

Founded in 1973, Pacific Center for Human Growth is the oldest LGBTQIA+ center in the Bay Area, the third oldest in the nation, and operates the only sliding scale mental health clinic for LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC people and their families in Alameda County.

Our Mission: To enhance the mental health and overall well-being of the LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC communities by providing culturally responsive therapy, peer to peer support groups, community outreach services, and facilitated workshops.

To incorporate strong social justice and trauma-informed frameworks in our clinical training and peer-to-peer support programs that contribute to equitable mental health service delivery. To provide the most comprehensive care possible for all who seek our services.

Worship Service Leaders

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, Faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry, and Consultant for Partnership with the UU Church of the Philippines. Rev Kev founded the California statewide chapter of DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), hosting quarterly retreats for BIPOC UUs. His ministry is rooted in Collective Liberation where “none of us are free until all of us are free,” as Black Civil Rights Activist Fannie Lou Hamer called us us.

Angie Watson-Hajjem (she/her)

Angie Watson-Hajjem is a member of the Live Oak Fellowship in Alameda where she currently sits on the Membership Committee. She lives in Alameda where she has been active in creating Interfaith Dialogues which foster understanding and unity among different faith traditions on the Island. She has a background in journalism and is the co-host and co-producer of a podcast called, "Island City Beat" which focus on issues in Alameda and beyond. She has been a part of the UU community for 10 years and finds great inspiration in our beautiful teachings.

Gregory Stevens (they/he)

Gregory is a former Baptist preacher, long time labor organizer, and interfaith community activist. They're the lead organizer for the Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network, but by day sell their labor power to California Interfaith Power & Light. Gregory has an MDiv from Claremont School of Theology and an MA in Activist Anthropology from California Institute of Integral Studies.

Jim Freschi (he/him)

Jim Freschi was born in Southern California and moved to the Bay Area 26-years-ago. He worked in public affairs for publicly-owned water districts and was previously a reporter and editor for small newspapers in the San Joaquin Valley. He now lives in Oakland, has been a member of the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Fellowship since its founding in 2009, and currently serves as its president.

Social Justice Watch

UU's for Justice in the Middle East was a founder of **Apartheid Free Communities** opposing Israeli apartheid. BFUU is among 178 churches out of 1187 members. As our rep on AFC, Tom Luce reminds us that BFUU pledged to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation. If you'd like to organize a related program, perhaps as a Sunday morning service, or a film combined with a July or August community potluck, please contact Phoebe and Tom. Bring other ideas to the next SJC meeting. The AFC website offers resources and news. The latest Quaker newsletter tragically confirms that the genocide continues in Gaza. It must be stopped!

We applaud Grant for representing us on the 3rd Pilgrimage for Palestine, this time thru Oakland and Alameda.



Photographs of both, chained to a robot, were published across mainstream media, with video footage on Reuters etc., **protesting the cut throat race to treacherous "super" artificial intelligence outside the Musk v Altman trial** in Oakland. Phoebe, the primary organizer, made media and labor connections, learned a lot, and is grateful that Marjorie, Lisa, Mike, and other BFUUsers sometimes came. Craig kindly made a video of our creative funeral for AI victims: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hfwAsGFMoc>

The judge forbade ongoing testimony re super (smarter than humans) AI existential risks but awareness WAS raised. After three weeks, Musk lost on a technicality and will appeal.



Photo of the Pilgrimage for Palestine taken by Grant Thompson

Grant, Justin, Michael, and Phoebe took our larger banner--the one that resembles the Palestinian flag--to the Oakland UU church on **May Day** morn (pictured left). After a kick off service there, UU's from various congregations went to Fruitvale Plaza. From there, Justin and Grant carried our banner on the march while Phoebe and Michael went to the Salesforce Bldg in SF to help stop the Artificial Intelligence race.



