Black History Month: Honoring Black History, Building Black Futures

Upcoming Sunday Services

February 3: Breaking the Silence with Martin Luther King, Jr.
Rev. Clovice Lewis, Guest Worship Leader
Rev. Lewis will offer a sermon about how MLK influenced him as an African American boy growing up in the 1960s. He examines the lessons MLK taught in light of issues of today concerning continual conflict in the name of the “war on terror.” Explaining how he was able to predict our current and spiritual crisis in a sermon from 2001, Lewis writes, “The accuracy of my predictions are quite easy to explain... they are drawn from an understanding that we have sacrificed our spiritual compass for the sake of political expediency.”

February 10: Making Murals, Creating Community
Edythe Boone, Guest Worship Leader
Decades before her nephew’s final words, “I can’t breathe” ignited a national outcry for racial justice, Edythe Boone embodied the truth that black lives matter. This bold muralist, activist and educator works to tackle poverty, racism and inequality—with a paintbrush. She continues to make murals with all who share her yearning for community. After the service, an artist’s reception will include the screening of a documentary, “A New Color: the Art of Being Edythe Boone.”

February 17: Selma For the Complete UU Part II
Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader
Dr. Martin Luther King addressed UUs on many occasions and this personal connection has a great deal to do with who we are today.

In January we moved through the Universalist and Unitarian history revolving around race, from 1865 (involved, primarily, the ‘Negro matter’) right up to, but not into, the Events of 1964 (The Selma to Montgomery march.) This like so many UU justice issues was steeped in controversy. This month we’ll finish the march and maybe see what it started... in the UU world.

February 24: The Question Behind the Question
Minister Cherri Murphy, Guest Worship Leader
With the power and authority that will make a change, what is the question that we must ask ourselves in discerning our boldness for justice and love? Because what we really love is only as good as the work we do to create a loving and just world.
Ministers’ Corner

Years ago I had a teacher, Patricia McDade by name, who taught that to manifest as ‘good’ you had to be ‘Great.’ And to show up as great you had to come from a state of feeling ‘Excited’ and to be exciting you had to feel ‘Awesome’ – to express awesome you had to be ‘Inspired’ and to be inspired you touch Holy. This is why the world shakers that leave a longtime indelible mark are people that we used to or still do think of as deeply religious or holy people. Think Buddha, Gandhi, Yeshua, Krishna, HH the Dalai Lama, Dr. King et cetera. I think we can all agree, that these folk are coming from another level.

Oh, and by the way, I think we notice this on men more often because these men often don’t behave in ways that we most commonly see as male behavior. They may be aggressive but not in ways usually associated with male aggression; other behavioral variations as well. We’ll look at this on another day.

All this makes their uniqueness sound mysterious and inaccessible. I assure you it is not inaccessible. Achieving that other, let’s say higher, level is possible and ultimately – desirable. It’s a matter of choosing to go there followed by One Step at a Time. The first steps are the hardest. Here’s one you engage NOW!

Joining us on Sunday, January 20th were out of towners from two of the “O” (or maybe OH!) cities: Ottowa, Ontario and Omaha, Nebraska. The two ladies from Ottawa were quintessential UUs and vividly conversant on the topic of the morning; may our paths cross again.

The other three, from Omaha, NE, were the guests of Dolores Helman and Gene Herman: Dolores’s great grandson, Charlie and his mom and dad, Becky (grand-da) and Brian. All three are seasoned agents of Kindness. I could go on and on telling about this but instead here is your doorway to a life changing opportunity:

Secret Agents of Kindness strike in Omaha: (Here’s the link to a recent article)


The Secret Kindness Agents (Facebook Page): (Here’s the link to their Facebook page)
https://www.facebook.com/SecretKindnessAgents/
You can act on this using the links above. This is how you can become a change agent that propagates compassion, love and justice, today.

As the days get longer we are beginning “Church Year” Part II. I love this period because amidst what we hope will be some mildly petulant weather (both natural and human) we can feel the return of the light, or what we might call an enlightening.

