

THE BFUU COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Summer 2014

A Note From the Editor

This month, I'm very pleased to announce that we've gotten far more input from the BFUU community than we've had in several years. There's poetry from Gene Herman, Frances Hillyard and Rev. Joy, among others, and also a column from Marianne Robinson. In fact, there have been so many contributions that I'm holding some back for the September issue. Please keep up the great work, everyone! Let's make *The Communicator* more than just a schedule of upcoming events.

Ole Yearian, Communicator Editor

Upcoming Sunday Services

(services at 10:30 a.m.)

July 6: African Heritage Sunday

Doug Chambers, Worship Leader

Building on the taste of Ancestor Reverence that Doug Chambers gave us as Worship Associate for the Hallowe'en service he will be Reminding us of early and current African involvement in the UU movement.

July 13: Deepening Service

Lauren Renée Hotchkiss, Worship Leader

Following on her earlier service Journey to Wholeness Through Service earlier in the year, and in light of her recent acceptance to the Masters of Divinity program at the Pacific School of Religion, Lauren will be speaking on her growing call of deepening service.

July 20: Bring Your Own God: The Spirituality of Woody Guthrie

Rev. Steve Edington, Worship Leader

Based on his book of the same name, UU minister and author Steve Edington will explore religious and spiritual currents that flow through the life and work of Woody Guthrie. Country Joe McDonald, who has done a one man show on Woody Guthrie, will be providing the music

July 27: Faith, Hope and Poetry

Poets of BFUU, Worship Leaders

What sustains your spiritual life? What readings, experiences, people or practices have opened your spiritual being to discovery and growth? Our BFUU poets will express themselves on this subject in original works.

August 3: An All-Music Service

Lauren Renée Hotchkiss and Friends, Worship Leaders

This is our annual Summer Music Service, but with a new twist this year. Every bit of the service, from Prelude to Postlude will be sung. Come and see, hear, sing!

Dear BFUU Members and Friends

A Message From Developmental Minister Reverend Theresa Novak



I am very excited that I will be serving as your developmental minister beginning 8/15/14. It will be in some senses a homecoming for me as I am a native Californian and lived in the Bay Area most of my life, including quite a few years in Berkeley. My wife and I actually got together back in 1975 at a dance held at the fellowship.

Developmental ministry is something you have not experienced before; it is actually rather new within Unitarian Universalism so you are not alone. I hope you are ready for something really different and that you will come to embrace it with real enthusiasm.

Your board and I have agreed that our mutual and overall goal for this developmental ministry over the next 3-5 years will be to "catalyze the transformation of BFUU into a sustainable and vibrant congregation, capable of thriving in a challenging future."

You are right if you think that is an ambitious goal. You have a very proud history and many strong points, but your membership numbers have not been increasing and you have been spending down your endowment. That is simply not sustainable over the long term.

As your current members age and your money runs out, will BFUU eventually just cease to exist? I know none of you want that to happen, and neither do I. The city of Berkeley needs and deserves a thriving and vibrant liberal religious community, one that makes a real difference for its membership and for the surrounding area.

In order to become that kind of place, BFUU will, at the very least, need to attract additional new and enthusiastic people who will be just as passionate and dedicated to Unitarian Universalism and social justice as you have been.

It can be done. It will likely require some changes in how you do things, however, and change is always hard. My role as your developmental minister will be to help you with whatever changes may need to happen. I don't have a blueprint or a list of specifics, but I do already have a few ideas. When I arrive next August, I will work with your leadership and the congregation as a whole to develop a plan that will take you to where you want to go.

What happens with that plan will ultimately be up to you. I will offer you advice and counsel as we go along and I will argue vigorously for you to be courageous and bold. I will hold your hands when you get scared, and I will cheer you on when you are brave enough to try something new. We will celebrate when we succeed.

Start dreaming now about things you might like to try. We will be in full experimental mode for a time until we figure out what will work best.

