

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

October 2014

A Note From the Editor

If you read this newsletter, please help me make the next one even better by contributing an article, poem or graphic before October 20th. I'm enjoying getting to know you all and would enjoy seeing your original words and images in print.

Susan Macke, Communicator Editor

Upcoming Sunday Services

(Services at 10:30 a.m.)

October 5: Days of Awe

Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

In the Jewish tradition, the time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are known as the Days of Awe. We will look at this important holiday and see what it might teach us as Unitarian Universalists about the practice of repentance and forgiveness.

October 12: Fifth Principal

Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

Our fifth principle calls us to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. What does democracy mean in our covenantal faith? What does it call us to do in the wider world.

October 19: Blessing of the Animals

Seon O'Neill, Worship Leader

Although we act as if we are, man is not the only species inhabiting the planet. At this service, we will be honoring and remembering our animal companions. Please join us in the courtyard after the service for a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your animal friends (in a carrier or on a leash to keep them safe) or pictures or mementos of them. Please do not leave unattended animals in vehicles.

October 26: The Day of the Dead

Holly Harwood, Worship Leader

In this interactive service we will honor our loved ones who have died. If you wish, please bring a photo to place on our altar.

Developmental Minister Reverend Theresa Novak



Dear BFUU Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that I have already been with you for an entire month. My, how time flies when you are having fun!

BFUU truly is a delightful community filled with wonderful people and it is an honor to be serving as your minister. I am still figuring out how things work, and am also making a few changes that will, I believe, better allow BFUU to fulfill its mission. One is to simply increase our collective focus on that mission. As a simple start, we are adding the mission statement to the front of the order of service each week.

"Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action."

If we are going to do that, we need to be a place that is consistently welcoming to those who might want to join us.

How a building looks says a lot to a visitor about what a congregation is like. It reflects how much we care about our religious home. And just like in a lot of our individual homes, we don't always notice our own clutter and dust, but can clean like mad when company is coming. Company comes to BFUU almost every single Sunday. We had the banners dusted and part of fellowship hall painted and "chair rails" have been installed. We are putting hooks in the restrooms so people can hang up their purses or coats while using the facilities. I am hoping we can also get the restrooms painted. Maybe we can schedule a "Spruce Up BFUU" Day where we can paint, clean, and organize the Fellowship hall and maybe even the grounds.

We are also making some changes in the worship format, trying to create a safe and inviting container for those who come seeking solace or spiritual depth. As your developmental minister, I am responsible for all of our Sunday services, including those where I am not the worship leader. The Sunday Services committee is working with me on this and is in the process of training a number of worship associates who can help ensure that all of our services are of good quality. More changes will be coming to worship and I hope you will like them. If you are interested in becoming a worship associate and are also able to be part of the Sunday Services committee, please let me know.

As most of you know, the previous chair of that committee, Lauren Hotchkiss, who also served as our music coordinator, has stepped down from all of her lay leadership due to her enrollment in

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Theresa Novak
Developmental Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen
Community Minister

Susan Macke
Office Coordinator

Deborah Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator

Ed Keating
Facilities Manager

Richard Sandling
Custodian

Board of Trustees

Susan Singh, *President*

Pam Norton, *Vice President*

Ben Burch, *Treasurer*

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

Doug Chambers

Doertlis (Lis) Schultz-Allen

Sylvia Scherzer (alternate)

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

seminary. This is routine and in keeping with the guidelines and code of conduct established by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. <http://www.uuma.org/default.asp?page=guidelines>

Seminary students are accountable to those guidelines as well; it is part of their training. The transition from lay leader to minister is a difficult one, and trying to continue in a lay leadership position while doing so is frankly impossible. Seminary students should be involved in congregations, but they need to be involved as "ministers-in-training" and work under the guidance of both their school and the minister of the congregation they attend. We already have one Starr King student involved at BFUU in this way, and I am hoping we will have some other seminary students involved in the future. I will also continue to offer advice and mentoring to Lauren, whether or not she becomes involved at BFUU in her new role as seminarian.

