

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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

June 2023



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 AM*

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



June 4: The Problem with Evil: A Unitarian Universalist Theodicy
Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

IN PERSON Service, BFUU Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar Street

Theodicy is a fancy way of trying to talk about the problem of evil in the world and why it exists. It is a topic many philosophers call the most difficult problem in theology, and every major religion has at least one position on theodicy (and most of them have several, including Unitarian Universalism.) The 'problem with evil' is a question that begs for our attention as religious progressives. This morning, Rev. Ben will offer a Unitarian Universalist response relevant to the events of our time.

June 11: Loving and Welcoming the Enemy/Stranger

Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

Valerie Kaur's book, "See No Stranger," stretches one's imagination on how we could possibly love and welcome the enemy/stranger, thereby fostering solidarity and promote unity with one another. Also, the extraordinary story of how the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin decided to confront evil with love, openness and interfaith engagement is another example.

photo: courtesy of David Simmons



June 18: Juneteenth, When Slavery Ended

Rev. Dr. Caroline Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the history of our celebration of Juneteenth, the end of slavery in America. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, slavery did not come to its official and practical end until June 18, 1965.

June 25: Life As Light:

A Service for LGBTQ+ Pride Sunday

Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

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

As a celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Sunday, the sermon views being human through the Science of Complementarity Theory and presents Universalism as a prism for acceptance, advocacy and love. Recognition of BFUU leadership and Worship Lay-Leaders.



Please see [page 3](#) for our Minister/Speaker/Guest Musician bios and shared plate partner information.



Office: 1606 Bonita Ave Berkeley CA 94709
510-841-4824 office@bfuu.org www.bfuu.org

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
Lynn/Luna Orlando, *Recording Secretary*
Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*
Venée 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, Co-Chair
Steve Ogden, Co-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

Hello everyone,

We are excited to announce that we will most likely be opening our Fellowship to in-person/Zoom services this July! Many thanks to Steve Ogden, who has helped us select and purchase a new camera, software, etc. to aid us in making our Zoom services more professional. It has been great to see everyone at our bimonthly in-person services, and relax and eat outside in the courtyard after the service.

Wishing you all well,

Margaret Hurlbert
President, BFUU Board of Trustees

BFUU Worship Service Teams



^ Worship Service Team April 23, 2023

l to r: Rachel, Michael, Sara,
Andrea, Kaitie Ty Warren,
Melissa, Margaret

Worship Service Team > May 14, 2023

l to r: Marge, Margaret, Jeff,
Virginia, Joanna Winston
Foley, Melissa, Andy,
Frances, Christine (not
pictured: Steve, Elinor)

Worship Service Team > May 21, 2023

top row: Melissa, Larry,
Margaret; 2nd row: Frances,
Rev. Jojo Gabuya, Barbara;
3rd row: Andy, Ben, Susan



^ **Worship Service Team May 7**
Top row: Steve, Melissa, Andy,
Margaret; 2nd row: Barbara,
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Ardys,
Virginia; 3rd row: Ben, Frances, Luna



Worship Service Leaders & Shared Plate Partner May 2023

June 4: Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him)

Rev. Ben Meyers is a resident of Oakland, and serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider for Bridge Home Hospice patients and their families in Alameda County. His ministry spans 28 years: half of that time as a parish minister and half as a social justice/community minister. 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.

June 11: Rev. Jojo V. Gabuya (they/them)

Reverend Jojo V. Gabuya is a Filipinx non-binary/transgender interfaith minister, Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador, and a diversity and inclusion leader. They are practicing the Dao philosophy and Veganism to create a healthier, safer, and more stable world for ALL.

June 18: 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.

June 25: Rev. Ben Meyers (he/him) - please see June 4 above.

June 2023 Shared Plate Partner: [Peoples Park Legal Defense](#)

To ALL who believe in preserving and growing the legacy and natural beauty of People's Park: Now is the time to come to its aid. At great expense, Peoples Park has thus far done a great job in court saving the Park - our public commons, Berkeley's most famous landmark, known internationally.

