

# THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

October 2017

## Upcoming Sunday Services

*Services at 10:30 a.m.*

### October 1: Mutually Assured Construction

*Rev. Elena Rose Vera, Worship Leader*



Amidst the saber-rattling of belligerent world leaders and the advancement of the international Doomsday Clock, let us join together to honor the history and future of nuclear disarmament, the great work of the movement for world peace, and the place each of us can take in a long history of ordinary people who help take hands off launch buttons and join them together.

### October 8: Resilience in Native American Life

*Rev. Meg Whitaker-Greene, Guest Worship Leader*

Stories and models of recovery from Historic Trauma learned from persons and groups of those whose ancestors first lived on the land we now name the United States of America and Canada. Standing Rock is one story which keeps expanding into many stories.



### October 15: Creating Beloved Community

*Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader*

For those of us who have been part of this community for years and for those of us who have come more recently; regardless of summers far ranging, or cleaved close to home– Welcome! During what may be the most tumultuous time (to date) in this surprising century, we take a moment to be together: meet, greet, welcome and huddle with those of us in this small raft.

Ingathering is here! You are home. Please bring, a short blessing or good wish in writing which will be placed in a basket for the occasion. Welcome Home!



### October 22: The Sun, the Moon, and the Divine Spirit of the Universe

*Susan T. Mashiyama, Lay Worship Leader*



This past August, some members of the BFUU Choir drove to Oregon to view the total eclipse of the sun. Several of them mentioned how this was a transformative, powerfully spiritual experience. In this

service, we'll hear about this trip and discuss how natural phenomena like solar eclipses stir our sense of the divine.

### October 29: An Economy of Ghouls

*Isabel Call, Guest Worship Leader*

This season between Rosh Hashanah and Thanksgiving is ideal for harvesting lessons about our lives and making amends. Or, we can let our mistakes haunt us and ripple out into death-dealing

structures of oppression. Isabel discusses justice issues she has encountered in Africa and how the UUA's recent Statement of Conscience about economic inequality facilitates our responsibility to the planet.





## Hospitality Corner

### Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*

Reverend Elena Rose Vera, *Minister*

Reverend Earl Koteen,  
*Community Minister*

Susan T. Mashiyama, *Music Director*

Deborah Hamouris,  
*Event Space Coordinator*

Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*

Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*

Richard Sandling, *Custodian*

### Board of Trustees

Doug Chambers, *President*

Elayne Ryder, *Vice President*

Nanci Armstrong-Temple

Michael Gardner

Jeff Palmer

Judith Granada-Dewey, *Treasurer*  
(Alternate)

Elinor Roberts (Alternate)

### Committees

Aesthetics Subcommittee of B&G  
Joanna Foley, *Chair*

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

Caring Community  
Kathy Riehle, *Chair*

Committee on Ministry

Finance Committee  
Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*  
Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*

Hospitality Committee

Membership Committee  
Doug Chambers, *Chair*

Music Committee  
Holly Harwood, *Chair*

Personnel Committee  
Kathy Riehle, *Chair*

Poetry Committee  
Holly Harwood, *Poet Laureate*

Religious Education (RE) Committee  
Sharon Colligan, *Chair*

Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Sunday Services Committee  
Joanna Foley, *Chair*

When I was a kid, one of the regular events at our church was a “covered dish supper,” or sometimes a “ham and bean supper.” For the covered dish supper, each family brought a casserole-type main dish to share. I don’t know who brought desserts but there was always something! The ham and bean supper would be fully prepared by one of the church social groups; a small fee was charged and no one had to bring anything. In both instances, the important thing wasn’t the food, it was to spend time together in beloved community.

At BFUU, our Second Sunday potluck is kind of a blend of the two. Some people bring a surprise main dish or salad. Others have a “specialty” we miss when it’s not there -- like Joanna’s cornbread, El’s salad, or Noah’s bagels (OK, Noah doesn’t really attend BFUU but we do look forward to Noah’s bagels and cream cheese.) When the Hospitality team wants to make sure we have enough, we buy some prepared food ahead of time. We welcome donations but there’s no fee. You don’t have to bring anything but yourselves.

Lately however, I’ve noticed something missing: desserts! I hesitate to say it because there is the risk we’ll end up with one of “those” potlucks, where everyone brings something sweet. I’m willing to take the chance by saying it: bring some sweetness to the potluck: your best or your favorite; the one that’s the least trouble to make or the easiest to buy; gluten-free or sugar-free; or your grandmother’s special thing. (Remember a label with ingredients.)