We had a great board meeting last month, as well as an excellent startup session facilitated by Jeanelyse Adams. Your elected board seems both willing and able to step up to the challenge of ensuring that BFUU's policies are clear and consistent and in keeping with our mission. One of the things we will be looking at is our building use policies. While it is important to provide space to community groups that support our values, the building also needs to be self sustaining.

We had two people sign the membership book this month. If you are not yet a member and think you would like to be, please contact me.

That's all for now. Thank you for your support; it means a lot. Change is never easy, but BFUU is fully capable of honoring its past and moving boldly into the future. You all rock!

Blessings on each and every one of you,

Namaste,

Rev. Theresa



Welcome New Members!

Mike and Jinky Gardner signed our membership book on September 16th. They have been attending since last June and are excited to make BFUU their religious home. Please welcome them warmly. We will have a new members ceremony on a Sunday once a few more people join.

President's Report

Happy Halloween!

I see many changes here at BFUU as we travel with our Transitional Minister, the Reverend Theresa Novak, along our path of discovery about who we are and what we are all about as a Congregation.

All are invited to an event to celebrate and welcome Rev. Theresa to our Fellowship and the community on Sunday afternoon at 3 PM, November 16. There will be food, fun and maybe a little pomp and circumstance as PCD ministers proceed in their robes. Be sure to put it on your calendar and answer the Evite when it arrives so that we have a count for the food and chair set-up. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Committee and to help at the event. Sign-up sheets will be at the Hospitality table on Sunday.

Also, planning is underway for a Goods and Services Auction in the Spring. But, it is not very far underway. For this event to occur, we need lots of help in planning and lots of things to auction, like: a dinner in your home, a dinner catered in the buyer's home, a dozen cookies every month for a year, a picnic in the park, a ride to the airport, a dozen or two of enchiladas or spring rolls or samosas or cabbage rolls, a day at a museum, a tour of an interesting area that you know well, an historical tour, a nature tour, a nature walk, pet-sitting, a cake, the use of your vacation home or time-share for a vacation, a day trip to the wine country. Start thinking now about what you can donate. This can be a fun event, help us to know each other better and be a good fundraiser for BFUU at the same time. If you are interested, sign up at the Hospitality table.

Susan Singh, President

Lauren Hotchkiss Music Coordinator Transition

Because of the demands of having started seminary at the Pacific School of Religion, Lauren will no longer serve as chair of the Sunday Services Committee or as music coordinator. This was effective September 8. She has said she will still attend worship when she can and she may also be available in the future as a guest musician or guest speaker. We are grateful for her dedicated service and wish her well in her studies.

If you have musical talent, particularly the ability to accompany hymns on piano or guitar, please let Rev. Theresa know. She and the Sunday Services Committee members will try to coordinate the music until decisions are made about any next steps for the music program at BFUU on Sundays.

Regular Committee Meetings

Social Justice

1st & 3rd Sunday at 12:30 PM in the Fireside 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) in FH

Buildings & Grounds

Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch

News from the Religious Education and Exploration Committee

We continue with two classrooms: kindergarten through 4th grades using the Love Will Guide Us curriculum and 4th-6th grades using the Amazing Grace curriculum.

In September we had the first meeting of the young adult group, Pub Theology, which meets on the third Friday of the month at Au Coquelet, from 7-9 pm.

This month marks the inaugural meeting of SpiritUUal Contemporaries at BFUU, an open covenant group for self-defined middle adults. We meet in the Connie Barbour room, upstairs in the RE Building, on the first Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm.

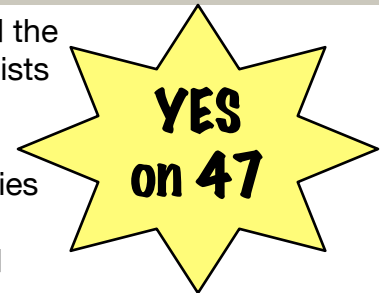
All are welcome to the RE meeting, which generally meets the third Sunday of the month. This month, however, we will all be at the Mini Maker Faire on October 19th, so we will resume our meeting in November. Join us at the Maker Faire!

