

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

November 2022



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM*

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

November 6: Spirituality of Accompaniment

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

Join Rabbi Lynn for an exploration of the practice of accompaniment. Have there been times when you received an unexpected act of accompaniment or giving, and a time that you practiced accompaniment? We will explore the history of accompaniment in the past century in both personal and political contexts.

Lynn Gottlieb is Rabbi Emerita of the Congregation Nahalat Shalom in Albuquerque, NM. Now a resident of Berkeley, CA, Rabbi Lynn engages in multifaith, intergenerational and multicultural organizing in solidarity with racial, indigenous, gender justice and Palestinian liberation struggles as she teaches joyful spirituality, storytelling, ceremony, and ritual arts.



November 13: Tapestry of Faith Spirit in Practice: Justice Practices

Virginia Hollins-Davidson (she/her), Coordinator

Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, who developed the Tapestry of Faith series, quotes several well-known leaders to introduce and to help us understand the importance of the Justice segment. We will share these perspectives and further explore justice practices in our own BFUU community.



November 20: Doing the Work of Christmas

Rev. jojo v. gabuya (they/them)

****IN PERSON Service, BFUU Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar Street****

What does Dr. Howard Thurman say about the work of Christmas? How can we do the work of Christmas every day in our lives, as Unitarian Universalists? Let's have a conversation.

Rev. jojo v. gabuya is a Filipinx non-binary jackleg preacher, climate reality leader, and interfaith minister. They are part of the Bridging the Gap Cohort of Interfaith America, which has been building bridges/crossing lines of difference on campuses around this country.



November 27: The Science Behind Creativity

Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

Where does creativity come from? Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles describes how psychologists and neuroscientists are exploring the sources of creativity and how we can increase our own.



Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles describes herself as a recovering psychologist and recovering attorney, who graduated from Starr King in 2011 and was ordained to UU ministry in 2013. Along with providing pastoral care at BFUU and preaching at Bay Area churches as a guest speaker, she writes poetry, short stories, and is working on a memoir.



President's Corner

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
Susan Macke, *Office Administrator*
Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
Shae Jewell, *Sexton*

Board of Trustees

Kathy Riehle, *President*
Stephanie Doucette, *Vice President*
Ben Burch, *Secretary*
Jean Marie Stine
Mike Gardner
Phoebe Sorgen (Alternate)
Gene Herman (Alternate)
Paikea Melcher, *Youth Member*
Sharon Hwang Colligan, *Recording Secretary*

Committees

Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
Chair currently vacant
Building & Grounds Committee
Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
Caring Community
Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
Committee on Ministry
Jinky Gardner, *Chair*
Finance Committee
Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
Hospitality Committee
Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
Membership Committee
Doug Chambers, *Chair*
Music Committee
Margaret Hurlbert, *Chair*
Nominating Committee
Virginia Hollins-Davidson, *Chair*
Personnel Committee
Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
Poetry Committee
Frances Hillyard, *Chair*
Gene Herman, *Poet Laureate*
Religious Education (RE) Committee
Sharon Colligan, *Chair*
Social Justice Committee (SJC)
Co-Chairs Phoebe Sorgen and
Gene Herman
SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
Margaret Hurlbert, *Convener*
Worship Services Committee
Chair currently vacant

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.

Can't believe it's November almost, holidays will be upon us. Speaking of that, I will be in South Carolina for Thanksgiving for two weeks, however do not have exact dates yet.

As you know, since Covid began BFUU had its first in-person service on October 16th, with a fair amount in attendance. We served coffee and cookies in the foyer thanks to Elinor. We also had Zoom for those who could not attend thanks to the expertise of our own Steve Ogden. Thank you Steve! I cannot thank you enough.

The choir sounded great and they were so happy to be able to sing together after such a long time. Looking forward to the next one in November.

I must give kudos again to Steve as he was instrumental in helping the office with an IT problem about a month ago - You are such a treasure.

If I have neglected to mention anyone else who was in the planning stages of putting this service in place, it is not intentional, I just do not have all that information.

The Board is very appreciative of all involved.

Thank you!

