

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

March 2021

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

Women's History Month

March 7: Why it's So Hard to be an American

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)

It seems as though The Insurrection is over and that our 'Enemy' has suffered a massive defeat. However, their orders were to Stand Back AND Standby. Why do we say that the South won the last Civil War, even after it seemed to be over? How Did the South win that war and how can we avoid repeating our mistake? Moreover – What's fundamentally wrong with the idea of winning a civil war?



March 14: Good Trouble: UU Women, Past, Present and Future

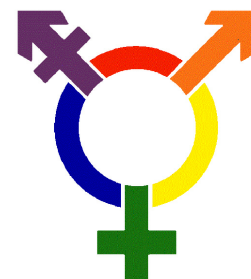
Sarah Bergdahl (she/her)

UU women have been getting into "Good Trouble" for over 100 years. You may know that Julia Ward Howe created "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," but have you heard of the Iowa Sisterhood? Or that Lucile Longview, a funny, feisty woman, and her like-minded organizers led the way to creating our Seventh Principle? We celebrate stories of UU women leaders - told by our own female members. Share a story about your UU female ancestor or role model in the breakout room if you wish.

March 21: Welcome All of You – A Holy Journey to Good Trouble

Pastor Jacqueline K. Duhart (she/her), Guest Worship Leader

Our national conversations are buzzing with discussions about equity, diversity, and inclusion. The injustices toward transgender and nonbinary folk are being unveiled. Wise leaders are investigating the obstacles to inclusion. What keeps individuals from truly, sincerely, genuinely embracing "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." Do you 100% believe that YOU ARE worthy? Do you WELCOME ALL of who you are called to be? Please join us as we pause and journey inside to our souls to sit a spell and take a spiritual look-see. A journey to good trouble.



March 28: Women in the Life of Jesus

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

On this Palm Sunday, we also celebrate Women's History Month. Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles will consider the significance of women in the life of Jesus and the legacy for today.

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, *President*
 Margaret Hurlbert, *Vice President*
 Ben Burch, *Treasurer & Secretary*
 Judith Granada-Dewey
 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
 Sharon Colligan, *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.



A Unifying Theory of Family

If we consider that liberal people welcome diversity more than our more conservative siblings, why is it that we cannot embrace this expression of variety as well? Or perhaps we do accept “Them” in a fashion similar to how we get each other.

A few of us may remember the service jointly presented by myself, Wyndy Knox Carr, and a member of the Indivisible Berkeley Steering Committee. I referred to the work of Cal Professor George Lakeoff regarding the temperaments of liberal and conservative people, particularly concerning each group’s familial orientations. Whereas progressives tend to (at least unconsciously) perceive each other as contentious siblings, conservatives tend to see their family more in light of the traditional nuclear family. The latter is almost always seen as lead by a strong father figure (or we might say a ‘strongman’ father figure) who is the undisputed leader of the family deserving of the respect and, yes, the rest’s obedience of the family. Given this, we can see that the ‘Insurrectionists’ repeated reports that they followed their leader/father’s orders reflect Lakeoff’s indications.

So, even if you see this other half of America as enemies, I’d suggest it is critical to understand your enemy, what motivates them and how they are likely to respond under certain conditions. What general would deny this perspective? Indeed not Ulysses Grant, one of the greatest generals in modern history. And why not? Because this mistakenly labeled drunkard from an abolitionist family was intent on winning his war. Are you so committed?

And I must reiterate that just because the left has a bit of an edge right now – this war that we’ve worked so hard for, is not yet won. We have a long way to go—a long way to prevent a civil war.

Cleric's Corner (continued)

OK – what do these distinctions mean? What do they indicate?

They deduce that the family that follows the father with unwavering (albeit irrational) loyalty will tend to amass a larger and larger army (votes) that will tend to behave more uniformly and obediently. It will also suggest that the fussing siblings will point to minor differences and go their separate ways, having no single leading and satisfying focus. We've witnessed this many times right here in our small community. At times, passionate disagreements amongst ourselves have led to attacks from outside, so strong as to shut down our internal discourses. I would suggest that our loyalty to our sacred cows can put us on a path to successive loss. Regardless of our pet perspectives, we still need to clarify and establish hierarchies of approach (which battles to wage first, second, third, etc.) based not on simple ideals but on an order that would make each successive win easier and more likely. Good strategists don't select battles based on what countryside they find most beautiful UNLESS that beauty significantly contributes toward winning the war.