For more information on these events, or to request or suggest other RE activities, please contact the committee chair Nanci Armstrong-Temple at fraggle94@gmail.com

Nanci Armstrong-Temple

Social Justice Watch

Thanks to Wyndy Knox Carr, Tom Luce and Gene Herman who have provided the leadership and focus on how we can as a Congregation of Unitarian Universalists help make history by passing Proposition 47, The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. This is a voter initiative that will change sentencing for low-level nonviolent crimes, such as simple drug possession and petty theft, from felonies to misdemeanors and direct hundreds of millions of dollars in savings from reduced prison costs to K-12 schools, mental health and drug treatment, and victim services.



The East Bay Express says this is a "no brainer" because it's such a common sense but powerful idea. So we hope everyone will take the little badges on Sundays at our table after our Services until Election Day November 4 and talk to 10 of your friends and family. With all the frustrations one can feel with our society at times this is a big step in the right direction.

We take stands on local Berkeley ballot issues consistent with our principles and practices as UUs.

YES on Measure R. One way to save our Post Office and Civic Center with actual community benefits, make our downtown Green and save our Public Commons is by voting for Measure R which ensures affordable and family-sized housing downtown and construction to Green standards plus other good benefits www.BerkeleyDowntown.com.

YES on Measure D. The beverage industry is pouring in money but the City Council, NAACP, Health Commission and many more support Measure D, which would support kids' health not sugar.

YES on Measure P. Send a message to Washington that Corporations are NOT people and that Money is not Speech. This is an issue that our SJC has worked on for years with Phoebe Sorgen taking the lead collaborating with Move to Amend and keeping us informed.

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Social Justice Watch continued

The BIG NO on MEASURE S (Gerrymandering). **YES** on Berkeley Measures R,D, and P. **NO** on S.

As we go to press our SJC has endorsed the Blockade of the Israeli Ship at the Oakland Port as part of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In August at least 8-10 of our SJC members were part of the historic 4-day Blockade of the Zim Piraeus Israeli ship which essentially could not unload. BDS worked in apartheid South Africa and it can do the same in Palestine-Israel!

Cynthia Johnson

Community Voices

Last Dance

Outside the window
no visible breeze
teases the trees
and yet
a nervous
 yellow
 leaf
spins madly
in the plum tree
where other leaves are still
and still green

This lone agitated leaf
is suspended from its twig
by a wisp of thread
spun by a spider
and, caught in a slight updraft,
is twirling its farewell whirl
its last chance dance
before a sudden gust blows it away
to join other yellow leaves
in their reincarnation
as next summer's soil

The plum tree is still
awaiting the next yellow leaf's
last dance.

© Marianne Robinson
December 1999



October Birthdays

Michael Gardner

Gene Herman

Abbot Foote

Nancy Palmer

Michael Tucker

Tom McAninley

Correction to Summer Communicator

In the article "Friends of Bob Randolph," it was stated that Bob Randolph received the North Berkeley Senior Center's first Poet Laureate Award. In fact, the award was not Poet Laureate but a Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifetime of devotion to the poetic life in service to humanity, dedicated to bringing inspiration and hope to all in our community. The city of Berkeley does not give out a Poet Laureate award. The North Berkeley Senior Center, as Elder Voices cosponsor, assisted in the selection of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Featured BFUU Events

Screening the Green Film Series: The Wisdom to Survive

Thursday, October 2, 6:30 PM potluck, 7:00 Film in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Climate change is taking place. Will we have the wisdom to survive?

Transition Berkeley invites you to join us for an inspiring film that focuses on how we can live creatively and even joyfully in the face of this catastrophe.

The Wisdom to Survive features thought leaders and activists in the realms of science, economics and spirituality: Bill McKibben, Richard Heinberg, Joanna Macy, Gus Speth, Roger Payne and more.

We'll meet and greet from 6:30 to 7:00. Please bring locally grown snacks to share. The film will be shown at 7:00. It will be followed by a discussion about how we can form strong communities to meet the challenges we face.



