



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

July 2026



Sunday Services at 11:00 AM

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

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

July 5: Expanding the Circle of Remembrance 250 years later may the Circle be Unbroken: Honoring the Black Patriots

Sage Chioma (she/her)

Sage Chioma will share a moving journey of discovery, and how unknowingly walking in the footsteps of her ancestors led her to profound connection, healing and revelation of her place in the American story and a fuller sense of what it means to belong.



Photo of Sage from ctcinspires.com/



Image by Nathan Dumlao on Unsplash

July 12: Becoming an Abolitionist Church

Gregory Stevens (they/he)

What does it mean for a faith community to move beyond reform and into transformation? In a world shaped by punishment, surveillance, and family separation, abolition calls us to imagine something more radical than band-aid fixes to broken systems; abolition calls us to build entirely new ways of living together. We will consider how churches and congregations can become sites of repair, accountability, and collective liberation.

July 19: Longevity - A Path to Social Justice

Dr. Robert Wolff (he/him)

Dr. Wolff will present, "Longevity - A Path to Social Justice," where he shares the latest in scientific discoveries in how to live longer and healthier. With extra time in our life we can better accomplish our goals to make the world a healthier, happier, more just place.



Image by Ellis Garvey on Unsplash



Image by Shane Rounce on Unsplash

July 26: Exploring Interdependence

Sharon Knight (she/her)

Let's explore one of the core values of Unitarian Universalism - Interdependence! To acknowledge our interdependence is to honor the interconnected web of all existence, to renew our commitment to protecting the Earth, and to nurture mutually respectful relationships. What does a world that acknowledges interdependence look like, and how can we get there? Cats will surely be involved.



Office: 1606 Bonita Ave Berkeley CA 94709
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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*

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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
Sunday 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

This month (June) I was able to attend some UU General Assembly sessions. Since it was my first time I had imagined spending the time simply observing, however I did actually use my ballot twice to vote on measures I understood and care about. People were passionate about Immigrant Rights and there was a strong interest in supporting actions at Delaney Hall in Newark. It was so affirming to feel the connection between us at BFUU and the national body of UUs, all of us feeling drawn by our values into the struggle. At BFUU we have hosted an educational workshop on Immigrant Rights, members engage in teaching “Know Your Rights” in the community, distribute red cards and whistles. Indivisible held a food drive for Immigrant Mutual Aid in our Fellowship Hall. We have spoken out against the use of surveillance cameras in the city since they gather information that can be accessed by ICE. We are a Sanctuary City. There is constant work to build networks of resistance if we are invaded by ICE. We are true to the UU spirit of love and compassion.

-Gillian

July Shared Plate Partner

World Central Kitchen

Donate here: https://donate.wck.org/give/499865/#!/donation/checkout?c_src=navbar

WCK is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. In 2010, Chef José Andrés, ready to use his culinary knowledge and talent to help, headed to Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Cooking alongside displaced families in a camp, he was guided on the proper way to cook black beans the way Haitians like to eat them: mashed and sieved into a creamy sauce. It wasn't just about feeding people in need—it was about listening, learning, and cooking side by side with the people impacted by the crisis. This is the real meaning of comfort food, and it's the core value that José, along with his wife Patricia, used at the center of founding World Central Kitchen.

Worship Service Leaders

Sage Chioma (she/her)

Sage Chioma is a poet, playwright and practitioner of healing arts whose work weaves together creative expression, social justice and public health. She holds a degree in social justice and policy studies from Guilford College and a graduate degree in public health specializing in social and behavioral sciences. She is the author of "Earth is a Mother's Hood," a poetry collection celebrating the divine feminine.

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.

Dr. Robert Wolff (he/him)

Dr. Wolff is a Stanford-Trained physician and has been interested in longevity for many years. His mother died at age 54, and all other family members died in their 60s. His personal goal is to have an extended, "health-span," and to help others have the same, so they may live an extended healthy life, and use that time in the service of others.

Sharon Knight (she/her)

Sharon Knight is the Event Space Coordinator here at BFUU, and is also a lifelong musician and creative. She is in love with this beautiful jewel of a planet, and spends much of her time pondering how we can re-enchant the world.

Social Justice Watch

Social Justice Watch by Phoebe Thomas Sorgen & Michael Kerr

Election - Running for CA Attorney General, Marjorie Mikels got about half a million votes! Glenn Turner did well for CA Treasurer, too!



