



THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

February 2015

Upcoming Sunday Services

(Services at 10:30 a.m.)

February 1: The Gender Games

Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

Gender roles and rules permeate our culture. What does that mean for us who affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all? Why are people who do not fit the gender norms and stereotypes seen as such a threat? Why is there such violence perpetuated against them? There is a theological explanation and a theological solution.



February 8: What Is Time?

Matt Weinstein, Worship Leader



Matt Weinstein is a student at Starr King School for the Ministry preparing for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Matt is pursuing a call to interfaith university chaplaincy, and has a deep passion for contemporary philosophy and theology. In this Sunday's service, Matt will share with us some basic philosophical and theological approaches to the seemingly simple concept of time. By the end of the hour, Matt hopes to seriously complicate your understanding of time.

February 15: What's Love Got to Do With It?

Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

On this Sunday closest to Valentine's Day we will explore the different types and qualities of love. What does "Love your neighbor" really mean?



February 22: Poetry Service: Social Justice from the Heart

Frances Hillyard, Worship Leader

Holly Harwood, Worship Associate

We are part of a social justice community inspired in our work by the courage, wisdom, compassion and commitment of those we admire. Today you are invited to celebrate those who inspire you.

Developmental Minister Reverend Theresa Novak



Clergy & Staff

Reverend Theresa Novak
Developmental Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen
Community Minister

Susan Macke
Office Coordinator

Deborah Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator

Ed Keating
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Pam Norton, *Vice President*

Ben Burch, *Treasurer*

Holly Harwood, *Recording Sec'y*
(alternate)

Doug Chambers

Doertlis (Lis) Schultz-Allen

Sylvia Scherzer (alternate)

Dear BFUU Members and Friends,

Time is flying and the weather is warming up already. It feels good despite the fact that we know that a warming climate is not good for our planet.

I thought we had some very good dialogue about BFUU during the question and answer session we held after the service on January 11. Prior to the meeting, I had led a service on "The Family Church," which explained some of the changes BFUU will need to make if you are going to be able to grow and thrive. If you missed it, it is online on our website. The sermon answers a lot of questions that our membership had about the developmental ministry and what the board and I are trying to accomplish.

Some people who attended the meeting were unable to attend the worship service as well, which was unfortunate. The question of spoken joys and sorrows came up both in the sermon and at the meeting. While it was clear that some folks really missed the practice of individuals in the congregation using the microphone to express their own sorrows and joys, there were others, a majority of those speaking in fact, who were happy that we no longer engage in this sometimes wonderful, but often very problematic practice.

One person spoke very strongly and stated that our worship services must be democratic. I am not sure exactly what they meant by that. Should we vote each week on all the readings and hymn selections? As your minister, I try to craft services that have a particular theme and message and attempt to have everything from the music to the readings, to the time for all ages, reinforce and enhance that theme. The worship associates and musicians often have suggestions, some of which I use, and some of which just don't fit. I believe this improves the quality of the service, making us more attractive and welcoming to newcomers and more spiritually satisfying and engaging for everyone who attends. Would "democratic" mean that the worship leader has to take every single suggestion that is made, even if it would detract or distract from the theme?

I am beginning to realize that there are some basic misunderstandings here at BFUU about the meaning of democracy. BFUU has operated in family style mode, with decisions made by strong individuals with little, if any, accountability to the membership as a whole. Our fifth

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Dear BFUU Members and Friends (continued from p. 2)

principle states “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” One key word in that principle is process. In our faith tradition, the congregation has the ultimate power and authority. But that doesn’t mean every individual or every group within the congregation can do whatever they want. The membership, in a congregational meeting, convened under the rules described in the bylaws, can make decisions for the entire congregation. Outside of those meetings, only the board of trustees, elected by the congregation to do so, has the authority to make those types of decisions. They can delegate some of this authority and responsibility to other individuals or groups. By hiring me as your minister, they delegated some of that authority and responsibility to me. Certain committees and other staff have also been delegated certain authorities and responsibilities.

Because the board serves the interests of the entire congregation, it is critical that they always keep that in mind and not let themselves be unduly influenced by individuals and small groups that may not reflect the interests of the entire congregation. That is why the deliberations at board meetings should only be for the actual elected board members. Other individuals are welcome to attend and observe, and can ask (or be asked) to be on the agenda to address a specific item, but they are not elected to represent the congregation and should not be part of the actual deliberations. That is how school board and city council meetings are conducted in virtually every jurisdiction. It is how church boards operate in all but some very tiny and often contentious congregations.