You don’t have to wait until the Second Sunday to test your recipes. We’ll welcome your dish any Sunday and we always want you to spend time with us at the community table. I look forward to bumping elbows with you there.

By Elinor Roberts, Hospitality Chair



## Semiannual Meeting Sun. October 29

BFUU's Semiannual Meeting will be held on Sunday October 29 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

The agenda will include:

- Elections for Nominating Committee-voting
- Presentation of new minister contracts
- Music director contract
- Results of SJDP (Social Justice Discernment Process)
- SJMT (Social Justice Ministry Team)
- Other



Your voice counts and your vote matters! We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

## Choir Practice Variations

The BFUU Choir Practice and Sing! has been changed to just a Choir Practice. Also, the choir will not be practicing on the first Wednesdays of the month starting in October.

The BFUU Choir has been needing more time to work on the songs we sing in the Sunday services, so the Wednesday evening sessions are changing to just a choir practice. However, everyone is still welcome to come join in for fellowship and to learn the songs better and be able to sing more confidently and joyously on Sundays. During the first part of the evening, we focus on choir numbers with harmonies. From about 8 pm on, we practice the hymns we'll lead on Sunday. Check out the calendar for other music offerings at BFUU for opportunities for casual sing-alongs such as The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam on 2nd Fridays and the monthly ukulele jam/sing-alongs.



## Regular Committee Meetings

### ***Aesthetics***(Subcom. of B&G)

*1st Wednesday at noon  
in the Benjy Room*

### ***Buildings & Grounds***

*Meets once per month,  
contact Ben Burch*

### ***Caring***

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

### ***Committee on Ministry***

*Meets as needed,  
contact Abbot Foote*

### ***Finance***

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

### ***Hospitality,***

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

### ***Membership***

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

### ***Music***

*1st Sunday 12:30 PM  
in Fellowship Hall*

### ***Poetry Committee***

*Meets as needed  
contact Holly Harwood*

### ***Social Justice***

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

### ***Sunday Svc***

*1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM  
in the Preschool Kitchen*

## Community Voices



|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Frida Chambers  | Tom McAninley      |
| Abbot Foote     | Paikea Melcher     |
| Michael Gardner | Lis Schultze-Allen |
| Gene Herman     |                    |

### Memorial Service for Evelyn Berman

Sunday October 1 at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall

The BFUU community grieves the passing of our friend and Fellowship member, Evelyn



Berman. Please join Evelyn's husband Bob, their family and friends at this gathering in honor of Evelyn's life.



### *From the Heart of the Caring Committee*

Wanted!! Needed!! Four (4) individuals who would love to volunteer on Sundays; two (2) for the Welcome Table and two (2) for the Greeters Table. This can be a shared project. It involves setting up before service, and putting everything away at the end of the service. If you love talking to people and making them feel welcome, this is the spot for you!! Questions... please call Kathy at 989-273-9066.

### BFUU's Ukulele Camp: Gentle Song and Dance of Hawaii



In July and August, BFUU held two ukulele summer camps led by Music Director Susan T. Mashiyama with assistant teaching by Jeff Palmer and Margaret Hurlbert. The beginner and intermediate sessions together brought a total of 28 participants to the Fellowship Hall for learning ukulele basics and then more advanced Hawaiian song and hula dance. Both BFUU adults and children as well as newcomers participated in activities that included making flower leis and grass skirts. On Sunday, October 29, near Halloween, ukulele campers will perform Hawaiian song and dance during

the Sunday service. Don't miss this special tropical treat from new and old friends and family!

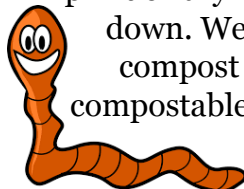
### *Thank You!*

Tom McAninley and his Ordination Committee would like to thank all the folks who helped make the event a huge success. Thanks to our Board of Trustees for encouraging us to go ahead in the lengthy but joyous process. You all have helped the BFUU to be recognized in our community as UUs.

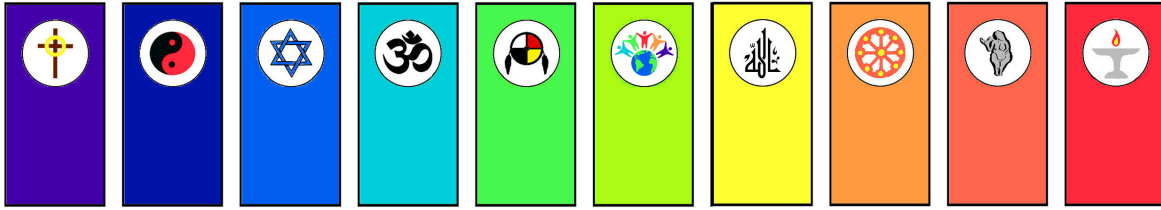
### BFUU Worm Farm Needs Your Help!

