

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

February 2017

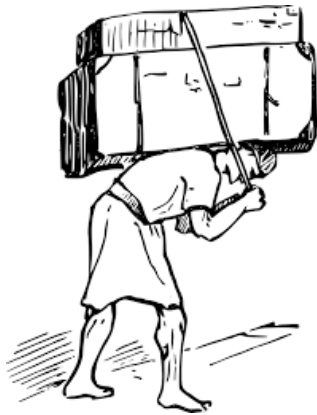
Upcoming Sunday Services

Services at 10:30 a.m.

February 5: The Games We Play

Rev. Elena Rose Vera, Worship Leader

Who we are is often shaped by where we are – the people we are surrounded by, the rules and norms of our environment. From primate instincts to high-tech virtual environments, how are we being shaped? How can we stretch what's possible for us even when the rules change – and how can we change the rules?



February 12: Complaint

Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

From time to time I'm asked if a person or a people have the right to complain about oppressive conditions under which they have labored for too long. Generally, my response is to ask, "Haven't they suffered long enough?"

Does complaint actually bring the solution? To what extent does it help?



February 19: Takin' It To the Streets

Moses Canales, Guest Worship Leader

The current state of non-violent, mass direct action in America – where do we go from here? What is the origin and history of non-violent protest in America and historically how effective is it? What role, if any, do faith and spirituality have in the non-violent pursuit of social justice? These questions I will approach with a brief history of non-violent resolution of conflicts, using readings from civil rights leaders, and personal reflections and experiences of those who have struggled against social injustice and tyranny.



February 26: In Search of Miracles

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Worship Leader

When faced with life-threatening illness or accident, when is hope false hope? Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles explores the mysteries of beating the odds or succumbing to the inevitable – with many questions, a few answers.



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Dr. Carolyn Knowles
Pastoral Care Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen
Community Minister

Susan T. Mashiyama
Music Director

Deborah Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator

Ed Keating
Facilities Manager

Susan Macke
Office Coordinator

Richard Sandling
Custodian

Board of Trustees

Doug Chambers, President

Elayne Ryder, Vice President

Nanci Armstrong-Temple

Michael Gardner

Jeff Palmer

Judith Granada-Dewey (alternate)

Board Associates

Board Emeritus Ben Burch, Treasurer

Holly Harwood, Board Secretary

Committees

Aesthetics Committee
Joanna Foley, Chair

Building & Grounds Committee
Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
Ben Burch, Co-Chair

Caring Community
Kathy Riehle, Chair

Finance Committee
Ben Burch, Chair

Hospitality Committee

Membership Committee
Doug Chambers, Chair

Personnel Committee
Kathy Riehle, Chair

Religious Education (RE) Committee
Doug Chambers, Chair

Social Justice Committee (SJC)
Gene Herman, Chair

Sunday Services Committee
Jeff Palmer, Chair

A Letter from the President of the BOT

Last month I spoke about volunteering here at the Fellowship. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge just a few of the people who keep our community thriving and go unnoticed by some. This is not going to be a list of every committee with the roster of each, as that information is available elsewhere. What I want to do is take an imaginary walk through a three hour period at BFUU and acknowledge all that gets done by "somebody".

The time after Sunday Service is a very busy time for all volunteers. As soon as the Postlude is finished, we all rush to greet any newcomers and reconnect with fellow congregants. **Ben Burch, Duhavamir, Abbot Foote, Kathy Riehle, Wattie Taylor** and anyone who feels strong enough will stack most of the chairs and set up tables to arrange the remaining chairs around. **Harold Houghton, Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Pam Norton, Wyndy Knox Carr**, and others may sing around the piano played by **Andy Jamieson, Brett Torres**, or another of our piano-playing volunteers while this is being done. On some occasions, **Elinor Roberts** may join in if there's not too much to be set up by **Iarens imanyuel, Kathy Riehle, Christine Dickson, Joanna Foley, Virginia Hollins-Davidson**, and any of a host of others who bustle around the food sharing table presenting and labeling their special dish for the monthly potluck or the regular post-service coffee hour.