This month we will be reconvening the first Covenant small group, for the eight who successfully completed our lively sessions last Spring. I find it interesting that the number who completed the first group of Covenant Keepers was 8...enough to cover the quarters of the Compass Rose. In other words, enough Keeper to maintain a protective watch over the Fellowship. If this image / idea is not clear for you, drop me a line and I will complete the introduction of this idea more directly.

We will also be convening the second Covenant small group. This will be for those who missed last Spring’s group and for those of you who are new to the congregation. Our covenant is THE key to so much that we are and do here at BFUU. If you want to understand how we approach “Right Relations,” conduct meetings and activities at every level of our congregational life, determine our direction and bring light to a world in need – THIS is the core of our everything. I promise this and will back it up if you ask, as well as in almost if not every sermon you’ve heard from me. I strongly encourage you to join this group. These are both challenging and fun. They are also one of if not THE best way to get to know your fellow congregants. I’m excitedly looking forward to seeing you there.

Important Note regarding these Small Groups: These are SMALL groups which means an 8 to 10 person limit. Registration is open for a limited time. Once either of these is exceeded the groups are closed. It has to be this way. So act as soon as the opportunity opens. Determining the exact dates and locations of our meetings will be a part of the process so take it seriously. Current Covenant Keepers know this to be true.

OK –
Be In Love –

**Rev. Marsh**
Grapes of Wrath revisited

It’s still the same, Tom Joad,
   “everybody might be just one big soul”
and people need food for their bellies
and clothes on their backs
and a safe place to sleep
and this morning I wondered
just how far we’ve come since
the 1930s when the dust storms
and the banks
drove people off the land
and the Okies and the Arkies
were the immigrants
lured by handbills that promised
work for good wages
picking peaches and harvesting grapes
families of three generations
a fourth on the way
lived and died and gave birth
in jalopies and jungle camps
along Route 66
chased by vigilantes with clubs
   “keep moving, you can’t stop here…”
crossed the dry desert
made it to the California line
turned back by border guards
outlaws in their own land
desperate, hungry
willing to take any kind of work
pitted against each other
by unscrupulous contractors
hired by the big landowners
to keep wages down
keep people from organizing
to fight for their rights
feed their families
hold onto their pride and self-respect...

These days, Tom Joad, it ain’t much different.
In Eureka California county officials
evict homeless families and demolish their encampment
inventing a health crisis to win public sentiment
   (in the 30s vigilantes burned down roadside camps)
In Palo Alto “creek dwellers” are rousted
by the police from under a bridge
their sleeping bags and few belongings
thrown into dumpsters as so much trash
   (deputy sheriffs clubbed Preacher Casey under a bridge)

In Santa Cruz sleeping under a blanket is a crime
   (like they told the Joads, “don’t let us
catch you here after sundown”)
In San Francisco homeless veterans fight
for housing in The Presidio, former home of the military
and elder tenants are evicted
as building owners use any means necessary
to increase profits
and people who’ve paid many thousands
of hard-earned dollars in rent
have nowhere to go...

...and this morning in Berkeley California
on the main street in rush hour
while well-dressed people
on their way to jobs
hurried into the coffee shop
and back to their cars
an old white man in tattered pants
ragged shirt and mud-caked shoes
shuffled in for his cup of coffee
and shuffled off silently
bearing his bundle of earthly goods
   (people reading their morning paper
turned their eyes away)
and a homeless black woman
took up her corner position
as rain clouds threatened
and a rainbow filled the sky
   with no pot of gold at the other end

I lent her my umbrella
and drove my old Chevy
back to my apartment
to look for work...

