Upcoming Sunday Services

January 4: Letting God Off Leash
Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

The images we have of God affect how we live in the world, how we think of ourselves, and how we treat other people. This is true even for people who do not believe in God. Atheists, theists, and everyone in between might be surprised at some different ways we can imagine God.

January 11: A Family Church
Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

People often say that BFUU is like a family to them. What does that mean? How is functioning “like a family” a good thing for a religious community and how can it sometimes hold us back from really fulfilling our mission in the wider world?

January 18: Still Dreaming
Rev. Theresa Novak, Worship Leader

On this Martin Luther King Sunday, we will explore the power of having a vision of a better world. Does the arc of the universe really bend toward justice? What can we do to make it so?

January 25: People Get Ready: The Power of Music in the Civil Rights Movement; Then and Now!
Tom McAninley, Worship Leader

Tom McAninley will reflect on his awakening to that historic movement of the Sixties and how it has impacted his life since then. And the band Soul Rising will invite the congregation to sing powerful songs from that era to strengthen us for these current struggles.
Dear BFUU Members and Friends,

What an exciting time it is at BFUU. Things are popping and the energy is positive. A few folks are still a bit nervous about what direction we might be going, but most seem to be ready to just see what we can accomplish together. In case you are wondering, I don’t have a blueprint for what BFUU will look like in the next year or two. That will be up to you. My task is simply to help keep you focused on your mission, your vision, and your stated goals.

Process is an important part of good decision-making and your Board is committed to making clear and consistent policies that will serve to guide BFUU into a vibrant future. We all should be very proud of the work they are doing on your behalf.

In early February, the Board and I will meet with a representative of the Pacific Central District to evaluate how the developmental ministry is going. We will also look at the priorities and see if any might need revision. The documents we will be using for this task will be the application for developmental ministry that last year’s Board submitted to the UUA and the letter of agreement that the Board and I worked out before I accepted the position of developmental minister.

The key goal listed in the congregation’s application was: “Catalyzing the transformation of BFUU into a sustainable and vibrant congregation, capable of thriving in a challenging future.”

In order to reach that goal, the following priorities were established in the application for the mutual and collaborative work of board, the minister, and the congregation:

1. Determine what is our mission and vision, and to whom do we wish to minister

2. Grow membership significantly by developing better community outreach/online presence, and by becoming a teaching lab for SKSM/PSR students

3. Achieve financial sustainability through encouraging generosity in pledging, all types of planned giving, and other aspects of general fiscal stewardship

4. Broader congregational involvement in social justice, possibly through a focused local project

5. Cultivating lay leadership, especially for the crucial infrastructure committees, such as Finance and Buildings and Grounds.

continued next page
In service to the above goal and the list of priorities, the following responsibilities and authorities of the minister are included in my letter of agreement:

1. The Minister will be responsible for the conduct of worship within the Church and Church’s spiritual interests and affairs.

2. The Minister will be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board and all committees, except the Ministerial Search Committee.

3. Working with the Board, personnel, and other relevant committees, the Minister will serve as the supervisor of record for all paid staff.

4. The Minister will maintain limited, regular, and posted office hours with other times available by appointment.

5. The Minister will provide ceremonial services and counsel to members of the Congregation without fee or honorarium for weddings, funerals, memorial services and dedications of children.

6. The Minister is encouraged to act in the community beyond the Congregation on behalf of liberal religious and social values.

7. As needed and as time is available, the Minister will provide pastoral care to members.

8. Other activities, such as attendance at social events, will be at the Minister’s discretion depending on available time and their relevance to stated priorities.

There has been some confusion about what developmental ministry is and how it differs from other types of ministry, so I hope this clarifies things a bit. We will share the results of the February meeting with the membership. If you have any questions or comments about any of this, please feel free to contact me. You may also, as always, discuss anything with your elected Board members.

I hope the New Year will be a very bright one for all of us, both in our personal lives and here at BFUU. Bright blessings to each and every one of you.

