



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

May 2021

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

May 2: How Big is Your Head? Continued

Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)

We have no proof that our ancestors were not as smart as we. We only know that we apply our intelligence to current data; data that changes all the time. Why are so many creatures on this planet seeming more and more intelligent all the time? What's going on here!? **How** we look at this **does** matter.



May 9: From Slavery to Mass Incarceration, a Mother's Day Reflection

Virginia Hollins-Davidson (she/her)

Let us take to heart the goals of BFUU's Eighth Principle: To dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. What can we, collectively and individually, do, immediately and over time, that would make a difference?

May 16: Magic is Afoot

Nathaniel Segal (he/him)

Have you ever been sure that you know something; secure in the veracity of a piece of data, only to find that your triple-checked knowledge is incorrect? Has your most deeply held belief about something ever been shaken by a new piece of information? Join us as Nathaniel Segal asks the question: Can you believe your own eyes?



May 23: New Beginnings: The Way to a Greener World

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the chances for success in limiting climate change, as the pandemic's end offers hope for the survival of the interdependent web of all existence.

May 30: Reparations: An Act of Ancestral Atonement

Toni R. Battle (she/her)

In this day and age of the 21st century, America is painfully experiencing a reckoning on its past and present issues of race. The act of Reparations is the national conversation of how do you atone for the legacies that have been birthed from the histories of enslavement, Jim Crow, segregation, police brutality and systemic racism. Hear from a lynching descendant on the path to truth, healing and reparations.



"Juneteenth reparations rally to demand reparations from the United States government" by Fibonacci Blue is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
 Deborah Hamouris, *Event Space Coordinator*
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 Committee on Ministry
 Jinky Gardner, Steve Ogden, Kathy Riehle
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 Music Committee
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 Personnel Committee
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 Poetry Committee
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 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*

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How Big is Your Head? Or, How Do You Know What, Why, and How you KNOW you Know?

We can hardly help but think our ancestors, the primitives, were not as intelligent as we. We base this mainly on our pride in our many technological

creations. We find ourselves reaching for a thin thread while at the same time wondering whether it may be that our technological innovation is using us toward its evolutionary ends. I often get the feeling (automatically invalidating that thought as an emotional one rather than a scientifically proven statement) that we'd have little or no way of knowing who is striving the most to evolve and eventually become the (next?) winner in the ongoing evolutionary competition. And for whatever her (Nature, including and beyond nature on Earth) reasons, evolution does seem to be a competition, as far as we can tell. However, that may be a matter of perspective, a perception, and not necessarily a reality.

So, if we remove our shining example of perfection, Technology, from the conversation, how do we prove that our ancestors were not more, or at least As, clever as we. I agree with Michael Crichton that we may be no smarter, really, than our predecessors that it's just a matter of having accumulated more and different information. Then we have taken that brain, developed many millennia ago, and placed it to other tasks. Perhaps we do that not in an everlasting quest into the unknown – out there – but, instead, to find out who we are, what we are, and what we need to know to gain the capacity to exist harmoniously with all other existence. A large proportion of our primitive selves believed that all reality is alive. Part of that we call animism, a foolish ancient thought. Yet, day by day, we find more and more creatures, other than ourselves, who exhibit a capacity for reason, which was our sacrosanct domain of superiority and specialness. What is going on here? Are our ancestors getting more intelligent as we think of only ourselves as becoming more and more clever? If the Corvids (Crows, Ravens, Jays, Magpies, Mockingbirds, etc.) and Psittacines (Parrots, Macaws, Budgies, et al.), Cetaceans and Wolves, etc.

Cleric's Corner (continued)

are all seeming more intelligent than we thought is that a function of them becoming more aware, or us? What kind of two steps forward, one-step-back game are we playing here? Because we may be, only now, coming to learn that fundamentally our ancestors may have been right! But that would mean we may be no more competent than they; and that we are only now coming to realize this. Could that be because we are slow learners? Yet, we cannot deny that our reach is still extending even as we do our best to slam on the brakes before we collide with our self-created extinction.

Let's think this through.

Rev. Marsh



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.

Doug Chambers and Kathy Riehle are our BFUU delegates!

Special Donations

BFUU has received three donations toward the solar fund in honor Joel Scherzer. We've also recently received general donations in honor of Dolores Helman, and to support the work of Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles. THANK YOU!

When a donation is made in someone's honor, the honoree (or their survivor) is notified that a donation has been made, but the amount and name of the donor are not disclosed unless specific permission is given by the donor for BFUU to release the information.

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> The next Bay Area UU Meetup will be Tuesday, May 4 at 4:00 pm.