In service,

Kathy Riehle, Board President



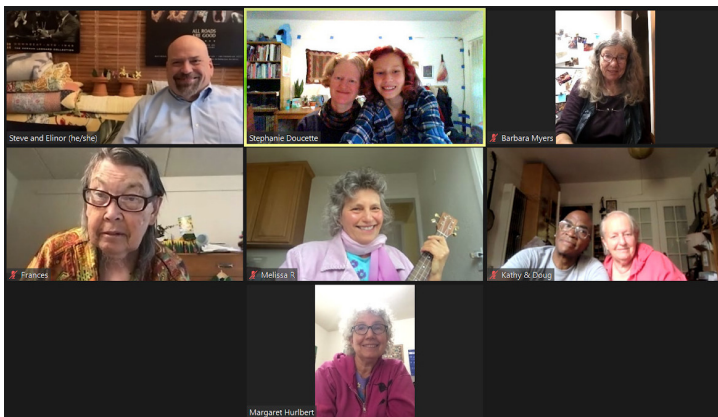
BFUU Transitions

Recording Secretary Lynn “Luna” Orlando’s position will end October 31, and Sharon Hwang Colligan will become a volunteer Recording Secretary for the Board as of November 1, 2022.

Sharon has resigned her roles as Chair of Worship Services Committee and Treasurer for the Board effective November 1, 2022.

Big thanks to Luna and Sharon for the good work they have done in support of BFUU! We all wish them continued success and happiness in the future.

Worship Teams!



Worship Service Team September 18

top: *Steve Ogden*, Stephanie & Eva, Barbara;
2nd row: Frances, Melissa, Doug & Kathy;
3rd row: Margaret



Worship Service Team October 2

top: Elinor & Steve, Eva & Stephanie, Kathy & Doug;
2nd row: Barbara, Margaret, Lawrance;
3rd row: Frances, *Jennifer Lisa Vest*, Ardys



Worship Service Team September 25

top: *Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles*, Eva & Stephanie,
Lawrance; 2nd row: Kathy & Doug, Margaret, Gene;
3rd row: Barbara, Melissa, Frances



Worship Service Team October 9

top: Barbara, Eva, *Kathy Riehle* & Doug;
2nd row: Margaret, Elinor & Steve, Melissa;
3rd row: Lawrance, Ardys

Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

*Norman Frank
Rachel Star
Christine Dickson*



Calling poetry lovers who enjoy sharing favorite poems:

Help start a **poetry reading circle** to read each other poems that are meaningful to us. If interested please let me know. Frances:
franceshillyard4@gmail.com

Semi-Annual Meeting In Brief

The BFUU Semi-Annual Meeting took place on October 9 via Zoom. The [draft Minutes](#) are online.

The [meeting Agenda](#) and [Minutes from July 17 meeting](#) were approved.

Nominating Committee members were elected: **Simone Chiodini, Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Margaret Hurlbert, Tom Luc, Melissa Rockliff, Marge Turngren.** *Congratulations all!*

Committee Chairs present gave verbal reports. Ben reported from the Finance Committee that the budget is balanced and should remain so for this fiscal year. Kathy asked for a volunteer to Co-Chair the Hospitality Committee. Kathy reported from the Personnel Committee that the process of hiring a new Event Space Coordinator has begun. Phoebe reported from SJC that they are having their first in-person meeting following the first in-person Worship Service on October 16.

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reported on planned use of the BFUU office for ministerial purposes once a week.

Results of the election to fill the vacant Board seat were shared: **Mike Gardner** was elected. *Congratulations!*

Tom Luce made a motion to endorse the End Slavery Act, which was passed. See [page 8](#) for more info on this.



