

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

January 2023



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM*

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

January 1: Hope for the New Year

Simone Chiodini (she/her)

Simone Chiodini uses her undergraduate degrees in history and psychology to overcome the tragedy of the last few years to bring hope for this new year. And there are reasons for UUs to be hopeful.



January 8: Creativity as a Spiritual Practice

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

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

Rev. Rebecca S. King, dean of chaplains at United Church Homes, says that creativity is one of the “spiritual practices that can deepen our awareness of the essential spiritual part of life and provide frameworks for navigating aging with grace and zest.” Well, I believe that Creativity is also a spiritual practice that can help us Create A World That Works for All! Let’s share our creative juices in baking/cooking, drawing, writing, knitting, photography, singing, playing musical instruments, yoga, dancing, and others to the BFUU, to Create A World that Works For All!

January 15: Stories of Liberation in Honor of the Ongoing Struggle for Freedom

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

Join Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb for reflection, stories, and folktales about grassroots heroes in the struggle against racism in US history.



January 22: Artificial Intelligence: Good, Bad or Indifferent?

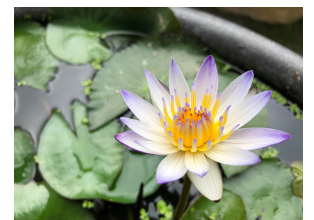
Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles checks up on the rise of AI in science, poetry, art and other creative fields. Does AI present the route to an enhanced future in science and the arts—or a threat to morality as non-human choices and decisions may take over?

January 29: Reflections on Ethical Healing

Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest (she/her)

Dr. Jennifer L. Vest will speak about her experiences as a Medical Intuitive healer and what it means to be an ethical healer. Please join us for this exciting Service!



Please see [page 3](#) for our Minister/Speaker bios.



President's Corner

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
 Lynn/Luna Orlando, *Recording Secretary*
 Susan Macke, *Office Administrator*
 Venee Call-Ferrer, *Event Space Coordinator*
 Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
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Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
 Chair currently vacant
 Building & Grounds Committee
 Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
 Ben Burch, Co-Chair
 Caring Community
 Chair currently vacant
 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
 Gene Herman, Poet Laureate
 Religious Education (RE) Committee
 Chair currently vacant
 Social Justice Committee (SJC)
 Co-Chairs Phoebe Sorgen and
 Gene Herman
 SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
 Margaret Hurlbert, Convener
 Worship Services Committee
 Melissa R, WSC Liaison

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.

Hello and Happy Holidays to all at the Fellowship.

I wish you all well, and wish you all a great New Year!

I want to thank Reverend Carrie, Rabbi Lynn, and Reverend Jojo for all of the fine services this year. We certainly need to celebrate what we have and to be hopeful for the New Year.

I also want to thank all of those who helped to make the services happen. Melissa was the mainstay in the Worship Services Committee, making sure we had speakers lined up, among other things. Steve Ogden stepped up to the plate, running our hybrid Zoom services. Eva was so great at helping us make our Zoom services great and Susan Macke kept us organized and helped in so many ways. And, Andy is back, playing his beautiful piano music. Thanks also to the Board, in all of the work that they do. I know that I have left out many in my thanks, but thanks to everyone else that has made this Fellowship keep going!

We have had three in-person services, which went well, and it was great to see everyone in person. Depending on the virus severity, we hope to have more of these in a few months. For now, we will continue to have one in-person service per month.

Happy Holidays,

Margaret



Worship Service Leaders this Month!

January 1: Hope for the New Year

Simone Chiodini (she/her)

Simone is a recent graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, and she has been attending services at BFUU since the autumn of 2016. She considers herself a Taoist Unitarian Universalist. A published writer, her novels include *Infinite Power Defied* & *Infinite Love Decreed*. She is a proud proponent of LGBTQ+ equality, Black Lives Matter, and Climate change awareness.

January 8: Creativity as a Spiritual Practice

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya is a Filipinx non-binary jackleg preacher, climate reality leader, and interfaith minister. They are building bridges across differences, as a member of the Interfaith America Bridging the Gap Cohort.