Rev. Theresa

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**Regular Committee Meetings**

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<tr>
<th>Social Justice</th>
<th>Religious Education</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>1st &amp; 3rd Sunday at 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room</em></td>
<td><em>3rd Sunday at 12:30 PM (after services)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hospitality and Membership</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>2nd Tuesday at 7 PM in the Minister’s office</em></td>
<td><em>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM (after services)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Finance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Buildings &amp; Grounds</strong></td>
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<td><em>3rd Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Fireside Room</em></td>
<td><em>Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch</em></td>
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President's Report

Welcome to 2015.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The BFUU Board of Trustees has passed a Motion requiring that use of the Fellowship Hall for personal celebrations which don’t fall into the category of being a rite of passage (birthday, wedding, etc.) must be pre-approved by the Board. At this writing, the exact Motion is unavailable, but this is the gist of the Motion.

In June, 2015, the General Assembly (GA) will be held in Portland, OR. Being with thousands of other Unitarian-Universalists at GA is an inspiring experience. This is an opportunity to attend while it is being held on the West Coast. For more information, go to www.wwa.org/ga/. Plan to be there if you can.

The Board is busy working on a Board Covenant and on writing a Board Policy Manual. We have a Task Force working on starting a Right Relations Committee. Also, pledge payment statements are scheduled to be sent out this month.

Susan Singh, President

View From Rooms@bfuu.org

BFUU Recycling: Continuing our efforts to be Green!

The Berkeley Fellowship has been a leader in Recycling since the 1970s, before there was a City of Berkeley pick-up program.

There are changes on the horizon for all Berkeley residents and businesses. Recycling is now mandatory, and citations may be issued as of January 1, 2015, for materials placed incorrectly in bins. The biggest recent change is that paper towels will now go into the compost bin.

New color-coded containers are being purchased as necessary and installed in each area of our buildings. Our custodian cannot do the recycling alone, so pitch in and place items into the correct containers.

Please help BFUU mitigate Climate Change in the spirit of our 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

All the best to you for a successful New Year!

Deborah Hamouris
Social Justice Watch

SJC greets 2015 with hope knowing the protests for a positive way to address police-community relations is not just an isolated moment but the beginnings of a movement to address the deeper systemic problems of race and justice. We encourage Fellowship members to save the date Saturday January 17 (no time set) at the Ed Roberts Campus, 3074 Adeline across from Berkeley Bart, where the City Council has called a Town Hall Meeting to address the accusations of unnecessary violeece by Berkeley Police using tear gas, projectiles and tear gas.

Kudos to Dominic Jeffries for initiating a Social Justice Singalong to Benefit the Family of Mike Brown, the unarmed young black man in Ferguson, Mo. on Friday Dec. 26. Dominic came up with the concept and had the organizing drive to pull it off "with a little help from his friends." The featured musicians included the BFUU Choir accompanied by Andy Jamieson, Lauren Hotchkiss, Dominic Jeffries, Vic Sadot, Dan Cunningham, Holly Harwood, Phoebe Sorgen and Zack Sorgen. After the featured artists performed, there was an open mic segment at which Matt Dwyer and others played. It was an inspiring event to get us ready for a bold new year!

Coming up on the calendar is a Benefit for “Black Lives Matter” Free Marissa Alexander on Sunday January 4 at 3:00 PM.

Another date important to all of BFUU is International Women's Day, Sunday March 8th. After our Sunday Service, starting at 2:15 PM and going into the evening, we are showing three great films Honoring Women.

The SJC want to celebrate normalization of diplomatic relations after over a century of hostility toward Cuba and the freedom of the last three imprisoned members of the Cuban Five. There were always elements in U. S. and always Cuba that wanted to live like normal neighbors. For example, JFK was reaching out to Castro just before he was asassinated. The Fellowship in particular over the decades has had a long history of supporting Pastors for Peace Caravans challenging the embargo and having countless events to support a just policy. SJC hopes in February to have an event with the International Committee to Free the Cuban Five. These five men who represent the best in protecting Cuba’s sovereignty are now back in Cuba and there is an event at La Pena (3105 Shattuck) on January 4 at 5:30 PM.

