**Upcoming Sunday Services**

**June 4: Make ’Em Laugh**  
*Rev. Elena Rose Vera, Worship Leader*  
Humor brings us together, keeps us upbeat, and reminds us that even when life is absurd we can make it through the day in good spirits. Join Rev. Elena Vera and special guest musicians, the Marylou’s Apartment jazz band, for a Sunday morning that reminds us how good it is to laugh together. Bring your worst puns.

**June 11: Brecht, Bacteria, and the Biosphere**  
*Joanna Foley, Lay Worship Leader*  
The Conspiracy of Venus is a 30-woman vocal ensemble which creates and shares music for social and political impact. They were founded in 2007 as the sister group to the all-male Conspiracy of Beards which has performed the music of Leonard Cohen twice at BFUU.  

Under the artistic direction of Joyce Todd McBride, Conspiracy of Venus speaks out through its music about political issues from environmentalism to feminism.

This service will feature songs interspersed with readings. Excerpts from James Lovelock, Lynn Margulis, and Bertolt Brecht will be included. Their music resonates strongly with the UU Seventh Principle.

**June 18: Fathers Are Men, Too**  
*Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader*  
In continuing our conversation re unbecoming someone else’s child, we’ll take a look at one more parent. This time we’ll look at fathers and take into consideration the broad reality that... Fathers are men.

What makes men the way they are?

**June 25: How the US Supreme Court Stood Up on the Side of Love**  
*Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Worship Leader*  
Two years ago tomorrow, the Supreme Court's decision upheld the right to gay marriage throughout the United States. Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, a "recovering attorney," reviews the court's stance, the values it affirms, and the healing spiritual resonance we celebrate.

*Please note also that Rev. Carrie will meet with visitors and prospective members of BFUU in the lobby after the service, from 12:15 to 1:15PM.*
“Rock & Reel” Irish Dance Benefit Raises $1,163 for Standing Rock

On April 29, 2017, BFUU held an Irish dance to raise funds for Standing Rock’s legal defense expenses. The successful benefit event was sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, included a special performance of Native American music and dance, and raised $1,163 that was sent to Earthjustice, the legal group that is representing the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in the current court battles against the DAPL oil pipeline over concerns of water quality since the pipeline crosses the river so close to Standing Rock. Lead organizer Susan T. Mashiyama says that it was only possible because so many folks came together to help make it happen. Many thanks to: 31 volunteers from BFUU and the Irish music and dance community; local stores whose food donations supplemented the wonderful potluck; and of course thank you to all the members and friends of the Fellowship who support BFUU and make it possible for us to have the very buildings where it was held!

Volunteers:
Ben Burch * Cheryl * Douglas Chambers * Christine Dickson * Joanna Foley * Gene Herman * Virginia Hollins-Davidson * Margaret Hurlbert * Dominic Jeffries * Cynthia Johnson * Lucy Lewis * Susan T. Mashiyama * Jeff Palmer * Kathy Riehle * Elinor Roberts * Elayne Ryder * Brett Torres

Volunteer Musicians, Teachers/Callers, and Performers:

Local Supporters: Berkeley Natural Grocery * La Farine Boulangerie Patisserie * Liaison Bistro * Noah’s Bagels * Poulet * Safeway Community Store * Tofu Yu * Virginia Bakery
BFUU finds the social justice roots of holidays

Mother’s Day can be about more than cards and flowers for one’s own mother. This year BFUU gave a nod to one of its social justice roots—Julia Ward Howe’s ringing call in the 1870s for women to unite for world peace. Her “Mother’s Prayer for Peace” was read in unison in the service on Sunday, May 14 by Arlo and Frida Chambers and Ana Paikoa Hwang Melcher. Another social justice root for this holiday was Anna Jarvis’ late 19th century campaign to honor her mother, “Mother” Jarvis, a community organizer around environmental health for marginalized Appalachian communities. BFUU decided to honor the health advocacy efforts of Healthy Black Families in Berkeley after an outreach visit to the group and a conversation with its founder, Dr. Vicki Alexander. BFUU donated the Mother’s Day collection plate to support Healthy Black Families. The homily for the service, Nanci Armstrong-Temple’s essay “Picking Straw Out of Velcro,” (excerpt below) drew connections between what individual mothers do and what the community should do for the collective wellbeing of parents and their children. The slogan “It takes a village to raise a child” is more relevant than ever when applied to the current living conditions of parents and children in the East Bay.

