

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

February 2023



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM*

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

February 5: Ordinary Wonder

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

The most common notion of wonder implies that the things that surprise us usually bring delight, connection, and especially joy and reverence for life. Wonder is also the quality of attention that is needed to bear witness to pain and suffering; 'Joy and Woe are woven fine' says the old hymn, and for good reason. Our service will focus on what those qualities are and explore how to bring those qualities into our daily lives—through story, sermon and song.

Rev. Ben Meyers is a [newly-minted] resident of Oakland, and serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider for Bridge Hospice patients and their families in Alameda County and beyond. He is the proud father of two sons and loves spending as much time as possible with his two-year old grandson. His passion is working with faith-based communities throughout the country to accelerate the adoption of clean energy, especially solar, as a moral imperative. Ben has served many UU congregations in his 28+ years of ministry, including 4 years at BFUU, from 2009 to 2013. He is glad to return to the pulpit at BFUU.

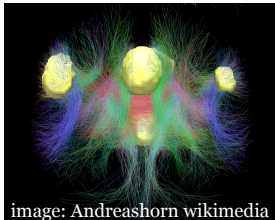


image: Andreashorn wikimedia

February 12: Building Better Brains

Jeff Palmer (he/him)

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

We look at recent recent neurological discoveries (Default Mode Network) and ancient sacred scriptures to help us build better brains today.

February 19: What's Up With Women in 2023?

Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

Betty Friedan's famous treatise, "The Feminine Mystique," was published sixty years ago today. Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the history expressed in Friedan's work and the world that women face now, in 2023.

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.



February 26: Say Love, Solidarity, and Unity with Flowers!

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

The language of flowers (Floriography) gained popularity as a clandestine method of communication, especially in Victorian England and the U.S. At present, we usually send roses to convey love, chrysanthemums to express condolences, rue for regret, and rosemary for remembrance. Let's bring and share colorful blooms to express our love, solidarity, and unity with one another.

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.



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*
 Shae Jewell, *Sexton*

Board of Trustees

Margaret Hurlbert, *President*
 Mike Gardner, *Vice President*
 Ben Burch, *Treasurer/Secretary*
 Jean Marie Stine
 Phoebe Sorgen
 Gene Herman (Alternate)
 Steve Ogden (Alternate)

Committees

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
 Jeff Palmer,

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 to the BFUU,

Wishing you all well, and Happy New Year to you all!

We had a lovely in-person service in January with Reverend Jojo. Thanks for all the help from everyone with this service, and for all of the help with the Zoom services as well. The Board will be discussing whether we will be meeting twice a month in person at our February board meeting. The weather permitting, we might have some music and food outside for one of our services this spring!

Cheers,

Margaret Hurlbert, President, BFUU Board of Trustees

Sad News: Gordon Waugh

BFUU is saddened at the loss of Gordon Waugh, who passed away on Sunday January 22, 2023. Gordon was a BFUU member in 2017-2018. He attended worship service regularly for several years, and joined the BFUU choir in song. We'll share further information if/when we are notified.

BFUU Worship Services



Worship Service Team January 1, 2023

top: Simone Chiodini, Melissa, Andy; 2nd row: Luna, Margaret, Ben; 3rd row: Barbara, Frances, Lawrance



Worship Service Team January 8, 2023

Back Row: Melissa, Brett, Jeff, Steve, Elinor, Margaret, Frances, Larry, Christine; Front row: Rev. Jojo V. Gobuya, Andy, Ardys

Poetry Corner

A Poem

Looking for a Minister

An accommodating yet persuasive soul

Someone with the grace of communication

Blessed with social skills served with a dash of panache

A consulting and consorting minister

Having the talent to mix up

it with

infants, toddlers, adolescents, students, young adults,

generation Xers, and most importantly

the elders

Ability to interact with all sorts, sizes and shapes

All woven into a gleaming rainbow web of UUism

Learned in forgiveness, compassion, respect and redemption

Administrative, growth development, counseling and pastoral care skills a necessity

Available to serve $\frac{3}{4}$ or full time to the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists...
a joyful, quirky, endearing band of activists

Music and art skills a big plus

Social justice involvement – you betcha

Gene B. Herman

3/11/09

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



Happy Birthday!