If you'd like to contribute to the collection plate you can do so directly via [PayPal](#), by sending a check payable to "BFUU", 1606 Bonita Ave, Berkeley CA 94709, or by contributing on [our website](#). Note that BFUU sends the share payments in the month after the plate share. If you'd like the shared plate partner to receive your donation more quickly, please donate directly to them via the link in the description above. Note that donations made directly to other organizations are not tracked by BFUU.

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 [Caring Committee](#)

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 [Phoebe and Gene](#)

Worship Services

1st Thursday at 5:00 PM

contact [Worship Services](#)

BFUU Congregational Meeting

The BFUU Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after service on **Sunday, June 11th at 12:30 pm on Zoom**. Our agenda will be available soon, and we'll be electing new members to the Board of Trustees. There are two open seats for 2-year Board members, two open seats for the second year of two-year terms, and two open seats for 1-year Board Alternates. The election process will be held as it has been recently - via survey with follow up emails/calls as possible.

The Nominating Committee endorses Jean Marie Stine and Simone Chiodini for the 2-year seats, Margaret Hurlbert and Phoebe Sorgen for the second year of two-year terms, and Christine Dickson and Tom Luce for the 1-year Alternate seats.

The Nominating Committee is grateful on behalf of BFUU for members who submitted their names for the committee's consideration.

Any member can run for an open Board seat by petition. Per Bylaw VI, E, "Additional nominees, who shall previously have agreed to serve if elected, may be placed on the ballot by written petition signed by at least ten (10) voting members of the Fellowship and filed with the Nominating Committee not later than the Saturday preceding the last Sunday before election." This year, the deadline for written petitions is **Saturday, June 3**. Petitions should be dropped in the mailbox at BFUU or mailed in time to be delivered by Saturday, June 3. Petitioners should also email office@bfuu.org or call 510-841-4824 ext. 1 and leave a message to advise that a petition has been submitted.

BFUU Board Nominees - 1-year Alternate seats



Christine Dickson (*she/her*)

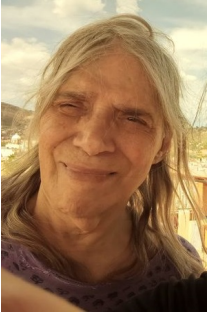
Christine has long been an active member of SJC, and has supported BFUU in many ways over the years. She is a veteran Scene Technician from Cal Performances, etc. Her crew started UPTE local 9119 (the University's Technical Employee Union), and she was one of the first two women in this local. Christine has lots of experience working with kids in art and interpretive training with the Shorebird Nature Center. She has shared her talent and skills in artistic design, co-coordinating the Better World Festival, audio/sound support, gardening skills, and more. She has resumed a role on the current Open Mic team.



Tom Luce (*he/him*)

In 2000, Tom joined his hometown – Barre, Vermont – UU Church because they were the only church supporting the same-sex marriage law. As an already defrocked Catholic priest for having married, this was a final departure. And now another personal social justice fight. After retiring from teaching in his hometown and moving with wife, Judy, to Berkeley in 2005, Tom, as a member of Oakland UU, began working in 2006 with Cynthia Johnson on the "Declaration of Peace", a national campaign for stopping the Iraq war that was proposed at the GA in Louisville Kentucky as an AIW. Soon after, he joined BFUU and has continued to promote antiracist work, e.g. convincing BFUU to endorse the #8 Principle calling for accountable antiracism work.

BFUU Board Nominees - 2-year seats



Jean Marie Stine (*she/her*)

Jean Marie Stine officially became a Unitarian-Universalist in 2002 in Northampton MA, though she had long admired UU principles and thought that if she ever joined a “church” it would be the UU. After moving to Berkeley CA, she discovered the BFUU and, along with her partner Frankie Hill, joined the congregation, where they served on the Sunday Services, Hospitality and Caring Committees, helped clean and straighten the Fellowship Hall after services each week. In the process, they developed an attachment to BFUU that has never waned. When circumstances caused them to move to Oregon, where they joined the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Eugene, their hearts remained behind. Now that they live in Mexico, where they have joined the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende, Jean Marie volunteered to fill an empty space on the BFUU board until the next election. She is a much published writer and the proprietor of a very small publishing company.



