



# THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

November 2026

## Sunday Services at 11:00 AM

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

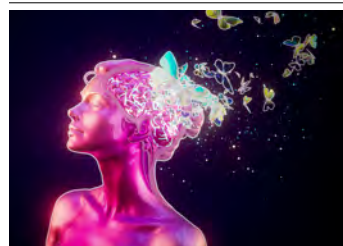
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### Nov. 1: The Ancestors We Carry Rev. Kevin Mann (he/him/siyá)

From Samhain, to Día de los Muertos in Mexico, to Kalag-Kalag in the Philippines, cultures around the world mark this time of year as a sacred threshold to honor and reconnect with our ancestors. Join us for a special remembrance service as we celebrate the lives of those who came before us, and honor their continuing presence through a communal ancestor ritual.

**All are invited to bring a photograph or small memento of someone they wish to remember for our special ancestor ritual.**



### Nov. 8: In the Shadow of Our Wings Rev. Bonnie Dlott (she/her)

In any given year about one fifth of US adults are diagnosed with a mental disorder involving some degree of incapacity. In this service we will explore the concepts of mental "health" vs. mental "disorder", reflect on the stigma in our culture surrounding mental health and consider our possible response as an inclusive community of faith.

### Nov. 15: Celebrate the Sea Sharon Knight (she/her)

Our oceans have long been a source of wonder, awe, and romance; not to mention sustenance and livelihood. They evoke a sense of longing and loneliness, poetic inspiration, and wonder at what may lurk beneath her murky depths. What do our oceans give us? What do they need from us? What choices can we make to do right by this giver of life? Sharon draws on her love of the sea and her Climate Reality leadership training with Al Gore in this week's service, interspersed with her original music celebrating the many moods of the sea.



### Nov. 22: Trees Mary MacKay (she/her)

Of all the plants, trees seem to occupy a special place in our imagination and our lives. From the places of dark foreboding in the European storybooks to the site of spiritual renewal in Japanese forest bathing – it is the rare person who has no special relationship with tree or forests. Join us in celebration and remembrance of our distant, ancient, and more rooted kin.

### Nov. 29: 'Tis the Season for Rebellion Gregory Stevens (they/he)

We've been given November as gratitude, football, and pie. But open the calendar: from Joe Hill's firing squad to the takeover of Alcatraz, from the Haymarket gallows to the murdered Jesuits of El Salvador, from the Bolsheviks' victory to the students who shut down SF State, November is a month of fiery action and fierce repression. Let's look to the other November stories.



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

### Clergy & Staff

Reverend Bonnie Dlott, *Pastoral Care*  
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)  
Kirsten White (Alternate)  
Ben Burch, 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  
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

Here we are – 12 days away from mid-term elections as I write this. BFUU has been doing its part to defend these elections.

On Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> we held a very successful community potluck, with several speakers providing information about how and where to vote, resource guides, and community activism to counter election interference.

On Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, A glorious Peace and Justice art exhibit was launched on the walls of our Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, two of your Board members hosted “No Kings” events in Berkeley.

Every one of us is important in the current struggle. Thanks to everyone who has organized, written postcards, delivered Mutual Aid, voted, helped somebody else understand ballot issues, reminded friends and family members to vote early, canvassed for issues and candidates, made signs and joined marches, sent money to candidates and community resistance groups, committed to getting out into the streets if this administration crosses “the red line”.

It all matters.

Justice, Compassion, Wisdom

gillian

## November Shared Plate Partner

### Alameda County Community Food Bank

Donate here: <https://www.accfb.org/>

1 in 4 of us are struggling to meet our basic needs.

Thousands of people are losing their CalFresh (SNAP) benefits in Alameda County due to federal cuts. This paired with the rising cost of living are contributing to an everyday emergency. We’re more committed than ever to ensuring that everyone in our community is nourished and thriving.

We partner with our community to end hunger and its root causes. We envision an Alameda County where all people are nourished and thriving.

## *Sunday Service Leaders*

### **Rev. Kevin Alan Mann (he/him/siyá)**

REV KEV is a 2016 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and was ordained by First Unitarian Church of Oakland in 2023. He serves as a Chaplain at Sequoia Hospice and as a consulting minister with the UU Church of the Philippines where he plans to serve from 2028-2030. He founded the California statewide DRUUMM chapter, which organizes with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color UUs through the virtual 1st Monday In-Gathering and Quarterly Retreats. Support us by becoming a monthly sustainer!