We also celebrate the release of 32 of the Guanatamo prisoners who have been cleared for years and support the closing of Guantanamo. We urge people to read our corporate press with a critical eye for truth regarding the sanctions against Russia which even our Congresswoman Barbara Lee supports. We will continue to stand up for what we find to be the truth. The SJC is having a retreat on Saturday, January 24 from 10 AM-4 PM at the Redwood Gardens 2951 Derby. Contact us at the Hal Carlstad Center if you'd like to come 510-275-4272.

It is very exciting that our committee can work with a more alive and vibrant BFUU.
Community Voices

BFUU: I CAN’T GET THERE FROM HERE

Inequality has been a hot topic since the advent of the Occupy movement. Let’s focus on inequality of transportation funding. I use public transit and paratransit extensively, including trips to BFUU. When I moved to south Berkeley, I could take one single bus from home to the corner of Martin Luther King and Cedar St, one short block from BFUU.

But public transit agencies don’t have the million dollar lobbyists in Sacramento and Washington that auto and oil companies do, and this auto/oil cartel, sometimes called the Highway Lobby, grabs the bulk of taxpayer subsidies for private transportation.

Operating a private vehicle is so expensive for drivers, most people think that cars and other private vehicles are self-sufficient, and public transit depends on taxpayer subsidies. The truth is just the opposite. John Holtzclaw, environmental activist with the Sierra Club, says that taxpayer subsidies for private vehicles are ten times the subsidies for public transit in areas of long commutes, like the San Francisco Bay Area. Ironically, we subsidize transportation modes that cause more pollution and climate change than transportation that causes less of these harms. A loaded bus emits fewer greenhouse gases per passenger mile than a one- or two-person car.

Massive cuts in subsidies for local bus service have caused most bus routes to end in downtown Berkeley, and passengers must transfer there. I must now take BART to Center and Shattuck, and wait for 15 or 20 minutes to catch a bus to Cedar and Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Many able-bodied people at BFUU say, “Just take Paratransit.” On Sundays, all public transit service is reduced, including paratransit. Getting to BFUU anytime is not impossible for me, just a terrible hardship. Thankfully, Measure BB for transportation passed November 4, and Cap and Trade will apply to transportation in 2015, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Both of these could produce more subsidies for public transportation, and AC Transit has proposed increased frequency on many bus routes.

I commend people who give rides to BFUU for seniors and the disabled. But an ordinary car cannot accommodate a motorized wheelchair. I was once intensely involved in every aspect of BFUU.

Because of transportation inequality and my health issues, I regret that my present involvement must be severely curtailed.

However, I’m not speaking only of my own situation. Motorists and bus riders both breathe the same polluted air, and both suffer the consequences of global warming. Therefore, everyone benefits from greater equality of transportation funding.

Tom Ross

Tom Ross has two poems and an article commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. in December’s Street Spirit! Check it out!
News on Tom Schultz

Tom Schultz, previously a long-time BFUU member, known for his paintings, skilled carpentry, and good humor, is recovering from a bad accident on a construction job in November. After a surgeon at the John Muir Trauma Center repaired two breaks in one leg with a steel rod and pins, he was sent to a rehab center near Summit Hospital in Oakland. He's doing well with physical therapy and lots of rest. He welcomes calls from friends at 510-250-8081.

January Birthdays

Holly Harwood
Elinor Roberts
Shirley Taylor
Marge Turngren

- Transgender or Gay
- Who? How? Why?
- How does this happen?
- Is it good, or bad, who knows?
- Do we have a choice?
- Should we all be the same?
- No! That would be boring!
- Let’s enjoy and appreciate who we are!

by Deena Andrews

Featured BFUU Events

Free Marissa Alexander Potluck Fundraiser

Sunday January 4 from 3-5 PM in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.