BFUU needs newspapers (**black ink on white newsprint** only), eggshells, and **WORMS** for worm farm! Please leave newspapers and eggshells in a neat pile in the garden behind the ramp and contact the office and/or Jim Beatty if you have worms to share with us!

The worm farm needs dry matter in the form of news print or dry leaves to keep the smell of rotting food (etc.) down. We can't start producing worm castings and compost tea for plant food unless we have brown compostable material to add to the bins. Egg shells help add nutrients to the soil.



## View From Rooms@bfuu.org



**Deborah Hamouris,**  
Event Space Coordinator



The Tenth Banner has now been hung in Fellowship Hall (see image below), and our newest banner (left) should be up in the lobby today.

### 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.

#### Memorial Service for Evelyn Berman

*Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

The BFUU community grieves the passing of our friend and Fellowship member, Evelyn Berman. Please join Evelyn's husband Bob, their family and friends at this gathering in honor of Evelyn's life.

#### Transition Berkeley and Center for Biological Diversity Present: **OR7 – The Journey**

*Thursday, October 5 at 6:30 PM refreshments, 7-9 PM program, in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Please join us for a screening of "OR7: The Journey." This inspiring film is about Oregon's famous wandering gray wolf, OR-7, who made international news after trekking hundreds of miles across Oregon down into Northern California -- the first wolf in the Golden State in nearly 90 years. OR-7 is back in Oregon now with a mate; they've had pups four years in a row, two of which have traveled to California on their own. Thrillingly, one of them found a mate and formed the Lassen pack right here in California, and had pups of their own this year.

Not sure how OR-7 and other wolves establishing territory here changes the game for wolves and people on the West Coast? The Center for Biological Diversity's

Amaroq Weiss will host a post-screening Q&A to answer questions about the film, share wolf news at the state and federal level, and explain how you can get involved.

Meet and greet at 6:30 pm before the film. Bring healthy vegetarian snack or a refreshment to share if you can. The program begins at 7:00 pm. This event sponsored by: Transition Berkeley, Center for Biological Diversity and the BFUU SJC.

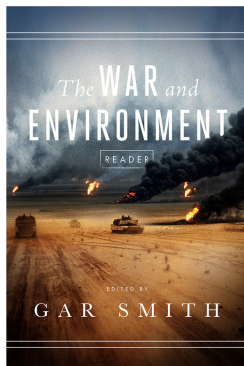
Suggested Donation: \$5 – 20 to cover event costs. No one turned away for lack of funds.



## Featured BFUU Events

### Peace or Planet: Book Launch Party for *The War and Environment Reader*

Saturday, October 7 doors at 7 PM, program at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.



Help unite the environmental and peace movements! Gar Smith's new book examines Permawar (the culture of war), Terracide (war's impacts on nature), and Ecolibrium (paths to a world in balance with nature). With essays by Daniel Ellsberg, Medea Benjamin, Jerry Mander, Helen Caldicott and others. Select readings by special guests, followed by a Q&A.

Suggested donation: \$5-20. No one turned away for lack of funds! Sponsored by BFUU's Social Justice Committee.



**Gar Smith**

Author

photo by Anita Medal



### The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam

Friday, October 13 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

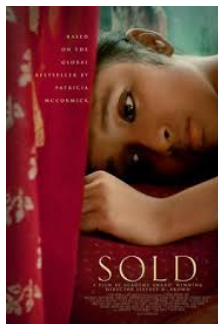
Join us for BFUU's new jam session format. Come sit in our circle, share music, songs, poetry, excerpts from your new book, jokes and stories. We welcome all entertainers and entertainees to fill the Hall with performance, connection and appreciations for all forms of art.

Suggested donations of \$5 – \$20 No one turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

### Blossomy Project Benefit for Survivors of Human Trafficking In India:

A Screening of **SOLD** and a performance by Kristi Williamson of Spoken Word Mystic Poetry, Song and Movement

Saturday, October 21 at 7pm - 10pm in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.



**Blossomy Project** is a Berkeley based 501(c)3 working with trafficking survivors since 2004 in India and in 2016 expanded its reach to vulnerable communities in Thailand! The focus of Blossomy Project is empowerment through self expression.

Our programs include dance therapy, art therapy, music therapy and photography.