### **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.

### **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.

### **Mary MacKay (she/her)**

Mary MacKay is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and longtime member of Live Oak UU in Alameda and First UU in Honolulu. She has preached regularly at both for many years. Mary is a retired Geologist and an amused observer and grateful participant in being human.

Once described by a friend as an “outdoor cat” she is happiest when wandering the Bay Area hills. She likes staring aimlessly into space with a cup of coffee in her hands, public libraries and librarians, and talking to random strangers. She thinks the arc of the moral universe is very long and does not bend towards justice on its own – but takes all of us, every day, in ways large and small.

### **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.

## *Social Justice Watch*



**BFUU Social Justice Committee members hosted two No Kings events on 10/17**



## *Social Justice Watch*



Left: pictures from the event Gillian hosted on 4th Street.

Above: pictures from the event Betsy hosted across the street from Cedar Rose park.

## *BFUU Sponsored Events*



BFUU - Oct 11 2026

Photo - James Lerager

BFUU was a happening place on October 11th! The Conspiracy of Beards returned for a performance with the theme "The Unified Heart" which Leonard Cohen described as "The heart beneath is teaching to the broken heart above, come healing of the body, come healing of the mind." *Photos above taken by James Lerager.*

After the service, local artist David Solnit held a reception for his art show. Grant Thompson says: This week, with the leadership of Joanna Foley, we were able to welcome arts organizer David Solnit and Reverend Deborah Lee, Co-Director of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4H). David installed our wonderful new art exhibit, "Dignity For All," in Fellowship Hall. This beautiful protest art, which was created by David and others, has come from the streets, calls for dignity for all, and will be returned to the streets to help build the beloved community after gracing Fellowship Hall.

*Photos below taken by Joanna Foley and Grant Thompson.*



BFUU - Oct 11 2026

Photo - James Lerager

## *In Loving Memory*

### **MEMORIES OF CAROLE HOLTZ**

#### From Ben Burch:

Carole recently passed away on June 12<sup>th</sup> at age 87. She was our treasurer for years, and as Buildings & Grounds chair, she accomplished much repair and maintenance herself, saving the Fellowship significant money over the years, and doing so with the assistance of a small crew of formerly homeless skilled workers whom she was charitably helping. My most vivid memory, however, was of her and others coaxing a reluctant new member (me!) to help in preparing the lunch on Sunday. After a while, I ended up taking over this duty for many years as a result. She will be sorely missed by those who remember her.

#### From Mike Gardner:

Some people say that sad events come in threes. Well, the passing of Carole Holtz has fulfilled that prediction. Two other friends have recently passed away. BFUU came into being when the existing Unitarian church in Berkeley seemed more interested in personal spiritual development than in spiritually-lead social action. Carole certainly understood and supported the reasons for the split. She was keenly aware that it was through political and social action that our lives would all improve.

I first met Carole in the mid to late 1960s after my wife and I joined BFUU. Both of us realized that Carole was outgoing and inspiring. She encouraged both of us to become more UU educated and active members of the Fellowship and to explore our own spiritual beliefs. Carole was also a strong supporter for the growth of our UU New School and UU youth education generally.

She learned of my interest in astronomy and that I enjoyed showing off the planets, stars and all those little fuzzies, the galaxies to people through my telescope. Carole was constantly getting me to bring my scope and show off the those wonders to folks at our BFUU camping outings.

As they say, that was a lot of water under the bridge ago. I had not seen Carole until a few years ago when I returned to BFUU in 2014. But it was old friends reuniting. Her passing is a shock.

So, to JudyAnn, Ed and now our beloved Carole Holtz, you've all been a joy and an inspiration to me. Presenté Carol Holtz. I'm sensing Winter closing in.

#### From Phoebe Sorgen:

While able, Carole acted as BFUU's angel. She may now be our guardian angel. We enjoyed her presence at Sunday services, socializing afterwards, at various social justice programs, and fundraising via annual bazaars. She lived very nearby so was on call for emergencies. For many years, she volunteered countless hours hiring and supervising people in need to repaint and repair our sacred buildings and grounds, so generous to her spiritual community while alive, and now also from the Beyond. Memory of her beautiful spirit is an exemplary blessing. May she rest in well-deserved peace.

#### From Bill Balderston:

Although I haven't seen Carole in a good number of years, I was saddened to hear of her recent passing. She and I were on the BFUU Board together for quite a few years, especially during the time Paul Sawyer was minister. These often were contentious times; while I may not have agreed with Carole on every policy and financial decision, I always had immense respect for her, in taking decisive positions and taking considerable responsibility for the functioning of the Fellowship. Despite the battles, I have all good memories of Carole.

