

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists
December 2018

Upcoming Sunday Services

Services at 10:30 a.m.



December 2: Remembrance, Resilience, and Resistance: A Celebration of Trans Life

Lauren Renée Hotchkiss, Guest Worship Leader

Please join Lauren Renée Hotchkiss and Nanci Ira Armstrong-Temple for a music-filled service dedicated to re-centering Trans Life and a rejection of the current attempted erasure of Trans community and people. There will be an opportunity to donate to TRUUST (<https://transuu.org/2018/11/2/>), the UU association for trans religious professionals.

December 9: Ingathering

Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

You may be thinking that it is customary for the celebration of “Ingathering” to take place at the very onset of the church year; and you are right. Yet, there is more to the meaning of this tradition; more that calls us to plumb its core values and celebrate who we are now. They call us together to celebrate and give thanks for the person sitting next to us. Today, let us love these closest neighbors as if they are divine.



December 16: Turning off the Valves at the Border

Leonard Higgins, Guest Worship Leader

Oil from the Canadian Tar Sands flows into the US through giant pipelines at the border. What would happen if someone turned off the valves that regulate that flow? Leonard Higgins and four companions decided to find out. These “Valve Turners” were arrested and they put the nation’s energy policy on trial. Leonard Higgins is one of the leading UU activists in the Environmental Justice movement.

December 23: What’s on Your Holiday List This Year?

Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

Knowing what we truly want is a gift in itself. I’ll tell you something about me that you may not know...and why it took 1/2 my life to learn to like Christmas (the holiday season my family acknowledged.) Today we’ll help each other shop for the best present ever.



December 24: Christmas Eve Service

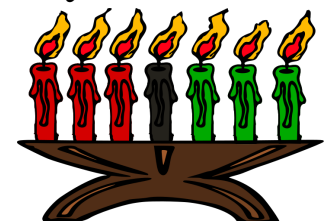
Holly Harwood, Lay Worship Leader

Please come celebrate with us in this special service with an emphasis on the music of the season.

December 30: Kwanzaa Service: A Time to Connect with Family

Simone Chiodini, Guest Worship Leader

The service will center on family traditions related to the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. We will all get a chance to explore the symbolism of this day, as we pledge to reconnect more closely with our own families in the coming new year.



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Lincoln Statler, M.A.S.C., *Pastoral Care*
 Claire Eustace, M. Div., *Pastoral Care*
 Dr. Susan T. Mashiyama, *Music Director*
 Deborah Hamouris,
Event Space Coordinator
 Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*
 Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
 Guy Colwell, *Sexton*
 Michael Simpkins, Jr., *IT Consultant*

Board of Trustees

Doug Chambers, *President*
 Nanci Armstrong-Temple,
Vice President
 Michael Gardner
 Jeff Palmer
 Judith Granada-Dewey, *Treasurer*
 Ben Burch (Alternate), *Secretary*
 Joanna Foley (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*
 Finance Committee
 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Hospitality Committee
 Elinor Roberts, *Chair*
 Membership Committee
 Doug Chambers, *Chair*
 Music Committee
 Margaret Hurlbert, *Chair*
 Personnel Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Poetry Committee
 Holly Harwood, *Chair*
 Religious Education (RE) Committee
 Sharon Colligan, *Chair*
 Social Justice Committee (SJC)
 Cynthia Johnson, *Chair*
 Phoebe Sorgen, *Vice Chair*
 Social Justice Ministry
 Jeff Palmer, *Convener*
 Sunday Services Committee
 Joanna Foley, *Chair*

Music Committee



waltzes. Margaret Hurlbert supervised the cutting out of paper bats with Jesse Ingber under her watchful eye. New members Toni and Leroy also danced the night away, and Christine Dickson showed off her home-made wolf mask. David Makofsky donated some Halloween essentials like spider webs and candy corn for the refreshments. Prizes for the costume contest were a big back rat with red eyes and a black crow.



Halloween Dance

On October 26, we gave our monthly dance a Halloween theme and cut out bats and hung them up as well as other spooky decorations. Holly Harwood made a perfectly boo-tiful balloon sculpture and folks danced in costume to waltzes, swing dances, and more. Eva Doucette arrived in a fanciful handmade costume that she had created all on her own and danced some lovely



Keep on the lookout for our next dances which happen on the fourth Friday of the month and include a beginner dance lesson!

Committee Events

Sunday Services Teams!

**October 21:
People Who
Play Together
Stay Together!**

(L to R) Margaret,
Claire, Andy, Jef,
Susan, Holly, and
Melissa



**October 28: Creating the
Community You Long For**

(L to R) Andy, Jesse, Rev. Marsh



Aesthetics Subcommittee

Artist Reception
for Guy Colwell on
Sunday November 18

The reception was well
attended, despite the air
quality. A second
reception for Guy is
planned for December 9.

About twenty people came through and several made purchases
of Guy's art! Left, Guy in front of his self portrait. Above, Virginia
and Guy chat at the merch table.



