

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

October 2020

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate



Sundays at 10:30 AM

email worshiponline@bfuu.org for link



October 4: Where to from Here?

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

We've made many good choices to meet this pivotal moment. How are we doing? Where can we go from here? These are the questions we've heard so much from recent media to our private thoughts.

This is a big moment and we shall not drop the ball now. Let's clarify what's left for us to do.

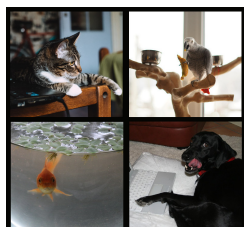
October 11: Voting During COVID-19 *Adena Ishii, Guest Speaker*

Speaker Adena Ishii from the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville will speak on how to check your registration, get informed, and vote during this pandemic. You will also hear about the history of the League, what to say when convincing others that their vote matters and how you can get your community engaged in this election.



October 18: Blessing of the Animals: Hypoallergenic and Conflict-free on Zoom!

Joanna Foley and Holly Harwood, Lay Worship Leaders (pre-recorded audio with slides by Eva)



It's time once again for BFUU's annual Blessing of the Animals service. This ceremony acknowledges that our lives are made richer by all the creatures that inhabit the Earth with us, not just those that share our homes. As we affirm our UU seventh principle on the interconnected web of all existence, we come together in the pure joy and playfulness that characterizes our lives with animals. Congregants are encouraged to bring their pets to the service on Zoom, and share stories about animals in their lives.

October 25: Blessing Our Sisters and Brothers of the Sea: the Life of Whales

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

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles tells the story of these brilliant mammals who travel the oceans.



November 1: Honoring Our Ancestors, Beloved Dead, and the Cycle of Life

Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch (she/her/siya) Worship Facilitator

The two Readings for this service will consist of the Litany of the Names of the Beloved Dead. We ask you to submit names now for the Readings, to Evelie511@gmail.com. At home, please prepare their Ofrenda/Altar with their favorites: spirits, food, colors; have extra tea lights to light (safely) when the names you have submitted are read.

Please read full service description on page 3.





Clergy & Staff

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 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
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 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

Duck Soup



<https://youtu.be/m9Wh66FXZJQ>

Viewing this clip would definitely be the best way to start this column.

Over the past two years we have watched as carefully as we can the dark

humor that is America right now. And we've done that together. Let's take a brief look at one or two of the messages we've received in that time. First, hopefully we've ascertained that law cannot make someone love you but it may be able to get them not to kill us... for a while. Then eventually that while runs out... if we haven't taken the time to forge a relationship with our apparent enemy. This brings us to the choice to either communicate or go to war. And finally we come face to face with the reality that Civil Wars are the worst of all wars. We've seen that in our own land and abroad...though all wars among the human inhabitants of earth could be considered Civil War.

Now, what's interesting about our Marx Brother's clip (above) is that research shows that most tribal warfare (our earliest conflicts) started in pretty much exactly the way show in the clip. Two neighboring tribes minding their business until one or both become worried that the other Might attack and eventually one side becomes frightened slightly more quickly and executes a preemptive attack on the other. By observing the few remaining indigenous tribes across continents it has been observed that the FEAR that the other MIGHT attack, prompts most attacks. Is this the kind of thing a sit down bread breaking could have circumvented? Why of course it is.

Why don't we do it more often? Because it's hard and we're scared. Even here, among our congregants we find conversation and mediation difficult to impossible to see through. So given the difficulty of letting go, opening up, suffering some vulnerability and the indignity of listening to an obviously evil character, perhaps it's easier to go to war. That is, until you actually do. Then only blind rage can drive us further into the murk.

Cleric's Corner (continued)

Democracy is hard. Communication is hard, largely because listening (to both other and self) is so very painful. Yet, I promise you, war is harder.

We have between now and sometime around the end of the year to call it off. I say call it off because the train is already rolling. Gun sales are up since the beginning of COVID 19. We've seen white men in Camo, armed with live weapons on State House steps. We've heard threatening rhetoric and seen and felt its results in actual deaths by hostility. And now the current leaders in guns purchasing are African-Americans. This doesn't take card carrying prophets to tell us that we are witnessing the rumors of war that proceed the deal. What more do we need to know?

Well, we need to know that this can still be dampened. It could still be stopped. And that will take more than passing laws or gaining control of the government. We've been here before, not long ago (mid 1800s.) If the pot boils however, those who are not up to physically fighting might take a page out of early WWII and leave sometime before the escalated ugliness can begin. To miss the last boat out is to become either a fighter, victim in a holocaust or a refugee; neither path holds much appeal in my estimation.