This event is cosponsored by Transition Berkeley and BFUU's Social Justice Committee. For information about Transition Berkeley go to www.transitionberkeley.com Suggested Donation \$5-\$10. No one turned away for lack of funds!

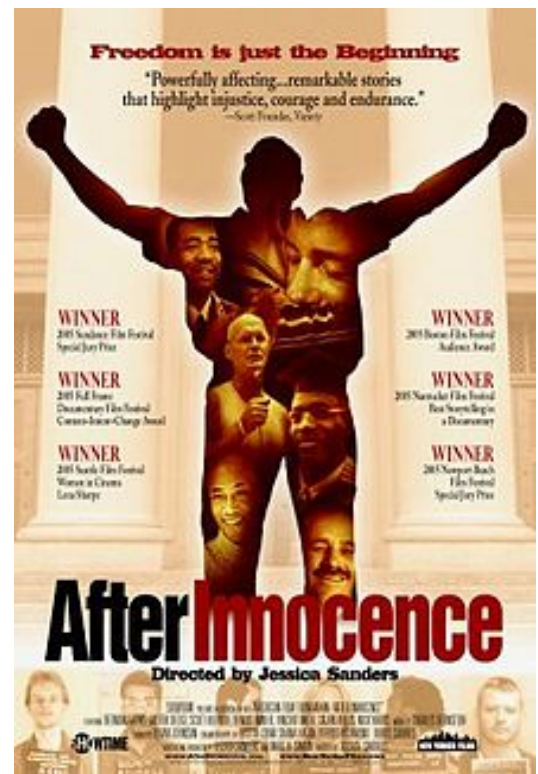


Conscientious Projectors Film Series: After Innocence

Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Dramatic and compelling stories of human beings imprisoned often for decades and then exonerated by DNA evidence. The film shows the emotional journey back into society and efforts to rebuild lives with little or no support. SJC is working hard for California State Ballot Prop. 47 which if it passes will make a huge difference in reforming our broken Criminal Justice System.

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



Featured Events continued

**BFUU Open Mic with Gail Penso, Featured Artist Andrea Prichett***Friday, October 10 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

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



Andrea Prichett is a well-known activist and singer-songwriter based in Berkeley, California. She writes topical songs that are resonant with political themes, passion, and humor that work well as acapella anthems. As a co-founder of Berkeley CopWatch, Andrea has been active in the struggle against police brutality and the militarization of local police. She has been an activist for the homeless, Palestine, community radio, and Occupy. She has been in popular female groups, such as the radical folk trio Rebecca Riots, which released 4 CDs, and Average Dyke Band. Andrea can hold her own solo too! In June 2013 she was featured in the Pridefest Concert at Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. Check out her songs on YouTube!

"People's Park" Poem and "Bolrom", an original song by Andrea Prichett at ART HOUSE at HeadsUpBerkeley YouTube Channel. <http://youtu.be/gpor3YzKmA8>

Not In Our Name - Pledge of Resistance (Shelley Doty & Andrea Prichett) at Thomas Suchomel <http://youtu.be/WSFW13u3GnA>

Our Host, **Gail Penso**, is a long-time Earth First and social justice activist who knows the power, morale, and meaning that songs bring to our lives and struggles.

Ukraine: What is the Truth?*Sunday, October 12 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Panel discussion and traveling photo exhibit: Beyond the Red Line Ukraine Fascism and Antifascism: a documentary chronicle of the war in Ukraine and the suffering of people whose lives it has touched.

New Way Media Fest: Voices and Votes on 2014 Midterm Elections*Saturday, October 18 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Poets and Artists contribute their Creative Contributions on November elections. Hosted by David Randolph and emcee David Madgalene with Susan M., Kirk Lumpkin, Vic Sadot performing and Holly Harwood with an Open Mic.

Donation Appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds. Refreshments available.

Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events

**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.

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Recurring/Ongoing Events continued

Elders' Circle

First Tuesdays, 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

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



Wind Song West Cafe

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

Join us in the Wind Song Cafe to share music, poetry, and discussion. Note that this room is not wheel-chair accessible.