January 15: Stories of Liberation in Honor of the Ongoing Struggle for Freedom

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb (she/her)

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.

January 22: Artificial Intelligence: Good, Bad or Indifferent?

Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

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.

January 29: Reflections on Ethical Healing

Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest (she/her)

Jennifer Lisa Vest holds a PhD in Indigenous Philosophy from UC Berkeley, an MA in history from Howard, and BA in Physics from Hampshire College. Her first career was as a philosophy professor at Seattle University and the University of Central Florida. She has also been trained in the traditions of African American Hoodoo, Native American Sweatlodge, Jamaican Revivalism, Trinidadian Shango, and Spiritualism from community elders, and now works as an author, ceremonialist, and medical intuitive. Her most recent book is *The Ethical Psychic*.

Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

Jinky Gardner

Elinor Roberts

Shirley Taylor

Marge Turngren

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles office hours resume Tuesday January 3, 2023

Beginning on Tuesday January 3, 2023, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles will hold in-person pastoral care **in the BFUU Office on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.**

Please note that Rev. Carrie will be in the BFUU Office, but we are not allowed to use the restrooms on the ground floor of the RE building while New School is in session.

Appointments can be “drop-in,” but also can be requested by email to revcarrie@bfuu.org.

New Small Group Forming!

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles is interested in forming a small group concerned with “Living Longer—the Blessings and Challenges of Aging.” The group would meet in person at the BFUU building as the new year approaches. As the pandemic fades, Americans are living longer in good health. For men, the average life expectancy is 77—it’s 81 for women. On the other hand, the 10 oldest living Americans are 112 to 115 years old. Are you interested in weighing the actions and plans, the ups and downs for our lives as we face the prospect of living longer than we once imagined?

Our group would meet for six sessions to be scheduled in the late afternoon on alternate Tuesdays.

If you would consider joining this group, please contact Rev. Dr. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org and we can set a time to discuss your interests and concerns.

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 [Caring Committee](#)

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 [Hospitality](#)

Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

Music

2nd Monday 2:00 PM

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

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



While I was observing a family of Acorn woodpeckers, the days light created a lovely photo of this majestic OAK.

Aho'

Christine D.



BFUU Writing Group!

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

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

Poetry Corner

Family Togetherness

When I was nine my family moved from Berkeley to Erie in darkest Pennsylvania, marking our trail with barf stops. None of us liking much heat, we took a southern route in summer, Water bags flapping at our windows. Our large Dutch hare, named Bunny, rode in the back of our station wagon but his sheddings blew forward and made mom sneeze. Three small, nameless, green turtles rode in their plastic pond.

My brothers and I got bored early with cookies and toys and endless singing of Abiyoyo. We made up our own games; spotting cars of particular colors, pretending that certain cars blew up because of skunks in their tail pipes— Then we'd join our parents singing Abiyoyo. After one long hot stretch when we hadn't checked, two of our turtles had died, their pond dry. I put the last one in my pocket with scrapings of mud from around a dead water fountain.

All this to say that life dumps what it will upon us.

Best to know which cars are going to Explode.

Frances Hillyard

Social Justice Watch

What to do for peace and for a better world?

Follow-up to Peace sermon when Phoebe filled in for Cindy Sheehan.

To help stop bloodshed, destruction, and threat of nuclear war, please consider signing this call for a Christmas Truce in Ukraine: https://www.codepink.org/christmas_truce_in_ukraine_gen

Over 1000 faith-based leaders signed a simple statement calling for a Christmas truce in Ukraine: https://www.codepink.org/christmas_truce_in_ukraine

Please pass it around to religious leaders you know of any denomination. This is a project initiated by [Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA](#), [CODEPINK](#), and the [National Council of Elders](#). They can read a more detailed explanation of the statement and add their names by signing [HERE](#).

