

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Summer 2021

BFUU
zoom
Worship Service

Donate to BFUU



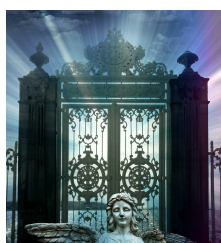
Services on Sundays at 10:30 AM*

offline? email worshiponline@bfuu.org for links

July 4: Spirit of Life: a Vocabulary of Reverence

Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)

The word “spirit” derives from the Latin word for breath and for inspiration. The “spirit of life” can be understood as inspiration for life, or the very breath of life. It can be felt as a loving force, a life force, or as (in the words of Rev. Howard Thurman) a growing edge, “the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor.” The spirit of life can be experienced as god or goddess, as deity unfolding, as divine comforter. It can be felt as the collective human spirit, the power of nature, or innate wisdom. We will explore a vocabulary of reverence drawn from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition* and its supplement, *Singing the Journey*.



July 11: Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed (recorded)

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, preeminent scholar of the African-American Unitarian Universalist experience, reflects on the implications on our theological heritage of Universal Salvation.

July 18: Until the Wind Sings in Both Ears

Paikea Melcher (she/her)

What stories have shaped your life? A gentle wind, attentive listening, a curious mind, and our wise traditions can help us in our search for truth and meaning. Can they help us find direction in life? An exploration of the UU Religious Education movement.



July 25: The Heart of National Parents Day

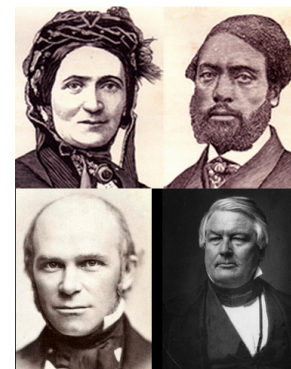
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reflects on our “renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life,” as we consider parenting.

August 1: The UU Quest for Social Justice – It’s Complicated

Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)

The Rev. Theodore Parker, famous Unitarian, Transcendentalist, and abolitionist who kept a pistol in his sermon writing desk. His two congregants, William and Ellen Craft, courageous husband and wife activists living in Boston, chosen as targets under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The Unitarian president, Millard Fillmore, who signed that deadly Act into law. What can we learn today from their experiences and their choices? What might each of us have done, in their place?



Please see page 7 for more August Services

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Marsh Agobert, *Minister*
 Reverend Dr. Carrie Knowles, *Minister*
 Reverend Tom McAninley, *Community Minister*
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Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&G)
 Chair currently vacant
 Building & Grounds Committee
 Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
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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
 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.

Cleric's Corner



One-Fifth of My Reasons to Be Optimistic

By profession, the most intelligent people in the world are not, generally speaking, world leaders. We hope they're not dumb, but neither do they need to be physicists and mathematicians (who are the most brilliant people by profession.) The US military needs as much "manpower" as possible to perform every kind of job imaginable. Yet, below a certain IQ, the lower 10% of people in the range cannot be assigned in any way, despite every effort to find ways to engage them. Thus far, the fact is, we have never seen a way to employ this 10% of our (world's) population. Now you may argue (and wrongly so) that IQ testing is without value and is grossly inaccurate in its findings. The simplicity of IQ determination is that the examinees are confronted with a wide range of abstract problems, in many formats, to determine how far one can go in solving these problems. It is the most accurate identifier of appropriate vocational placement humans have ever developed. One may argue that the experiments of CERN should not be. We know that as we fill those posts, we do not want the fate of the world to rest on my ability to direct the creation of a black hole in a laboratory in Switzerland.

We find this range of distinction in almost every area of human life. I watched a young boy grow to be a young man who was, for a moment, considered for professional football. One day I gave him one of those congratulatory slaps on the back. I found that he'd grown from a somewhat pudgy youngster (always very physical) into what my hand (and ears) interpreted as a granite boulder. I asked this six-foot-two superhero how I could get a body like that, and he quietly responded, "You can't. You don't have the genes." And he was right.

