

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

November 2020

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



Sundays at 10:30 AM

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

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



Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch (she/her/siya)

October 31st began a week of honoring our Ancestors of blood and spirit, our Beloved Dead who have crossed over, and the New Year of Earth-honoring traditions, marking the cycle of birth, life, renewal.

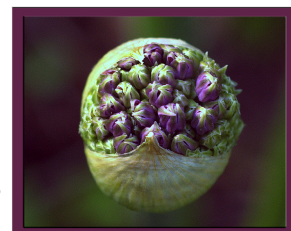
The two Readings will consist of the Litany of the Names of the Beloved Dead. We ask you to submit names **now** for the Readings, to Evelie511@gmail.com. At home, please prepare their Ofrenda/Altar with their favorites: spirits, food,

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.

November 8: Sacred Waiting *Pastor Jacqueline K. Duhart (she/her)*

As one of my seminary professors stated, "There are some times in history that are THICK times. So much is happening and in flux." Now is such a time. Our personal and communal lives are very pregnant. For some, waiting for the labor and birth process to begin in earnest is painfully overdue. Our national and global connections are strained at best. What's a human to do? How shall we BE during this time of watching and waiting? Please join us as we explore what it means to brave the waiting and to stay connected in kindness and bright hope.



November 15: Adapting to Adapting *Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)*

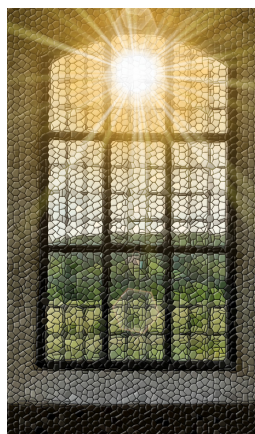
Here's the News: No matter which way the election goes...We'll have to adapt to what comes next. Yet no matter which way the nation and the world swing, the question arises: will we adapt to the new world and/or will we co-create this next world. Will we still be in transition, not yet at rest? Rest is just a moment in change. So, yes...that will always be true. Forever more, as long as we exist.

What the heck! Let's get good at this.

November 22: Our Democracy Going Forward

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles will summarize the state of our nation, twenty days after the 2020 election, and consider the future we face in the halls of power: the presidency, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Supreme Court. What tasks may we face, as citizens of a country in transition?



November 29: Cathedral of the World

BFUU Worship Team

It behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming. — Ralph Waldo Emerson. Reflections and conversation about the UU tradition and our BFUU spiritual practices, with words by Rev. Dr. Forrest Church.

Clergy & Staff

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

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 Caring Community
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Committee on Ministry
 Jinky Gardner, Steve Ogden, Kathy Riehle
 Finance Committee
 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Hospitality Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Membership Committee
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 Music Committee
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 Nominating Committee
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson, *Chair*
 Personnel Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Poetry Committee
 Frances Hillyard, *Chair*
 Gene Herman, *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*
 Sharon Colligan, *Vice-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.



Guilt Is a Feeling Designed to Make Us Pay Attention

The human capacity to adapt replaces our need for fur, big teeth (whether long and sharp or wide and crushing), or being incredibly strong and fast for our size. I wonder if we felt an early equivalency of shame out there on the veldt, as not only the new kids on the block but in some ways the smallest and weakest?

What we developed instead was our remarkable ability to adapt. We somehow have an exceptionally sharp capacity to pay attention to our environment and ourselves. And for some even more mysterious reason, we know to make enough sense of these things to change what we're doing to find a way to make it work. And we do that not just enough to survive but well enough to become a dominant species in ***this specific environment***.

I want to look at today's two points of interest: adapting our environment to ourselves (which is just a fancy way of adapting to the world around us) and cooperation amongst ourselves as part of the whole adaptation.

We were able to out-fox the fox and out-hunt the "king of beasts" (on land or sea) by our capacity to work together. That is how we were able to live on the bison of the Great Plains, which, by the way, may well have been the result of our adapting the environment to ourselves. Some archeologists are coming to believe that the great plains were, at one time, great forested regions and that human inhabitants did here, as in Europa, and leveled them for purposes of their own. Did we feel shame for that?