We have to learn; no, we Get to become highly cooperative siblings. What does that look like? It might look like a unified "Fellowship." And from such a state of being might rise a mood and principle of unification, strong enough to win the hearts and minds of those we now see as enemies. It might look like agreeing to work together on a single project as a whole community. It might look like learning to win habitually.

Here are a few tips of my own:

Start Small

DO something together along with resolutions.

Work together in an orchestrated way to Win One.

Some of this would require learning from our enemies.

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 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

1st Friday at 1:30 PM
contact [Sharon Colligan](#)

Poetry Corner

Livermore – the radiated cat

Twas the night before meltdown
And all through the land
Few creatures were purring
Not the least a cat punker band

The group was assembled
The end was in sight
Hot licks and fur flyin
Twas our very last night

When up stood Livermore
the radiated cat

And began to yowl
right up through his hat

The place was a rockin
and stompin fur sure

Enough to disturb
even a nuclearized rat

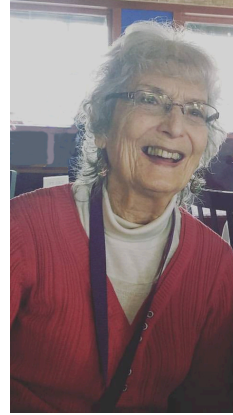
Well Livermore kept screechin
And yellin
CONTROLS
CONTROLS

If you don't stop messin
with atoms my dear

The fallout will hit you
and I both, I fear.

Gene B. Herman
BFUU Poet Laureate

Circle of Life



*BFUU grieves the loss of our beloved member **Dolores Helman**, who passed peacefully on February 25 at 5:15 AM. Gene Herman, her life partner, let us know that "She tap danced her way through the pearly gates with a smile on her face."*

Dolores has been a long-time, vibrant, beloved member of BFUU. Her warm spirit and fancy footwork kept us all moving together. Gene appreciates your good wishes, though the sorrow and breadth of their circle of friends may prevent timely response. We will let you know when plans are made to celebrate Dolores' life.

Poetry Corner

Dancer, dance me star dust
enough to live. Return
life to poisoned fields.

I dance the words
that order forth a world,
it is a slow and careful tune I carry.

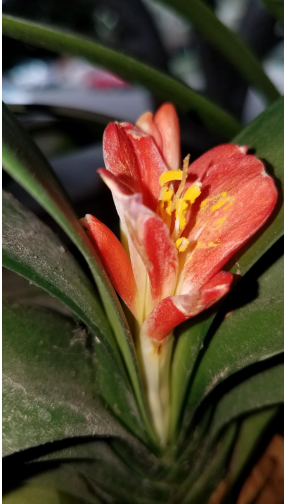
May the Great Choreographer
fling my dust to the stars
as fair return. May the dance
always continue between
silence and shaping song
silence and the answers of galaxies.

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Community Voices



Jean Lieber



Legacy of Jim Beatty

The plant Karen received from Jim is in full bloom!

Pop quiz: Do you know what plant this is? Send answers to

newsletter@bfuu.org!

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccinations - [Berkeley Public Health](https://www.berkeleypublichealth.org/) is currently vaccinating residents 75 and older and healthcare workers. Most people will be vaccinated through their health care provider.

Sign up to be notified when a vaccine is available for you:

online at <https://myturn.ca.gov/> or

call the CA COVID-19 Hotline at **1-833-422-4255**

(M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM) for assistance.

COVID-19 vaccines will be free for everyone. You will not need insurance to get vaccinated.



Worship Service Team January 24

top: Andy, Paikea, Doug; 2nd row: Eva, Rev. Dr. Carrie, Elinor & Steve; 3rd row: Joanna, Margaret, Melissa, Frances



Worship Service Team January 31

top: Andy, Arlo, Mike, Melissa, Lawrance; 2nd row: Margaret & Jeff, Joanna, Eva, Kathy & Doug; 3rd row: Frances, Tom, Paikea, Sharon



Worship Service Team February 7 top:

Elinor & Steve, Paikea, Frances; 2nd row: Joanna, Margaret, Eva; 3rd row: Douog, Andy, Rev. Marsh



Worship Service Team February 14 top: Kele

Nitoto, Paikea, Lawrance; 2nd row: Ardys, Joanna, Kathy & Doug; 3rd row: Andy, Eva, Steve, Margaret

Community Voices

ADD AN 8TH PRINCIPLE FOR ANTI-OPPRESSION?