Clergy & Staff

Reverend Joy Atkinson Interim Minister

Reverend Earl Koteen Community Minister

Ole Yearian
Office Coordinator

Deborah Hamouris Event Space Coordinator

Ed Keating Facilities Manager

Richard Sandling Custodian

Board of Trustees

Virginia Hollins-Davidson, President

Gene Herman, Vice President

Ben Burch, Treasurer

Cynthia Johnson

Shirley Taylor

Susan Singh (alternate)

Doug Chambers (alternate)

Continued Next Page

Dear BFUU Members and Friends, Cont.

I have been in communication with your current interim minister, the Reverend Joy Atkinson. From what I have heard, you have done some very good work with her and are now ready to move forward with some energy and enthusiasm.

In the meantime, I ask you to have the faith that we will do this. BFUU will create a vision of its future that is meaningful and real and then we will make that vision come alive. Remember, too, that faith is much more than just "wishing and hoping." At the very least, faith requires confidence and the willingness to act.

See you in August!

Rev. Theresa Novak

Community Voices

Friends of Bob Randolph

Many Fellowship folks have known Bob Randolph for a long time—from poetry readings in our hall and other venues, to his daily rounds in the Shattuck & Vine neighborhood near his home. Those of us who hung out at local coffee shops saw Bob as regularly as clockwork. He always had a witticism, a new poem, or one of his books to offer.

At 93, Bob can no longer walk or speak clearly and has moved to a board-and-care home in Albany, where he shares his poems and humor with housemates.

On June 4th Bob received the North Berkeley Senior Center's first Poet Laureate Award at the monthly Elder Voices meeting hosted by Joan Gatten. We gathered around him in his wheelchair, read some of his poems, and spoke of our friendship with the poet.

Joan says, "Bob Randolph, his wit, awareness, and poetry are so important to me that I started the Elder Voices series so that the community would continue to hear his voice and . . . the voices of our community of elders." If you'd like to be in touch with Bob, or to become a "Friend of Bob Randolph," Joan Gatten has lots of ways to do that. Attend the Elder Voices open mic at the North Berkeley Senior Center on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m., or call Joan at 510-234-0727.

Behind the bamboo screen a moth flutters wildly beating its wings: hummingbird of night.

-- Rev. Joy Atkinson

Red canal cuts between

Red-orange soil,

Pink-orange sky.

My reflection wears horns and forked tail.

Smirks at its own misery

-- Frances Hillyard

Continued on Page 9

Upcoming Sunday Services, Continued from Page 1

(services at 10:30 a.m.)

August 10: Transformational music: From Ogre to Saint

Moses Channels, Worship Leader

New science and new thinking on how to rewire the receptive mind to become one with love and joyfulness.

August 17: Are We Ready to Grow?

Rocky Morrison, Worship Leader

Changes are happening at BFUU. With a new minister, a new Board and energized committees, we are in a time of opportunities and challenges. Are we ready? Do we have to let go of anything to move forward in the life of this fellowship? What risks do we need to take?

August 24: Say Hello

Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

This will be our new minister's first sermon with us. The Rev. Theresa Novak will introduce herself and reflect on the meaning of "hello."

August 31: Are We Ready to Grow?

A Joint Service of the Social Justice and Sunday Services Committees

Come join us for our annual Labor Day Service, as we celebrate those who have worked tirelessly for the cause of labor equity, union representation, and fair working conditions, and look ahead to needed changes in labor policy in the name of justice.

Regular Committee Meetings

Hospitality & Membership

4th Sunday at 12 PM (after services) in the Hall

Religious Education

3rd Sunday at 12 PM (after services)

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

Buildings & Grounds, Finance and Endowment

Every Thursday 3-5 PM in the Fireside Room (See Ben Burch)

July and August Birthdays

Marianne Robinson

David Anger

Gretchen Klug

Ole Yearian

Frances Hillyard

Isabella Latcham-Radusky

Vic Sadot

Virginia Hollins-Davidson

Josephine Jaszczyk

John Pengra

Betty Alpert

Karen Dewald

Upcoming Events

Screening the Green Film Series: Edible City: Grow the Revolution



Thursday, July 3 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St. Pot-luck begins at 6:30 PM.

