

# THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

## Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

April 2014

Upcoming Sunday Services

(services at 10:30 a.m.)

# April 6: Loving the Stranger: An Interactive Service on Hospitality Rev. Joy Atkinson, Worship Leader

How welcoming are we, as individuals, and as a religious community? The service will explore the spiritual discipline of hospitality, and how it may enhance the spirit of Fellowship and your own life.

#### **April 13: What's Needed**

Joshua Searle-White, Worship Leader

Often in life we need to think toward the future, make plans and decide what to do. When we do that, it's easy to get stuck in habitual ways of thinking and viewing things only through our own lens. But what if "what is needed here" were our guiding question rather than "what do we want?" or "what is our vision?" What greater sources of wisdom might we be able to open up to?

Joshua Searle-White is the Pacific Central District Executive. A long-time UU, he came to our district this past July after spending the past 18 years teaching at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, where he was most recently Chair of the Psychology Department. He is best known in UU circles for his storytelling, including his book Magic Wanda's Travel Emporium: Tales of Love, Hate, and Things in Between. He currently lives in Santa Cruz.

# **April 20: Easter Sunday: Finding Easter** Rev. Joy Atkinson, Worship Leader

What can "resurrection" possibly mean for Unitarian Universalists? Join us for a celebration of the season of Easter, renewal and hope.

# April 27: Dreams as a Spritual Practice Katrina Martin, Worship Leader

In this service we will explore the connection between spirituality and dreams. Is it possible some of our dreams are messages from Spirit? Can dreams serve as a portal to explore the mysteries



of life? Katrina will share some of her own spiritual dream experiences and provide examples of ways we can expand and deepen our spirituality through dreamwork.

Katrina Martin holds a masters degree in Consciousness and Transformative Studies and teaches classes on dreams locally. She lives in Oakland.

# Words of Joy

## Thoughts and Reflections From Interim Minister Reverend Joy Atkinson



#### Clergy & Staff

Reverend Joy Atkinson Interim Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen Community Minister

Katrina Martin
Office Coordinator

Deborah Hamouris

Event Space Coordinator

Ed Keating Facilities Manager

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#### **Board of Trustees**

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I once saw a Jules Feiffer cartoon, which pictures a sad-looking man, saying: "In the old days I was with this group that really had THE WORD. I fought like hell for them. But then this other group came along and showed me that the WORD of my group was shallow and ineffectual. They had a better WORD. So I quit the first group and joined up with those others. I fought like hell for them. But then someone came along and proved to me that there was no word, that what I should do is go off by myself as an individual and grow. So I quit the second group. Now what I do is sit by myself all day and grow." Then the poor man moans: "I sure wish there were some others who felt the same way I do." Too bad he had never heard of Unitarian Universalism! We, too, are not sure about THE word; rather, we hear and consider many words, many expressions of truth. The lonely cartoon character would grow a lot more in a community like ours than he would all by himself.

The theological diversity in our UU congregations makes our discussions and interactions lively, and because we gather in community, we can be the religious mavericks we are without being lonely, like the dejected cartoon character. Here at BFUU, as one of the exercises I led small groups through last fall illustrates, theological diversity is clearly present (see Cottage Meetings Write-Up on the BFUU website: click About, and then BFUU Members). I asked people to line themselves up along an imaginary continuum from theist to humanist (of course these categories beg for definition, and may not even be considered mutually exclusive, but just for illustration I had people define the categories for themselves). People placed themselves at many points along the humanist-theist line. Although the continuum was clearly more weighted toward the humanist side, people stood at many points on the line. Quite a few planted themselves firmly in the middle, and several went over to the "theist" side. I do this little exercise to make visually clear that, although we sometimes assume that all UUs have more or less similar beliefs, in fact theologically we are quite different from one another.