Moving forward several millennia, we find ourselves continuing in the same behavior that made us a successful survivor in a world where that's not been an easy thing to do. Until recently, nature has considered it a mark of right behavior to continue doing that which has made life work; making it continue and even thrive. Nature grants long rewards to those creatures that can pull that off.

Now, just a few centuries ago (in the face of nature's count), we gained the capacity to span the globe of Spaceship Earth. Now we can move from the eastern side of our bay to the western peninsula and back in a single day

Cleric's Corner (continued)

– while engaging in sometimes wholly different activities in between. Such rapidly won capability is nothing short of exceptional or even miraculous. Consider crossing that distance on foot! So that means we've gotten good at myriads of processes that make even such an undertaking (in our current estimation) mundane.

Yet, by fulfilling nature's requirements for success, we feel somehow guilty. Even measured by my lifetime span, I can say that the automobile is a relatively new invention. Its current internal combustion incarnation is more recent still. I can recall when its fuel cost less than 20 cents, as did a loaf of bread. We learn and adapt faster than anything or anyone else we know. Yet we feel guilty for destroying the environment.

Perhaps this peculiar psychological affliction is not as it seems. Maybe this or something like it happens every time we take a great leap forward. Maybe it is a natural reaction that brings into our awareness a need to leap further. Perhaps our guilt is a unique signal, accessible only to us, which tells us we need to develop another significant change.

On the morning of the Red Sky, that day that never came, Gaia tapped me gently on the shoulder to tell me something. She spoke gently but clearly and told me something I'd never expected to hear directly from her. I'll share that with you soon. Spoiler alert: She's not pissed at us, as many may suspect. That's a human understanding. Though this may offend some: she still loves us as much as any of her children.

I include a link below that has little to do with the preceding. Yet, it's connected. It consists of some of the signs from 2015 and before. These might have tipped you off that His-Majesty the Emperor Antichrist would likely win that election. As I've said before, it was my Marketer's logic that was my tip-off. This one comes from a journalist, and his perceptions were not that different from the view a Mad Man (a Madison Avenue marketer) might have had. Watch it at your leisure.

Stay tuned. We'll conclude this series before long.

[Matt Taibbi: Hate Inc., Why Today's Media Makes Us Despise One Another](https://youtu.be/mG1qJeDI9Ok)
<https://youtu.be/mG1qJeDI9Ok>

Rev. Marsh

Welcome Re-elected and New Board Members

Judith Granada-Dewey

Margaret Hurlbert

Phoebe Sorgen, Alternate

*Congratulations to Mike Gardner,
 who was elected Vice President of
 the BFUU Board of Trustees in the
 October meeting.*

Help Wanted: Recording Secretary

*Our wonderful Recording Secretary
 Puck Franta's regular job has
 reactivated to the extent that they can't
 continue with the position. Puck has
 done a great job and we are hoping to
 find another wonderful, skilled, caring
 person to take and manage minutes for
 Board and Congregational meetings.
 Google docs savvy - some cat herding
 involved! We'll be sending out more
 details soon.*

President's Corner



Dear BFUU,

After our October Board Meeting, we welcome our new Board members and wish them well in their learning to guide our church into planning for the next 100 years.

This November, we are all at the edge of our seats and, quite possibly, our sanity. Fear about the pandemic, the election, isolation, economic and social instability plague all of us. What is the role of Unitarian Universalism in this time? And what is the role of BFUU?

For the last 50 years or so, Unitarian Universalists have followed the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in forging economic and social equity through the seeking and realization of the Beloved Community. Before his assassination and since, this is our fire to carry: to live as if we can make a heaven on earth for ourselves and all living creatures and the planet.