This story plays out in every area of human beings and behavior. We are Not created equal. That idea would have us be anything but a part of Nature. Gaia dictates the necessity for our unique distinctions. These distinctions are what have gotten us this far. When we look at forests, we hope to find great diversity. We know that finding only one tree species in a forest means that the forest is in grave danger, yet we want everyone to be equal. We need to think this through carefully. We must be more specific in the use of language, which directs and guides our thought.

What do we mean when we seek equality? Is it equality of outcome or equality of opportunity? And, let's say we tackle that

Cleric's Corner (continued)

query and identify equality of opportunity as our real target. What do we do with the results when they don't match our expectations? Do we fudge the results? Or might there be other levels upon levels of meaning in what we are seeing and experiencing?

Hierarchies are a part of Nature herself and human nature as well. I've watched midsized and larger birds, all sorts of canids, and felines, and they all have distinct hierarchies. None of us wants to hold responsibility for all jobs. Each of us can identify jobs we don't wish to engage in and hope someone else will have those. We are not suited to do any work or even play.

So, as to the questions of equality, we must get clear about what we mean by this. To err in our parameters of measurement could throw our advancements right out the window. And it wouldn't be the first time we've gone hunting in the wrong area.

Meanwhile, we have pretty recently gained the capacity to measure the shift in poverty. This measuring has taken so long primarily because of a lack of data. We needed to both collect and then share what data there was. But now, we are both acquiring and sharing data much more. And what we are finding may irritate some.

If we seek an end to poverty, we are well on the way, given what we are now doing. There are direct correlations between well-being and the number of children born in a given year. The more impoverished regions find more children born per woman. In turn, it decreases in proportion to the infant mortality in those regions. More affluent areas have lower infant mortality rates than more impoverished regions. Women have to have more children for a few to survive—two things lower the infant mortality rate; better healthcare and women's education. Today the infant mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is the same as the European infant mortality rate in the 1950s. These factors show a stunningly rapid pace of change.

In keeping with these measurements, which we are getting more often as world leaders choose to share their nation's data, we have identified relationships between the factors of prosperity. Healthcare and the education of women have been significant factors in raising planetary wealth. Better healthcare and education lead us to higher incomes, per capita, across the world. We now know that as households become healthier, women have fewer children. As that happens, income levels rise around the globe. Then we show an increase in our concern for the planet's wellbeing and our environment. These factors contribute to the current projection that the planet's human population will capitate circa nine billion humans.

Now, for all that we say we want to change can we feel it as it happens? Do we see the value in open communication about what is genuinely happening, the value of truth? Are we willing to use our tentative grip on reality and communication to make accurate the phrase "A rising tide lifts all boats?"

Here are some places to begin your conscientious research:

[New Insights on Poverty: https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_new_insights_on_poverty](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_new_insights_on_poverty)

[Get the Data Right: Hans Rosling: Let my dataset change your mindset | TED Talk](#)

[Gapminder's Dollar Street https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix](https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix)

Rev. Marsh

Please note that Rev. Marsh will be on summer sabbatical for July and August.

BFUU Board Election Results + Appointment of Youth Member!

BFUU's Annual Meeting and Board election on June 13, 2021

Congratulations to our new and returning Board Members!

David Makofsky ♦ Jean Marie Stine ♦ Phoebe Sorgen (Alternate) ♦ Stephanie Doucette (Alternate)
Paikea Melcher (non-voting Youth Member)

We thank you in advance for the good work you are willing and able to do to keep BFUU true to our mission and vision!

View From Rooms@bfuu.org



As of July 1st BFUU is beginning to reopen for some of our ongoing renters. Some of these faithful groups have even paid rent during the pandemic and are so grateful for being able to meet in person, again. At our recent congregational meeting, the limitations of this partial reopening were discussed and agreed upon.

Room use will be limited to: Previous ongoing groups that do not involve dance or singing, 3 weeknights only per week (tbd), masked, meeting between 6 & 9pm for 2 hours or less @50% room capacity with no food or drink service. Our Sexton, Shae Jewell, will be there each night monitoring

attendance and making sure the hand-sanitizer stations are well stocked. There will be groups in both the Hall and the upstairs function rooms at 1606 Bonita.