Transition Berkeley invites you to join us for a sharing of our local harvest pot luck dinner and Edible City: Grow the Revolution, a fun fast-paced film about Bay Area urban farming. Our special guest speaker will be Wanda Stewart, farmer and community organizer from Obsidian Farm in Berkeley.

Our featured film Edible City:Grow the Revolution will take us to nearby farms like the Gil Tract, Green Faerie Farm, and City Slicker Farms where we meet some of the pioneers in the Bay Area's sustainable food movement. Learning from their experiences we can see the possibilities of growing our food very close to home and loving it.

Wanda Stewart has been working with neighbors building community and economic resilience while raising impressive crops on a small city lot. We think you'll be inspired by the ways she's brought people together at Obsidian Farms to improve their lives by cooperating, trading and sharing skills. After the film we'll talk with Wanda about how we might replicate this model of a new way of living in an urban environment.

Sponsored by: Transition Berkeley, Obsidian Farm and the BFUU Social Justice Committee. www.transitionberkeley.com

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

Jazz Opera World Premier: Post Pardon



Saturday, July 5 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Be the first to hear selections from the beautiful new jazz opera, Post Pardon, in this public open rehearsal. Former BFUU stalwart Jessica Jones, composer/musician extraordinaire now of NY, has set award-winning poet Arisa White's libretto to sublime music influenced by avant-garde improv, Buddhist chants, salsa, South African jazz, and individual composers from the Impressionists to Allen Sherman and Ornette Coleman to Sweet Honey in the Rock. Don't miss this inspiring rendition of "inherited sorrow," which turns traditional operatic tragedy upside down.

Piano, trumpet, bass and drums back up an amazing cast: Jeannine Anderson, Larena S. Burno, Courtney Knott, Amber McZeal, Phoebe Anne Thomas Sorgen and Cynthia Webster: http://postpardontheopera.wordpress.com/collaborators/

Scroll down to hear sample songs:

http://postpardontheopera.wordpress.com/media/sample-songs/

http://postpardontheopera.wordpress.com/sneak-preview/

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

BFUU July Open Mic, Featured Artist Fran Franks



Friday, July 11 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Fran Franks has been active in the professional music scene since the early seventies, coming of musical age in the days she refers to as the golden age of live music when all the Southern California clubs had live music and the only DJs were on the radio. Her burgeoning career was cut short by her developing blindness in 1990, and she subsequently went back to school to pursue a masters degree, and has since been working in a professional career. Experiencing a musical re-awakening in 2011, she decided to reenter the professional music scene.

Re-equipping in both technique and technology to master her circumstances, she formed the power trio Pandora's Hammer which is now rockin' the Bay Area with a unique sound based on Fran's mastery of the state of the art Fractal AXE FX 2 signal processor.

http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/franify-feat.-fran-franks/id730198123

This month's host: Lauren Renée Hotchkiss is a singer/songwriter/composer, multi-instrumentalist, writer, and playwright who writes and sings about the universal commonalities that unite us. She currently leads the choir and Fellowship Band at BFUU and plays in the band at Grace North Church. She is also a member of the Taize ensemble at the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco, and has recently launched a monthly Taize service at BFUU with frequent BFUU pianist Aline Prentice. She is occasionally music director for services and ordinations at the Pacific School of Religion as well.

http://www.myspace.com/laurenreneehotchkiss https://soundcloud.com/laurhot

From Hiroshima to Fukushima to California: Nuke Nightmare to Solartopia (+)



Wednesday, August 6 (Hiroshima Day) at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Cecile Pineda, author of Devil's Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step, will introduce Harvey Wasserman in person! Also, a special screening of Pete Seeger singing the Solartopia Song.