...and I don’t have a farm to lose
or even a house
I’m one step over the line from being out on the street afraid to let my daughter know my friends know how close to the edge I live how much I feel in common with Tom Joad and his Ma and little Muley and Preacher Casey and how good that WPA camp looks and what a struggle it is to pay the bills and take care of my health needs and how scary it is to get old where there’s no place to fall and all those years I worked to support myself and my daughter and marched and sang out for human rights and liberty and justice and like Karl Marx said all I have is my labor power in this land of the brave where freedom does not include the right to a roof over your head or health care for all who need it or dignity and security in your old age.

Woody Guthrie, it’s like you wrote after Steinbeck’s big American saga when Tom Joad says goodbye to Ma:

“Everybody might be just one big soul Well it looks that way to me Everywhere that you look in the day or night That’s where I’m a-gonna be, Ma, That’s where I’m a-gonna be. Wherever little children are hungry and cry Wherever people ain’t free Wherever folks are fighting for their life That’s where I’m a-gonna be, Ma, That’s where I’m a-gonna be.”

(c) Marianne Robinson

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**Sunday Service Teams**

*Elinor Roberts*

*Marge Turngren*

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**Poetry Corner (continued)**

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**Sunday Service team December 23**

back, l to r: Rev. Earl, Rev. Tom, Dr. Susan, Doug, Christine, Rev. Marsh. front: Andy.

**Sunday Service team January 13**

l to r: Joanna, Rev. Emily Hartlief, Andy, Dominic, Dr. Susan

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**Sharing After the Service**

Sharing after the service isn’t necessarily limited to food and fellowship. Several people have fond memories that discussions after service used to be another way for members and friends to interact. So Rev. Marsh invited folks to sit down to share thoughts and ideas after his sermon on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 20. Eight people joined in a lively conversation about what they learned from the message. This was an experiment which will be tried again soon!
Musical Notes

There were jolly, holly musical happenings with BFUU music in December! On December 20, singers and ukulele players serenaded the seniors at the Lawrence Moore Manor where several congregants live. Then, on Sunday evening, December 23, a troupe of eleven BFUU singers went Christmas caroling in the neighborhood of BFUU. Several times people came out and caught up to the group, requesting that we come to their homes to sing carols, which we did. It might be the start of a lovely tradition! For Christmas Eve, we had our annual early evening candlelight service with lots of singing of Christmas carols and other music, including a harp and piano duet of “Carol of the Bells” from Dr. Susan and Andy Jamieson, and ukulele playing on “Mele Kalikimaka” (the Hawaiian Christmas song) joined by Doug Chambers on Hawaiian guitar. Holly Harwood was the WA and she recited a special poem she had composed for the occasion. Lauren Way, a Starr-King seminarian gave an uplifting message about her personal experience with spirituality, and the evening ended with the glow of candles as we formed a circle and all held lit candles singing “Silent Night” to the strains of piano and harp. Looking forward to more musical fellowship and joy in 2019!

Dr. Susan T. Mashiyama, BFUU Music Director

General Assembly

UUA General Assembly will be in Spokane Washington on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 to Sunday, June 23, 2019. Do you want to be a delegate to GA this year? BFUU will pay your registration fees! If you are interested, please speak with a Board member (Doug, Nanci, Mike, Judith, Jeff, Ben, or Joanna).
**UU Events**

The UUCB Social Justice Council invites you to our

**SOUL LINE-DANCE POTLUCK PARTY**

*Saturday February 23, 2019*

6 - 7 PM Potluck Dinner 7 - 10 PM DANCE!!!

Ifasina T L Clear facilitates this dance at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
1 Lawson Road, Kensington CA 94707

RSVP required: uucbsoullinedance.eventbrite.com

This is a FUN(D)RAISER — donations accepted at door ($20 scale) — no one turned away for lack of funds

Questions: uucbsoulline@gmail.com www.uucb.org

*Ifasina TaMeicka L. Clear is a Spiritual Coach, Body Positive Coach, and Community Educator. She is a certified Usui Reiki Level 1 practitioner and Level 2/Master Level studies student of Master Reiki Teacher Bah’Dori Oyanna, Atlanta Georgia. Ifasina is an ordained interfaith minister and a spiritual artist that believes deeply in the sovereignty of creation and the sacred act of honoring one’s inner wisdom.*