Interested in re-starting the **writing** group? Please contact me. Frances:
franceshillyard4@gmail.com

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)
Meets as needed

contact [Aesthetics Committee](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,
contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed
contact [Jinky Gardner](#)

Finance

Meets as needed

contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

Hospitality

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact [Doug Chambers](#)

Music

2nd Monday 2:00 PM
contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Nominating

meets as needed

contact [Virginia Hollins-Davidson](#)

Personnel

even months 3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM
Contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Poetry

Meets as needed
contact [Frances Hillyard](#)

Religious Education

Meets as needed
contact [Sharon Colligan](#)

Social Justice Ministry

1st Sunday 12:30 PM

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Social Justice (SJC)

3rd Sunday noonish - after service
contact [Phoebe and Gene](#)

Worship Services

1st Friday at 1:30 PM
contact [Worship Services](#)

Community Voices

The Roof Story

by Carol Holtz

The roofers came Thursday...The ominous black trailer rumbled into the driveway, the metal screech of ladders being pushed up to the top. Soon the scraping and clawing began on the roof, shoveling the old weather-beaten shingles off. The driveway and sidewalk strewn with falling old roofing and age blackened cedar shingles.



The young men's tough boots traversing the 25-foot ladders to the top. A conveyor truck loaded the roof with plywood to sheath the rafters. Then the bundles of shingles to load onto the peak. Compressors hummed away accompanied by the rhythmic sound of bullet nails affixing the roll of 30 pound tar paper. Then came the four shots for each strip of shingles laid across the roof....edging ever higher towards the peak.

The little old lady inside the house pours herself a second cup of coffee....gazes out the living room window at the raining debris...goes back to reading her mail and takes her nap. Her dreams of years gone by...42 to be exact...when she was up on that same roof nailing down the shingles over the old cedar ones. It took her and Paris, her young helper, two weeks to finish the job.

She had done her homework, figuring out the procedure and then went down to the roofing supply depot and bought the supplies...at least the amount she could afford and haul at a time.

Roger, the carpenter, had framed in the entrance to the attic...built a sturdy 2x4 ladder to climb up....then boxed in the skylight to the roof. Through the attic they trudged the supplies and stacked them near the open skylight.

Row by row they had pulled the weather beaten tarred shingles off. Working four feet wide sections across the roof and tossed the worn out shingles to the driveway below. Every couple hours they took a break, sat back and quietly enjoyed the view... the shimmering sun, hazy blue of the bay and the golden gate bridge beyond.... sipped their cool drink...and got back to work.

Once the original cedar shingles were revealed and cleared of nails the covering of tar paper was rolled out and nailed in place. Paris handed up the four pieces of heavy shingles at a time and Carole stacked them across the peak. Then they got to work. One row of shingles across... covering the new tar paper. Three hits per nail, four nails per shingle, ten shingles per row ...one day at a time...for two weeks...until the roof was covered and secure.

Waking, she picked up her mail again, perused the utility bill, the property tax assessment, and her telephone stock summary. Satisfied, she laid them on the table next to her coffee. With a wrinkled hand, she smoothed out the folded roofing contract, put on her reading glasses, and began writing the checks... and smiled.



Poetry Corner

the nesting heart

the nesting heart

sleeps peacefully

under clear skies

with birds singing

and with loving arms

the nesting heart

shares with mate

returns a smile

can pump for miles

the nesting heart

becomes wiser with age

sublimates its rage

blends chicken with sage

the nesting heart

puts thyme in the garden

thrives on fresh air

nurtures the aged

be they people

be they trees

be they birds

be they bees

the nesting heart

drinks pure water

tend to its land

lends a helping hand

sharpens with use

prevents nursing home abuse

the nesting heart

cares not for pretentions

nor credentials

but

sows seeds of compassion

rests gently by a warm hearth

resides in a den of creativity

thrives upon the love of mate

family

and community



Gene B. Herman aka poppa green gene

Poet Laureate BFUU

July 21, 2022

Poetry Corner



The View of Order

Why is a king in the foreground
disrupting with damask and gold
bleak views of fortress and stoney fields,
storm, a purple edge
leading nowhere?

Indolence smoothes
irregular floors:
Lords and ladies with their toys,
harps, needlework, hunting bags
mire the eye.

Oh for wings!
Not the clipped wings
of noisy parrots

but throb of hawk flight
blessing darkened trees.