Weapons manufacturers play an inordinate role in wars, as do war-profiteering corporations seeking resources (e.g. oil) via wars. Politicians are so influenced by corporate campaign donations that the US is called a corporatocracy. To help legalize democracy here, please consider signing the Move to Amend petition and getting involved and/or donating: <https://www.movetoamend.org/motion>



Phoebe at WILPF action

HJR 48, the “We the People Amendment,” has nearly 100 co-sponsors in Congress. An easy way to help is to phone Senator Padilla weekly and urge him to introduce a Senate version. HJR 48 will not only reverse the SCOTUS opinion *Citizens United v FEC* (which gave corporations even more power to bribe politicians), but will also establish that spending money is not equivalent to expressing free speech and that a corporation is not a person and is not entitled to constitutional rights that were intended for human beings. Yes, prior

Supreme Court opinions made those absurdities the law, which is a large part of why we are in such a mess! The amendment process is the only way to reverse SCOTUS decisions.

Overruling those decisions is key to most of what caring progressives want/need because, via corporate “personhood,” corporations have more rights than people, so short-sighted greed rules, which has our species on several lemming paths.



photo: Phoebe Sorgen

BFUU’s Social Justice Committee has long championed peace, justice, human rights, democracy, and ecological sustainability, and continues doing so. We meet monthly after the socializing that follows Sunday services. Welcome! Our next meetings will tentatively be Jan 29 and Feb 12.

Meanwhile, give legislators a “peace” of your mind often! Capitol Hill: 800-826-3688

We are a member of the United for Peace & Justice coalition: <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/about/>

Sincerely,

Phoebe Thomas Sorgen, Social Justice Committee Co-Chair

BFUU Worship Services

Worship Service >

November 20

Speaker: Rev Jojo V. Gabuya;

Liturgist: Jeff Palmer

not pictured: Zoom Host

Steve Ogden

photo: Elinor Roberts



v Worship Service Team v

November 27

1st row: Margaret, Andy,

Barbara, Lawrance;

2nd row: Ardys, Frances, Steve;

3rd row: Tom, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Eva



Worship Service >

December 18

Liturgist: Steve Ogden

not pictured: Speaker rev jojo v gabuya;

Zoom Host Jeff Palmer

photo: Elinor Roberts



^ Worship Service Team December 11 ^

1st row: Andy, Steve, Frances, Lawrance; 2nd row: Barbara, Rachel, Phoebe, Ardys; 3rd row: Eva, Melissa, Margaret

Upcoming Events



BFUU Open Mic

January 13, 2023 at 7 PM

Featured Artist:

Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch

Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch is a sacred song singer/writer; recording artist; drummer and more!

<https://evelie-sings.mystrikingly.com/>

Host: Dave Welsh

Dave "Redd" Welsh is a labor and blues pianist/singer

<http://www.reddwelsh.com/>

Fellowship Hall

1924 Cedar Street

(at 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

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 is hoping to start new small groups in January!

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 worshipservices@bfuu.org for committee information.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 1/26 at 3:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 1/17 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 1/5 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 1/22 at 12:30 PM.

Please contact caring@bfuu.org

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

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 1/15 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting *is on hiatus*

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 1/3 at 11:00 AM


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

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 1/6 at 1:30 PM

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

some committees meet as needed - please see full committee list on [page 4](#)

Fellowship Calendar January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	2 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting [*] New Year Holiday observed	3 11:00 am Elders Circle ^{*1} 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	4	5 2:00 pm COM Meeting [*]	6	7
8 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	9	10 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1} 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	11	12	13 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*	14
15 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} Noonish - after service SJC Meeting ^{*1}	16 MLK Jr. Day Holiday	17 Caring meeting with ministers [*] 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	18	19	20 Communicator Deadline	21
22 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs ^{*1}	23	24 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	25	26 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg ^{*1}	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	30	31 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	<div> BFUU Open Mic Friday January 13 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall </div> 			

**BFUU In-Person
Worship Service**

 Sunday January 8
at 10:30 AM

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

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 by appointment - we are working from home

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Venee Call-Ferrer - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY COMMUNICATOR:

January 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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