Simone Chiodini (*she/her*)

Simone Chiodini 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.

BFUU Board Nominees - 2nd year of 2-year seats

Margaret Hurlbert (*she/her*)

Margaret Hurlbert has been coming to the Fellowship for many years, and has been active in the Choir, Chair of the Music Committee, and has taken part in many events and concerts. She has also been active in the Social Justice Ministry. Some projects she has worked on include going to ICE detention centers and protesting the internment of children, going to Climate Change marches with BFUU, helping with concerts and dances and the ukulele group at BFUU, and organizing making soup at BFUU for Consider the Homeless.



Phoebe Thomas Sorgen (*she/they*)

Phoebe Thomas Sorgen became a BFUU friend 30 years ago when she enrolled her boys in the RE program. Though unavailable on Sunday mornings due to work, she became active via the Social Justice Committee, which she eventually chaired. After becoming a BFUU member, she was elected to the Board during the time that BFUU transitioned from lay led and hired Rev. Kurt Kuhwald in hopes of increasing membership. She served on the then newly reconstituted Personnel Committee, and has also been on the Aesthetics and Nominating Committees.

For effective peace, democracy, and human rights advocacy, Phoebe was a 2005 Outstanding Woman of Berkeley and 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. As a Peace & Justice Commissioner, she wrote many Resolutions that were adopted by the City of Berkeley. Some were adopted by other cities.

Phoebe is on the Steering Committees of Move to Amend and Berkeley Citizens Action, she also serves as a BFUU Board of Trustees (appointee) because our beautiful BFUU community means the world to her.

Poetry Corner

DAMSELFLYS WE
 MATING IN FLIGHT
 DARTING IN DAYTIME FLOWERS
 DANCING IN MOONLIGHTS GLOW
 FOREVER IN TOUCH
 MOVING WITH THE FLOW
 WE'RE DOING THIS FOR FUN
 NOT FOR THE SHOW

IN THE MORNING MISTS
 WE'RE DASHING ABOUT
 AFTERNOON FOG
 BRING CRIES OF
 WATCH OUT
 WATCH OUT

DAMSELFLYS WE
 MATING IN FLIGHT
 FLYING TWOGETHER
 WE KEEP THINGS TIGHT
 MOVING WITH LOVE
 MAKES EVERY THING BRIGHT
 DAMSELFLYS WE
 MATING IN FLIGHT
 WE'LL NEVER LET GO
 GOT EVERY THING RIGHT

GENE B. HERMAN AKA POPPA GG
 BFUU Poet Laureate

Community Voices



Happy Birthday!

Margaret Hurlbert

Ingrid-Kepler-May

Steve Ogden

Jeff Palmer

Melissa R

Jack Sawyer

Pastoral Care/Small Group

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles' in-person office hours **in the BFUU Office** are **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.

She also hosts a small group, "Living Longer" on Zoom. For an appointment or to find out more, email Rev Carrie revcarrie@bfuu.org.



Transforming Hearts Collective
FREE anti-bias video series

Things are **really scary** right now for trans communities and our families.

Everyone in the BFUU community - visitors, friends, members, etc. is strongly encouraged to enroll for FREE to explore this series of videos, readings, and other dynamic resources in this series.

Contact the office - email.office@bfuu.org or call 841-4824 ext 1 for information on how to enroll through BFUU for free.

For more ways to support trans, nonbinary, and intersex communities right now, don't miss the recently updated [ways to take action](#) from TRUUst.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

BFUU Call for Delegates!

2023 UUA General Assembly
 June 21 - 25, 2023 - Pittsburgh PA

Thanks to Mike and Jinky Gardner, who will attend the 2023 UUA General Assembly online as BFUU's delegates.

While Mike and Jinky will represent BFUU, all are encouraged to attend GA if you are able. Whether in person or online, GA connects UUs from across the globe - to share ideas, challenges, and hopes.

Any UU can attend GA: [Register Here!](#)

Community Voices



Left: Betsy Rose, Emma's Revolution: Sandy O and Pat Humphries (upper: with audience; lower: close-up)
Right: Toby Blome, Betsy Rose, Sandy O and Pat Humphries.