Once all the food is gone, **Elinor** and **Iarens** usually lead the charge of cleaning the kitchen, packaging the leftovers, and completing the hundreds of tasks involved in restoring our small kitchen to order. The hospitality setup/cleanup teams (**Kathy/myself, Christine/Jeff Palmer**) then start their second shift. An amazing array of members/friends/well-wishers seems to come from nowhere to help with putting tables and chairs away and either **Jeff**, myself, or another mysterious volunteer, often aided by **Arlo Chambers**, sweeps the floor and we hand it over to Richard Sandling (not a volunteer, but invaluable none the less) to finish and lock up.

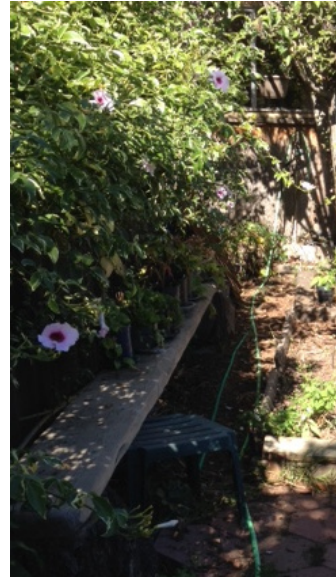
Now we have successfully scratched the surface of what it takes to care for ourselves and our beloved Fellowship Hall. Perhaps another time we can discuss the volunteers and professionals that it takes to actually prepare and present a service. Have a great month and thanks for all you do.

-Doug Chambers
President, BFUU Board of Trustees

Community Voices



Jim Beatty
Margaret Hamilton
Syl Scherzer
Dolores Helman



Garden Art Project and Worm Farm Need Your Help!

Jim Beatty is still looking for broken ceramic pots and plates for an art project and newspapers (black ink on white newsprint only) and eggshells for worm farm! Please leave in a neat pile in the garden behind the ramp.

Music at BFUU



Keep Your New Year's Resolution to Sing More!

Come let your spirit sing with our choir! Instrumentalists are also welcome. Music is an important way we celebrate and express joy in being together and celebrate our spirituality. Join us and sing a wide range of genres from classical to folk and pop! Come check us out at any choir rehearsal on Sundays before the service (we meet at 9:30 am). These are open to new folks and visitors who want to see what it's like. There are also practices on Wednesdays from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Please contact Music Director Susan T. Mashiyama at music@bfuu.org for more information. Also, let her know if you would like to share your musical talent by performing a piece during the service.

BFUU has a YouTube Music Channel!

Check out our talented musicians who contribute such beautiful, spirited music to our Sunday services. One recent highlight that can be seen there was when our Board President Doug Chambers was joined by his daughters and partner Kathy in a rendition of "Glory," a song about the struggle for equal voting rights from the movie "Selma." They were joined by Andy Jamieson (piano) and Susan T. Mashiyama (piano). And please share the videos with others who might enjoy them. Keep an eye and ear out for future postings.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyWxEDGsbqisVahnBzXGWeQ>



Featured BFUU Events

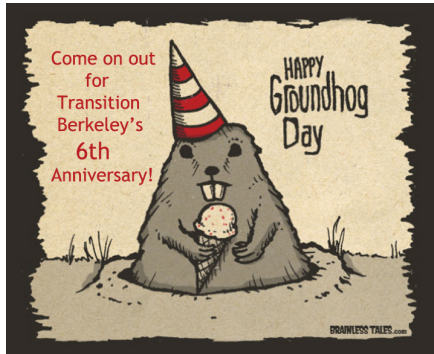


Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side. The Preschool rooms are only reservable by BFUU groups and are accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms on the 2nd floor of our Religious Education Building are not wheelchair accessible.

Transition Berkeley Presents Music, Potluck & Inspiration

Celebrate & Get Activated!

Thursday, February 2 at 6:30 PM potluck, 7:30-9 PM program, in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.



It's Groundhog Day! Raise your heads up, celebrate and learn ways you can take action!