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**Looking to Escape the Cold? Want to visit San Diego March 2nd - 7th?**

Packages start at just **$999**

**INCLUDES:**

- 5 nights accommodation, 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- All admission fees + transportation during your stay

For a registration application, go to www.FirstUUSanDiego.org/sdvisit.  
Have additional questions?  
email SDVisit@firstuusandiego.org

Group limited to 12 people. A $300 deposit reserves your spot, and is refundable up to 30 days ahead (less a $75 administrative fee). Balance due 45 days before the visit. Participants must be able to walk up to one mile, handle stairs and some hills, and stand indoors and out.

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**WOMEN AND RELIGION of the UU Central Pacific District RETREAT**

March 7th - 10th “Let Your Freak Flag Fly” at Enchanted Hills in Napa, California

Online registration is open!

Please go to the website womenandreligionpcd.org and click on the "REGISTER HERE" button.

Register early for the early-bird discount.

Prices are:  
3 nights + 9 meals = $300 - $30 if paid (or postmarked) before February 7th = $270  
2 nights + 7 meals = $250 - $30 if paid (or postmarked) before February 7th = $220  
Saturday only (3 meals) = $50

Register by mail: UUFRC, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City CA 94062.
**Featured BFUU Events**

The Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side of the Hall, and has a T-Loop system to enhance audio for those with hearing aids. The Preschool Room is only reservable by BFUU groups and is accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms are not wheelchair accessible.

**Vic Sadot Memorial Open Mic**

*Sunday February 17 from 3 PM to 7 PM in Fellowship Hall*

Come share memories of Vic, the Broadside Balladeer, with a song, a poem, a story, or a dance.

Food provided.

Additional dishes are welcome.

*photo: Lyndsey Greenberg*

**Vintage Invasion Old Fashioned Dance Party**

*Friday February 22 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall*

7 – 8 pm Beginning waltz lesson
8 – 10 pm DJ dance party
10 – 11 pm Dance to live music!

Full of waltz songs new and old, swing dance, and other ballroom dances

$10, $6 students with ID
No one turned away for lack of funds. Class free with dance

[www.ViDanceParty.com](http://www.ViDanceParty.com)  Sponsored by the BFUU Music Committee

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**Weekly BFUU Events**

**Qi Gong & T’ai Chi with Gene Herman**

*Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room - No class on Mon 2/18 Presidents Day Holiday
Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room*

This practice improves health and well-being at any age.

**Pastoral Care with Lincoln Statler**

*Tuesdays from 10 AM - 12 noon in Fellowship Hall*

Contact BFUU pastoral care team via voicemail at 510-841-4824 x2 or pastoralcare@bfuu.org.

**Ministerial Office Hours with Rev. Marsh**

*Wednesdays from 10 AM - 3 PM in the Ministers Office*

Contact Rev. Marsh at revmarshal@bfuu.org for an appointment.

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**BFUU Choir Practice**

*Wednesdays at 7-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall*

We practice songs for the Sunday services, learn melodies, and work on musicality and harmonies.

Everyone who practices with us is invited to sing with the choir at the front of the hall on Sundays, but no pressure! Everyone is also welcome to just join in on Wednesday practice for fellowship and/or to be able to sing more confidently and joyously in the congregation on Sundays. Please invite your friends and neighbors. These gatherings are offered by BFUU as a service to build community.
Elders Circle  
*Tuesday, February 5 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall*

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**Uke Practice / Uke Jam**  
*Fridays - February 1 and February 15 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room*

BFUU holds a uke jam on 3rd Fridays for those who want to experience more music in their lives. First-time players are welcome and if you need to borrow a ukelele, let us know because we might be able to loan you one. We also meet on 1st Fridays and 5th Fridays to practice. If you have questions or want to let us know you’re attending, please send your name and email address to jeffpalmer123@comcast.net for details on next meeting. Otherwise, please just drop in and join us!