## BFUU Sponsored Events



# BFUU OPEN MIC

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic 3rd Fridays

**Friday November 20th 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](mailto:bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net)



**Host: Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch (she/her/siyá)** 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 kosmikethnik-ekstatik-trance-tribal fusion muzik ensemble.



### **Featured Artist: Spiral Dance Chorus aka Mystic Muses**

Evelie also conducts and facilitates prayerperformances for Reclaiming's rituals and other sacred song events, faires & festivals all over the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **Freestyle Dance**

*November 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

# MUSIC & MEDITATION

FREE SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION

📅 EVERY WEDNESDAY 7:00–8:00 PM

📍 1606 Bonita Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

❖ *A Journey into Inner Awareness* ❖

| Date  | Theme                               | Featured Experience  |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 11/11 | Awaken Your Inner Light             | 🎵 Live Sitar & Tabla |
| 11/18 | Find Inner peace & balance          | Sea Salt Foot Soak   |
| 11/25 | Transform Within Through Meditation | 🎵 Live Guitar        |

## Community Voices

Dear BFUU Members,

Last weekend I attended a retreat for UU ministers down in Santa Cruz, in a beautiful retreat center located right on the beach. We gather there twice a year to reflect, relax, and support one another. The theme of our retreat was “Spiritual Practices that foster Resiliency.” This year the Catholic sisters who run the retreat center let us know one of their spiritual practices is to pray for every group who comes to stay at the center. We felt very touched by this.

I’m familiar with this type of prayer. One of my favorite spiritual practices is to bring to mind or say aloud the names of family members and loved ones. I visualize them and ask that they be protected and feel loved. I ask for healing if it is needed, or peace if they are troubled, or resolution if they are in conflict. In my past ministerial settlements, I would also include the names of people in my congregation who asked me for prayers, or good energy, or just positive thoughts. I don’t pray to a particular deity, nor do I believe there is someone in the sky pulling the strings; but I do know that I feel comforted and cared for when someone tells me they are praying for me, regardless of their tradition.

As your pastoral care minister, I would be very happy to lift you up in thought each day if you would like. Just drop me a line and let me know at [revbonnie@bfuu.org](mailto:revbonnie@bfuu.org). You can let me know why you want prayers if you like, or not, if that feels too personal. Either way, I would be glad to hear from you. I can also set up a zoom call if you’d like to talk in person. The things we talk about will always be held in confidence.

I look forward to seeing you in person on Sunday November 8th at the regular Sunday morning service.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Bonnie Dlott

[revbonnie@bfuu.org](mailto:revbonnie@bfuu.org)



## Weekly Meetings

**BFUU Choir Practice** on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

Choir members practice songs for Sunday service and fun! Please contact Margaret at [muscom@bfuu.org](mailto:muscom@bfuu.org)

**Sunday Service** on Sundays at 11:00 AM

Please contact [worshipservices@bfuu.org](mailto:worshipservices@bfuu.org) for committee information.

## Monthly Meetings

**Board of Trustees Meeting** Thursday 11/19 at 3:00pm on Zoom

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** TBA after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at [sjc@bfuu.org](mailto:sjc@bfuu.org)

**Sunday Service Committee Meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 11/5 at 7:00 PM

Please contact [worshipservices@bfuu.org](mailto: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)***

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday noonish - after service*

contact [SJC Chair Phoebe](#)