Third Thursday Taizé

Third Thursdays, 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Taizé music originated in the Taizé Monastery in France as an opportunity for people of various religious faiths to unite in spirit and song. It quickly spread through Europe and is now becoming very popular in the United States. Come join us each third Thursday at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall as BFUU takes its place in the growing Taizé community.



Other Community Events held at BFUU

Friday Night Music Series

Motown Dance Party with Soul Rising

Friday October 3 at 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Jazz in the Neighborhood presents John Calloway Quartet

Friday October 17 at 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Acoustic Music Berkeley presents Josh Gallup & Friends with Eve Decker (Benefit concert for Gender Spectrum)

Friday October 24 at 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Deborah Hamouris presents Sharon Knight & Winter

Friday October 31 at 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Check the calendar at bfuu.org for details!

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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, 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 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



Song and Chant

Second Sundays, 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Ajaya Davidson weaves a musical fusion of classical Indian and Western music on keyboard. The music creates a lush undercurrent for chanting, open listening and meditation. Come and experience original songs and chants in Sanskrit and English and with the poetry of Rumi and Shakespeare!

Ajayathemusic

Suggested donation: \$5-10, no one turned away for lack of funds

Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Network presents "Securing your home for earthquakes"

Thursday, October 30, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall - 1924 Cedar St.

Glen Granholm, Director of Seismic Services Programs for ETC Building & Design and Safe-T-Proof Disaster Preparedness Co., will be talking about how to best secure your home followed by a Q&A.

This is a free event.

Fellowship Calendar October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm SJC Fund- raising Committee* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	2 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Improvalicious 7 pm Norcal 9/11 Truth Alliance 7 pm Film: "Wisdom to Survive"* 7 pm Adult RE*	3 9:30 am EBMT 11:30 am Wind Song West Cafe* 7 pm NA Women's Group 8 pm Motown Dance Party	4 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
5 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	6 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion 6 pm AA Men's Mtg	7 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elder Circle* 4 pm Sunflower Alliance 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	8 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm SJC Fund- raising Committee* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	9 11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Improvalicious 7 pm Conscientious Projector Film: "After Innocence"*	10 9:30 am EBMT 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm BFUU Open Mic*	11 9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship 6 pm Gene Herman 80th Birthday Party
12 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:15 pm Sunday Potluck* 4 pm Song & Chant 8pm AA Mtg	13 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	14 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm Sunday Services Committee 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	15 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm SJC Fund- raising Committee* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	16 11:45 am AA 3 pm Lorna Bennett Memorial 4:30 Finance Committee 7 pm Norcal 9/11 Truth Alliance 7 pm Improvalicious 7:30 pm Taize Service*	17 9:30 am EBMT 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm Pub Theology at Au Coquelet 8 pm Jazz in the Neighborhood	18 9 am ASCA 9:30 am EBMT 10 am Soul Motion 2 pm Voices and Votes 3 pm Bawa Muhaiyaddeen 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
19 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 RE Mtg 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg	20 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	21 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 4 pm Sunflower Alliance 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	22 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm SJC Fund- raising Committee* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	23 11:45 am AA 7 pm Improvalicious 7 pm Board Meeting*	24 9:30 am EBMT 7 pm NA Women's 8 pm Acoustic Music Berkeley	25 9 am ASCA 9:30 am EB Music Together 10 am Ecstatic Family Dance 6 pm Augustine Fellowship
26 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12 pm Hospitality Committee Mtg 5 pm Spiral Path 8 pm AA Mtg	27 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion	28 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam	29 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 7 pm SJC Fund- raising Committee* 7 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion	30 11:45 am AA 7 pm Berkeley Disaster Prep 7 pm Improvalicious	31 9:30 am EBMT 7 pm NA Women's	

* denotes Fellowship event

Save the Dates!

Saturday November 15 - SJC Awards Dinner

Sunday November 16 - Celebration of our new Developmental Minister Rev. Theresa!

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. Theresa Novak, Development Minister

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 2

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Email: minister@bfuu.org

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Susan Macke - Office Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1

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Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT *COMMUNICATOR*: October 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

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Berkeley, CA 94709