This was the second holiday that BFUU re-imagined and found meaningful ways to commemorate. Following a recommendation on the UUA website, Valentine’s Day was honored as a social justice holiday with a focus on love for the community, not just for one’s individual sweetie. It became the occasion for a benefit dance party, “Dancing on the Side of Love.” The event honored the social justice work of the Pacific Center, a local social service agency serving the LGBTQI community since the 1970s. Guests from the Pacific Center shared in the fun, food, and fellowship and a portion of the proceeds. This deeper view of Valentine’s Day harked back to a legend that Bishop Valentine was executed for marrying couples of whom the authorities did not approve. Sounds familiar, doesn’t it?

Joanna Foley

Picking Straw Out of Velcro

"Most years we try to make it to the Full Belly Farm Hoes Down Festival. My whole Bay Area family attended the 25th Anniversary of this organic farm that boasts a full-time, year-round staff of 60 farm workers, all of whom earn a living wage and have health care coverage. It was full of games and activities and vendors and food and performers and tons and tons of people.

And they also had a giant straw fort that the kids could climb onto, into, and around.

I'm allergic to straw, so I'm incredibly grateful that my kids were old enough that I didn't feel compelled to climb through the fort with them. And because I went with my amazing mother in law, I also didn't have to brave the Sudan grass maze, which, it turns out, I'm also allergic to.

But the combination of straw, grass, the creek, the slide into mud (which I never actually saw but did see evidence of when my children returned from it dripping and beaming) and the tennis shoes they were wearing (I'd never been before, so I had no idea they'd need both bathing suits and water shoes) meant that we brought a lot of straw and grass and mud home.

The girls sweet dad managed to wash the shoes and get them dry. I got to take the time to pick the grass and straw from not only the Velcro but from the inside of the shoes that might as well be but isn't quite Velcro.

This one job, that will go unnoticed in the grand scheme of life ..."

Nanci Armstrong-Temple

Please read the whole homily at www.bfuu.org/sunday-service/sermon-texts
Revenge
The baby owl on the picnic table hunched away from us trying to disappear.

We stared and stared.

++ + + +

Lightning cracked the sky and sheeted the redwoods until We screamed.

++ + + +

The owl stretched its scraggly wings – and looked satisfied

Frances Hillyard

Estate sale
Strangers swarm over artifacts of lives that ended
Misty rooms filled with old furnishings scattered dishes and kitchen utensils
the smell of death permeates.

Other strangers in aprons collect money
a framed photograph here
a bedspread there
an iron wrench, a decorative vase.

Dark, dank garage a jumble of tools shelves, parts and pieces in disarray
dingy dirt floor of basement
overhead pipes wrapped in decaying sheaths
airless, moldy space propels me outward.

Inside the house a bedroom
full of pink clothing and pillows
another piled with manuscripts
papers, books, an old LC Smith typewriter like the one my grandfather used
in the 1930s.

Whispers, vestiges, artifacts
mementos of lives lived
and lives ended

©Marianne Robinson

2017 Pledge Dinner!
Hello, Hello, Hello all you wonderful people.....

What a great time we had on May 6th at the Pledge Dinner Dance. I would like to thank all of those who were able to attend. Food was provided by Market Hall Caterers and great music by Kool with Class. Everyone was up on the dance floor, was great fun!

This year’s theme was Sankofa. “Sankofa” teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

Our ministers, Rev. Carrie, Rev. Elena and Rev. Marsh, gave a very inspiring and enlightening presentation, in which those in attendance were asked to fire questions at them. Quite entertaining, I must say.

A short comedy skit was performed by our very own Susan Mashiyama and Kathy Riehle. It was cute and very funny!

The whole event was MC’d by Doug Chambers. Thanks Doug! What a great job you did; you sure had them laughing with the jokes.

We received many pledge renewals and had 3 new members join the Fellowship that night. How wonderful!

Warmly,
Kathy Riehle, Stewardship Chair
View From Rooms@bfuu.org

You may have noticed a few new things around the Hall. There’s a bench permanently placed next to the front stairs where those waiting for rides can wait comfortably. The ramp has been repaired & repainted, rooting out all the rot to keep us safe. And there are several potted “plants” in the corners of the stage, replacing the shoji screens.

Several of our regular renters are taking extended breaks during the summer, so there will be a bit more availability in the Hall. And Indivisible Berkeley continues to have up to 3 meetings in a week at BFUU. This is the political grassroots group that has taken the nation by storm. For more information on their work, go to https://www.indivisibleguide.com/

In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful weather & gardens in our neighborhood. I’m looking forward to a lovely summer in Berkeley!