It's wonderful, actually: On a given Sunday at the Fellowship, you may be sitting next to a liberal Christian, who's sitting beside a Pagan, and in front of you is a practitioner of Zen Buddhism, while behind you is an atheist, and on your other side may be a theist, whose spouse is an agnostic. Here at BFUU you illustrate quite nicely that old UU adage, attributed to Transylvanian Unitarian leader Ferenc David: "We need not believe alike to love alike."

If you would like to learn more about our free faith, and how you might go about joining the congregation as a voting member, come to an Inquirer's meeting (the next one is after the service on March 30 in the Hall), or speak with me or a member of the Hospitality/Membership Committee. Or, let us know of your interest by visiting the Welcome Table. In May we will conduct a ceremony to introduce our newest members to the congregation.

## Message From the Vice President

#### Gene Herman

The Board of Trustees has approved submitting an application to UUA-Boston for a Developmental Minister, and this information was presented to the congregation by President Virginia Hollins-Davidson at the Sunday, March 2 service.

The position is expected to be three-fourths time and could last from three to five years. The five main areas of concern of the Developmental Minister will be:

- 1. To determine our mission and vision, and to whom we wish to minister.
- 2. Grow membership significantly by developing better community outreach/online presence, and by becoming a teaching lab for Starr King/Pacifc School of Religion students.
- 3. Achieve financial sustainability through encouraging generosity in pledging, all types of planned giving and other aspects of general fiscal stewardship.
- 4. Broader congregational involvement in social justice, possibly through a focused local project.
- 5. Cultivating lay leadership, especially for committees such as Finance and Building and Grounds.

UUA will be sending us candidates, one at a time, for our review which will be done by a selection committee.

It is not cast in stone that we will find a viable candidate for this position; it is possible that there will be an Executive Director search implemented as well. More about that next month.

As your outgoing Stewardship Chair I leave office in about the same state as I entered: with 49 pledging members, 9 friends and approximately \$27,000 dollars in annual pledges.

I am certain that there is a Fellowship member who can pick up the hat for the Stewardship Chair and help move BFUU fiscally forward.

Please speak to Virginia, Abbot or myself about picking up and wearing this vitally important hat.

Finally, as my last plea from Stewardship, please take note that the Fellowship is committed to sending \$60 dollars per member as dues to the UUA, and \$26 dollars per member as dues to PCD, a total of \$86 per member annually. If you have not pledged this amount please consider adjusting your pledge upward to at least \$86 per year so that the Fellowship does not have to subsidize your membership.

May the blessings of spring shine upon you...in Fellowship.

Gene B. Herman

## **Wattie Taylor Reading**

Wattie Taylor will be readiing and performing poems, stories, a monologue and perhaps even singing at the North Berkeley Senior Center!

Sunday, March 30 2 p.m. North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst St.

Show opens at 1 p.m. with Wattie's act. This will be followed by music, song and an open mic for other poets and readers. Arrive a little before 1 p.m. to sign up.

There will also be refreshments: cookies, fruit and fruit drinks.

## April Birthdays

Ben Burch
Pam Norton
Jean Marie Stine
Delfy Vaznaugh



# **Upcoming Events**

#### Screening the Green Film: Nicotine Bees

Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St. (4)



Please join us for a bee-based potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., where we'll share dishes made with honey or foods pollinated by bees. We'll enjoy some original bee songs from Occupella singers Hali Hammer and Nancy Schimmel. Then we'll watch the fascinating film Nicotine Bees. Our special guest will be Jennifer Radtke from the BioFuel Oasis Cooperative, who'll speak about home beekeeping.

Suggested donation \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated! Co-sponsored by Transition Berkeley, Berkeley Climate Action Coalition Water Working Group and the SJC.

#### **Book Release Celebration with Gareth Porter**

Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.



Investigative reporter Gareth Porter will discuss the findings of his new book Manufactured Crisis: The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare. Based on several years of intensive research, the book shows that many claims about Iran's nuclear weapons program are based on flimsy and clearly fabricated evidence.