***Sunday Services***

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM*

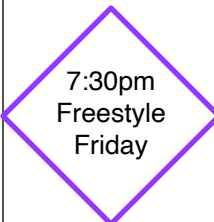
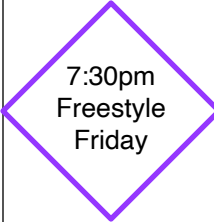
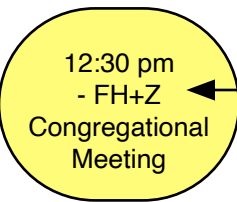
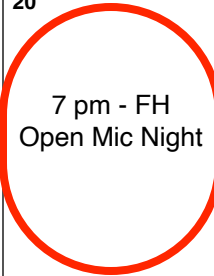
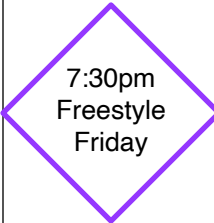
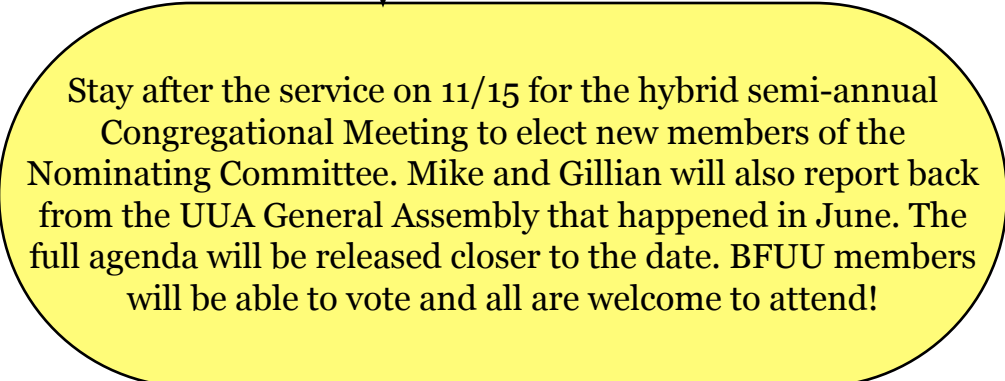
contact [SSC Chair Jeff Palmer](#)



*Christine Dickson  
Grant Thompson  
Kirsten White*

Would you like a birthday shoutout in the Communicator? Email [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org) with your birthday!

# Fellowship Calendar November 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon                                         | Tue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wed                                                                                               | Thu                                                                          | Fri                                                                                                                              | Sat       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>11:00 am - FH+Z<br><a href="#">Sunday Service</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                       | <b>2</b><br>5:00 pm - FH<br>Joy of Singing  | <b>3</b><br>7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>4</b>                                                                                          | <b>5</b><br>7:00 PM - Z<br>SSC Meeting<br>7:00 pm - BR<br>Gurdjieff Group    | <b>6</b><br> 7:30pm<br>Freestyle<br>Friday    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>11:00 am - FH+Z<br><a href="#">Sunday Service</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                       | <b>9</b><br>5:00 pm - FH<br>Joy of Singing  | <b>10</b><br>6:30 pm - FH<br>Improper<br>English Dance<br>7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>11</b><br><b>Veteran's Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>7:00 pm - CB<br>Sahaja<br>Meditation | <b>12</b><br>7:00 pm - BR<br>Gurdjieff Group                                 | <b>13</b><br> 7:30pm<br>Freestyle<br>Friday   | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>11:00 am - FH+Z<br><a href="#">Sunday Service</a> * <sup>1</sup><br> 12:30 pm<br>- FH+Z<br>Congregational<br>Meeting | <b>16</b><br>5:00 pm - FH<br>Joy of Singing | <b>17</b><br>7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>18</b><br>7:00 pm - CB<br>Sahaja<br>Meditation                                                 | <b>19</b><br>3:00 pm - Z<br>Board Meeting<br>7:00 pm - BR<br>Gurdjieff Group | <b>20</b><br> 7 pm - FH<br>Open Mic Night    | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>11:00 am - FH+Z<br><a href="#">Sunday Service</a> * <sup>1</sup><br>12:30 pm - FH<br>Social Justice<br>Committee                                                                                      | <b>23</b>                                   | <b>24</b><br>7:00 pm <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>25</b><br>7:00 pm - CB<br>Sahaja<br>Meditation                                                 | <b>26</b><br><b>Thanksgiving</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>                     | <b>27</b><br> 7:30pm<br>Freestyle<br>Friday | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br>11:00 am - FH+Z<br><a href="#">Sunday Service</a> * <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                      | <b>30</b><br>5:00 pm - FH<br>Joy of Singing |  Stay after the service on 11/15 for the hybrid semi-annual<br>Congregational Meeting to elect new members of the<br>Nominating Committee. Mike and Gillian will also report back<br>from the UUA General Assembly that happened in June. The<br>full agenda will be released closer to the date. BFUU members<br>will be able to vote and all are welcome to attend! |                                                                                                   |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |           |

## *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, Tuesday, Thursday 12pm-4pm or by appointment**

### **BFUU OFFICE STAFF**

Sharon Knight - Event Space Coordinator  
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3  
Email: [rooms@bfuu.org](mailto:rooms@bfuu.org)

Anders Renee - Office Coordinator  
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1  
Email: [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org)

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER COMMUNICATOR:**

November 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Please email [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org) with submissions.

## **Address Correction Requested**

### **Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists**

1606 Bonita Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709