This is a big step for BFUU and will offer us some insight in the reopening process. While Worship Services, Building & Grounds, and the Reopening Task Force work together on best practices to fully reopen, this summer's room users will give us some practical experience on what reopening means.

Of course, flexibility is the byword as the public health situation may remain fluid. We will try to be ready for whatever comes our way, keeping each other safe as we move forward.

All the best,
Deborah (DJ) Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator

Regular Committee Meetings (currently via Zoom)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)
Meets as needed
contact [Aesthetics Committee](#)

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 [Steve Ogden](#)

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
odd months 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 (SJC)
3rd Sunday noonish - after service
contact [Phoebe, Gene, and David](#)

Social Justice Ministry (SJM)
1st Sunday 12:30 PM
contact [Jeff Palmer](#)

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

BFUU Committees



Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G)

Ben Burch, Co-Chair
 Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
 Ed Keating

Aesthetics Subcommittee

Doug Chambers
 Kathy Riehle
 Syl Scherzer
 Phoebe Sorgen

Caring Committee

Doug Chambers
 Karen Dewald
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson
 Margaret Hurlbert
 Wyndy Knox Carr
 Kathy Riehle, Chair
 Elinor Roberts

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Doug Chambers
 Jinky Gardner
 Steve Ogden, Convener
 Kathy Riehle

Finance Committee

Ben Burch, Co-Chair
 Abbot Foote, Co-Chair
 Judith Granada-Dewey

Hospitality Committee

Doug Chambers
 Michelle Laasi
 Kathy Riehle, Chair
 Elinor Roberts

Membership Committee

Doug Chambers, Chair
 Rev. Marsh Agobert

Music Committee

James Blanchard
 Francis Hillyard
 Margaret Hurlbert, Chair
 David Makofsky
 Melissa R
 Tom Rudderow

Nominating Committee

Karen Dewald
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Chair
 Jeff Palmer
 Melissa R
 Marge Turngren

Personnel Committee

Ben Burch
 Mike Gardner
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson
 Kathy Riehle, Chair

Poetry Committee

Doug Chambers
 Gene Herman, Poet Laureate
 Frances Hillyard, Chair
 Kathy Riehle

Religious Education/Exploration Committee (RE)

Doug Chambers
 Sharon Colligan, Convener
 Stephanie Doucette
 Kathy Riehle

Social Justice Committee

Ben Burch
 Ardys DeLu
 Karen Dewald
 Judith Granada-Dewey
 Gene Herman, Co-Chair
 Cynthia Johnson, Co-Chair
 Tom Luce
 David Makofsky, Co-Chair
 Syl Scherzer
 Phoebe Sorgen, Co-Chair

Social Justice Ministry Subcommittee

Jeff Palmer, Convener

Worship Services Committee

Doug Chambers
 Sharon Colligan, Chair
 Eva Doucette
 Frances Hillyard
 Virginia Hollins-Davidson
 Andy Jamieson
 Paikea Melcher
 Steve Ogden
 Melissa R
 Kathy Riehle

Worship Teams!



◀ **Worship Service Team June 20**
top: Melissa, **Eva Doucette** & Paikea, Lawrance, Elinor; 2nd row: Andy, Ben, Barbara, Margaret; 3rd row: Frances, Mike & Jinky, Ardys, Virginia; 4th row: Joanna, Lynn, Doug, Sharon; 5th row: Cal, James

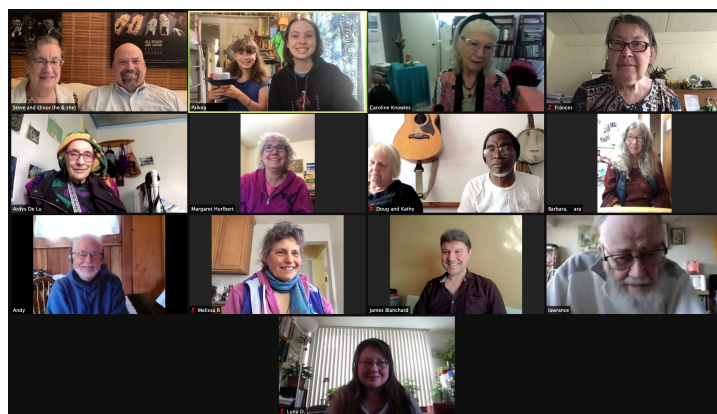


▲ **Worship Service Team June 13**
top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Margaret; 2nd row: Barbara, Elinor, Frances; 3rd row: Lawrance, Ardys, Kathy; 4th row: Melissa, **Doug Chambers**, Virginia