I HATE BEARING BAD NEWS!!! And, this can all change on a dime. We don't need to know how to do that we first need to choose it. Once we want an alternative, one will come to pass.

Rev. Marsh



Upcoming Worship Services (continued from page 1)

November 1: Honoring Our Ancestors, Beloved Dead, and the Cycle of Life

Evelie Delfino S  les Posch (she/her/siya) Worship Facilitator



Starting October 31st (All Hallow's Eve/Hallowe'en) begins a week of honoring our Ancestors of blood and spirit (All Saints Day), our Beloved Dead (All Soul's/Araw ng mga Patay/D  as de Muertos) who have crossed over. This is also considered the New Year of Earth-honoring traditions, marking the cycle of birth, life, renewal. Yes, there are so many New Years within the calendar year (consider Jewish Rosh HashaNa in September.)

The two Readings will consist of the Litany of the Names of the Beloved Dead. We ask you to submit names **now** for the Readings, to Evelie511@gmail.com. At home, please prepare their Ofrenda/Altar with their favorites: spirits, food, colors; have extra tea lights to light (safely) when the names you have submitted are read.

We will deepen our connection with meditation, music, praying, singing, and visualizing our future for a better world, and ways to take steps to attain what we envision. Evelie will have Special Guests join us.

Social Justice Committee

Get Out the SECURE Vote! Progressive Measures/Propositions

BFUUsers are getting out the vote in swing states via text, phone, and snail mail. BFUU is non-partisan but may educate about which candidates are more aligned with UU values and may support ballot measures and propositions. Click here for the latter, and more: <http://uujmca.org/uuthevote/2020-ballot-recommendations/>

Ben Burch ordered 400 beautiful postcards. How many can you address and write by hand? The Sunrise Movement gets young people to vote in swing states, providing names, addresses, and short messages for us to write on postcards. 42 cents each includes postage. You can contact Ben directly or contact the BFUU office at office@bfuu.org or 510-841-4824 ext. 1.

If possible, wear a mask and vote early in person. Mail-in ballots will be sent to all California voters on Oct 5, which is the 1st day for early voting. If you live in Alameda County, go to the basement at 1225 Fallon St. near Lake Merritt, east of downtown Oakland M-F 8:30-5pm. Bring an ID. Here's the list of county election offices and Registrars of Voters' phone numbers: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/>

If you can't vote in person early, more secure than mailing your ballot is to drop your signed mail-in ballot into a secure receptacle in front of Albany City Hall or 2180 Milvia St. in Berkeley. If you don't vote early, you may vote in person at your precinct polling station* on Tue Nov 3 or drop off your mail-in ballot there 7am to 8pm.

Some voters have been dropped from the rolls without notice, so check now to make sure you are still registered to vote: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>

*UPDATE:

This year, many or most Berkeley polling stations may not be open.

Berkeley's drop off options will be announced/confirmed on or before October 5th, when ballot mailing begins, and may include the following:

- a large outdoor Accessible Voting Location
- three to six Ballot Drop Boxes
- a possible drive through Ballot Drop Stop
- the Registrar of Voters office at 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland (as mentioned above)

Official information on early voting sites at <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/> and Alameda County polling places at <https://www.acvote.org/election-information/elections?id=241> should be updated soon.

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom) <i>Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)</i> Meets as needed contact Joanna Foley <i>Buildings & Grounds (B&G)</i> Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote <i>Caring</i> 4 th 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 4 th Sunday at 12:30 PM contact Kathy Riehle Membership 4 th Sunday at 12:30 PM contact Doug Chambers	Music 2 nd Monday 2:00 PM contact Margaret Hurlbert Personnel 3 rd 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 1 st Sunday 12:30 PM contact Jeff Palmer Social Justice (SJC) 3 rd Sunday 12:30 PM contact Phoebe Sorgen Worship Services 2 nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM contact Joanna Foley
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Progressive recommendations - ballot measures and propositions

