



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

June 2020

Until we can safely meet together in Fellowship Hall, our Worship Services and meetings are on [Zoom](#). Please check your ENews or email worshiponline@bfuu.org (for Worship Service) or Committee Chair (for other meetings; see page 3) for zoom links, Meeting IDs and passwords, and updates.

Upcoming Worship Services

Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

June 7: From Marching to Zooming: Activism in the Age of Shelter in Place

Rev. Tom McAninl (he/him) and Rev. Rowan Fairgrove (she/her), Guest Worship Leaders



From canceling fundraising films and a live mass assembly and march on the Mall in Washington, DC, to zoom and webinar organizing and car caravans, we in the Poor People's Campaign have had to adjust and be very creative about social justice work while "Staying Home, Staying Alive and Organizing." Rev. Rowan and Rev. Tom will share their strategies for activism TODAY!

June 14: Riding the Storm—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her) Worship Leader

As we approach the halfway mark of the year 2020, Rev. Dr. Carrie looks back over the pandemic crisis and what we hope for on the path forward.



June 21: The Power of Curiosity

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him), Worship Leader

Build a good Question and your answers will come. A good question is the seat of wisdom. But how do we find a good question? Is it the first thing that comes to mind? Or do I build it on a pile of other questions; like a Great Pyramid?

Can we work together to find some honest answers to the question, "Am I asking the right questions in life?"

June 28: Pride Service: 50th Anniversary of Stonewall

Ira X Armstrong (they/them) and

Aïsha-Linnáea Joy Holden (she/her), Lay Worship Leaders

Please join Melanie DeMore, Aïsha-Linnáea Joy Holden, and Ira X Armstrong in a musical celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Revolution. Let us follow Black and Trans leaders and make our life as a celebration and a song.





Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
 Deborah Hamouris, *Event Space Coordinator*
 Susan Macke, *Office Coordinator*
 Ed Keating, *Facilities Manager*
 Michael Simpkins, Jr., *IT Consultant*

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 Judith Granada-Dewey
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Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
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 Building & Grounds Committee
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 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Caring Community
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Committee on Ministry
 Laura Knipmeyer, *Convener*
 Finance Committee
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 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Hospitality Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Membership Committee
 Doug Chambers, *Chair*
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 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Poetry Committee
 Frances Hillyard, *Chair*
 Marianne Robinson, *Poet Laureate*
 Religious Education (RE) Committee
 Sharon Colligan, *Convener*
 Social Justice Committee (SJC)
 Phoebe Sorgen, Cynthia Johnson,
 Gene Herman, and David Makofsky,
Co-Chairs
 SJM Task Force (Subcom of SJC)
 Jeff Palmer, *Convener*
 Worship Services Committee
 Joanna Foley, *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.

Cleric's Corner



A Question is Worth a Thousand Pictures

One thing we learn as therapists is that there are many types and qualities of Questions. Some are better, and some are better than those.

Young children, for example, tend to ask the best questions. They ask the first questions that will become the parent or mother of all subsequent queries. Including all of our questionings as adults. Questions, beyond even study and research, are among the essential tools of human life and knowledge. Each one leads to another, and that's an important point to know and remember.

Once a toddler has learned to speak, one of the first, or the first thing they do with that newfound voice, is to ask a question. I suspect that the first word out of most infants' mouths is an inquiry, an attempt to find out what happens when I repeat this sound: MaMaMa. They try it, and suddenly there's "mother's" face or some other recognizable part of her anatomy. Baby has, then, invoked the source of food and comfort with less effort than pure distress. This quest for a result is how magick works. So the first thing babies do with their speaking is to perform the magick that makes Mom happy, Dad almost as happy and, of course, making Baby most satisfied of all. This bit of power begets the next and the next, and so on.

By the time children become toddlers, parents will notice that when they ask their questions, they don't always, in fact rarely, stick around for the full answer. We tend to believe that this happens because our solutions are too complicated for the child to understand. We forget that young children are at the peak of knowledge assimilation. They are absorbing, computing, and assimilating in a fashion to which we shall never return. These tiny folks are hard at work in ways beyond our imagining. They are both processing your answer by dropping it into a more profound, highly efficient learning process and moving on to their next formulation.