So how does the board or the minister know what the congregation as a whole wants or needs? (Those two aren’t always the same!) The answer is conversation with as many and as diverse a representation of the congregation as possible. Many people have given me feedback on the Sunday services, both those I have led and those that are lay led. I listen, and then try to figure out how representative that feedback is and whether or not I should try to make some changes based upon it. Then I think about the mission and goals, what the membership has said they want for the future and consider how the specific feedback fits into that. Sometimes I change things, and sometimes I don’t.

The board follows much the same process, staying in touch with the membership, but also keeping in mind the overall goals and mission of BFUU. The board and the minister are both charged with leadership as well. Leaders are supposed to think about the future and the impact of their decisions on that future and on the overall health of the congregation. If the board or the minister should get really off track, a congregational meeting can always be called to revise or change a prior mandate or delegation of authority.

I hope this helps. The transition from “family-style” functioning to the more organized and frankly more democratic “pastoral-style” is not an easy one. Individuals who have had a great deal of personal power and influence in the past may feel disenfranchised. Some may fight very hard to regain or retain that power. It is a totally normal and understandable reaction, but it doesn’t serve to move us further along the road to a real democratic process that enhance the power of the congregation as a whole. We have so much to offer to those around us. Let’s learn to work together in love.

Blessings to each and every one of you,

Rev. Theresa

President's Report

In response to increased interest in what the Board of Trustees is doing, the Board Minutes will now be emailed to members, once they are approved. Also, Office Coordinator Susan Macke will now post them on the bulletin board each month. Keep in mind that it will take a month before they are approved.

If you feel a need to know what the Board has done about an issue before that time, ask a Board member. There are seven of us.

Also, if you have an issue you want put on the Agenda, talk, email, fax, text, phone or write a letter to me two weeks before the Board meeting. If I consider it appropriate I will put it on the Agenda for Board discussion.

All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. You may observe, ONLY. Do not make comments, emotional outbursts or try to hijack the meeting with personal stories or readings. Please do not disturb Board business. Plan to be silent unless you are already on the Agenda AND are recognized by the Chair.

So that you may know what are appropriate issues to bring to the Board I will quote from the By-laws: "Trustees are responsible for the administration or management of property, finances, employment of all paid personnel, and other affairs of the Fellowship, including the submission of an annual budget to the members of the Fellowship." And "May adopt By-laws defining their organization, their proceedings, and the conduct of the Fellowship." In other words, the Board protects the assets of BFUU and makes decisions about BFUU Policy.

Susan Singh, President

Community Voices



February Birthdays

Jim Beatty

Eva Doucette

Margaret Hamilton

Dolores Helman

Rev. Theresa Novak

Tom Ross

Sylvia Scherzer

Adult RE Survey! The RE Committee is gearing up to provide additional Adult Religious Education classes for the congregation. The first step is to assess what kind of classes you're interested in. Please fill out the survey that we'll be handing out at Sunday Services on February 1, 8 and 15, and return it to the Welcoming Table. We hope to begin class(es) soon after we have reviewed the results of the survey.

Valentine's Day Dance

Several BFUU members are working toward holding a Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, February 14 in the Fellowship Hall. While this is a rental and not a BFUU-sponsored event, there will certainly be members and friends in the crowd - and on the stage! Keep an ear to the ground and an eye on the calendar at www.bfuu.org/events/calendar for more information.

Other events of interest to members

Jazz in the Neighborhood and Acoustic Music Berkeley are still renting the Fellowship Hall for their monthly concerts. Check their web sites for more information on their offerings.

Social Justice Watch

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring Judith Granada-Dewey's trip to Gaza with the Tree of Life Educational Fund <http://www.tolef.org/>. We look forward to her report back.

Members of the Social Justice Committee and the congregation went to the Reclaiming King's Legacy March in East Oakland on January 19th, which Seon O'Neill details below.