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G) Meets as needed contact Joanna Foley	Finance Meets as needed contact Ben and Abbot	Nominating meets as needed contact Virginia Hollins-Davidson	Social Justice Ministry 1 st Sunday 12:30 PM contact Jeff Palmer
Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Meets once per month, contact Ben and Abbot	Hospitality 4 th Sunday at 12:30 PM contact Kathy Riehle	Personnel odd months 3 rd Thursdays 2:30 PM Contact Kathy Riehle	Social Justice (SJC) 3 rd Sunday noonish - after service contact Phoebe, Gene, and David
Caring 4 th Sunday at 12:30 PM contact Kathy Riehle	Membership 4 th Sunday at 12:30 PM contact Doug Chambers	Poetry Meets as needed contact Frances Hillyard	Worship Services 1 st Friday at 1:30 PM contact Sharon Colligan
Committee on Ministry meets as needed contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve	Music 2 nd Monday 2:00 PM contact Margaret Hurlbert	Religious Education Meets as needed contact Sharon Colligan	

Poetry Corner

This is A Recurring Meeting

Please wait. The webinar will begin soon.

This is a recurring meeting.

Friday Meditation.

Test My Speaker.

---- no one shows up ----

Where is "My Speaker?"

no answer.

Is She The World?

My Body? Neighbors? Radio?

I Am The Speaker.

Uh oh.

Everyone has Gone Home

Or overslept. Or it's Good Friday. Or have other meetings.

Or...

I am the only Speaker

(I did not die in the pandemic

or under a policeman's knee.)

This is a recurring meeting...

I touch my functional laptop, have electricity, cheap wifi,

ferociously abundant green trees, palms,

rosebushes and onions leaping up to greet the rising sun outside,

casting shadow leaves and branches, patterns on the far wall.

Even the rusty mini-trampoline and plastic big-box toolshed

rest, blessed with morning light, bird sounds, sleeping stars,

dogs coming to poop unashamedly on the broad lawn, their

tidy owners murmuring "morning" to each other, bending

down to scoop off the grass. They are The Speaker. All is...

A pen and notebook. Blank page.

I am blessed...

May it be so...

I can get up now, resolutely,

and ACT...

May it be so...

This is A Recurring Meeting.

Wyndy Knox Carr

Poetry Corner

EAT DRINK AND BE MORI

(On a painting by Cezanne)

Three skulls bite
table, speak
no evil,

lost taste, sight
hearing but
may keep a

single, shared
memory
of being

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Worship Service



Worship Service Team April 11

top: Frances, Paikea, Virginia, Andy;
2nd row: Lawrance, Margaret, Eva, Doug; 3rd row:
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Lynn, Barbara, Sarah;
4th row: Melissa, Gene, Deborah, Kathleen

Community Voices



Frankie Hill
David Makofsky
Gail Penso
David Yandle

Worship Service

Worship Service Team April 4

top: Andy, Paikea, Elinor & Steve;
2nd row: Lawrance, Eva, Sarah;

3rd row: Ardys, Doug, Barbara; 4th row: Margaret, Rev. Marsh Agobert, James



Worship Service Team April 18

top: Elinor & Steve, Paikea, Kathy & Doug;
2nd row: Arlo June,

Jinky, Margaret; 3rd row: Barbara, Eva, Virginia;
4th row: Andy, Lynn



BFUU Online Meetings (mostly alphabetical)

Weekly Meetings

BFUU Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 4:00 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. Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

Transforming Hearts Watch Parties and Chats are now **FULL** - please let us know if we should schedule more! Thanks to all who have registered for the sessions to watch the Transforming Hearts anti-bias training videos together online and discuss them together in community. The current sessions are now full. If you are interested in joining future sessions, please let us know! Please contact Rev. Marsh **by text to 707-557-5707** (preferred) or email revmarsh@bfuu.org or Deborah at rooms@bfuu.org, or call 510-841-4824 ext 3.

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 5/27 at 7:00 PM

BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

Committee on Ministry Meeting 1st Thursday 5/6 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 5/4 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 5/23 at 12:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

Men's Group 2nd Thursday 5/13 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 5/3 at 2:00 PM

Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

Personnel Committee Meeting 3rd Thursdays on odd months 5/20 at 2:30 PM

Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

Social Justice Committee Meeting 3rd Sunday 5/16 after service (noonish)

Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

Social Justice Ministry Meeting 1st Sunday 5/2 at 12:30 PM

Worship Service Committee Meeting 1st Friday 5/7 at 1:30 PM

Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

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

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*: May 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

1606 Bonita Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94709

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Office: 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 | Fellowship Hall: 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709

T: 510-841-4824 | E: office@bfuu.org | www.bfuu.org