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**Orientation for Newcomers**  
*Sunday, February 3 after service in the lobby of Fellowship Hall*

There is an orientation for newcomers after the service on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome, whether you are considering membership or not.

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**The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam**  
*Friday, February 8 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall*

Join us for BFUU’s new jam session format. Come sit in our circle, share music, songs, poetry, excerpts from your new book, jokes and stories. We welcome all entertainers and entertainees to fill the Hall with performance, connection, and appreciation for all forms of art. Suggested donations of $5 – $20 No one turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

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**BFUU Second Sundays Potluck***

*Sunday, February 10 after service (12:30 PM) in Fellowship Hall*

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!  
*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.*

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**BFUU Writers Group**  
*Sunday, February 10 at 1 PM in the Preschool Room - no animals*

Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Our Writers Group includes all levels, from beginner to advanced, and all genres, including fiction, short story, poetry and more. 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.

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**BFUU Board Meeting**  
*Thursday, February 28 at 7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall*
Other Community Events held at BFUU

The Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side of the Hall, and has a T-Loop system to enhance audio for those with hearing aids. The Preschool Room is only reservable by BFUU groups and is accessible on the ground level of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave). At this time the Connie Barbour, Fireside, and Benjy Rooms are not wheelchair accessible.

The Swinging Singing Seniors
*Thursdays from 11 am to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall*

We are an open sing-along group (for any age, in fact) accompanied by piano, and often other instruments. We have multiple books with the words of songs from every era—gay nineties to ragtime, folk, swing, show tunes, etc. Led by Frances Kandl & Sally Reyes, we invite everyone to join us.

Women & Song, a women’s singing group
*Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris*

*2nd & 4th Thursdays 7 - 8:30pm in the Preschool Kitchen*

*$20-$10, sliding scale*

Women & Song is 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 has been meeting regularly for over a decade and welcomes 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

Our Revolution East Bay is now meeting at BFUU on the first Sunday of the month at 4-6pm in the Connie Barbour Room.

On January 6, our focus will be on the upcoming election of delegates for the California Democratic Party. Please join us to be part of democracy in action and meet some of the candidates.

Seele Stars Summer Camp

Summer is the time for friendship, imagination, and fun! Taught by a credentialed teacher with her Master Degree of Education, keep your students’ scholastic-based learning going as we incorporate singing, dancing, and acting into language arts curriculum in an engaging environment resulting in a musical theater showcase! June 17-21 & July 15-19 from 9-4pm M-F at 1924 Cedar Street Berkeley, $450.

[https://www.seelestars.com/](https://www.seelestars.com/)
**Fellowship Calendar February 2019**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Artist Reception and film, &quot;A New Color: The Art of Being Edythe Boone&quot; Sunday Feb 10 at 12:45 PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday February 18 Presidents Day Holiday BFUU Office CLOSED no BFUU Qigong T'ai Chi</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*</td>
<td>10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>12 noon Newcomer Orientation*</td>
<td>12:30 pm SJM Mtg*</td>
<td>4 pm Our Revolution East Bay</td>
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<td>4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T'ai Chi*</td>
<td>6 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
<td>6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>10 am Pastoral Care*</td>
<td>11 am Elders Circle*</td>
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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*</td>
<td>10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>12:45 pm: Artist Reception and film* 2nd Sunday Potluck*</td>
<td>12:30 pm MusCom mtg*</td>
<td>1 pm BFUU Writers Group 1 no animals*</td>
<td>8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>6 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Vintage Invasion Dance Party*</td>
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<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td>2:30 pm Personnel Committee (at Mike Garder's house)*</td>
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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*</td>
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<td>7 pm Women &amp; Song</td>
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<td>7:15 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*</td>
<td>8 pm AA Dignitaries</td>
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* 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 FEBRUARY COMMUNICATOR:** February 20  
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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**Address Correction Requested**

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