Cleric's Corner (continued)

NOW, a great deal of the therapist's work involves paying attention to, for lack of a better way to say it, the quality of the client's questions. Some questions yield, let's say, weaker results, while some are capable of taking that person to a CERN level of self-understanding and further inquiry.

Wisdom is not determined by witty or even intelligent answers, but rather by the quality of the questions asked.

By the time we are adults, we have developed a great deal of faith in our answers. Our minds become filled with answers by this time. Given that memory storage may be like a tabletop (did you notice the question formulating in this sentence?), how much can you put on it before something has to fall off the other side. Yet thoughtful questions can bring new knowledge while ferreting out less useful used-data. How does one arrive at the right questions? Well, we can't fake it (and I can prove that.) We have to develop genuine curiosity.

We'll crack that open a little later. Let's see if this conversation has started to raise a few questions for you. END TRANSMISSION.

Please pay attention to the rise in rebellion regarding the maintenance of our safety protocols. As many of us find creative masking and become more attentive to hygiene praxis, others are feeling they have the "right" to do without these societal safeguards. It's equivalent to saying that I have a right to shoot my gun in a populated area because it's my gun, or that freedom of speech means I can scream fire in a crowded theater. A primary purpose of social civilization is to clarify just such misunderstanding. So I ask that you take special care these days, to protect yourself and not confront those who have lost their way, without some social buffers. We are entering that part of the movie when people believe the world is coming to an end, and the looting, pillaging, and crazy partying begins. Don't be that person in the movie that we, the audience, plead that they "don't do that, don't open that door!" Etc. Don't be the one who should have watch more television (where we learn not to do the dumb things that get people killed.)

Please stay healthy and safe.

Rev. Marsh

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)

Meets as needed

contact [Joanna Foley](#)

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)

Meets once per month,

contact [Ben Burch or Abbot Foote](#)

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed

contact [Laura Knipmeyer](#)

Finance

Meets as needed

contact [Ben Burch or Abbot Foote](#)

Hospitality

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM

contact [Doug Chambers](#)

Music

2nd Monday 2:00 PM

contact [Margaret Hurlbert](#)

Personnel

3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM

Contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Poetry

Meets as needed

contact [Frances Hillyard](#)

Religious Education

Meets as needed

contact [Sharon Colligan](#)

Social Justice Ministry

1st Sunday 12:30 PM

contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

Social Justice (SJC)

3rd Sunday 12:30 PM

contact [Phoebe Sorgen](#)

Worship Services

2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

contact [Joanna Foley](#)

President's Corner



Song for the month: [We Shall Be Known](#)

Reading for the month: [You Want A Physicist to Speak at Your Funeral](#)

Meditations for the month: [Meditation for Black Lives](#)

6th Principle: [The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all](#)

6th Principle: [Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.](#)

Beloved Community,
June brings many tidings to our community and our association. Our General Assembly takes place online this year, and the shelter in place orders keep being extended.

This month is also the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, where trans women Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera led a riot that came from a movement that said that trans and queer people are sick of being hurt and denied basic human rights and access to respect and resources.

Bayard Rustin said “Every indifference to prejudice is suicide because, if I don’t fight all bigotry, bigotry itself will be strengthened and, sooner or later, it will return on me.”

As I write, I am grieving two losses; one a death, and one a transition.

Our Music Director, Susan Mashiyama, will be transitioning out of her role as of June 30th. Susan has had a profound impact on our congregation, and our music program won’t be the same without her. Susan will be helping to transition us to a new time, and I am sure that we will appreciate her contributions to our congregation for many years to come, and hope that after some time passes she will join us as a guest musician. The board wishes Susan a bountiful life, and we will have a forum the first week of June to talk about how to transition.

In my activist community, we have lost a beloved, Stacey Milbern Park. Stacey is a dear friend, and she is someone who literally saved

my own life this year. She died on May 19th, her 33rd birthday, of post-surgery complications. If you like, you can read about her [here](#).

A Korean disabled queer organizer, Stacey shared a birthday with Malcolm X, and she exemplified the Malcolm X quote, “Early in life I had learned that if you want something, you had better make some noise.”

Grieving a loss, at a time when we are all under so much stress and grief and loss already, is no small thing. Elizabeth Kübler-Ross is known for chronicling the five stages of grief: Denial and isolation; Anger; Bargaining; Depression; Acceptance.