Photo of Phoebe Thomas Sorgen and Mike Kerr taken by Kate Talerico for the S.F. Chronicle

Social Justice Watch



Phoebe at the One Fair Wage protest outside the Musk v. Altman trial

Bernie Sanders held an AI summit on Capitol Hill with Chinese and US experts. He and Steve Bannon, as well as CA Attorney General candidate Marjorie Mikels, recognize the unacceptable risks and the need for a verifiable global treaty banning frontier models (think nuclear treaties.) Normally Trump opposes any regs. Fortunately, AI experts got thru to him re the risk so he now at least wants an AI “kill switch.”

Do your reps on **Capitol Hill**? Please call them regularly about both matters: **800-826-3688**

GOOD NEWS - roses amidst the pricks:

1. **#TeslaTakedown, Stop the Money Pipeline, and the Communications Workers of America** are joining forces! Cross sector collaboration wins!

Fun rousing DEMO every Sat. Noon - 1pm. Bring signs (Fight Fascism, Save Democracy, Melt ICE, Get the Flock out of Berkeley). Organized by our Gillian.

Outside the Tesla showroom on 4th Street between Delaware/Virginia. Hali Hammer leads sing alongs there on 2nd Saturdays.

2. If you wish, **Sign up for trainings: NoKings.org/Host** towards election integrity. No Kings has excellent free trainings online re communication, leadership, organizing, and coalition building. **VOTE by 8pm Tue June 2** in person if you have not already voted.

3. The Social Justice Committee has long championed **[Move to Amend](#)**'s work to overturn **Citizens United v FEC** which SCOTUS decision upended democracy. It's understandably slow, but they continue making progress. Meanwhile, in US democracy's 250th year, a new Hawaiian law states that corporations in Hawaii may not engage in any political campaigns, which power was not enumerated in the state's corporate charter, and specifies penalties including losing the right to do business in the state. It will likely be overturned in a lawsuit, so we still need that amendment, but Hawaii is more democratic for now. Might we get this in CA?

4. Hank regaled us with his Radical History Quiz at our May Community Activist Potluck, followed by an extremely important film, *Earth's Greatest Enemy* (the US military), thanks to Majorie.

(June Community Activist Potluck cancelled/postponed due to too few available volunteers.)
July, Aug, and Sept tentative potluck topics: 9/11 (25 yrs later), Palestine/Gaza, AI.

BFUU Social Justice Watch contd.

5. **Annie Leonard** brought copies of her just published magnificent book, *Protest - Respect it, Defend it, Use it*, to BFUU on May 21 when she spoke on a riveting panel "**Radicals, Realists, and Repression: The State of Activism in the U.S.**" with Thomas Zeitzoff (professor in the School of Public Affairs at American University in DC,) Omar Wasow (Assistant Prof in UCB's Poli Sci Dept), and Scott Parkin (Organizing Director Rainforest Action Network, co-host Green & Red Podcast,) moderated by Jason Myles (host THIS IS REVOLUTION podcast with bylines in Black Agenda Report, etc.) Many movers/shakers attended including Karen Picket and David Solnit who brought his latest poster inspired by her book. An amazing evening!



Phoebe with authors Annie Leonard & Andre Carothers and their new book Protest

Apologies for surely neglecting to mention some important SJ contributors. For next time(s), feel free to email me reminders with "for SJ watch" as subject by June 20. We appreciate those who show up, help set up/take down chairs, clean up and sit at the front table. Thanks, Barbara, Annie, Justin, Michael, Betsy and whoever slipped my mind!

I sign various non-controversial and worthy petitions on SJC's behalf, and on behalf of Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, 99% USers, and planet Earth!

For a just, peaceful, and sustainable world,

Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, Social Justice Committee facilitator



Justin and Grant holding BFUU SJC banner on May Day

Poetry Corner

With Gratitude

To My Mother Nancy

Nancy cleared the path for everyone.

Sweeping Sweeping

Sweeping golden leaves, green leaves,
eucalyptus.

