

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONORING BLACK HISTORY, BUILDING BLACK FUTURES

February 7: How We Got Here and How We Move Forward as a Nation

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)

Let's take a look at how the American Civil War was intentionally and carefully undermined, how we live in the sway and shadow of that Oligarchic manipulation, to this day. Will this provide us clues as to how we can, in groups and personally, once again change the course of this mighty river?



February 14: We Are All Together: Love

Kele Nitoto (he/him)

Kele Nitoto reminds us on Valentine's Day that love is more than just the romantic feelings shared between couples. Love is broader and deeper than that, encompassing the actions we take together to build love for our communities. Love is an action verb, a command – go forth and create love.



February 21: Celebrating Black History with a deeper understanding of our Next Door neighbor: Haiti

Dr. Yanick Louis-Lindquist (she/her)

Nicky will present a brief overview of Haiti's rich and yet tumultuous history. She will reflect on her cross cultural experiences and the joy of reconnecting to her homeland after decades of living abroad.



February 28: Love and Marriage in the Time of the Pandemic

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

In this unprecedented era of COVID-19 risk, social distancing and masks, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles considers the effects on love relationships in America.





Cleric's Corner

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*

Board of Trustees

Michael Gardner, *Vice President*
 Ben Burch, *Treasurer & Secretary*
 Judith Granada-Dewey
 Margaret Hurlbert
 David Makofsky (*Alternate*)
 Phoebe Sorgen (*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
 Jinky Gardner, Steve Ogden, Kathy Riehle
 Finance Committee
 Ben Burch, *Co-Chair*
 Abbot Foote, *Co-Chair*
 Hospitality Committee
 Kathy Riehle, *Chair*
 Membership Committee
 Doug Chambers, *Chair*
 Music Committee
 Margaret Hurlbert, *Chair*
 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.



Feed the Dog

With our trust levels low and our expectations high, how do we become a nation again? I ask you, today, to put aside whatever cynicism you may be feeling right now. There will be plenty of time to make and correct new errors.

Meanwhile, at this juncture, charge yourself to get in touch with those values that you'd call yours. Take a few days to focus on these. Give rest to your most valid complaints. Take this time, at the beginning, to feed the dog you'd breed.

"The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it." – National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman

"We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this, if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts." – President Joe Biden

"We will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. We will rise to the occasion." – President Joe Biden

"The assault on our Capitol at this very place two weeks ago reminds us that a government designed to balance and check itself is both fragile and resilient." – Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri

"When she takes the oath of office, little girls and boys across the world will know that anything and everything is possible." – Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, on Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

"A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer." – President Joe R. Biden

Feed your best Dog,

Rev. Marsh

Worship Service Teams!



Worship Service Team December 27 top:
 Andy, Paikela, Lawrance; 2nd row: Elinor, Doug, Rev. Dr. Carrie; 3rd row: Margaret, Joanna, James; 4th row: Eva



Worship Service Team January 10 top:
 Lawrance, Paikela, Kathy & Doug, Andy; 2nd row: Margaret, Steve, Rev. Tom, Joanna; 3rd row: Eva, Virginia, Frances, Melissa; 4th row: Rev. Marsh



Worship Service Team January 3 top:
 Paikela, Joanna, Andy; 2nd row: Steve, Melanie DeMore, Lawrance; 3rd row: Kathy & Doug, Eva, Margaret



Worship Service Team January 17 top: Andy, Paikela, Lawrance; 2nd row: Clovice Lewis, Eva, Joanna; 3rd row: Margaret, Frances, Kathy & Doug

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](#)

I love you most for being
a great mom
a great grandmother
a great great-grandmother
and A
L
L that goes with it...nurturer, cook, cleaner oh yeah,
bottle and jar washer, chief of first aid...
Care taker of all, especially the lil ones...of all shapes, sizes,
colors, breeds or species
may Dolores' love bless all the children.
When it comes to other things
I love you madly
sometimes badly
with politics
sometimes sadly
sometimes gladly
blues
dance
Broadway
Lady Day
ballet
any which way
You cook
I cook
Never at the same time
Need room to swing... baby
In the kitchen
and bedroom too
Love you
love you
do
Dolores.
GBH – 2/15/15

A photograph of a woman with short, curly brown hair, wearing a bright red V-neck t-shirt and dark blue or black leggings. She is captured in a dynamic pose, appearing to be dancing or moving energetically. Her right arm is raised with her hand open, and her left arm is extended downwards. She is wearing black and white sneakers. The background is a simple, light-colored wall, and the floor is made of light-colored wood. A portion of a wicker basket is visible in the bottom right corner.