Local Measures in Alameda County

- V - Extends unincorporated area's 6.5% Utility Users Tax – YES, with reservations
- W - Countywide half cent sales tax increase for homeless services, etc. – YES, with sales tax reservations
- Y - Oakland School Bond – YES, with bond reservations
- Z - Alameda – Repeals Measure A (Article 26), for multi-unit housing – NO, with reservations
- AA - Alameda – Clarifies prohibition against meddling by city council members – YES
- BB - Albany – Ranked Choice Voting – YES YES YES
- CC - Albany – Real Property Transfer Tax – YES, with reservations
- DD - Albany – Utility Users' Tax – YES, with reservations
- EE - Albany – Paramedic, Fire Engines, and Ambulance Special Tax – YES, with reservations
- FF - Berkeley – Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax – YES
- GG - Berkeley – Tax on Transportation Network Trips – YES
- HH - Berkeley – Utility Users Tax – YES
- II - Berkeley – Police Accountability Charter Amendment – YES YES YES
- JJ - Berkeley – Mayor and City Council Compensation – YES, with reservations (It equally rewards part timers and full timers.)
- KK - Berkeley – Administrative Provision and City Attorney – YES
- LL - Berkeley – Gann Limit Spending Authority – YES
- MM - Berkeley – Rent Stabilization Ordinance Amendment – YES
- QQ - Oakland – Allows 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections – YES
- RR - Oakland – Allows for new misdemeanor fine limit after public hearing – NO
POSITION, please see write-up
- S1 - Oakland – Strengthens the Police Commission – YES
- WW - Union City – Utility Users Tax – NO

California Propositions

- 14 - \$5.5 Billion in Bonds for Stem Cell Research Institute – NO
- 15 - Funding for Schools and Local Governments by Fairly Taxing Large Commercial Properties – YES, YES, YES!
- 16 - Allows Diversity and Affirmative Action – YES, YES, YES!
- 17 - Restores Right to Vote after Completion of Prison Term – YES
- 18 - Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds who will be 18 for the General Election – YES
- 19 - Changes Certain Property Tax Rules – NEUTRAL, please see write-up
- 20 - Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders and Authorizes Felonies for Some Current Misdemeanors – NO
- 21 - Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control – YES
- 22 - Exempts Some App-Based Companies from Providing Employee Benefits – NO, NO, NO!
- 23 - Establishes Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics – YES
- 24 - Amends Privacy Laws and Establishes Privacy Protection Agency – NO
- 25 - Approves Replacing Money Bail with Algorithm-Based System – NO

Worship Services



Worship Service Team August 23 top: Rev. Carrie, Ira X, Ed; 2nd row: Paikea & Eva, Andy, Lawrance; 3rd row: Sharon, Doug, Joanna, Margaret



Worship Service Team August 30 top: Andy, Adrienne, Sharon; 2nd row: Joanna, Kathy & Doug, Paikea & Eva; 3rd row: Ed, Joanna Macy, James, Margaret, Lawrance



Worship Service Team September 6 top: Joanna, Paikea & Eva, Margaret, Kathy & Doug; 2nd row: Andy, Frances, Edward, Melissa; 3rd row: Sharon, Patricia Contreras-Flores, Lawrance, Earth-Eva

Community Voices



Frida Chambers
Stephanie Doucette
Abbot Foote
Gene Herman
Rev. Tom McAninley
Paikea Melcher
Doertlis Schultze-Allen
Brett Torres

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday October 11 at 12:30 PM Pacific Time

Come join your BFUU community for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting! BFUU members will vote for the Nominating Committee members, and for the open Board seats. <https://zoom.us/j/93865377105>

Poetry Corner

*A black swan
 then a white
 curve their glide
 toward a bed of reeds
 to create next generations
 who will carry
 their shining magic
 In seasons to come
 through water, earth, air
 and the fire of the sun*

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Fellowship Calendar October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please Plan Ahead: Many of the links on this calendar are to send an email to the meeting organizer. The direct links have ¹ after the name. If you send an email, please make sure the meeting you'd like to attend is in the subject line, and allow at least a few days for them to respond. If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.				1	2	3 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal ^{*1}
4 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm SJM Mtg [*]	5 2:30 pm Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	6 Reflection & Connection [*]	7 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	8 7 pm BFUU Men's Group [*]	9	10 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal ^{*1}
11 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm BFUU Congregational Meeting ^{*1}	12 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting 2:30 pm Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	13 10 am Worship Svcs Cttee Mtg [*] Reflection & Connection [*]	14 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	15 2:30 pm Personnel Committee [*]	16	17 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal ^{*1}
18 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm SJC Meeting ^{*1}	19 2:30 pm Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	20 Reflection & Connection [*] Communicator Deadline [*]	21 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	22 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg ^{*1}	23	24 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal ^{*1}
25 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs ^{*1}	26 2:30 pm Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	27 Reflection & Connection [*]	28 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	29	30	31 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal ^{*1}

* denotes Fellowship event ¹ denotes meeting link

Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action.

BFUU OFFICE 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 October *COMMUNICATOR*: October 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709