And BFUU has been a force for that Beloved Community, with a generational stream of UUs who believe that our actions, and our words, matter. We are not about pontification; we are about the Underground Railroad. We are not about scoring points, but about using all of our love and creativity and quick thinking to help make safe passage out of pogroms.

In this time of escalating inequalities, infiltration, and discouragement, let us take heart. Let us know that we have made a place for justice. Let us make kindness to ourselves and one another our daily practice. Let us breathe deeply into the world we are envisioning. Let us think of our brilliant youth, who lead us into the Future Church with their creativity and joy and commitment. Let us follow them into the future we have promised them.

Remember that courage is not the absence of fear, but the presence of acting towards justice even when the fear is there. We are larger than our fear. We are larger than one election. We will continue to find each other through our commitment to our principles and sources.

If you need masks, or help getting to the polls, or just a friendly ear, please reach out to our office or to the Caring Committee, or use your directory to call someone and see how they are faring. Let us get through this together, despite the need for physical distancing.

In fellowship,

Ira X
BFUU Board President

**BFUU Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting continues
on Sunday November 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM**

Please [join us](#) for the continuation of the Semi-Annual BFUU Congregational meeting! We made our way through the elections, but there's more on the [agenda](#)!

Worship Service Teams!



Worship Service Team September 13 top: Phoebe, Paikea & Eva, Simone, Olivia; 2nd row: Virginia, Melissa, Evelie, Joann; 3rd row: Kathy & Doug, Frances, Sridevi, Tess; 4th row: Margaret, Sharon, Vanessa, Charlene



Worship Service Team October 4 top: Andy, Paikea, Rev. Marsh; 2nd row: Sharon, Eva, Margaret; 3rd row: Elinor & Steve, Frances, Melissa; 4th row: Kathy & Doug, Ed, The Dulcimates (Deborah and Buffalo)



Worship Service Team September 20 top: Andy, Paikea & Eva, Kathy & Doug; 2nd row: Destiny Muhammad, Frances, Margaret; 3rd row: Rev. Marsh, Lawrance, Sharon; 4th row: Edward, Melissa



Worship Service Team October 11 top: Kathy & Doug, Paikea, Adena Ishii; 2nd row: Andy, Margaret, Tom; 3rd row: James, Virginia, Sharon; 4th row: Eva, Ben, Lawrance



Worship Service Team September 27 top: Rev. Carrie, Bon Singer, Doug; 2nd row: Lawrance, Paikea, Andy; 3rd row: Ed, Eva, Elinor; 4th row: Margaret, Melissa, Sharon



Worship Service Team October 18 top: Lawrance, Paikea, Doug, Andy; 2nd row: Melissa, Edward, Elinor & Steve, Eva; 3rd row: Barbara, Margaret, Joanna, Frances; 4th row: Sharon, James, Holly (no picture)

Community Voices



Norman Frank

Christine Dickson

Nancy Reynolds

Gordon Waugh

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The BFUU Committee on Ministry (COM) was established in January of 2020, with three committee members. Currently, the members are Jinky Gardner, Kathy Riehle, and Steve Ogden.

COM is a continuing body whose purpose is to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation. It strives to be a support group for the ministers and a communication channel between the ministers and the community.

When needed, we strive to be the go-between if and when there appear to be issues between a congregant and a Minister or between a Minister and a congregant or the congregation. That said, our ministry goes further than that. We are always

ministering with each other through our committees, through our weekly Sunday service to all who attend, etc. We, all of us, are stewards of our Fellowship; COM strives to serve all under the umbrella of BFUU, and its members.

We have a monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month. Our three ministers, Rev. Marsh, Rev. Carrie, and our Community Minister Rev. Tom McAninley, meet with us on a rotating basis to keep us updated about their activities.

Please feel free to contact me, Jinky, or Steve, if you have any questions about COM.