Community Minister's Report

Living with Covid last year, most of my community ministry was bearing witness and solidarity with social justice events in the Bay Area for the Poor People's Campaign. I also joined the Board of Youth Spirit Artworks in December and supported the work of the Tiny House Village on Hegenberger Road in Oakland.

Rev. Tom McAninley, BFUU Community Minister



Attended rally for Black Lives Matter at San Francisco City Hall



Attended car caravan in solidarity with union SEIU to bring attention to the need for more protective equipment to essential medical workers.



Participated in car caravan and rally for Filipino rights at the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, in solidarity from the Poor People's Campaign.



Attended car caravan at Port of Oakland in support of the unions working on the cruise ships without protective equipment.



Observing the progress and getting update from YSA director, Sally Hindman, who's leading an inspiring and very creative project!



Participated in car caravan to stop evictions in the Bay Area.

This caravan was in San Francisco.

Poetry Corner

Sun-flooded trees

Make visible morning
to those who mourn

As they collect sunrise
remember the calls of birds
fresh from the safety of sleep

Frances Hillyard

Community Voices



Eva Doucette
Margaret Hamilton
Dolores Helman
Syl Scherzer

Community Voices

ADD AN 8TH PRINCIPLE FOR ANTI-OPPRESSION?

Part 1 01/15/21

By Tom Luce

Would any UUA member, let alone a UUA congregation or UUA administration team commit oppression? Is oppression against UUA's 7 Principles? Could racism be involved in any UUA decision making?

Well, two months before his term ended in June 2017, UUA President Peter Morales – the first Latinx and second POC UUA President after Rev. William Sinkford – announced he was resigning immediately. He announced this because of the “...ongoing controversy regarding the UUA's hiring practices and lack of diversity in our senior leadership.” One of the actual cases of discrimination under Pres. Morales was the hiring of a white minister to replace a retiring white minister for the Southern Region of the UUA. A Chicana Latina was turned down for this position, Christina Rivera, who said although she was a finalist, she was told she was not “*the right fit for the team.*” <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/critics-challenge-uua-hiring-practices>



In spite of UUA support for promoting equality for Blacks and other oppressed groups through the promotion of the AIW, “**Black Lives Matter**” in 2015, and the formation of **BLUU-Black Lives of UU** in 2016 with a long term \$5.3 million grant, the hiring in 2017 of the white male over Ms. Rivera brought a renewed movement to deal with the oppression of groups. Aisha Hauser, director of religious education at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, Washington, and a member of the UUA Nominating Committee, led the charge on social media to challenge the UUA's hiring practices. “*It's not enough to say we believe in equality,*” said Hauser, who identifies as racially black and ethnically Arab. “*It's not about intention but impact, and the impact is a white supremacy paradigm with zero accountability.*” A letter signed by 121 UU ministers and other religious professionals said that “*the practice of hiring white people nearly to the exclusion of hiring people of color is alarming and not indicative of the communal practice to which our faith calls us.*” <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-president-steps-down-amid-outcry>

“**Finding Our Way Home**” the annual retreat hosted by the UUA for Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious professionals of color at its March 17, 2017 meeting learned of Ms. Rivera's story. From that date on social media charges spread that the UUA had hired a white person over an unidentified woman of color.

The **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism-BLUU**, called the controversy “*a moment of crisis for our faith*” in a March 27, 2017 statement. “*We cannot effectively respond to ‘looming threats’ of white supremacy beyond us until we tackle the white supremacy within us.*” They added, “*Specific, drastic, and swift changes are needed.*” They also recalled Dr. Martin Luther King's words, “*Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.*”

So **BLUU** endorsed adding the 8th Principle “*articulating a commitment to the dismantling of white supremacy, within the stated principles of our faith.*” April, 2017: “***We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.***” The UUA Board elected 3 co-presidents, Rev. William Sinkford, 7th president of the UUA (1st Black man); Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Asst.Prof at Starr King school (a Black woman); and Dr. Leon Spencer (also African American), serving since 1985 for Black concerns in Atlanta. “*Sometimes it takes a shock to a system to get it unstuck,*” said Rev.Sinkford.

The Wider UU World

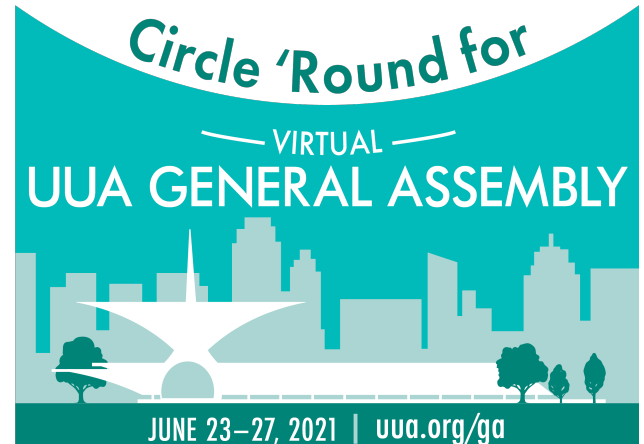
General Assembly (GA)

100% Virtual Event!