Mike Kerr and Glenn Turner on election night

AI - Artificial Intelligence

July 11 March to stop the Ai race in SF begins w/ noon rally 1455 3rd St. Ends 3pm Rincon Park. RSVP for route: <https://luma.com/sok8wvee>

Several of us protested at the Musk v Altman trial in Oakland and got good media coverage. Previously, Wynd blocked Open AI with others. She was found guilty (deceptive DA). Professor Stuart Russell's testimony was persuasive re Ai risks including extinction, but jurors were instructed to ignore the "necessity defense" and obey the letter of the law. Slavery was legal, and Jim Crow, etc. Nuclear Weapons are Illegal was written by international law expert AF Ginger, yet those WMD's terrorize the world. We'll attend Wynd's sentencing and press conference June 22.

Ann Fagan Ginger

On 6/6/26, BFUU hosted a second, more intimate memorial for her. Phoebe led discussion afterwards and the AFG Legacy Project was formed. Current priorities: digitize her 24 books, publish her last two books, find a permanent home for 650 boxes of archives from MCLI, Southern Poverty Legal Center, NLG, etc. Volunteers welcome!

Obituary <https://everloved.com/life-of/ann-ginger/>

Nov. memorial at BFUU <https://www.youtube.com/live/THsmd--PenY>

Take-Down Tesla protests Saturdays noon to 1pm at the 4th St. show room. For democracy! Questions? Ask Gillian.

Pitch in re **Apartheid Free Communities (Palestine) AND re Haiti**. Ask Tom Luce how to help: tomfluce@gmail.com Urge reps to prevent deportations: 800-826-3688

Peace and Justice Resistance via [Code Pink](https://www.codepink.org)

Cuba https://www.codepink.org/episode_356

Iran Advocacy Resources <https://www.codepink.org/iran>

Trump's Iran Deal "A Peace Activist's Perspective" https://www.codepink.org/trump_s_iran_deal_a_peace_activist_s_perspective

Social Justice Watch

Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Peace Boat to visit Bay Area 8/20:

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

World Cup 2026: Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the US's white supremacist colonial partnership displays contradictions of the full, bloody arc of 250 years of US history. An award-winning Somali referee was barred from officiating. Senegalese and Uzbekistani players were harassed and searched. The Haitian team had to change their jersey, not allowed to wear garb symbolizing independence. An Ecuadorian fan was brutalized by cops. Dozens in the Moroccan and Iranian delegations were denied entry. Meanwhile, Iranian players are treated as enemies to be monitored, disciplined, and made examples of in the service of imperialist war. The World Cup exposes the racial geography of imperialism: some bodies move freely; others are subjected to exclusion, humiliation, violence: <https://blackallianceforpeace.com/bapstatements/white-supremacist-colonial-partnership>

US officials operate outside of law and morality, supporting genocide in Gaza and illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank, launching a military strike on Venezuela, kidnapping Pres. Nicolás Maduro and his wife, and escalating repression against migrants and minorities in the US. These are interconnected expressions of an empire that uses violence at home and abroad to enforce its dominance.

The Anti Fascist Football Coalition, comprised of key organizations in the countries hosting the World Cup 2026 (Canada, Mexico, US), are collaborating to implement shared objectives, strategies, and tactics in two phases to **Boycott the World Cup and Boycott the US**. <https://peoplescenteredhumanrights.com/move-the-games/>

Community Activist Potlucks are in the works, TBD.

Shall we also resurrect our Conscientious Projector Film Series? All we need is a volunteer to operate the projector and a couple of others. Let's show films that are short enough that people will stay for constructive discussion afterwards. Michael Kerr suggests:

Palestine 36 recounts the 1936–1939 Arab revolt against British colonial rule in Palestine. The film was banned in Jerusalem.

Saint Judy is an inspiring true story about immigration attorney Judy Wood whose work changed lives and laws. Story of justice, courage, how one person can make a difference.

Being a woman in Iran - "Gaze" Award-winning Short Film by Farnoosh Samadi human rights violations, vicious oppression and intolerance.

Lena: My 100 Children set at the end of World War II. Lena Küchler goes to a refugee camp hoping to find info re relatives. Finding dozens of exhausted, scared orphans, she dedicates herself to saving them.

Sonny Boy Dutch film directed by Maria Peters based on a true story of Waldy Nods (1929-2015) and his parents' interracial love during the 1920s-40s through World War II.