Regular Committee Meetings

Aesthetics (Subcom. of B&G)

2nd Friday at 11:30 AM
in Fellowship Hall

Buildings & Grounds

Meets once per month,
contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed
contact Abbot Foote

Finance

Meets as needed
contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote

Hospitality,

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Music

2nd Sunday 12:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Personnel

3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM
Mike Gardner's house

Poetry

Meets as needed
contact Holly Harwood

Religious Education

Meets as needed
contact Sharon Colligan

Social Justice Ministry

1st Sunday 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Social Justice

3rd Sunday 12:30 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Sunday Services

2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM
in Fellowship Hall

Poetry Corner / Community Voices

The nowhere that is here

Fleeting moments revisit me
from a foggy past
sudden overpowering revelation
of the sweetness of life
known, unknown, remembered, forgotten
of scenes so indescribably sweet, so poignant
they took my breath away
overcame my soul with brushstrokes
swift, overriding everything tangible
all attempts to assign neat words.

Those moments so fleeting,
so swift yet whole,
so deep yet wide,
so powerful yet fragile

Yes, fragile, as if trying to hold onto them
would make them disappear
as quickly as they came
from out of the nowhere
into the here of now
the now of never
the never of disbelief
of doubt
of uncertainty
of fear that they might never
appear again
to overtake the finite self
and transform it into
a drifting, shapeless cloud

The everywhere
that is nowhere
is here
but will not stay.

Marianne Robinson



Marc Bianchi
Ardys DeLu
Holly Harwood
Jesse Ingber
Cynthia Johnson
Elizabeth Lockwood
Elayne Ryder

Vic Sadot - Save the Date 2/17/19

*BFUU will host a memorial for Vic Sadot on
Sunday February 17. More details to come.*



photo: Steve Mays flickr

Her true colors shine
in the autumn of her life
maple tree

Holly Harwood

Featured BFUU Events



The Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side of the Hall, and has a T-Loop system to enhance audio for those with hearing aids. The Preschool Room is only reservable by BFUU groups and is accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms are not wheelchair accessible.



Sharing Circle

Saturday December 1 at 2 PM in the Preschool Rooms

All BFUU members who identify as women are invited to join together after the election, in this safe space, to share our spiritual community and support. You may share your story, and the group will affirm: "We believe you. We love you." You may instead sit quietly to write about or draw your feelings in a separate space. You may work with those developing an action plan to counter sexual harassment. We will all gather together for healing community with readings, poetry and music. We will affirm our resiliency as we pledge to continuing supporting each other and all the brave people coming forward now to tell their stories. Confirm to Joanna Foley (so we will have enough snacks): jfoleynyc@aol.com

Tibetan Festival of Light

Sunday, December 2 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Ventul Rinpoché, who teaches reading and writing to Tibetan children on Sunday afternoons at BFUU, offers this gift in gratitude for the community's help with the Tibetan Resettlement Project. Everyone is invited to come for homemade soup and cookies with butter tea or sweet tea. Chanting &

meditation are optional. Rinpoche-la pays for all the food and cooks it himself, over a three-day period, as his gift to the community. Please come and accept the Tibetans' generosity.



Artist Reception - Guy Colwell: Being in the Living World

Sunday November 18 at 12:15 PM in Fellowship Hall

The BFUU Aesthetics Subcommittee invites you to join us for a talk by the artist, view the art in Fellowship Hall, and enjoy light refreshments. The reception will feature a selection of dollhouse scale miniature oil and acrylic wildlife paintings on canvas, handmade painted boxes and books.

For info on art at BFUU contact Joanna Foley, Chair at aesthetics@bfuu.org.



ROY ZIMMERMAN: RIZE UP

Friday December 14 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

In the current political horror show, do you need some laughter? Some encouragement? Perspective? Inspiration? RIZE UP is Roy Zimmerman's latest extravaganza, full of funny songs about ignorance, war, and greed. "With music this good and humor this insightful, there is good reason to be optimistic." – No Depression Magazine

Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin, and tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby. More info, vids, & merch at <http://www.royzimmerman.com>

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

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A Valve Turner In Person!!

Is Civil Disobedience Necessary for Environmental Justice?

Sunday December 16 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Leonard Higgins and four other Valve Turners decided to turn off the valves that regulate the pipeline flow of Canadian crude oil into the US. They were following the honored tradition of civil disobedience –

take the bold action, have it documented for all the world to see, then wait to be arrested. At their trials, they sought to use the Necessity Defense to challenge the nation's energy policy.

Higgins is the only UU in the group of three men and two women. By their actions at the US borders, they demonstrated strong commitment to Environmental Justice.

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. Donations appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds.



Human Rights and Dignity in the Americas

Human Rights and Wrongs and Plan Colombia

Tuesday December 18 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall

Authors Adrienne Aron and John Lindsay-Poland discuss their new books, Human Rights and Wrongs (Sunshot Press) and Plan Colombia: U.S. Ally Atrocities and Community Activism (Duke

University Press), respectively. Both books recount stories of individuals and communities - especially in Latin America - resisting U.S. and state violence, often at great cost, and the power of human solidarity. Aron's vignettes in the style of Eduardo Galeano draw from her experience as a psychologist and work with Central American refugees. Lindsay-Poland narrates a Colombian peace community and a massacre, as well as the policy of training and equipping Colombian forces that serves as a template for U.S. intervention globally.