Suggested donation \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated! Co-sponsored by Project Censored.

#### World of Change: A Special 10th Anniversary New Way Media Fest Poetry & Music Celebration

Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.



David James Randolph will host and share his 80th birthday remarks. David Madgalene will serve as MC and be a showcased poet with Steve Shain and Clive Matson. Vic Sadot and Holly Harwood will host an open mic. For more information, visit http://www.newwaymediafest.blogspot.com.

#### Mutual Awakening Salon with Patricia Albere

Saturday, April 5 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Join Patricia Albere, founder of the Evolutionary Collective and internationally recognized contemporary spiritual teacher for a deep dive into the core practice of her work in creating a new paradigm for a higher order of human relatedness. Mutual Awakening is a spiritual practice that gives people access to unity consciousness.

\$35 includes hard copy of the Mutual Awakening Book.

#### Stone Soup Improv

Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Stone Soup Improv has a diverse cast with over 50 years of collective improv, acting, and comedy experience. Info at www.stonesoupimprov.com.

#### **Events Continued**

#### **Ending Solitary Confinement**

Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — 1924 Cedar St. (+)



Join speaker Laura Magnani, who has worked for the American Friends Service Committee on prision issues, to hear her discuss ending solitary confinement.

Suggested donation \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated!

#### Conscientious Projector's Film Series for the 99%: Project Censored

Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — 1924 Cedar St.



Award-winning *Project Censored:The Movie* takes an in-depth look at what is wrong with the news media in the US today. It highlights the work of 37-year veteran media democracy organization Project Censored (PC) and its commitment to media literacy education as an antidote to propaganda and censorship. This film, made by Christopher Oscar and former PC student Doug Hecker, features original interviews about PC and media censorship with Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Michael Parenti, Greg Palast, Oliver Stone, Daniel Ellsberg, Peter Kuznick, Cynthia McKinney, Nora Barrows-Friedman, John Perkins, Khalil Bendib, Pacifica and KPFA Free Speech Radio personalities, Abby Martin of Russia Today, Al Jazeera English clips covering PC, and PC-affiliated faculty and students. It also features Project founder Carl Jensen, former director and president of the Media Freedom Foundation Dr. Peter Phillips, current director Prof. Mickey Huff and associate director Dr. Andy Lee Roth.

Suggested donation \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated!

#### BFUU Open Mic Featuring Julia Vinograd with Host Holly Harwood

Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall —1924 Cedar St. (4)



Julia Vinograd is the unofficial poet laureate of Berkeley. She has published 57 poetry books and won the American Book Award of the Before Columbus Foundation. She has three poetry CD collections: Bubbles and Bones, Eye of the Hand, and The Book of Jerusalem. She received a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and an MFA from the University of Iowa. She has a Poetry Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Berkeley. She won a Pushcart Prize for her poem "The Young Men Who Died of AIDS."

Suggested donation \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds. Sign ups at 6:30 p.m.

#### Passover Seder with Rabbi Michael Lerner

Tuesday, April 15 at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — 1924 Cedar St.



Beyt Tikkun Synagogue is co-sponsoring, with the greater BFUU community, a Passover Seder. You must register for this event by no later than Tuesday, April 8.

We will follow the guidelines of the traditional Seder Haggadah, with much innovation, discussion, guided visualization, music and a vegetarian potluck feast (in accord with Passover restrictions). People from every faith and none are welcome to join the Beyt Tikkun community this evening. The guidelines for the potluck will be sent to you when you give Beyt Tikkun your address and email as you register. Registration information is available at: www.beyttikkun.org.

## **Events Continued**

#### Kathy Kelly

Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall —1924 Cedar St.



Kathy Kelly is an American peace activist, pacifist and author, one of the founding members of Voices in the Wilderness, and currently co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. She has been part of peace delegations in several countries, notably remaining in combat zones during the early days of both US-Iraq wars. Learn more at <a href="http://vcnv.org/speaker-bio/kathy-kelly">http://vcnv.org/speaker-bio/kathy-kelly</a>.