By Tom Luce part 2 (see Feb. issue for 1)



William Sinkford



Rev. Sofia Betancourt



Dr. Leon Spencer

After the resignation of Pres. Morales, the 3 co-presidents named by the UUA board created “**The Commission on Institutional Change-CIC**”, charging it to “conduct a racism audit to examine the operation of white privilege within Unitarian Universalism.” UU leaders of color were asked to share their insights into how the Association could continue moving forward in the midst of another

racially charged moment. “**Widening The Circle Of Concern**” became the CIC report published in June of 2020, dealing with “the lamentations and learnings the assembled Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color had identified. To see this report go to this website: <https://www.uua.org/book/export/html/43821>

Summary: “*more than a thousand Unitarian Universalists suggest that Unitarian Universalism must address the systemic racism within its system. The vast majority of those who responded to our call cannot live our faith without a commitment to multicultural and anti-bias practices now common in most corporate, governmental, and nonprofit workplaces. In a tradition with a first Principle affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all people, we have not articulated this explicitly as part of a statement and goals for a Unitarian Universalism that would liberate all from the weight of oppressive behaviors and structures.*”

Campaign for the 8th Principle To give an historical perspective, it was in 1997 that the UUA GA voted that the UUA commit to intentionally becoming a multicultural and anti-racist institution, twenty-three years ago. Now with the **CIC** report and establishment of the Art. 2 Commission to revise our UUA Principles, many UUA organizations have adopted the 8th Principle: ARAOME (Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Multicultural Committee), DRUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), ADORE (A Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity), WC (Welcoming Congregations), ARE (Allies For Racial Equality, white ally group), and UUJME (UU’s for Justice in the Middle East). As of November 2020, 30 UUA Congregations also have joined the campaign to get the 8th Principle added to our UUA principles. In 2017 Co-origins of the 8th Principle, Paula Cole-Jones and Bruce Pollack-Johnson got their congregations, **All Souls DC** (<https://all-souls.org/>) and **Restoration, Philadelphia**, (<https://uurestoration.us/>) to adopt it. Paula is now a member of the Art. 2 Commission. Watch 4 ministers discuss their work in congregations adopting the 8th Principle at <<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/ministry-8th-principle>> (Dec. 2020).

Is it time for BFUU to endorse the 8th Principle? What have we done so far?

BFUU ADOPTED IN 2015:



Began to implement the UUA AIW that recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago and urges member congregations to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.



JRC/AC - To work collectively in Alameda County to stop school-to-prison and mass incarceration. www.jrcfac.org stopped in 2017

BFUU ADOPTED IN 2018: and several members were jailed in Sacramento to begin campaign

POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN



Will BFUU Adopt the 8th Principle?

Will the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, A member congregation 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?

In worship now, after the Unison Chalice Lighting, the **Red Candle** is lit, and we speak the words adapted by Ira and Aïsha-Linnáea: “We light the red candle to mourn Black life taken by police violence, to proclaim that Black lives matter, and to express our commitment to Black liberation, reparations, and the end of slave capitalism.”

The Wider UU World

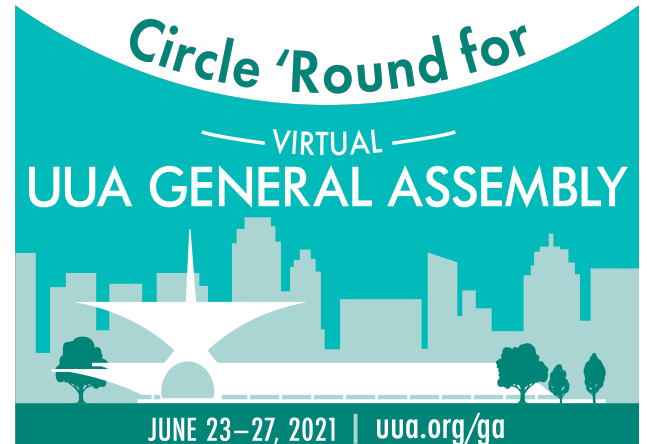
General Assembly (GA)

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 at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 AM

All are welcome to attend Worship Service!

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Monthly Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting 4th Thursday 3/25 at 7:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 3/4 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 3/2 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 3/28 at 12:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 3/11 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 3/1 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

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

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

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

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting 1st Sunday 3/7 at 12:30 PM

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 3/5 at 1:30 PM

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

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

Fellowship Calendar March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting*	2 11:00 am Elders Circle* 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  SPRING	15	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	Remember to set your clocks FORWARD on Saturday March 13 - Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 AM Sunday March 14 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

Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

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*: March 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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