◀ **Worship Service Team June 6**
top: Virginia, Eva & Paikea, Frances; 2nd row: Lawrance, Andy, Kathy & Doug; 3rd row: Barbara, Melissa, Lynn; 4th row: **Rev. Marsh Agobert**



▲ **Worship Service Team May 30**
top: Andy, Eva & Paikea, Joanna, **Toni Battle**; 2nd row: Elinor & Steve, Lawrance, Kathy & Doug, Virginia; 3rd row: Lynn, Ardys, Barbara, Frances; 4th row: Margaret, Melissa



▲ **Worship Service Team May 23**
top: Elinor & Steve, Eva & Paikea, **Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles**, Frances; 2nd row: Ardys, Margaret, Kathy & Doug, Barbara; 3rd row: Andy, Melissa, James, Lawrance; 4th row: Lynn

Upcoming Worship Services

Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

August 8: The Free Church Tradition of Community Decision-Making

BFUU Worship Team

In 1637, a community of neighbors in Dedham, MA began to figure out how to form a church together. An exploration of congregational polity and decision-making in the free church tradition.



August 15: The Meaning of Membership

Doug Chambers (he/him) and Kathy Riehle (she/her)

We will hear stories of how some people come to join a UU congregation. What factors influenced her decision? What has it meant to him since? How has their spiritual journey been shaped by their congregational membership? How have our lives been changed? Has membership met your expectations? How has it fallen short? How has it risen above?

August 22: Living Longer: the Joys and Sorrows of Adding Years to Our Lives

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles reviews the vital practices of increasing our lifespan and the emotional significance of living through new eras of our lives, as we embrace the sacred circle of life.



August 29: Toni Battle on Hymns and History

Toni R. Battle (she/her)

Our guest speaker, Toni Renee Battle, an Equal Employment Opportunity Programs Senior Specialist with the City and County of San Francisco, spoke to us in May about reparations. This week Toni will tell

us about the power of spirituals and hymns as healing components for Black people descended from the historical harm and trauma of slavery and jim crow. Spirituals were essential to the Civil Rights movement. Toni will lead us into a deeper understanding of this powerful, healing musical tradition.

Community Voices

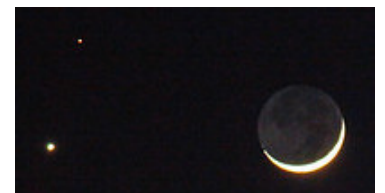


What's Up?

Are you ready for another planet conjunction? Well, on July 13th, Venus and Mars will dazzle us with a close encounter. That evening, the two will be less than the apparent diameter of the moon apart. They will be fairly close together for several days before and after that.

◀ BFUU Garden

Joanna shares this great pic of bee-friendly plants in the BFUU garden.



▲ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pbulsink/>

The waxing crescent moon joins the pair beginning July 11th, so you can witness the trio all moving relative to one another for at least a fist full of nights.

Grab your binoculars, telescope, camera or just your eyes and enjoy this celestial wonder. Good viewing.

by Mike Gardner

Community Voices



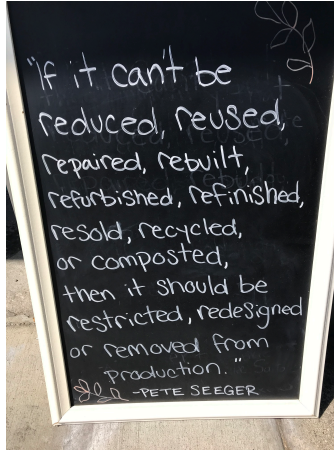
Ira Armstrong
Karen Dewald
Frances Hillyard
Virginia Hollins-Davidson
Josephine Jaszczuk
Jeffrey Melcher

from
Joanna
Foley:

**Seen
on
Solano**

Words
from
Pete
Seeger,

Unitarian Universalist
singer-songwriter and
environmentalist activist.