BFUU SJC sponsored CODEPINK's May 18 fundraiser featuring *Betsy Rose* and *Emma's Revolution* was successful and FUN! Thanks to them, to **Toby Blome** for organizing, and to **Sharat Lin** for sharing these great images with us!

photos: Sharat Lin. All rights reserved; used with express permission from Sharat Lin.

Upcoming Events



BFUU Monthly Open Mic – 2nd Fridays



BFUU OPEN MIC

Fri June 9 - 7:00 PM

Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Comedians, Storytellers, etc.:
Sign-ups begin 6:30. Perform or just come to enjoy! Show time 7pm



Featured Artist: **Cadence Myles**

Cadence Myles is a live musician from Oakland, performing solo and with groups. Her original music combines rock, R&B, and pop, creating a unique experience. She's also a skilled drummer and songwriter, believing performing live is the best way to deliver her music, therefore having few studio recordings available.

Host: **Marcie Boyd**

singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, teacher, activist, and longtime PMN member - sings with Occupella and the LaPeña Chorus <https://peoplesmusic.org/Sys/PublicProfile/49461067/4386840>

BFUU legendary Fellowship Hall

1924 Cedar Street (at Bonita Ave)

One block east of MLK Way, Wheelchair Access on Bonita

Windows open for covid safety so DRESS in WARM LAYERS!

Stay home if you think you might be contagious.

BYO potluck refreshments (optional)

Suggested donation \$10-\$20 No one turned away. Volunteers needed!

Sponsored by BFUU Social Justice Committee www.BFUU.org

To get low volume Social Justice announcements/alerts, email: bfuusjev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

BFUU Meetings & Events

Special Events

BFUU Open Mic on 2nd Fridays 6/9 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Comedians, Storytellers, etc.: Sign-ups begin 6:30. Perform or just come to enjoy! Show time 7pm

BFUU Annual Meeting on Sunday 6/11 at 12:30 pm on Zoom

The BFUU Annual Meeting will include updates on BFUU business and announcement of the elected Board members. Note that this year we will continue the process of holding the election by survey with follow ups by email and phone if needed because we are still in development of full interactive ability on Zoom - only BFUU members can vote, but all may attend the meeting!

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 6/22 at 3:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Caring Committee Meeting with Ministers on 3rd Tuesday 6/20 at 11 AM

Please contact Rev. Carrie at revcarrie@bfuu.org

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 6/1 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

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 6/18 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Wisdom Circle 1st Tuesday 6/6 at 11:00 AM


Come one, come all! Join us for lively conversation. We may even solve some of the world's problems... or not. We'll have fun trying.

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Thursday 6/1 at 5:00 PM

Please contact worshipservices@bfuu.org

some committees meet as needed - please see full committee list on [page 3](#)

Fellowship Calendar June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		 BFUU Open Mic Friday June 9 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall		1 2:00 pm COM Meeting [*] 5:00 pm WSC Meeting [*]	2	3 Deadline for written petition for Board seat.
4 10:30 am - FH Worship Service ^{*1}	5	6 11:00 am Wisdom Circle ^{*1} 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	7	8	9 7:00 pm BFUU Open Mic [*]	10
11 10:30 am - Zoom Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 PM BFUU Annual Meeting ^{*1}	12	13 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1} 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 am - Zoom Worship Service ^{*1} Noonish - after service SJC Meeting ^{*1}	19 Juneteenth Holiday	20 Caring meeting with ministers [*] 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1} Communicator Deadline	21	22 3 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg ^{*1}	23	24
25 10:30 am - FH Worship Service ^{*1}	26	27 1:00 pm Rev. Carrie office hours* 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	28	29	30	

In-Person Worship Services

Sundays June 4 & June 25
 10:30 AM

in BFUU Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Please Plan Ahead: Direct links to meetings/registration have¹ after the link.

Other links send an email to the meeting organizer – please allow time 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 SUMMER (JULY/AUGUST) COMMUNICATOR:

June 20, 2023 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

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

T: 510-841-4824 | E: office@bfuu.org | www.bfuu.org