Loss of any one thing or any one person can trigger these stages; loss of beloveds, freedom of movement, and relationship all at once can seem too much to heal from.

But my friend Stacey taught me that when we fight, and love, and fight for what we love, what we gain is so much greater than what we lose. As Melanie DeMore sings, we can be each others standing stones. And Susan helped us learn how to sing together.

Let us sing. Let us sing. Let us sing. Let us make noise. Let us have our roses when we are here, and grieve for each other when we are gone. Let us make a life that is worth living, and let us realize the dream of living beyond fear that Malcolm X, and Marsha, and Bayard, and Sylvia, and Stacey, all wanted for us.

Ira X

Community Minister's Report

Youth Spirit Artworks is making steady progress toward opening their Tiny House Village in July in Oakland. We plan to have a press conference to celebrate its opening in the beginning of July. We have been very busy with the Poor People's Campaign. I participated in a car caravan in solidarity with the SEIU union that comprises healthcare workers on April 24th. The caravan was demanding more PPE (protective equipment) for workers!



Rev. Tom McAninley at the May 12 conference

I also rode in a May Day caravan that started at the port of Oakland and traveled through downtown Oakland!

I spoke at a press conference organized by the ANSWER coalition on May 12, requesting the mayor of San Francisco provide empty hotel rooms to unhoused people in the city.

I am part of the Religious outreach working group of the Bay Area Steering Committee of the Poor People's Campaign and we have regular zoom meetings.

Rev. Rowan Fairgrove and I will lead the June 7th service at the Fellowship. The Poor People's Campaign will be a major theme of that service.

Also, Rev Millie Phillips, serving the Lake County Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists has invited me to talk briefly about the Poor People's Campaign at the June 14th service.

Both services are building up to the virtual Mass Assembly and March on June 20th! Visit the PPC website for more information and to register. (It's free, of course!)



Rev. Tom taking photo of his car after very large caravan with union workers in Oakland!

BFUU Congregational Meeting June 14 - Board Elections!

BFUU's Annual Meeting and Board election is scheduled for June 14, 2020 at 12:30 PM. The nominating committee has selected Mike Gardner, Ben Burch, and Joanna Foley to stand for election to the three open voting board of trustee positions along with Judith Granada Dewey and David Makofsky, whom the committee named candidates for the two alternate positions. All five have agreed to serve if elected.

If you are considering running for an open Board of Trustees seat, the deadline for receipt of petitions is **Saturday June 6**. Email your completed petition to NomCom@bfuu.org or mail it so that it will arrive before the deadline to BFUU Nominating Committee 1606 Bonita Ave. Berkeley CA 94709. "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 the election."

Board Alternate (1 1-year) Nominated Candidates (2 seats)



David Makofsky (*he/him*) I am an 82 years old retired professor and civil servant. I have been socially and politically active all my adult life, in organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace and the Democratic Socialists of America. After retirement in 2007, I traveled to the Peoples Republic of China and to Turkey, where I taught English and wrote articles about a central Asian group, the Uyghurs. Uyghur is a Turkish dialect; I speak and read Turkish. I stopped and came back to Oakland permanently after a bad accident in December 2017.

I became interested in BFUU because Cynthia Johnson and Hal Carlstadt were two good friends of mine. We were in a group together and always having events at BFUU. Since my final return in 2018 I have become more active in BFUU and the Social Justice Committee and the Music Committee, and I play the ukulele.

My immediate family lives in Santa Rosa, which is where my ex-wife, my daughter, her husband, and my two teen age grandchildren live.



Judith Granada-Dewey (*she/her or they/them*) Judith Granada-Dewey and her husband, Richard, began their UU odyssey in New England. Their decision was based on the need for a spiritual home that supported exploration and development of a personal belief system and code of ethics, primarily around social justice. They have since been serving members of fellowships and congregations in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and California, as well as the Church of the Larger Fellowship abroad.

Over the years, Judith has served as a UU Religious Education instructor, co-chaired a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee chapter, for several years facilitated the Guest At Our Table program, and held a variety of other posts. Judith joined BFUU with her husband in 2007. She previously served as BFUU Treasurer with the able assistance of an outstanding Finance Committee, and is currently serving as Board Alternate.