Transition Berkeley invites you to help us celebrate our sixth anniversary with live Old Time Music by the Share Croppers, a delicious potluck supper, presentation by staff from the fabulous Story of Stuff Project and a panel of some of your favorite Local Change Makers.

Following up on last month's film which documented the devastating impact of homo sapiens on Mother Earth, this

month's two short films **The Story of Change** and **The Story of Solutions**, will give us tools to guide our urgent actions for a more just and sustainable world. We'll reflect in small groups on methods for organizing, and then hear from the Local Change Makers featured at our Screening the Green film nights. These Transition leaders will bring us up to date on their projects: Wee Bee Gardeners, Transition Streets, Roots of Empathy, Native Plant Neighborhood Building, Consider the Homeless, Dump Wells Fargo and more.

It's time for us all to become active, informed and collegial in the life of our community. YOU can make a difference. Come out, sign up!

This event is sponsored by Transition Berkeley and the BFUU Social Justice Committee.

Suggested Donation: \$5 – 20 to cover event costs. No one turned away for lack of funds.

The Oasis in Berkeley: Blackberri Live! and Open Mic

Friday, February 10 at 6:30 PM sign up / 7 PM start

Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Join us for BFUU's revamped open mic night! First come, first choice of 10-minute slots, available until the slots fill up.

Our featured performer is the legendary Blackberri.

Blackberri is a black, gay singer-songwriter guitarist who lives, loves, struggles and performs in San Francisco. He has roots in blues and gospel, but plays many styles. His music reaches a wide range of people of all ages, races and sexual preferences. He performed on "Walls to Roses: Songs of Changing Men" produced by Smithsonian Folkways.

\$5-\$20 suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.



Featured BFUU Events

Dancing on the Side of Love: A Valentine's Dance Party

Saturday, February 11 at 7 - 10 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Featuring dance music and songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s played by Soul Rising, an 8-person band led by Moses Channels with vocals by Doug Chambers and Elinor Roberts.

Admission is \$10 to \$20 on a sliding fee scale with no one turned away for lack of funds. Food and beverages available.

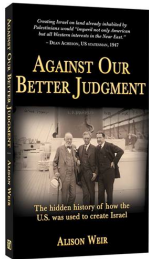
Wheelchair accessible via the ramp on Bonita Ave.

This is a fundraiser for BFUU and Pacific Center for Human Growth, a charity supporting the goals of a LGBT organization.



SJC Speaker Series: Alison Weir

Thursday February 16 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.



100 Years of Pro-Israel Activism: How a Special Interest Lobby Enabled the Colonization of Palestine

Lecture by Alison Weir, executive director of IfAmericansKnew.org, President of the Council for the National Interest, and author of “Against Our Better Judgment: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Was Used to Create Israel.” Author and former journalist Alison Weir will

discuss this movement, its history and current reality, media coverage of Israel-Palestine, the role of Israel partisans in promoting the US War on Iraq, and the ongoing demonization of Iran. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session. Weir’s book will be available for purchase. The creation of Israel in 1948 was the result of a worldwide movement called “political Zionism,” active in the United States since the late 1800s. After Israel was created, this movement – now known as the “Israel lobby” – continued to work on behalf of Israel. Today it is one of the most powerful and pervasive special interests in the United States. Among its many achievements has been to re-define the term “Anti-Semitism” to increasingly make it mean criticism of Israel and/or support for Palestinian human rights. Another accomplishment has been to procure massive US aid to Israel: on average, 7,000 times more than to others around the world.

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. \$5 - \$20 suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.

59th Anniversary of the Peace Symbol

Monday February 20 at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Remember on Presidents' Day the origins of the Peace Symbol, which is an essential part of our Peace Movement. Join Arnie Passman and others. Musicians, poets, comedians will perform and offer their thoughts. We will shine light on the history of the Peace Symbol and discuss how we can have a lasting peace and a joyful resistance.

Refreshments, all welcome. Sponsored by the BFUU Social Justice Committee. \$5 - \$20 suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.



Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events



T'ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman (note: no class on Mon 2/20)

Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

This practice improves health and well-being at any age.

Elders Circle

Tuesday, February 7 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

The BFUU Elders Circle meets at 11:00 AM on First Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

BFUU Leadership Meeting

Thursday, February 9 at 7 PM in the Preschool Room

BFUU Committee Chairs and all BFUU members seeking leadership and group facilitation skills are welcome to attend the monthly Leadership Meeting.

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck*

Sunday, February 12 after service (12:30 PM) in Fellowship Hall– 1924 Cedar St.

Come one, come all! Whether you have a dish to share* or not, we invite you to join us as we break bread in the spirit of loving community. If you can, please help us set up tables and chairs before and put them away afterward. In between, join in the bounty provided by members and friends. Members, friends, neighbors, and the wider community are welcome to join us.

*If you bring a dish, please also bring a printed list of all ingredients so those with allergies, interactions and dietary restrictions can enjoy the dishes they can eat and avoid those they can't eat.



BFUU Writers Groups

1-Sunday, February 12 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-no animals

2-Sunday, February 26 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-svc. animals

Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 on the 2nd Sunday of the month is for those who are allergic to animals, and/or don't need to bring service dogs to the group. Group 2 on the 4th Sunday of the month is for those with service animals and/or are not allergic to animals. You are welcome to attend both groups if you are able. Our writers group is for all levels, from beginner to experienced, and all genres, including poetry, memoir, and fiction. After a 7-minute writing exercise, we write for an agreed upon period of time. Then we read our work aloud and give each other positive feedback.

Good Grief Group

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 PM in the Minister's Office – 1606 Bonita Ave.

A gathering place to share the experience of grief and loss. To join, call BFUU at 510-841-4824.

BFUU Board Meeting

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Regular Committee Meetings

Buildings & Grounds

*Meets once per month,
contact Ben Burch*

Finance

*3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM
in the Fireside Room*

Hospitality, Caring and Membership

*4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall*

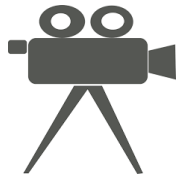
Social Justice

*1st & 3rd Sunday 12:30 PM
in the Preschool Room*

Sunday Services

*1st Tuesday at 7 PM
in the Preschool Kitchen*

Please check out our BFUU Facebook Videos Section. You may be surprised at how this “growing garden of harvest” is enhancing BFUU ability to chronical its living history and to interface with social justice concerns with community partners in the San Francisco Bay Area! We also have a growing number of Photos and Photo Albums that you may enjoy. And sharing them helps our little pebbles tossed to have some ripple effects.
<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyfellowshipuu/videos>



Other Community Events held at BFUU



Women & Song, a womens singing group

Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7-8:30pm

Preschool Kitchen, 1606 Bonita Ave.

\$20-\$10, sliding scale

Women & Song are looking for a few good women to sing & laugh with us! Each rehearsal we learn traditional and contemporary songs & rounds, including some originals. Women & Song have been meeting regularly for over a decade and welcome new singers. If you can hold your own on a round or maybe read a bit of music, you're welcome!

Reserve your space!

510/910-2574 or deborahj@djhamouris.com



Unconditional Love Qwire Open Sing

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7-9 PM in the Preschool Kitchen–1606 Bonita Ave.

You are invited to sing with us! The Unconditional Love Qwire (or ULove Qwire) sings songs of love and encouragement for ourselves and for those in need. Please join us for twice monthly rehearsals here at BFUU.

Irregular Sing-Outs will occur. We meet in the preschool kitchen, so bring your childlike wonder with you.

Donations are welcome to defray costs and support the director. Absolutely NO ONE TURNED AWAY! We want your voice and spirit to soar in song with us.