Join the Coalition to Free Marissa Alexander at a potluck fundraiser with discussion and entertainment. This event will raise funds for the caravan that will go from Berkeley to Jacksonville, Florida on January 11th to support Marissa during her hearing on January 27th.

Marissa Alexander is a 33-year-old black mother of three, who is in jail and was facing 20 years in prison. She fired a warning shot when her husband, against whom she had a restraining order, attacked her and threatened her life. She has hurt no one. She accepted a plea deal for the initial charges, but a second count against Marissa is considered an ‘open plea,’ so she could still be sentenced to five years in prison at the hearing on January 27th. Come support this innocent woman! Contact freemarissaeastbay@gmail.com or call Xan Joi at (404) 853-9990.

continued next page
**Featured BFUU Events Continued**

**Conscientious Projector Film Series: Pay-2-Play: Democracy’s High Stakes**
*Thursday, January 8 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

PAY 2 PLAY follows filmmaker John Ennis’s quest to find a way out from under the Pay 2 Play System, where politicians reward their donors with even larger sums from the public treasury through contracts, tax cuts, and deregulation. Along the way, he journeys through high drama on the Ohio campaign trail, uncovers the secret history of the game Monopoly, and explores the underworld of L.A. street art on a humorous odyssey that reveals how much difference one person can make. Suggested donation $5-10. No one turned away for lack of funds.

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**BFUU Open Mic with Featured Artist Victoria Lee**
*Friday, January 9 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

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

Victoria Lee was a professional folksinger in the duo “Mackenzie and Lee” in the 80's. She is a singer-songwriter who has written dozens of songs, including soul poetry in song, blues, protest songs, classic rock, and humor. Victoria has a repertoire written specifically for those who have passed, which she often sings at memorial services.

January Host: Cynthia Jean Johnson is a well-known Berkeley community activist. The long-time chair of the BFUU Social Justice Committee remains active with the SJC as Vice Chair, and serves on the Local Station Board of KPFA Pacifica, the Ecumenical Peace Institute, and East Bay Womens’ International League for Peace & Freedom. Cynthia has long understood the power of songs of struggle and the role of music in keeping people in touch with what matters most.

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**“Fukushima to the US” Report From Fukushima By Cheiko Shiina**
*Tuesday, January 20 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

The contamination of the people of Fukushima and Japan continues, and children and families are getting sick. There is a growing epidemic of thyroid cysts and surgeries. Shunichi Tanaka, the chairman of the Japanese Nuclear Regulation Authority is preparing to release thousands of tons of contaminated radioactive water into the Pacific ocean, which will likely be highly lethal to life in the oceans and make certain seafoods unsafe to eat. Cheiko Shiina is an anti-nuclear activist in Fukushima who has been fighting to get healthcare to the residents, organizing against the restart of Japan’s remaining 50 nuclear plants, which the Abe government wants to restart. The Committee opposes all nuclear plants, including the PG&E-operated Diablo Canyon nuclear plant near San Louis Obispo. Sponsored by SF Bay Area “No Nukes Action Committee” which is holding monthly rallies to speak out at the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco on the 11th of every month at 3:00 pm. Co-sponsored by the BFUU Social Justice Committee. From more information: 510-495-5952. http://nonukesaction.wordpress.com

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The 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit Awards
Saturday, January 31 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.

A Celebration of the Writings of American Revolutionary Writer & Human Rights Activist Thomas Paine, author of Common Sense, The Age of Reason, and The Rights of Man. We will take turns reading short Tom Paine quotations, sing some songs, show a short film, and present awards.

T’ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5 PM 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.

Wind Song West Cafe
Friday January 2, Noon in the Fireside Room—1606 Bonita Ave.

Join us to share music, poetry, and discussion.

Elders' Circle
Tuesday January 6, 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.
The BFUU Elders' Circle meets at 11:00 AM on First Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall.