Eva Doucette

Margaret Hamilton

Susan Mashiyama

Syl Scherzer

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles Office Hours

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles holds in-person office hours **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.

Read about Rev. Carrie’s small group on [page 5!](#)

MEMO FROM THE BFUU OFFICE:

2022 Contribution Statements were mailed out on Friday Jan 27, 2023. If you made a donation in 2022 and haven’t received a statement, please contact Susan: office@bfuu.org or call 510-841-4824 ext 1

California Middle Class Tax Refund Debit Card

(some people get electronic deposit to their banks*)

The legal size envelope I got (month I think) recently had NO ID about State of CA.... but on outside of envelope in **red letters: “Not a bill or ad. Important info. About your Middle Class Tax Refund.”**

I got a Debit Card/Visa which was easy to activate; many friends got direct deposit. It should be \$350 per person. If you paid CA State Income Taxes you should get one. [Please tell your friends. I do not have Ana’s email/phone & think she’d be eligible, please help/forward.](#)

I have used the card to buy Ecco sandals from Zappos & new cordless land-line phone (battery not sold at Office-Max/Office Depot (now merged)). Easy to order by phone with a real live person after dialing on-line help; it will be here in 7 days. Also can be used for

groceries/cafes/etc. I try to **shop local** & avoid super-giant Amazon. Bezos should give \$ to save the real Amazon-Rain-Forest, not laying off employees and working against unionization of workers.

In the 1 pg. letter it said: “Here is your CA Middle Class Tax Refund Card enabled by Money Network.”

It contains the money you are receiving from the State of CA under the Better for Families’ Act.

Here’s the link info: www.mctrpayment.com.
Phone: 1-800-240-0223

“23- Skidoo” as they said in 1923 – that helps me put the right date on my checks! – LOL

In Peace, Syl / Sylvia Scherzer

***Additional info from Elinor:** If you received a refund for 2021 and it was direct-deposited into your bank account, your Middle Class Tax Refund will be direct deposited into the same account, rather than sending you a debit card.

Community Voices

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.



Karen and Dave

Karen D. and family celebrate daughter Sarah's recent marriage with a trip to the beautiful north coast!



Sarah's bouquet



Sunset on the Sonoma Coast



Brian and Sarah with Dog of Honor, Kennedy



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



BFUU Open Mic

February 10, 2023 at 7 PM

Featured Artist: Marcie Boyd

Marcie is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, teacher, activist, and longtime PMN member - sings with Occupella and the LaPeña Chorus

<https://peoplesmusic.org/Sys/PublicProfile/49461067/4386840>

Host: Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch

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

<https://evelie-sings.mystrikingly.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 Office Hours on Tuesdays 1:00 -5:00 PM in BFUU office

Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org to schedule an appointment.

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 2/24 at 3:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 2/21 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 2/2 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 2/26 at 12:30 PM. NOTE: This meeting may be changing!

Please contact caring@bfuu.org

Music Committee Meeting 1st Monday 2/6 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 2/19 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting *is on hiatus*

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 2/7 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 2/3 at 1:30 PM

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

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

Fellowship Calendar February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BFUU In-Person Worship Service Sunday February 12 at 10:30 AM			1	2 2:00 pm COM Meeting*	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	6 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting*	7 11:00 am Elders Circle * ¹ 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	8	9	10 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic*	11
12 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹ 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting * ¹	20 Presidents Day Holiday Communicator Deadline	21 Caring meeting with ministers * 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	22	23 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * ¹	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality. Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs * ¹	27	28 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice * ¹	BFUU Open Mic Friday February 10 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall 			

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 MARCH COMMUNICATOR:

February 20, 2023 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

Office: 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 | Fellowship Hall: 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709

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