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Three bees in my Tai Basil bush

Sometime four

Even five

OMG six bees in my bush

Always a busy place

Flowering galore

Something honey bees adore

Oh babe

I would

So love

To taste

Some

Tai Basil

HONEY

YUMYYYY

Poppa green gene aka Gene B. Herman

Poet Laureate BFUU

Sept 12, 2022



End Slavery in California: ACA-3

Wisely and with justice the BFUU congregation quickly endorsed the **End Slavery in California Act-ACA-3** at October 9th's Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting. We determined by the BFUU Bylaws that I could make the motion without prior approval. All of us in BFUU have just become aware of the fact that our constitution allows for slavery. **ACA-3** actually started in 2020 with our own Senator Skinner and Representative Wicks being co-sponsors. **ACA-3** was intended to eliminate the "exception" clause allowing involuntary servitude/slavery to be ordered on California prisoners.

- Article 1 section 6 states that slavery or involuntary servitude are abolished **"except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."**
- ACA-3** was expected to pass easily and be put on the November ballot for Californians to pass it. **NOT!** It failed this past June due to a time limit abused by opponents in the Senate. **YES!** Just as in the US Constitution Amendment 13, slavery/involuntary servitude is still allowed for those convicted of a crime. This is how mass incarceration has been able to fill our prisons with a majority of Black people. We have to take up the campaign once again!

BFUU learned in the 2015 sermon by John J. Jones, III that the US Constitution's Amendment 13 allowed for the "exception" for slavery. However, we weren't made aware that our own constitution also had the "exception". **BFUU** has participated in fighting mass incarceration here in Alameda County within the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County – **JRC/AC**, and lately with the Interfaith Coalition For Justice In Our Jails- **ICJJ**. < <https://www.icjjalamedacounty.org/> > **BFUU** also is motivated by endorsing our new **Principle 8** that commits us to doing everything possible to eliminate systemic racism.

The UUA dealt with modern slavery in its General Assembly of 2003, "Abolition Today: Ending Modern Slavery" < <https://www.uua.org/ga/past/2003/57587.shtml> > UUA President Rev. William Sinkford said, "the continued existence of slavery around the world in the 21st century poses a challenge that most of us have thus far not addressed."

Samual Brown, initiator of ACA-3, in prison. Look up a beautiful article in the Global Times: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270794.shtml>



"The lowest I got paid was nothing. The highest that I got paid was 75 cents an hour. And then they would take 55 percent of that. If I said no, I would be given another 15 years in prison." Samual served 24 years in the California state prison, subject to what he called modern slavery. They tell the public you have a right to say no, but if you do say no, you will receive a discipline report, the "equivalent of the modern day whip." "Torture, sitting in prison for life." There are countless reports of Correctional Officers beating and killing prisoners." "They took slavery off the main street and put it behind prison gates."

With his wife's encouragement Samual wrote the ACA-3 amendment and brought it to Rep. Kalager of LA. It passed unanimously through all the California assembly committees. Then the opponents began false storytelling. "The bill was to make life easy on imprisoned people, disregarding the rights of victims." In the end the ACA-3 never got voted on due to delaying time in June 2022. The ACLU reported in June 2022 that prisoners generate \$2 billion a year, and \$9 billion from services are provided by prisoners. "They get paid almost nothing." So, prisoners make \$11 billion annually. The critics said paying prisoners minimum wage would cost \$1.5 billion. If so, there would still be \$9.5 billion from prisoners. See the detailed study by ACLU at < <https://www.aclu.org/report/captive-labor-exploitation-incarcerated-workers>

- Here are other links to captivating stories about the movement:
 - o <https://www.davisvanguard.org/2022/06/california-senate-votes-to-keep-legalized-slavery-in-its-prisons/>
 - o <https://sfbayview.com/2022/07/abort-the-patriarchy-abolish-slavery-dance-to-life/>
 - o <https://endtheexception.com/>
 - o <https://sfbayview.com/2022/08/they-killed-aca3-but-slavery-still-lives/>
 - o <https://abolishslavery.us/about/>

So now BFUU has become aware of the movement to abolish slavery in the California Constitution along with several other states that also have the "exception" clause. And there is still the US Constitution Amendment 13 that has to have its "exception" clause. Keep in touch, help out!

by Tom Luce

Upcoming Events



Ukraine History on Stage

Sunday November 6, 2022 at 2:00 PM
BFUU Fellowship Hall 1924 Cedar Street Berkeley CA

Benefit Performance for the work being done by a theater company in the town of Ivano-Frankivsk in Ukraine: the Frankivsk Drama Theater.