All the best,
Deborah Hamouris, Event Space Coordinator

---

Featured BFUU Events

Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side. The Preschool rooms are only reservable by BFUU groups and are accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms on the 2nd floor of our Religious Education Building are not wheelchair accessible.

Transition Berkeley Presents: Film & Discussion

“DEAR GOVERNOR BROWN: STOP DRILLING CALIFORNIA”

Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 PM refreshments, 7-9 PM program, in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Learn the sobering facts about oil production in California and the damage it’s doing to families, agriculture, our water and environment. Explore ways we can work together to challenge our Governor to be consistent in his environmental policies. We’ll watch a short film called DEAR GOVERNOR BROWN, STOP DRILLING CALIFORNIA. The discussion afterward features representatives from Food and Water Watch, a leader in the anti-fracking movement, and several other organizations concerned about fracking in California. We’ll close out the evening with a postcard writing campaign.

Bring healthy vegetarian snacks or a refreshment to share for meet and greet at 6:30. The program begins at 7:00 pm. This event is sponsored by: Transition Berkeley, San Francisco Bay Chapter, Sierra Club and BFUU Social Justice Committee.

Suggested Donation: $5-20 to cover event costs. No one turned away for lack of funds!

Bring: A healthy vegetarian snack to share at 6:30 pm if you like!

For info email: info@transitionberkeley.com
**Featured BFUU Event, continued**

**Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam**
Friday, June 9 at 6:30 PM sign-up / 7 PM start in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.

Join us for BFUU’s jam session! Bring out your acoustic instrument, voice (music and/or spoken word), appreciation, and good rhythm to fill the hall with performance, connection, and appreciation.

$5-$20 suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.

---

**Theater of the Oppressed Workshop**
Saturday, June 24 from 1 pm – 4 pm in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Admission $30 (more if you can, less if you can’t)

Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is a set of techniques, games & practices for using theater as a vehicle for transforming individuals and their communities, and effecting social and political change. It is a method of harnessing the theatrical process as a powerful tool for healing communities and breaking cycles of oppression; resulting in empowered and engaged individuals and groups that have the tools to dialogue, educate, problem-solve, and effect change. TO is a collective, creative, whole-brained problem-posing/solving technique of learning and transformation.

Jiwon Chung studied with Augusto Boal, the creator of Theatre of the Oppressed and has been teaching Theatre of the Oppressed for over 30 years in several countries.

---

**Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events**

**T’ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman**
Mondays, 4-5 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.
*Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*
This practice improves health and well-being at any age.

**BFUU Choir Practice and Neighborhood Sing!**
*Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Preschool Kitchen – 1606 Bonita Ave.*
We learn songs and arrangements (7-8pm), then sing those songs and others informally together (8-8:30pm). Join us for either or both parts of the evening! Please invite your friends and neighbors.

---

**Elders Circle**
*Tuesday, June 6 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*
The BFUU Elders Circle meets at 11:00 AM on first Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

---

**Loaves and Fishes: Food for the Soul with Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles**
*Tuesday, June 13 from noon - 1 PM in the Minister’s Office – 1606 Bonita Ave.*
Rev. Carrie invites you to bring your own lunch and join her in discussion of spiritual questions. Loaves and Fishes welcomes members, friends of church members, neighborhood residents and anyone from other UU congregations. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Please bring your own brown bag lunch and a beverage.
BFUU Leadership Meeting
Thursday, June 8 at 7 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.
BFUU Committee Chairs and all BFUU members seeking leadership and group facilitation skills are welcome to attend the monthly Leadership Meeting.

Small Group Ministry with Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles
Friday, June 9 and Friday, June 23 from 2 PM-3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.
Rev. Carrie invites you to join in these discussions of spirituality and the search for meaning.

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck*
Sunday, June 11 after service (12:30 PM) in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.
Come one, come all! Whether you have a dish to share* or not, we invite you 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.
*If you bring a dish, please also bring a printed list of all ingredients so those with allergies, interactions and dietary restrictions can enjoy the dishes they can eat and avoid those they can’t eat.

BFUU Writers Groups
1-Sunday, June 11 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-no animals
2-Sunday, June 25 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-service animals
Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 (2nd Sundays) is for those who are allergic to animals, and/or don’t need to bring service dogs. Group 2 (4th Sundays) allows service animals. We include all levels and genres. After a 7-minute writing exercise, we write for an agreed-upon period of time. Then we read our work aloud and give each other positive feedback.