Get the latest update on the the current state of Fukushima, the radiation coming to California, what's happening with Diablo Canyon and with nukes worldwide, and the Solartopian transition to renewable energies, followed by discussion.

Don't miss the chance to hobnob with this great visionary, and to brainstorm re solutions after Dr. Carol Wolman, who co-founded Fukushima Response Bay Area, leads a brief meditation soliciting the wisdom of our DNA.

Wasserman is a life-long activist/organizer and a professor of history and cultural & ethnic diversity who now works primarily for the permanent shutdown of nukes and the birth of Solartopia, a democratic and socially just green-powered Earth free of all fossil and nuclear fuels.

www.harveywasserman.com

http://devilstangobook.blogspot.com/

https://www.facebook.com/FukushimaResponseBayArea

www.FukushimaResponse.org

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

Conscientious Projectors Film Series: The Day After Trinity: Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb

Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Conscientious Projector's Film Series for the 99% presents The Day After Trinity: Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb. "I have become Death" declared nuclear scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer upon first witnessing the terrible power of the Atomic Bomb. This Oscar -nominated film for best documentary uses newsreel footage and recently declassified government film to trace the Manhatten project under Oppenheimer's guidance. The New Mexico A-Bomb tests are shown as well as the aftermath of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The final part traces Oppenehimer's journey as the "Father of the A-Bomb" to a tireless oponent of nuclear power and ironically a "national security threat." We will have a speaker discussing Abolition 2000 disscusing the solutions, the moral issues and the long term effects of living in the nuclear age which has effected "everything save our way of thinking." The Day After Trinity 2:52 trailer http://youtu.be/-0R7dDn9bbk

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

Recurring/Ongoing Events

Compassionate Communication

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.



BFUU is planning a series of classes called Compassionate Communication. This class series will enhance our efforts in welcoming newcomers to our fellowship and perhaps in attracting new members. The training will improve the quality of communication within the fellowship and make for better relations among the members of our beloved community. It would also make a good lead-in to creating a Covenant of Right Relations for our Fellowship, which we don't currently have.

All BFUU members and friends are invited to participate in the class series, 6 weekly sessions of 1.5 hours, beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights, taking the place of Together Tuesdays and held in Fellowship Hall. The starting date has been moved back 1 week from the previously announced date. The series will begin on Tuesday evening, June 17th. In keeping with the format of Together Tuesdays, and with the wishes of those already signed up for the class series, participants are also invited to bring food and share a potluck dinner, beginning at 6 p.m.

BFUU will provide a nominal fee to the trainer. Donations by the participants would be appreciated in addition, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

To summarize, the dates for the sessions are June 17, June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15 and July 22. The potlucks begin at 6 p.m. and the training sessions begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. They will take place in Fellowship Hall.

Recurring/Ongoing Events Continued

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.

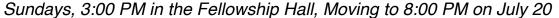


T'ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman

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.

Sacred Sound With Ajaya





Ajaya Davidson will lead a one hour program of kirtan chant, song and instrumental music, accompanied by flute, tabla and other instruments. The goal of kirtan is to allow us to lead us into the experience of our own creativity and love.

Ajaya has studied meditation, yoga, chanting and Indian musical forms for over 20 years. His music expresses his deep regard for the mystery of life, love and gratitude for all he has received.

Recent concerts include a tribute to George Harrison at the ISKON Krishna Temple in Berkeley.

To hear his music go to ajayathemusic.com

Suggested donation \$5-10 (goes directly to musicians). No one turned away for lack of funds.

Heart and Soul Dance Jam!

Fridays, 8-11 PM in the Fellowship Hall



Join Moses Channels, Ajaya and their All Star Band to boogie down. Tonight will be the first public event, especially for family & friends. You won't want to miss the Motown, Rock & Blues tunes ready to shake the floor!

Suggested donation \$5-10 (goes directly to musicians). No one turned away for lack of funds.

Recurring/Ongoing Events Continued



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.