June 23-27, 2021

Open to the public: General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship and Sunday Morning Worship will be streamed live and publicly accessible; no registration is required to view.

Registered Attendees: Access to all workshops, performances, lectures, and events listed in the GA Program. Registrants will have exclusive access to a chatroom, recordings of previous streams, and dedicated support.



Justice • Healing • Courage

BFUU can have **two** delegates to GA and can usually sponsor those delegates' registration for GA - please let a Board member know if you'd like to be a delegate!

Women & Religion PCD VIRTUAL Retreat

Saturday, March 13 8:30 am to 8 pm on Zoom

Theme: HANGING IN, HANGING ON

We'll have an opening orientation, small groups, learning sessions, a scavenger hunt, Suffragist bingo, a memorial for lost members, and a closing session.

Registration is \$25. Net proceeds split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women's Convocation.



To be added to the retreat email list, send blank email to: PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io or see the Facebook listing at <https://www.facebook.com/WandRPCD>. We will email you when registration is open.

Connect with local Bay Area UU's!

Bay Area UU Meetup meets every other week, and they've started a new practice of focusing on anti-racism efforts being conducted by the various congregations of the Bay Area. There will still be space for people to ask questions and get support for other matters. More details, including notes from prior meetings, can be found here: <https://www.uusf.org/sfbauumeetup>

Weekly Meetings

BFUU Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 3:15 PM

Choir members practice songs for worship service and fun!

Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Rev. Dr. Carrie's Reflection and Connection on Tuesday afternoons

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles invites BFUU members and friends to join her in a series of small meetings on zoom. Participation is limited. Please email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

Rev. Marsh's Think Tank remains on hiatus

T4 (or T3 #2) may or may not resume in another form. If you feel strongly about this, please send a brief text (i.e. "T# yes.") to **Rev Marsh at 707-557-5707** (preferred.) If you have more to say, also email revmarsh@bfuu.org. If you can't text or email, please leave a message on the office voicemail 510-841-4824 ext. 1

Worship Service Rehearsal on Saturdays at 1:00 PM

The worship team for each service meets on the Saturday before to run through the script.

Please contact Sharon and Joanna at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM

All are welcome to attend Worship Service!

Please contact Sharon and Joanna at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 2/25 at 7:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 2/4 at 2:00 PM

This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.

Please contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve at COM@bfuu.org

Elders Circle 1st Tuesday 2/2 at 11:00 AM

Come one, come all who are young at heart! Age does not matter! Join us for snacks and lively conversation. We may even solve some of the worlds problems... or not. We'll have fun trying. Please contact Rev. Marsh by text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or email revmarsh@bfuu.org.

Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings 4th Sunday 2/28 at 12:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 2/11 at 7:00 PM

We invite all men to this group. Our goal is to encourage each other as we build community.

Please contact [Jeff Palmer](#).

Music Committee Meeting 1st Monday 2/1 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting 3rd Thursday 2/18 at 2:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 2/21 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting 1st Sunday 2/7 at 12:30 PM

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 2/5 at 1:30 PM

Please contact Joanna and Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3

Fellowship Calendar February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting *	2 11:00 am Elders Circle * ¹ Reflection & Connection *	3 3:15 pm Choir Practice * ¹	4 2:00 pm COM Meeting *	5 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg *	6 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal *
7 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm SJM Mtg * ¹	8	9 Reflection & Connection *	10 3:15 pm Choir Practice * ¹	11 7 pm BFUU Men's Group *	12	13 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal *
14 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹	15 Presidents Day BFUU Staff Holiday	16 Reflection & Connection *	17 3:15 pm Choir Practice * ¹	18 2:30 pm Personnel Committee *	19	20 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal *
						Communicator Deadline
21 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting * ¹	22	23 Reflection & Connection *	24 3:15 pm Choir Practice * ¹	25 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg * ¹	26	27 1 pm Worship Service Rehearsal *
28 10:30 am Worship Service * ¹ 12:30 pm HMC- Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs * ¹	Please Plan Ahead: Some of the links here send an email to the meeting organizer. The direct links have ¹ after the link. If you send an email, please allow a few days for them to reply. 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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Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3

Working Days: Tue, Wed & Fri

Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

Working Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri

Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR February *COMMUNICATOR*: February 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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