Suggested donation \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated!

#### Save Our Berkeley Post Office Coalition Presents New Deal Era Film Fest Friday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — 1924 Cedar St.

These films give us a picture of federal efforts that improved lives of Americans during the Great Depression. The first film shows FDR's inauguration and putting America to work. The second film shows the signing of Social Security, mortgage insurance, FDR's visit to Civilian Conservation Corps, help for the Dust Bowl victims and a song by Al Jolson.

Suggested donation \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated!

# Sufi Wisdom Meeting of the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship

Saturday, April 19 at 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room — 1606 Bonita Ave.

Please come and join us in the sharing of the Sufi teachings of Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, for prayerful meditation and the discussion of the topic: "Faith in the Teachings of Sufism." For more information about the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship, please visit www.bmf.org/m/index.html.

## Writing What You Want to Say: A Writing Workshop with WordSwell

Sunday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room—1606 Bonita Ave.



Have you written before? Or always wanted to write more? This group will support and encourage you to write. Facilitator Holly Harwood is a local poet and teacher whose work has inspired a lot of creative words to flow in Berkeley and beyond.

### Save Our Berkeley Post Office Coalition Presents New Deal Era Film Fest Week 2 Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall — 1924 Cedar St. (+)

These films show New Deal artists at work in post offices and many public buildings. At 9 p.m. we're showing films about people engaged in cooperative farming in Texas and Alaska, building new homes and their experience with rural electrification. Dick Powell sings the grand finale.

Suggested donation \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers appreciated!

#### Recurring/Ongoing Events

T'ai Chi Ch'uan with Karina Epperlein: The Principles and Art of Slowing Down Mondays, 6-7 p.m. in the Connie Barbour Room — 1606 Bonita Ave.

Breath, sound, movement, gi gong, imagination and intention, standing and walking meditation, balance, centering and grounding. Karina brings to her 37 years of teaching an extensive background and training in T'ai Chi Ch'uan, dance, physical theater, music, voice, breath and meditation. Ongoing. \$90 per month. Please call in advance to register: 510-559-8892. Visit www.karinafilms.us for more information.

#### **Tuesdays Together**

Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St. (4)



Each Tuesday Together begins with a potluck meal at 6 p.m. and then at 7 p.m. we switch to a class or activity. Upcoming Tuesdays Together programming includes:



**April 1:** Joking Together. For April Fools, bring your favorite jokes to share with the group.

**April 8:** Playing Together. Games Night. Join us for an hour of fun, interactive games.

**April 15:** No Tuesday's Together tonight. Instead, there is a potluck Passover Seder starting at 6PM, lead by Rabbi Lerner of Beyt Tikkun. Members of BFUU are invited, but we must register and must follow Kosher restrictions in bringing a dish. Cost for BFUU members is \$20. Please go to www.beyttikkun.org

April 22: Writing Together. A few "prompts" will get us writing and sharing what we have written.

April 29: Sharing Together: Our Personal Theologies. Rev. Joy will lead us in a session of sharing our beliefs, doubts, hunches about the nature of the universe and our lives.



#### T'ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. in the Connie Barbour Room — 1606 Bonita Ave.

This practice is appropriate for people of all ages. It improves health and well-being at any age.

Dance From Your Core: CoreConnexion Transformational Arts with Eva Vigran, MA Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Starting in the NOW, we will listen to body and soul, following movement that emerges from moment to moment. Through playful connection with ourselves, others and nature, we can illuminate our individual and authentic aliveness and strengthen our inner nature and resources. Participants will gain access to the wisdom and joy at their core. First class is free! www.coreconnexion.net.