Board of Trustees (2 2-year + 1 1-year) Nominated Candidates (3 seats)



Ben Burch (*he/him*) I grew up in Davis, and attended a UU Sunday school at the Davis Fellowship (later Church) in the '60s, and was later involved in LRY (UU youth group) there as well. After flirting with anthropology and East Asian studies (BA and MA), I got a library degree, and worked in that area until my retirement in 2009. I was already active in BFUU at that point (having joined around 1997), and continue to do, having served on the board several times. Currently serving as Treasurer, I hope to continue to play a role in making BFUU a sustainable beacon for our 7 principles, as well as continuing to move us toward truly building a beloved community, and at the same time encouraging us to bring our principles to our participation in the broader local community.



Joanna Foley (*she/her*) Joanna Foley first set foot in a UU church in her college years in Nashville, TN. She has been an active member of 4th Universalist in NYC and BFUU in Berkeley. Here, she chairs the Worship Services Committee and the Aesthetics Sub-Committee of Buildings and Grounds. She was involved with the redesign of the Jim Beatty Memorial Garden and finds that planting and harvesting veggies puts her in touch with her family's farming background in Tennessee. Joanna has served as an Alternate Member of the Board for two years and would be honored to continue BOT



Mike Gardner (*he/him*) My adventures with BFUU began when my first wife and I were married in Fellowship Hall in 1967. We began attending and were inspired by the spiritual message of the minister, Clark Olsen, and his activism, and that of the Social Action Committee, now the SJC. We joined the Fellowship and became active members. In 1980 I stepped away from BFUU.

However, after years of trials and tribulations I realized that again I was seeking to grow and express a sense of spirituality for both my political and scientific interests. In 2014 I rejoined BFUU, along with my wife Jinky. Since then I've been a member of the Ministerial Relations Committee, a member of the Personnel Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees.

I'll work on the new Board to help keep things moving forward spiritually, socially and financially in these difficult times.

Circle of Life

Our community grieves to hear of the passing of our longtime friend and Fellowship member, Bob Berman. His memorial will be held via zoom on June 14 at 4:00 PM.

Bob and Evelyn were beloved members of our community and were both active at BFUU until Evelyn's passing in September of 2017. Bob moved away a few months later, to be closer to his son. We have missed both of them, and it's hard to think that he's no longer just a phone call away. Thanks to Adele Ernstrom for letting us know about Maggie's passing. A Zoom memorial for him is being organized by a rabbi he liked in Eureka.

Sheloshim/Memorial for Bob Berman

Time: Jun 14, 2020 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85170215715>

Meeting ID: 851 7021 5715 Password: 799593

One tap mobile +16699006833,,85170215715#,,1#,799593# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,85170215715#,,1#,799593# US (Houston)



Bob Berman

Worship Teams!



Worship Service Team April 26: top: Eva & Paikea, Cindy, James, Joanna; middle: Andy, Barbara, Rev. Dr. Carrie, Dr. Susan; bottom: Kathy & Doug, Tom



Worship Service Team May 10: top: Dr. Susan, Paikea, Sharon & Eva, Elinor; middle: Joanna, Andy, Tom; bottom: Barbara, Ira X and Aisha Linnáea, Graham



Worship Service Team May 3: Top: Dr. Susan, Paikea & Eva, (James, Sharon, Jeff not pictured,) Tom; Middle: Joanna, Margaret & Jeff, Andy, Elinor; Bottom: Barbara, Cal, Virginia, Aisha Linnáea & Ira X



Worship Service Team May 17: top: Jeff & Margaret, Ira X & Aisha Linnáea, Tom; middle: Cindy, Rev. Marsh, Andy, Paikea & Eva; bottom: Joanna, James, Doug

Community Voices

The seasons turn in the BFUU garden



Replanting the BFUU edible garden - our masked heroines, Christine Dickson (left) and Joanna Foley (below)



turned the soil and planted seedlings (far right). Kudos to these diligent farmers for renewing the earth and the life for the next bounty!



Harold Houghton
Margaret Hurlbert
larens imanyuel
Ingrid Kepler
Melissa R
Jack Sawyer



#SignalFlare: A Spark of Hope

A new format for BFUU artist's exhibitions will appear on Sunday, June 28 as we celebrate Pride Sunday. The first artist to exhibit in the online format will be RJ Simon, a Black and trans artist and community organizer based out of Santa Rosa, California. He creates art that celebrates the lives, ancestors and power of Black, trans, and fat healers and warriors. Drawing inspiration and sustenance from his community, RJ is pleased to share his groundbreaking and uncompromising vision with our congregation.