At Brookdale she found a fossil,
a carved stone tool,
microscopic creatures by the fountain after rain.

sweep sweep sweep sweep

Her paintings depict longing as wildflowers,
landscapes where she has been, hopes of sky,
owl scat, holes where something has nested.

Observe Identify Keep in Order

Sweep Sweep

Sweep as you go-
the path always changes.
Every leaf signifies the life of the tree.

Frances Hillyard

Photo by Jane Slack-Smith on unsplash



BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday June 19th 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: Evelie Delfino S ales Posch (she/her) is a sacred song singer/writer; recording artist; drummer; dancer; Tibetan and Kundalini yogini; Pranic healer, Certified Sound Therapist; choral director; storyteller; actress; music educator; independent scholar; and magical activist. She performs with and directs Mahal, a kosmik-ethnik-ekstatik-trance-tribal fusion muzik ensemble.



Featured Artist: Alison Hart (she/her) is an author, musician, dancer, and music educator. Her latest single Deep Waters is on <https://alisonhart.bandcamp.com/track/deep-waters> and music video on you tube channel @ahartworks. National Book award-winning author Isabel Allende praised Alison's debut novel Mostly White (Torrey House, 2018) as "So compelling it gave me goosebumps from the very first lines..." Other works include a poetry book Temp Words (Cosmo Press, 2015) and her latest novel The In-between Sky (Mumblers Press, 2025). Hart is a mixed-race Passamaquoddy Native American, Irish, Black, Scottish, and English woman of color. Her work centers on her Black and Indigenous ancestors from New England, intergenerational/historical trauma, mixed-race identity, and uncovering the brutal truth of American history. website: www.ahartworks.com



Freestyle Dance

June 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!**



1st Sundays Writing Group

1st Sundays 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

World Harmony Chorus Free Concert

Sunday June 14th 4:00-5:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Hear stunning arrangements of a cappella world music from Iran, Spain, Senegal, Brazil, Greece, Galicia and Cuba. To sing with us, check instantharmony.com for September start date for our fall semester. No auditions or reading requirements.



**Sunday Services
will start at 11:00am
in June**

The Board surveyed the
community and decided to try a later
start time for a few months.

Your feedback is
welcome!

BFUU wants to hear from you!

The Community Voices section of the Communicator is very sparse this month...let's change that!

Submit your celebrations, musings, pictures, jokes, events, etc. to office@bfuu.org to be included in next month's Communicator.

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 worshipperservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday 6/25 at 3:00pm on Zoom

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 6/21 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Thursday 6/4 at 5:00 PM

Please contact worshipperservices@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](#)

Ingrid Kepler-May

Jeff Palmer

Jack Sawyer

Margaret Hurlbert

Melissa R.

Steve Ogden



Would you like a birthday shoutout in the Communicator? Email office@bfuu.org with your birthday!

Fellowship Calendar June 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-----|---|---|-----|
| | 1 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing | 2 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ | 3 | 4 5:00 PM - Z WSC Meeting 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group | 5 7:30pm Freestyle Friday | 6 |
| 7 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ | 8 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing | 9 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ | 10 | 11 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group | 12 6:30 pm - BR Menopause Wellness 7:30pm Freestyle Friday | 13 |
| 14 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 1:00 pm - FH+Z Congregational Meeting 4:00 pm - FH World Harmony Choir Concert | 15 5:00 pm - CB Joy of Singing | 16 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ | 17 | 18 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group | 19 7 pm - FH Open Mic Night | 20 |
| 21 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee | 22 | 23 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ | 24 | 25 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting | 26 7:30pm Freestyle Friday | 27 |
| 28 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service * ¹ | 29 | 30 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ | | | | |

Stay after the service on Sunday June 14th for the **Congregational Meeting**. Everyone is welcome to attend and BFUU members will vote on the Nominating Committee's candidates for the Board of Trustees. There will also be time to learn about and sign up for the various committees that make the magic happen at BFUU! If you've been interested in getting more involved, here's the perfect opportunity.

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 JULY COMMUNICATOR:

June 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