Poetry Corner

Let's make a revolution;
circle round for freedom,
doing a deep change in
what we do together.
Love is the revolution,
circle together. Together
we bring ourselves around.

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Poetry Corner

The Other Six Million

Six million refugees, battered, scarred
and betrayed by indifference and injustice.
The other six million, not those starved to death or gassed and burned in ovens,
but buried by 60 years of deception and denial.
These are the six million displaced by war and occupation.
Are these Palestinians the forgotten six million?
The other six million,
forever frustrated in their striving for international justice.
Dispersed and dispossessed
The other six million.
Israel is a homeland for those brutalized by bigotry and war
When will Palestine become a safe haven and homeland
for the other six million,
brutalized by diaspora, occupation and apartheid.
Where is justice for this other six million?

Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate
Berkeley CA 11/20/07

Poetry Corner

A walk in the woods

**Coastal redwoods
old growth forest**

**giants way way way up there
the fallen all the way down here**

**pine leaf carpet
big ole ferns
sprouting right up from the floor**

**padding softly
through the greens and the browns**

**mystical
magical
majestic
mature**

**serene
silent
strong
to their very core**

**ah redwood forest
so secure
yet so scarce**

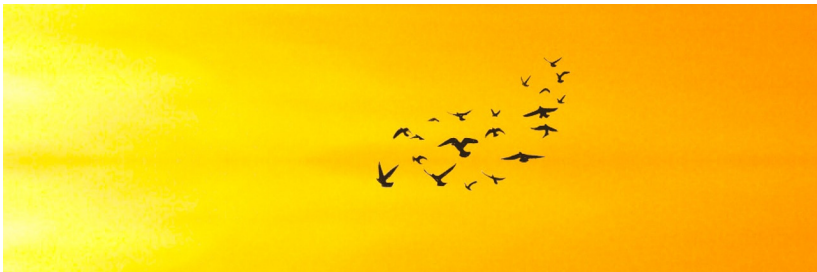
**may you be kept safe
for all grandchildren
to last**

**Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate
Avenue of the Giants
June 23, 2013**

Fellowship Calendar July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please Plan Ahead: Direct links to meetings/registration have ¹ or ² after the link. The remaining links send an email to the meeting organizer. 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.				1 2:00 pm COM Meeting*	2 12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #4*² 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg*	3
4 10:30 am Worship Service*¹ 12:30 pm SJM Mtg*¹ Independence Day	5 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting* Independence Day Holiday Observed	6 11:00 am Elders Circle*¹ Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	7	8 7 pm BFUU Men's Group*	9 12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #5*²	10
11 10:30 am Worship Service*¹	12	13 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	14	15 2:30 pm Personnel Committee*	16 12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #6*²	17
18 10:30 am Worship Service*¹ Noonish - after service SJC Meeting*¹	19	20 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	21	22 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*¹	23	24
25 10:30 am Worship Service*¹ 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*¹	26	27 Reflection & Connection* 7:00 pm Choir Practice*¹	28	29	30	31

Fellowship Calendar August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm SJM Mtg ^{*1}	2 2:00 pm MusCom Meeting [*]	3 11:00 am Elders Circle ^{*1} Reflection & Connection [*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	4	5 2:00 pm COM Meeting [*]	6 1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg [*]	7
8 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	9	10 Reflection & Connection [*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	11	12 7 pm BFUU Men's Group [*]	13	14
15 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} Noonish - after service SJC Meeting ^{*1}	16	17 Reflection & Connection [*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	18	19 <i>(Note: no Personnel Committee mtg in August)</i>	20 Communicator Deadline	21
22 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1} 12:30 pm HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs ^{*1}	23	24 Reflection & Connection [*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}	25	26 7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg ^{*1}	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship Service ^{*1}	30	31 Reflection & Connection [*] 7:00 pm Choir Practice ^{*1}				

* denotes Fellowship event

¹ denotes meeting link

² denotes meeting registration

^x denotes meetings are full - no new registrations are being accepted

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

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Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator
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Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR September *COMMUNICATOR*: August 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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