BFUU SpiritUUal Contemporaries - Note: 2nd Thursday just for this month!
Thursday January 8, 7 PM in the Benjy Room–1606 Bonita Ave.

SpiritUUal Contemporaries at BFUU, an open covenant group for self-defined middle adults, welcomes those who would like to experience open covenant small group worship. Please contact Nanci Armstrong Temple fraggle94@gmail for more information.

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck
Sunday January 11, after service (around 12:30 PM) in the Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.

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

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Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events Continued

Third Thursday Taizé
Thursday January 15, 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.
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.

Pub Theology
Friday January 16, 7:00 PM at Au Coquelet (2000 University Ave., Berkeley)
BFUU’s young adult group meets monthly at Au Coquelet. Please contact Lincoln Statler lincoln.statler@gmail.com for more information.

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

Wordswell Writing Workshop
Sunday January 25, 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.
Have you written before? Or always wanted to write more? This group will support and encourage you to write. Suggested donation per class: BFUU pledging members $5, non-members $10. Half of the money goes to BFUU and half to Wordswell, a non-profit for writing.

Other Community Events held at BFUU

T’ai Chi Ch’uan with Karina Epperlein: The Principles and Art of Slowing Down
Mondays, 6-7 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.
Breath, sound, movement, qi gong, imagination and intention, standing and walking meditation, balance, centering and grounding. Karina brings to her 37 years of teaching an extensive background and training in T’ai Chi Ch’uan, dance, physical theater, music, voice, breath and meditation. Ongoing. $90 per month. Please call in advance to register: 510-559-8892. Visit www.karinafilms.us for more information.

Dancing Life From Your Core: CoreConnexion Transformational Arts®
with Eva Vigran, MA Psych
Wednesdays, 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.
Starting in the NOW, we will listen to body and soul, following movement that emerges from moment to moment. Through playful connection with ourselves, others and nature, we can illuminate our individual and authentic aliveness and strengthen our inner nature and resources. Participants will gain access to the wisdom and joy at their core. First class is free! www.coreconnexion.net
### Fellowship Calendar January 2015

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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/Qigong*</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation</td>
<td>NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>9 am ASCA</td>
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<td>10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
<td>11 am Elders Circle*</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation</td>
<td>12 noon Wind Song West Cafe*</td>
<td>1 pm Norton Memorial</td>
<td>11 am Soul Motion Workshop</td>
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<td>12:30 pm SJC Mtg*</td>
<td>6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>7 pm AA Men's Mtg</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/Qigong*</td>
<td>7 pm Film: Pay-2-Play*</td>
<td>6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td>7 pm SpiritUJal Contemporaries*</td>
<td>8 pm AUGUSTINE FELLOWSHIP</td>
<td>6:30 pm Sperlock Memorial</td>
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<td>3:00 pm Right Relations Mtg*</td>
<td>7 pm Report from Fukushima*</td>
<td>7 pm Report from Fukushima*</td>
<td>7 pm NA Women's Mtg</td>
<td>7 pm Board Mtg*</td>
<td>9 am ASCA</td>
<td>9 am ASCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>7 pm Report from Fukushima*</td>
<td>7 pm Report from Fukushima*</td>
<td>7 pm NA Women's Mtg</td>
<td>7 pm Board Mtg*</td>
<td>10 am ASCA</td>
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</tr>
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<td>3:00 pm Right Relations Mtg*</td>
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<td>7 pm Report from Fukushima*</td>
<td>7 pm NA Women's Mtg</td>
<td>7 pm Board Mtg*</td>
<td>12:30 pm Elinor Roberts' party</td>
<td>12:30 pm Elinor Roberts' party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* denotes Fellowship event

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The BFUU Office will be CLOSED New Year's Day Thursday January 1
BFUU OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BFUU STAFF
Rev. Theresa Novak, Development Minister
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT COMMUNICATOR: January 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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