–Holly Harwood

Report from the Reclaiming King's Legacy March:

I arrived at the Fruitvale Station in Oakland and took a look to see if anybody else from the Social Justice Committee was present. In search, I found various tables, as people were there with various socialist newspapers and books. Also present were people with signs. Eventually I met Holly Harwood near the entry to Fruitvale Transit Village. The walkway was marked with areas where one could park strollers or even paint a sign to carry. We made our way further into the concourse, and when we got to the curb, I took my first picture of the day, a shot of the giant Martin Luther King, Jr. puppet.

We then crossed the street to the rest of the staging area. I heard the distinctively pentatonic beat of Aztec Dancers' drums; thus I knew Aztec Dancers were performing, although I could only see the feathers in their headdresses. Also present were elaborately costumed young Lion Dancers who were a part of the march.

Before we started our long trek of 5 1/2 miles, we listened to several speakers. We also got our marching instructions. "The truck goes first and the babies will lead the march." We were instructed to repeat those aloud. Then the young people led us in before the march chants. Shortly thereafter, we took to the street. Accompanied by drumming and chanting, we were en route; a nonviolent, noisy march. As we neared the Coliseum, we noticed that neighborhoods were progressively more rundown.

At about 4 p.m. we arrived at the BART station—in time for a game to be getting out—and for a brief period the BART station was actually closed. From there, approximately 2,000 of us finished the trek to the stadium; then into the chow line—menu included grapes, chips, salad, spaghetti with tomato and garlic sauce, bread pudding, and two dishes containing meat; one with ham, the other lamb. The beverage was a plant-based milk.

–Seon O'Neill

Regular Committee Meetings

Social Justice

1st & 3rd Sunday 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room

Sunday Services

2nd Tuesday at 7 PM in the Minister's office

Finance

3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Fireside Room

Religious Education

3rd Sunday at 12:30 PM (after services)

Hospitality and Membership

4th Sunday at 12:30 PM (after services)

Buildings & Grounds

Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch

Featured BFUU Events



Screening the Green Film Series: **The Economics of Happiness**

Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.



In *The Economics of Happiness* filmmaker Helena Norberg-Hodge examines how—in resistance to globalization—communities are successfully relocalizing their economies and treasuring the rich uniqueness of each local place. Discover how communities around the world are coming together to re-build on a more human scale with respect for the environment and the rights and needs of people. We'll hear from voices from six continents, including Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten, Samdhong Rinpoche,

Helena Norberg-Hodge, Michael Shuman, Zac Goldsmith and Keibo Oiwa. They tell us that climate change and peak oil give us little choice: we need to localize, to bring the economy home. The good news is that as we move in this direction we will begin not only to heal the earth but also to restore our own sense of well-being.

This event is cosponsored by Transition Berkeley and BFUU's Social Justice Committee. Suggested donation \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds.



BFUU Open Mic with Featured Artists John Koch and Ronnie London

Friday, February 13 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Join us for BFUU's monthly Open Mic night. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 PM and the featured artist performs at 8:30 PM.

More information on the Featured Artists will be posted soon on the website: www.bfuu.org/



February's host, Hali Hammer, is an award-winning singer-songwriter who enjoys writing and playing a wide variety of music. She has sung and played for peace and political causes for over three decades and is an active member of Freedom Song Network. Her diverse work (and play) have made her comfortable performing with all age groups, from preschoolers to senior citizens.



Hali Hammer official website:
<http://www.halihammer.com>

Suggested donations of \$5 – \$10 will support the work of the Social Justice Committee!
No one is turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

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Thursday, February 12 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall-1924 Cedar St.



Critics have called it ambitious, fresh and startling and something that has never been shown before. If you are not familiar with the legislation the National Security Act of 1948, just for starters, please save this date and watch this informative series. You may also sign all 12 chapters out from

Suggested donation \$5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.



Tuesday February 3, 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall-1924 Cedar St.

The BFUU Elders' Circle meets at 11:00 AM on First Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall.



Thursday February 5, 7 PM in the Benjy Room-1606 Bonita Ave.

SpiritUUal Contemporaries at BFUU, an open covenant group for self-defined middle adults, welcomes those who would like to experience open covenant small group worship. Please contact Nanci Armstrong Temple fraggles94@gmail.com for more information.



Friday February 6, Noon in the Fireside Room—1606 Bonita Ave.