**SOLD** is a narrative film based on the true story of Lakshmi's trafficking from rural Nepal to a brothel in Kolkata, India and



Kristi Williamson

highlights the brutality of child trafficking and the resilience of the human spirit. [www.soldthemovie.com](http://www.soldthemovie.com)

**Kristi Williamson** is brilliant performer who is passionate about archetypal exploration through cultural dance forms and ritual theater and will be presenting a piece that embodies her experiences working with survivors in India. Kristi has been working with Blossomy Project in Kolkata at a shelter home with over 100 girls since 2014 leading a one month workshop in partnership with the Tamalpa Art Corps program.

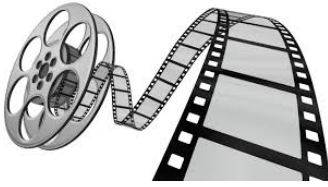
This event is generously being sponsored by BFUU and all proceeds go to benefit the empowerment of trafficking survivors and those vulnerable to human trafficking.

Lulu Dharma jewelry and tote bags will be on sale at the event for half price [www.luludharma.com](http://www.luludharma.com)

Lite fare will be on offer. Free popcorn! \$5 Raffle Tickets!

\$20 minimum suggested donation at the door. More Information: [www.blossomy.org](http://www.blossomy.org)

## Featured BFUU Events



### **Fourth Friday Fellowship Free Funny Family-Friendly Film Festival for Friends & Family**

*Friday, October 27th at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Hope you can join us as we try out this new event!



### **BFUU SemiAnnual Meeting**

*Sunday, October 29 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

BFUU's Semiannual Meeting will be held on Sunday October 29 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Your voice counts and your vote matters! We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.



## Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events



### **T'ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman**

*Mondays, 4-5 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

*Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

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



### **BFUU Choir Practice**

*Wednesdays at 7-8:30 PM (except 1st Wed. of each month) in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

We practice songs for the Sunday services, learning melodies, and working on musicality.

During the first part of the evening, we focus on choir numbers with harmonies. From about 8 pm on, we practice the hymns we'll lead on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join

in for fellowship and to be able to sing more confidently and joyously on Sundays. Please invite your friends and neighbors. There's no pressure to sing in the choir on Sundays. These gatherings are something BFUU offers as a service to build community.

### **Uke Jam**

*Once per month, various days/times\**



BFUU holds a uke jam once a month for those who want to

experience more music in their lives. First time players are welcome and if you need to borrow a ukelele, let us know because we might be able to loan you one.

**Welcome!**

*\*please email [jeffpalmer123@comcast.net](mailto:jeffpalmer123@comcast.net) for details on next meeting*



### **Elders Circle**

*Tuesday, September 5 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

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

### **Orientation for Newcomers**

*First Sundays at 12:15 PM (after service) in the lobby of Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

The Rev. Elena Rose Vera conducts an orientation for newcomers after service on the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall lobby. All are welcome, whether or not you are considering membership.

## Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events

### **BFUU Second Sundays Potluck\*** (desserts welcome!)

*Sunday, September 10 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!

\*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, September 10 at 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-no animals*

*2-Sunday, September 24 at 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-service animals*

Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 (2nd Sundays) is for people who are allergic to dogs, and people who don't need to bring service dogs to the group. Group 2 (4th Sundays) is for people with service animals and people who are not allergic to dogs. 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 min. writing exercise, we write for an agreed upon period of time. Then we read our work aloud and give each other positive feedback..

### **BFUU Board Meeting**

*Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

## Other Community Events held at BFUU



### **Women & Song, a women's singing group**

Directed by Deborah "DJ" Hamouris

October 12, 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! At 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](mailto:deborahj@djhamouris.com)

### **Dances of Universal Peace**

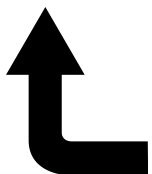
*Friday, October 27, 7:45-9:45pm, Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.*

Simple, meditative, and joyous circle dances which use sacred phrases, chants, movements, and music from the world's wisdom traditions. There are no performers, no audience members, and no experience is necessary! 4th Fridays, monthly.

For more info, contact: Sadaya, [sadaya9@gmail.com](mailto:sadaya9@gmail.com), 510/303-2747

<http://www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/about.shtm>

\* denotes Fellowship event



Make sure you have the  
SemiAnnual meeting on your  
calendar! Sunday, October 29  
at 12:30 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 HOURS**

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

### **BFUU STAFF**

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3

Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri

Email: [rooms@bfuu.org](mailto:rooms@bfuu.org)

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Office Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: [office@bfuu.org](mailto:office@bfuu.org)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT *COMMUNICATOR*:** October 20

Please email [newsletter@bfuu.org](mailto: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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