BFUU Sponsored Events



BFUU OPEN MIC



Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

Friday July 17th 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: Nancy Lemon (she/her) has been singing her whole life, currently sings with Luminescence at UUCB in Kensington, the SF Choral Society, and often at BFUU open mics. This is her debut as an Open Mic host.



Featured Artist: Alex Rotundo (he/him) is the Music Director and pianist at the Good Table UCC. Alex is also a composer with a degree from the SF Conservatory of Music. He will play some of his original compositions.

Freestyle Dance

July 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!**



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.

A Note from Rev. Bonnie Dlott

Happy Summer! I wanted to write a note of introduction for those of you who have not already met me or seen me preach at BFUU. I am the Rev. Bonnie Dlott, and your board has authorized me to provide pastoral care for BFUU members on a part-time basis.

I am a Bay Area Native with several connections to Berkeley; I was born there, I graduated from UCB, where I studied Molecular Biology, and I attended Starr King School for the Ministry up on Holy Hill from 2000-2005. I have always loved Berkeley; the people, the culture, and the general vibe of progressivism.

My experience in ministry started in Sunnyvale, where I did my internship. After that I was called to the Napa congregation, where I served for eleven years. Since leaving Napa in 2017 I have served both the Santa Rosa and Petaluma congregations as a contract minister.

I am busy these days with travel, my garden, and helping out with my two grandchildren. Even so, I find myself drawn back to congregational life. I have enjoyed being with you as a guest preacher every other month or so and feel a growing sense of connection with you. I will continue to preach occasionally, but in addition I'll be available for pastoral calls and perhaps a support group of some kind in the Fall.

What IS “pastoral care”? The term covers a range of things; a supportive phone or zoom call when you are feeling worried, scared, or sad; a visit in the hospital, or just someone to talk to after a difficult experience such as the death of a loved one or a scary diagnosis.

It's important to say that pastoral care is not therapy of any kind; I am not qualified to do that. I have had training in pastoral counseling, which, like Unitarian Universalism, is grounded in loving respect and focused on pathways toward health and wholeness. If we do talk together, everything we discuss will be held in strict confidence.

I am traveling some in July, and most of August and September, so my time won't start with you on a regular basis until October; however, feel free to contact me by email anytime, starting in July, if you have questions about how I'll be serving you, or thoughts about what your needs are personally. I'll do my best to get back to you promptly.

Faithfully.

Rev. Bonnie

revbonnie@bfuu.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

Sunday Service on Sundays at 11:00 AM

Please contact worshipperservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday 7/23 at 3:00pm on Zoom

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 7/19 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Sunday Service Committee Meeting 1st Thursday 7/2 at 7:00 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](#)

Sunday Services
1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
contact [SSC Chair Jeff Palmer](#)

Poetry Corner

Though words
flit in and out
like birds

I value talk
less than
one bent stalk

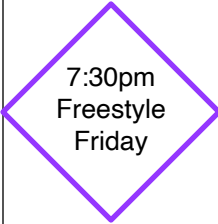
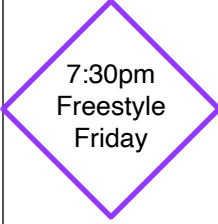

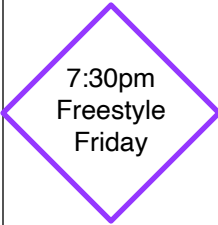


Frances Hillyard

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

Frances. Hillyard

Fellowship Calendar July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1			4
				7:00 PM - Z SSC Meeting 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 7:00 pm - FH Cuba Event	 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	
5 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1	6 5:00 pm - FH Joy of Singing	7 6:30 pm - FH Improper English Dance 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	8	9 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	11
12 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1	13 5:00 pm - FH Joy of Singing	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	15	16 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group	 7 pm - FH Open Mic Night	18
19 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1 12:30 pm - FH Social Justice Committee	20 5:00 pm - FH Joy of Singing	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	22	23 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting	 7:30pm Freestyle Friday	25
26 11:00 am - FH+Z Worship Service *1	27 5:00 pm - FH Joy of Singing	28 7:00 pm Choir Practice *1	29	30 7:00 pm - BR Gurdjieff Group 3:00 pm - Z Board Meeting	31	

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 AUGUST COMMUNICATOR:

July 21, 2026 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