Find Some West Oaks
 Has Carried over 40 years of West
 Coast's most up to date
 1006 North Ave in Berkeley, CA
 Open 1st Friday of Every Month
 Noon - 1:30 pm
 Show music, poetry, live shows

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Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events Continued



BFUU Second Sundays Potluck

Sunday February 8, after service (around 12:30 PM) in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.



Come one, come all! Whether you have a dish to share or not, we in the Hospitality and Membership committees invite you, on behalf of all our membership, to join us as we break bread in the spirit of loving community. If you can, please help us set up tables and chairs before and put them away afterward. In between, join in the bounty provided by members and friends. Members, friends, neighbors, and the wider community are welcome to join us.



Pub Theology

Friday February 20, 7:00 PM at Au Coquelet (2000 University Ave., Berkeley)

BFUU's young adult group meets monthly at Au Coquelet. Please contact Lincoln Statler lincoln.statler@gmail.com for more information.



BFUU Board Meeting

Thursday February 26, 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.



Wordswell Writing Workshop

Sunday February 22, 12:30 PM 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.

Suggested donation per class: BFUU pledging members \$5, non-members \$10. Half of the money goes to BFUU and half to Wordswell, a non-profit for writing.

Other Community Events held at BFUU

T'ai Chi Ch'uan with Karina Epperlein: The Principles and Art of Slowing Down

Mondays, 6-7 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.

Breath, sound, movement, qi 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.

Dancing Life From Your Core: CoreConnexion Transformational Arts® with Eva Vigran, MA Psych

Wednesdays, 6-8 PM 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



Core Connexion
transformational arts ®

Fellowship Calendar February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	2 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion 6 pm AA Men's Mtg	3 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	4 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	5 11:45 am AA Meditation 6:30 pm Film: The Economics of Happiness* 7 pm SpiritUUal Contemporaries*	6 12 noon Wind Song West Cafe* 7 pm NA Women's Mtg	7 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
8 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm Potluck* 12:30 pm Right Rel. Task Force Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	9 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion 6 pm AA Men's Mtg	10 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 4 pm Sunflower Alliance 7 pm Sunday Services Mtg* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	11 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	12 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Film: Untold History of the US Chapter 2 The Cold War*	13 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm BFUU Open Mic: John Koch and Ronnie London	14 9 am ASCA 10 am Dr. Hu Qigong 11 am Soul Motion Workshop 6 pm Augustine Fellowship 8 pm Valentine Dance
15 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 12:30 RE Mtg* 3:30 Zim Cartoon* 8pm AA Mtg	16 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	17 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	18 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	19 11:45 am AA 4:30 Finance Committee* 7 pm Norcal 9/11 7:30 pm Taize Service*	20 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm Pub Theology at Au Coquelet* 8 pm Jazz in the Neighborhood Communicator Deadline!	21 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
22 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 Hospitality & Membership Mtg 12:30 Wordswell* 8 pm AA Mtg	23 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	24 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 4 pm Sunflower Alliance 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	25 7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	26 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Board Mtg*	27 7 pm NA Women's 8 pm Acoustic Music Berkeley	28 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship

UU American Roots at Live Oak UU Fellowship

* denotes Fellowship event

Sundays, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10 & 6/14, 4-6PM followed by a half hour of socializing and snacks.

Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (this is where Live Oak UU meets.)

Emily Stoper invites you to explore the stories of UU in America. How did they originate and transform?

What is their history as seekers of justice? Contact Darlene Pagano at dpagano@igc.org to sign up!

This course is free but donations to UU Oakland or to the Live Oak Fellowship are welcome.

This just in - still tentative but probable! please check www.bfuu.org.

Labor And The Lessons of The Zim Shanghai Picket, Cartoonists And Repression With Khalil Bendid And Justice & Human Rights

Sunday, February 15, 3:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

This forum will view a new documentary on the Sep. 2014 Port of Oakland action and explore the murder of Palestinian cartoonist Naji Salim al-Ali and the massacre of Charlie Hebdo cartoonists in France. Is there a double standard on the attacks on cartoonists and journalists in the world? There will also be cartoons by Naji Salim al-Ali. For more information please call (415) 282-1908.

Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

BFUU OFFICE HOURS

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

BFUU STAFF

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT *COMMUNICATOR*: February 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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