Books will be available for sale and signing. www.sunshots.org/human-rights-and-wrongs
www.dukeupress.edu/plan-colombia (Preface and Introduction free online)

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. Donations appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds.



Vintage Invasion Old Fashioned Dance Party

Friday December 28 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall

7 – 8 pm Beginning waltz lesson

8 – 10 pm DJ dance party

10 – 11 pm Dance to live music!

Full of waltz songs new and old, swing dance, and other ballroom dances

\$10, \$6 students with ID No one turned away for lack of funds. Class free with dance

www.ViDanceParty.com Sponsored by the BFUU Music Committee.

Weekly BFUU Events



Qi Gong & T'ai Chi with Gene Herman

Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room

Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room

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

Pastoral Care

Tuesdays from 10 AM - 12 noon in Fellowship Hall

Contact BFUU pastoral care team via voicemail at 510-841-4824 x2 or pastoralcare@bfuu.org.



BFUU Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 7-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

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. There's no pressure to sing in the choir on Sundays. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Monthly/BiMonthly BFUU Events

Orientation for Newcomers

Sunday, December 2 after service in the lobby of Fellowship Hall

There is an orientation for newcomers after the service on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome, whether you are considering membership or not.

Elders Circle

Tuesday, December 4 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall



Uke Practice / Uke Jam / Uke Practice

Fridays - December 7, and December 21 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room

BFUU holds a uke jam on 3rd Fridays 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. We also meet on 1st Fridays and 5th Fridays to practice. If you have questions or want to let us know you're attending, please send your name and email address to jeffpalmer123@comcast.net for details on next meeting. Otherwise, please just drop in and join us!

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck*

Sunday, December 9 after service (12:30 PM) in Fellowship Hall

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.*



Monthly/BiMonthly BFUU Events



BFUU Writers Groups 1 and 2

1-Sunday, December 9 at 1 PM in the Preschool Room - no animals

2-Sunday, December 23 at 1 PM in the Preschool Room - service animals

Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 (2nd Sundays) is for those who are allergic to animals, and/or don't need to bring service dogs. Group 2 (4th Sundays) allows service animals. We include all levels and genres. 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.



The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam

Friday, December 14 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall

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 appreciation for all forms of art. Suggested donations of \$5 – \$20 No one turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

BFUU Board Meeting

Thursday, December 20 at 7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall

Other Community Events held at BFUU



Women & Song, a women's singing group

Directed by Deborah "DJ" Hamouris

2nd & 4th Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm in the Preschool Kitchen

\$20-\$10, sliding scale

Women & Song is 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 has been meeting regularly for over a decade and welcomes 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

Reclaiming East Bay Solstice

Sunday December 9 at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a Solstice celebration. BFUU folks are especially welcome. Kids' activities and singing start 5:30, ritual 6pm, followed by magical silent auction and community social time.

Bring snacks to share, non-alcohol drinks - and magical items for our silent auction!

Small donation requested - no one turned away.

Details: <BayAreaReclaiming.org>

Questions: <ReclaimingEastBay@gmail.com>



Fellowship Calendar December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The BFUU Office will be CLOSED on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.						1 9 am ASCA 2 pm Sharing Circle* 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
2 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12 mm Newcomer Orientation* 12:30 pm SJM Mtg* 7 pm Tibetan Festival of Lights* 8 pm AA Mtg	3 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6:30 pm Soul Motion	4 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	5 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Choir Practice*	6 11:45 am AA Meditation	7 7 pm Uke Practice*	8 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
9 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 2nd Sunday Potluck* 12:15 pm Artist Reception Guy Colwell* 12:30 pm MusCom mtg* 1 pm BFUU Writers Group 1 no animals* 5:30 pm Reclaiming East Bay Solstice 8 pm AA Mtg	10 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion	11 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 10 am Sunday Svcs Cttee Mtg* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	12 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6:30 pm Sound Spirit 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Choir Practice*	13 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Women & Song	14 11:30 am Aesthetics Subcttee Mtg* 7 pm Roy Zimmerman Rize Up*	15 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
16 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 7 pm A Valve Turner in Person* 8 pm AA Mtg	17 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion	18 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Poland & Aron Book Release Celebration*	19 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Choir Practice*	20 11:45 am AA Meditation 2:30 pm Personnel Committee (at Mike Garder's house)* 7:15 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg* 11 am Communicator Deadline	21 7 pm Uke Jam*	22 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
23 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs* 1 pm BFUU Writers Group 2 svc animals* 8 pm AA Mtg	24 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion Christmas Eve BFUU Office Closed	25 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg Christmas Day BFUU Office Closed	26 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Choir Practice*	27 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Women & Song	28 7:00 pm Vintage Invasion Dance Party*	29 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
30 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 8 pm AA Mtg	31 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion	The BFUU Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, January 1				

* 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.

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 JANUARY *COMMUNICATOR*: December 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709