#### **Question Mark Cafe**

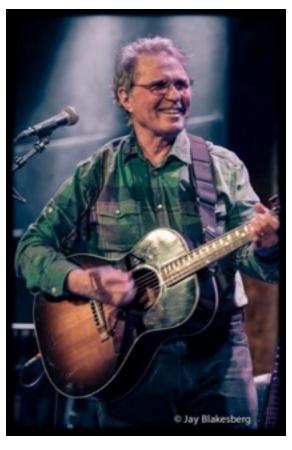
First Fridays at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room—1606 Bonita Ave



The Question Mark Cafe is a potluck lunch with a program and self-care for activists. Bring music, poetry and food to share.

# An Evening with Country Joe McDonald

A Benefit for the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists



# Saturday, May 10 in the Fellowship Hall

7 p.m.

Tickets **\$15-25** sliding scale

Space is limited: get your tickets now!

510-275-4219

Country Joe McDonald straddles the two polar events of the '60s: Woodstock and the Vietnam War. The first Country Joe and the Fish record was released in 1965 in time for the Vietnam Day Teach-In anti-war protest in Berkeley. He sang one of the great anthems of the era, "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die Rag," to an audience of a half-million at the Woodstock Arts and Music Festival in 1969.

McDonald's music spans a broad range of style and content. He began his solo career with a collection of Woody Guthrie songs. He went on to produce a musical rendition of the World War I poems of Robert Service, a collection of country and western standards, "Vietnam Experience" in 1985, "Superstitious Blues" in 1991 with Jerry Garcia, and an album of songs about nursing in 2002.

## Hali Hammer opens

Well-versed in an assortment of moods and styles, Hali Hammer is an award-winning singersongwriter who enjoys writing and playing a wide variety of music. She has sung and played for peace and political causes for more than four decades and is an active member of Freedom Song Network and Occupella.

Tickets also available online at bfuucountryjoe.bpt.me

# Fellowship Calendar April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 am SLAA 10 am Elder's Circle* 6 pm Tuesdays Together* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	2 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	3 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Screening the Green film* 7 pm Norcal 9/11 Truth Alliance	4 11:30 am Question Mark Cafe* 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm Gareth Porter*	5 9 am ASCA 10 am Choir Rehearsal* 5:45 pm SLAA 2 pm New Way Media* 7 pm Evolutionary Collective 8 pm Stone Soup Improv
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 2 pm End Solitary* 5 pm DA Mtg 8 pm AA Candlelight	7 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion	7:30 am SLAA 6 pm Tuesdays Together* 7 pm Sunday Services Mtg* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	9 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	10 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Conscientious Projector Film*	11 7 pm BFUU Open Mic* 7 pm NA Women's Mtg	12 9 am ASCA 10 am Dr. Hu Qigong 5:45 pm SLAA
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12 pm Potluck* 3:30 pm Tracy O'Kates Memorial* 5 pm DA Mtg 8 pm AA Candlelight	4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion	15 7:30 am SLAA 5 pm Beyt Tikkun Seder* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	16 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	17 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Kathy Kelly*	18 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm Save the Post Office Event*	19 9 am ASCA 3 pm Sufi Wisdom Mtg 5:45 pm SLAA
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 5 pm DA Mtg 8 pm AA Candlelight	21 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion	7:30 am SLAA 6 pm Tuesdays Together* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	23 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	24 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Board Meeting*	25 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm Save the Post Office Event*	<b>26</b> 9 am ASCA 5:45 pm SLAA
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm Wordswell Workshop 5 pm DA Mtg 8 pm AA Candlelight	28 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion	7:30 am SLAA 6 pm Tuesdays Together* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg	4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion			

<sup>\*</sup> denotes Fellowship event

## Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

#### **BFUU OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **BFUU STAFF**

Rev. Joy Atkinson - Interim Minister

Phone: 510-269-2455 Email: minister@bfuu.org Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-275-4219 Email: rooms@bfuu.org

#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT COMMUNICATOR: April 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

#### **Address Correction Requested**

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists 1606 Bonita Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709