The artist's reception will take place on Zoom at noon after the service that Sunday. Opening with a musical

performance by Doug Chambers, the reception will feature all the usual elements. RJ will discuss his work and highlight particular pieces of art. He will answer questions from our participants in the Zoom Room. In short, all the goodies from BFUU's usual Artist's Receptions, except for the homemade chocolate cake!

^ this is a photo by [Krzysztof Burghardt](https://www.instagram.com/rubrix_art/) to see images of RJ Simon's art, please go to https://www.instagram.com/rubrix_art/

Community Voices

Dream Work During Shelter-in-Place

"All dreams reflect society as a whole, as well as the individual dreamer's relationship to it."

Jeremy Taylor*

Jeremy Taylor was an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister who cultivated and facilitated "sustained inquiry into dreams and dreaming" for over 40 years, lecturing and facilitating many dream work sessions in the Bay area and beyond, including BFUU.

Humans are "hard-wired" to look for danger, but this extraordinary Time-Out-Of-Time carries moments of insight, too, if we have the courage to grasp them firmly, pay attention and share them with others to find common truths. If I and my nightmares make me re-experience the past as full of traumatic suffering without learning from them, then I carry that load of pain, sorrow and habit forward with me into the present, too.

This snippet came to me in a lucid dream that felt important and I wanted to share with people who might want to hear and use it:

1 – It's all happening simultaneously.

2 – This moment is infinitely powerful and strong.

3 – The Third Key has not been written yet.

This moment touches the Infinite if I choose to make it so. If we each do. It is still moving and "strange," un-met and un-formed.

The present moment, however, is truly filled with the opportunity to stop clinging to habits of suffering and sorrow and let the body and soul-felt memories be released and healed with rest, awareness, acceptance and love.

This is a wellspring of tremendous power, creativity, strength and liberation, as Rev. Taylor says; and as I and our co-seekers have experienced. Jeremy's "First" of "Ten Basic Assumptions" about dreams is: "All dreams come in the service of health and wholeness." May it be so.

Wyndy Knox Carr © 2020.

*The Wisdom of Your Dreams: Using Dreams to Tap into Your Unconscious and Transform Your Life, (2009), Jeremy Tarcher/Penguin publishing, revised and expanded version of Where People Fly and Water Runs Uphill, (1992) Warner Books.

Poetry Corner

Truculent crows

discuss the moon

flower petal

shining

into its fall

Frances Hillyard

BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita



I am not a tree

My voice summons no wind

No bird rests in my arms

How I long to root

handsomely, arms outspread

to welcome wings and voices

thinking tree thoughts

like the changing clouds

Frances Hillyard

BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Fellowship Calendar June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 11 am Elders Circle* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	3 10 am Rev. Marsh office hours* 7 pm Choir Practice*	4	5	6 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
7 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Newcomer Orientation* 12:30 pm SJM Mtg*	8 2 pm MusCom Meeting	9 10 am Worship Svcs Cttee Mtg* 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	10 10 am Rev. Marsh office hours* 7 pm Choir Practice*	11 7 pm BFUU Men's Group*	12	13 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
14 10:30 am Worship Service*	15	16 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	17 10 am Rev. Marsh office hours* 7 pm Choir Practice*	18 2:30 pm Personnel Committee*	19 7 pm Uke Jam!*	20 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal* Communicator Deadline
21 10:30 am Worship Service* 12:30 pm SJC Meeting*	22	23 1:30 pm BOT Pres. Ira Armstrong office hours* 2 pm Rev. Carrie office hours*	24 10 am Rev. Marsh office hours* 7 pm Choir Practice*	25 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*	26	27 2 pm Worship Service Rehearsal*
28 10:30 am Worship Service* 12 noon Artists' Reception* 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*	29	30	Please note: The Aesthetics Subcommittee, and the Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam are on hiatus while we are under Shelter in Place Orders. When regular meetings resume, we'll send an update via ENews.			

* 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

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR Summer (July/August) *COMMUNICATOR*: June 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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