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.*

Community Voices, Continued

The Breath of Night

The breath of night
covers the ground with hoary frost
and caresses your neck
with lilac kisses.
The breath of night
swirls through moon beams
lands gently in a poet's pad
puffs his pillow
pausing before a restless dream.
The breath of night
skips across cement sidewalks
slips under bolted doors
and whispers brazen messages
to breath less lovers.

Fellowship Calendar July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
		1 7:30 am SLAA 10 am Elders Crcl.* 6 pm Compassionate Communication* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	2 7 am Soul Motion 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts 7 pm Finance Ctte.*	3 11 am Food Not Bombs 1:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Norcal 9/11 Truth Alliance* 7 pm Edible City* 7 pm Improvalicious 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	4 11:30 am Question Mark Cafe* 6 pm Power Flow Yoga 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm BFUU Heart & Soul Jam*	5 9 am ASCA 10 am Choir Rehearsal* 4 pm Jazz Opera Rehearsal 7 pm Agustine Fellowship			
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Meeting* 3 pm Sacred Sound* 8 pm AA Sunday	7 9:30 am EB Music Together 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion	8 7:30 am SLAA 6 pm Compassionate Communication* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	9 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 4 p EB Music Together 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Wing Chung	10 11 am Food Not Bombs 11:45 am AA Meditation 5:30 pm Stress Reduction Class 7 pm Conscientious Projector Film* 7 pm Wing Chung	9:30 am EB Music Together 6 pm Power Flow Yoga 7 pm BFUU Open Mic* 7 pm NA Women's Mtg	9 am ASCA 9 am EB Music Together 10 am Queer Parenting 1 pm Cuba Caravan 5:45 pm SLAA 6 pm David Welsh*			
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 9:30 am Science of Spirituality 10:30 am Sunday Service* 3 pm Sacred Sound* 7 pm Labor Fest* 8pm AA Sunday	9:30 AM EB Music Together 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion 7:30 pm Energy Tls.	15 7:30 am SLAA 4 pm EB Music Together 6 pm Compassionate Communication* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush Jam 7 pm Wing Chung	16 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 4 pm EB Music Together 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	17 11:45 am AA 4 pm EB Music Together 5:30 pm Stress Reduction Class 7 pm Norcal 9/11 Truth Alliance* 7 pm Improvalicious 7:30 pm Taize Service	18 8 am Fierce Allies 9 am EB Music Together 6 pm Pwer Flow Yoga 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm BFUU Heart & Soul Jam*	19 9 am ASCA 9 am Blue Fairy Land 9 am EB Music Together 3 pm Bawa Muhaiyaddeen 5:45 pm SLAA			
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9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 4:45 pm Spiral Path 8 pm AA Candlelight 8 pm Sacred Sound*	9:30 am EBMT 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 5:50 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Mtg 6:15 pm Soul Motion 7:30 pm Energy Tools	7:30 am SLAA 4 pm EBMT 6 pm Compassionate Communication* 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 7 pm Ran Bush 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	7 am Soul Motion 4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 4 pm EBMT 6:45 pm NA Men's Mtg 7 pm Core Connexion 7 pm Wing Chung Martial Arts	31 11:45 am AA Meditation 4 pm EBMT 6 pm Berk. Disaster Prep. 7 pm Improvalicious 7 pm Wing Chung martial Arts					

^{*} denotes Fellowship event

Fellowship Calendar August 2014

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
				1 9 am EBMT 11:30 am Question Mark Cafe* 6 pm Power Flow Yoga 7 pm NA Women's Mtg 7 pm BFUU Heart & Soul Jam*	9 am ASCA 9 am EBMT 10 am Choir Rehearsal* 10 am Dr. Hu Qigono 7 pm Stone Soup Improv					
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9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 4:45 pm Spiral Path 8 pm AA Candlelight 8 pm Sacred Sound*

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: 510-841-4824, ext. 2 Email: minister@bfuu.org Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator

Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3 Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Ole Yearian - Office Coordinator Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1 Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT COMMUNICATOR: August 20

Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

Address Correction Requested

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