Respectfully and In Service,

Kathy Riehle

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 and Abbot](#)

Caring

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact [Kathy Riehle](#)

Committee on Ministry

meets as needed
contact [Kathy, Jinky, and Steve](#)

Finance

Meets as needed
contact [Ben and Abbot](#)

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](#)

Nominating

meets as needed
contact [Virginia Hollins-Davidson](#)

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 noonish - after service
contact [Phoebe, Gene, and David](#)

Worship Services

2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM
contact [Joanna and Sharon](#)

Poetry Corner

BFUU Multiples

We are a dream of dancers
A murmuration
An exaltation
A congress of consideration
Taking pride in our pod

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

City of the Gods

Atop a hill
Somewhere between
The desert and the sea
Sits a semi-tropical oasis
At a cross-road
To diverse worlds.
It is called Jerusalem
Jershalyim
City of our fathers
And our father's father.
Holy shrine to three
Religions and millions of souls
Divine treasure house
Of the spirits
Of the sky
Of the sea
Of the earth
When will we hear from Muslim, Christian, Jew
Of the sacredness of life
Of harmony and justice

Rather than

Murder and conflict

When will these men who talk of peace
Make peace - with one another
Live in harmony with liberty and justice – side by side
Put up the sword
Pull the ploughshare together
Oh city of the Gods
Where is your brotherhood and your sisterhood
Where...where...when.

Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate

BFUU Garden Update

Our
young
lime
trees
bore
fruit!



These limes were sweet



e
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o
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g
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to
eat!

Social Justice Committee Report

> Fellowship to approve/ratify at Congregational Meeting and, if done, send to UUA Regional for them to get approval, then to National.

> 21st century Police Department designed to serve and protect all people.

Police departments are funded by taxpayers and must be held accountable. In order to bring our police departments into the future, cleansed of their current racist, sexist and homo/transphobic structure and culture, to serve and protect ALL people with justice for all, the following changes and adjustments are recommended.

PROPOSAL:

- * Prior to entering the Police Academy, all recruits need to be fully investigated including their high school and college backgrounds and whether they have been involved in domestic or other violence. Applicants should undergo psychological evaluations, including racial and other bias screening, prior to being hired.
- * If hiring combat veterans, trained to “shoot to kill,” or any recruit who was abused as a child, assure that they do not have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD.)
- * Establish a national database for decertified police officers and a national database of police shootings and use of force, broken down by demographics. Screen all applicants on both databases.
- * Establish local databases that include the dollar amount of court award damages and settlements (taxpayer monies) for police misconduct of each officer.
- * Who recruits and where? It should not be the same group that processes hiring.
- * End qualified immunity and enact full ACCOUNTABILITY for police violence and brutality.
- * Eliminate Urban Shield which allocates funding for military equipment to civilian law enforcement.
- * Replace police with mental health workers/citizen response teams trained in conflict de-escalation for 911 calls requesting help with mental health issues, including domestic violence.

We all want to live in a peaceful loving community.

We want our police to serve and protect our entire community.

Social Justice Committee – Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Gene B. Herman BFUU–Poet Laureate

Fellowship Calendar November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm SJM Mtg [*]	2 2:30 PM Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	3 Reflection & Connection [*]	4 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	5 2:00 pm COM Meeting ^{*1}	6	7 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal [*]
8 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm BFUU Congregational Meeting, Cont. ^{*1}	9 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting 2:30 PM Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	10 10 am Worship Svcs Cttee Mtg [*] Reflection & Connection [*]	11 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	12 7 pm BFUU Men's Group [*]	13	14 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal [*]
15 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} Noonish - after service SJC Meeting ^{*1}	16 2:30 PM Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	17 Reflection & Connection [*]	18 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	19 2:30 pm Personnel Committee [*] 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg ^{*1}	20 Communicator Deadline	21 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal [*]
22 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs ^{*1}	23 2:30 PM Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	24 Reflection & Connection [*]	25 3:30 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	26	27	28 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal [*]
29 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	30 2:30 PM Think Tank (T3) Meeting [*]	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.				

* 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 CLOSED - We are working from home

BFUU OFFICE STAFF

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR October *COMMUNICATOR*: November 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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