BFUU Board Meeting
Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Good Grief Group
Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00 PM in the Minister’s Office – 1606 Bonita Ave.
A gathering place to share the experience of grief and loss. To join, call BFUU at 510-841-4824.

Regular Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Meeting Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics (Subcommittee of B&amp;G)</td>
<td>1st Wednesday at noon in the Benjy Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds</td>
<td>Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Fireside Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality, Caring and Membership</td>
<td>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Sunday 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Services</td>
<td>1st Tuesday at 8 PM in the Preschool Kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Other Community Events held at BFUU**

**Journey to the Third Age:** Transition from work to Proactive Retirement  
*Wednesdays May 31 to Aug. 2, 2017 6-9 pm in the Benjy Room*  
Rolene Walker rolene@transitionworkshopsf.com  
Jerry Hall jerry@transitionworkshopsf.com  
415 805 6933

Learn to expand your vision of what meaningful work you can accomplish during the next 30 years. In this very interactive class, the first part will be about exploring your true work, rest, play, study, and developing your intuitive skills to assist in decision making and aging well. The second part provides you with practical guidance in making and implementing a plan for the near and long term. You begin with your passion and skills and develop them for furthering work or starting new kinds of work. You will consult with other students through appreciative inquiry techniques to consider a wider variety of possibilities. [Note - you can add into the class even if you miss the first session.]

**Berkeley Dulcimer Orchestra Recital From Beethoven to the Blues!**  
Directed by Steve Eulberg & Deborah Hamouris  
*Sunday, 6/25, 3-4pm, Connie Barbour Room*  

Playing ensemble pieces on the mountain dulcimer, from sacred to profane, contemporary & classic, this 8-person chamber orchestra presents its most recent repertoire. Played on standard, baritone & bass dulcimers, we perform arrangements by Steve Eulberg, who created the Dulcimer Orchestra Library Project [http://owlmountainmusic.com/dulcimer/dulcimer-orchestra-library/](http://owlmountainmusic.com/dulcimer/dulcimer-orchestra-library/)

Please join us for a sweet musical afternoon. Donations accepted.


**Girls Go Figure Camp** boosts the confidence & aptitude of middle school girls as problem solvers. Working collaboratively with GGF image1brainteasers, puzzles, games, videos, and word problems, they develop practical math skills for school.

www.GreatMathTutoring.com 415-508-MATH

**Women & Song, a women’s singing group**  
Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris  
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 - 8:30pm, Preschool Kitchen, 1606 Bonita Ave.  
$20-$10, sliding scale

Women & Song are looking for a few good women to sing & laugh with us! At each rehearsal we learn traditional and contemporary songs & rounds, including some originals. Women & Song have been meeting regularly for over a decade and welcome new singers. If you can hold your own on a round or maybe read a bit of music, you’re welcome!

Reserve your space! 510/910-2574 or deborahj@djhamouris.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle 7 pm AA Men's Mtg 6:45 pm Ministerial Coordinating Cttee 8 pm Sunday Svecs Cttee Mtg</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Transition &quot;Dear Gov. Brown: Stop Drilling CA&quot;**</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Leadership Meeting* 7 pm Women &amp; Song</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 pm Small Group Ministry* 7 pm The Oasis Open Mic and Jam*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm 2nd Sunday Potluck* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 1 (no animals)* 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men’s Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 pm SJC Mtg* 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men’s Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>2 pm Small Group Ministry*</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 1 pm Theatre of the Oppressed Workship* 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 2 (svc animals)* 12:30 Hospitality, Caring and Membership Mtg* 3 pm Berkeley Dulcimer Orch. Recital 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9 am Girls Go Figure 6 pm Tai Chi Chuan 6 pm AA Men’s Mtg 6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 9 am Girls Go Figure 7 pm AA Men’s Mtg</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>9 am Girls Go Figure</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8 am Girls Go Figure 11:45 am AA Meditation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BFUU Worm Farm, Composting, and Bench Projects

Need Your Help!

BFUU still needs newspapers (black ink on white newsprint only), egg shells, and help with the Potters bench. Call or stop by if you can help!

* denotes Fellowship event
Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action.

**BFUU OFFICE HOURS**
Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**BFUU OFFICE STAFF**
Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Office Days: Tue, Wed & Fri
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Office Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri
Email: office@bfuu.org

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT COMMUNICATOR:** June 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

---

**Address Correction Requested**
Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists
1606 Bonita Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709