With great love,

Deborah "DJ" Hamouris, Director

510/910-2574 or deborahj@djhamouris.com

UUA/PCD/UU News & Events

Do not miss this opportunity to hear **Dr. bell hooks**, one of the most influential voices in the American feminist movement! She will speak at the Third International Women's Convocation, Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey Peninsula, CA, February 18, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

Writer, professor, feminist theorist, and activist, Dr. hooks is the author of numerous critically



bell hooks, PhD
Writer, professor,
feminist theorist



International Women's Convocation Presents bell hooks Rock Out! emma's revolution

Including:

Dinner (organic and locally sourced)

UU Worship

Chocolate Bar

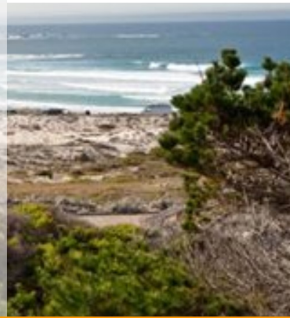
Plus Happy Half-Hour (cash bar)

4-9 PM, Saturday, February 18, 2017
(overnight accommodation available)

Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, CA



emma's revolution
Award-winning
activist musicians



Tickets: \$100 Order Online: IntlWomensConvo.org Send your check to: IWC, 7 Dunecrest Ave., Monterey, CA 93940

acclaimed books on the function of race, gender, class, and culture. She is the Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies at Berea College, KY, where she founded the bell hooks Institute. The institute strives to promote the cause of ending domination through critical thinking, teaching, events, and conversation that seek to understand the ways systems of exploitation and oppression intersect.

The event is open to the public and includes dinner and a musical concert with award winning musician activists emma's revolution.

A limited number of tickets are available online at IntlWomensConvo.org for \$100 per person. Overnight accommodation at Asilomar is available. More information: contact the International Women's Convocation at admin@icuuw.com or phone 713-269-2892 (Laura Nagel).



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

WOW! Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring, 24th annual Alaska tour program.

TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 10 to 20 -- \$3,156

TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 7 to 19 -- \$3,758

WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward
SEE: Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more. Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges. Native American artists and dancers. Alaska's finest museums. Spectacular travel by train, plane, and boat.

STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, & dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like friends.

Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU / dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org / 907-322-4966

More information: www.WhaleCoastAK.org

Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests register

Fellowship Calendar February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The BFUU Office CLOSED and NO Qigong/Tai Chi on Monday February 20th for the Presidents Day Holiday			1 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:30 pm Sunflower* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	2 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Unconditional Love Qwire 7 pm Transition Berkeley Presents "Celebrate & Get Activated"*	3 6 pm AA Men's 7 pm Soul Motion	4 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
5 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	6 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	7 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Sunday Svcs Committee Meeting	8 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	9 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Women & Song 7 pm Leadership Meeting*	10 6 pm AA Men's 7 pm The Oasis in Berkeley with Blackberri*	11 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship 7 pm Dancing on the Side of Love*
12 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm 2nd Sunday Potluck* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 1 (no animals)* 8 pm AA Mtg	13 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	14 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	15 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:30 pm Sunflower 7 pm NA Men's Mtg	16 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Unconditional Love Qwire 7 pm SJC Speaker Series: Alison Weir*	17 6 pm AA Men's	18 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
19 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 12:30 SJ Discernment 8 pm AA Mtg	20 Presidents Day BFUU Office Closed No Qigong/Tai Chi 2 pm Peace Symbol Anniversary* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion March Communicator Deadline	21 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	22 3 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Good Grief Group*	23 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Medicine Theater 7 pm Women & Song 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	24 6 pm AA Men's	25 9 am ASCA 10:30 am NVC Class 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
26 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 2 (svc animals)* 12:30 Hospitality, Caring and Membership Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	27 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	28 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	Mark Your Calendar UUA General Assembly June 21-25, 2017 Mark your calendar and set up your savings plan - 2017 General Assembly June 21-25 in New Orleans, LA. Details at http://www.uua.org/ga PCD Assembly May 5-6, 2017 Pacific Central District Assembly will be nearby at Mt. Diablo in Walnut Creek CA! Details are being worked out but you can put this on your calendar!			

* denotes Fellowship event

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.

www.bfuu.org

BFUU OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3

Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri

Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Office Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT *COMMUNICATOR*: February 20

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