Berkeley Fellowship Monthly Open Mic

2nd Friday of Every Month starting January 2023!



OPEN MIC GRAND REVIVAL

November 11, 7 PM in Historic Fellowship Hall

Featured Artist: Dave Welsh

Dave "Redd" Welsh is a labor and blues pianist/singer <http://www.reddwelsh.com/>

Host: Hali Hammer

Hali Hammer is an award winning singer-songwriter <http://www.halihammer.com/wp/>

Dedicated to Francis Collins

The evening will be dedicated to the memory of Francis Collins who was a regular performer at BFUU Open Mics, which originated when Cafe de la Paz closed and Country Joe McDonald's Open Mics moved around the corner to the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists.

Fellowship Hall

1924 Cedar Street (at Bonita Ave)

One block east of MLK Way & several blocks west of Shattuck Ave

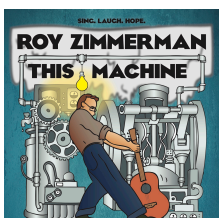
Wheelchair Accessible? Yes! The Ramp is on Bonita Ave

Suggested donations of \$10 – \$20 will benefit the BFUU & help cover expenses.

No one is turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee <http://www.bfuu.org/social-justice>

Subscribe to the BFUU Social Justice Committee's "Rise Up List"! Send an email to:
bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net



Save the Date! Sunday December 4, 2022

Roy Zimmerman: This Machine

BFUU Fellowship Hall 1924 Cedar Street Berkeley CA

\$25 or pay what you can

BFUU Online Meetings (mostly alphabetical)

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

Rev. Dr. Carrie's small groups ended in July, but new groups may begin in October.

Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM

All are welcome to attend Worship Service!

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 3rd Thursday 11/17 at 3:00 PM - *NOTE DAY CHANGE for holidays*

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 11/15 at 11 AM

Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Note that Caring Committee also meets with Hospitality and Membership on 4th Sundays.

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 11/3 at 2:00 PM

This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.

Please contact Jinky at COM@bfuu.org

Elders Circle - please see Wisdom Circle below

Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings

4th Sunday 11/27 at 12:30 PM.

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Music Committee Meeting 1st Monday 11/7 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting

3rd Thursdays on even months - *No meeting this month*

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 11/20 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting *is on hiatus*

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 11/1 at 11:00 AM


Come one, come all who are young at heart! Age does not matter! Join us for snacks and lively conversation. We may even solve some of the worlds problems... or not. We'll have fun trying.

Worship Service Committee Meeting usually 1st Friday at 1:30 PM, but for November meeting under discussion at time of publication - may be held/have been held in October.

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

****some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3****

Fellowship Calendar November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BFUU In-Person Worship Service Sunday November 20 at 10:30 AM		1 11:00 am Elders Circle * ¹ 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	2	3 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	4	5
6 <i>End of Daylight Saving Time! turn your clocks back!</i> 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 2:00 pm Ukraine History on Stage!	7 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting *	8 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	9	10	11 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic!	12
13 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	14	15 Caring meeting with ministers * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	16	17 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * ¹ Note - Board Mtg is on 3 rd Thursday this month!	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting * ¹ Communicator Deadline	21	22 Reflection & Connection * 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	23	24 Thanksgiving Holiday 	25 Day after Thanksgiving (holiday)	26
27 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm HMC- Hospitality. Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs * ¹	28	29	30	BFUU Open Mic Grand Revival! Friday November 11 at 7:00 PM		

Please Plan Ahead: Direct links to meetings/registration have ¹ after the link. The remaining links send an email to the meeting organizer – please allow a few days for a reply.

If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.

* Fellowship event

¹meeting link

Save the Date!

Sunday December 4 at 7:00 PM

Roy Zimmerman
in Fellowship Hall

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 CLOSED - We are working from home

BFUU OFFICE

Susan Macke - Office Administrator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Working Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER COMMUNICATOR:

November 20, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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