Upcoming Sunday Services

September 6: A Labor of Love: Dismantling White Supremacy
Lincoln Statler, Worship Leader
We will ready ourselves for the labor of love that is the work of fighting white supremacy and institutionalized racism in our world today. We will gather to renew the spirit for the work ahead. We will tell the stories of people who have worked tirelessly to end racism and oppressions. There will be 4.5 minutes of silence, song, open prayer, rituals and readings of those working to dismantle racism in the world today. #BlackLivesMatter.

September 13: Water Ritual
Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Worship Leader
This summer, the Religious Education and Exploration classes used the “Gather the Spirit” curriculum. In this service we will share with you some of the elements and rituals from our summer journey. We welcome those who wish to bring water from their homes or travels, but the focus of the service will be gathering our spirits, individually and collectively, for the coming year.

September 20: Without A Hurt The Heart Is Hollow
Tom Luce, Worship Leader
How should BFUU be involved in the Black Lives Matter movement? Drawing on recent critical writings and the UUA GA passage in June of the AIW “Black Lives Matter,” let’s compare our UU preaching and our practice faced with the latest outbreak of racism--mass incarceration--in the US.

September 27: What Do I Do With This “Door”
Sally Hindman, Worship Leader
Sally Hindman and young Leaders from Youth Spirit Artworks will dialogue with us about their liberating art and how we approach opportunities for personal and social transformation. Youth Spirit Artworks is an interfaith “green” art jobs and job training program in Berkeley which is committed to empowering homeless and low-income San Francisco Bay Area young people, ages 16-25.
Hello Fellow BFUUs!

Since our first emergency meeting in May following Reverend Theresa’s departure, our congregation has rallied to fill in the gaps left in its wake. We are experiencing a revitalization and activation of members who are stepping up their game to care for the BFUU membership and fellowship that we love.

Our pledge drive finished this July with 52 members, 3 friends, and a total pledge amount of $32,052. Even during the summer months, we have new people visiting on a regular basis, some of whom are considering membership, and new children attending RE as visitors.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees are working to finalize adjustments to our 2015-16 budget to include categories to help take care of what usually would be ministerial duties such as Sunday services and pastoral care, and the Board has approved a new Interim Right Relations Committee to help with communication and caring among all members. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has created a plan to address much-needed and long-neglected basic maintenance for the Fellowship Hall, including a new roof with fixtures that will prepare us for future solar panel installations and the retrofitting of our hall. A new subcommittee of B&G, the Aesthetics Committee, led by Virginia Hollins-Davidson, will address design issues, for example, of the banner refurbishing and creation of a new banner, and the design of a new tool shed on the Bonita side of the FH garden area. The Board is also participating in a new Leadership Development session each month to improve our understanding of basic leadership skills such as understanding budgets and financial statements, learning Robert’s Rules of Order and UU and BFUU history. Several Board members are currently taking an online UU Leadership Institute course called Healthy Congregations 101.

Sunday Services is looking into finding ministers who can regularly lead 1-2 services per month while our Fellowship explores what kind of minister we will look for next year, if the membership decides to hired a minister through a process of discernment. Meanwhile, we have had some amazing sermons by visiting ministers and new lay leaders that fit at least my image of what a good UU sermon should be: informative, inspiring, and heartwarming. Hospitality, Membership and Caring (HMC) is looking into hiring an on-call consulting minister to address pastoral care of members during this interim period of discernment without a hired minister. The Interim Right Relations Committee, led by Frankie Hill and including six other members, is working to organize a system of using mediation services, some version of a caring communication series of classes for all members, and possibly small (covenant) groups whose major topic will be creating agreements about how members can best communicate
with and understand each other better. Religious Exploration has expanded over the past year to include adult RE services, including the SpirtUUal Contemporaries services for self-defined middle adults, the ongoing UU Exploration series, which will continue in the fall with lay leadership, and the children's RE now includes two age groups in separate rooms in the RE building.

The Social Justice Committee just had an amazing marathon Berkeley Protest Festival, initiated by Country Joe MacDonald, with protest performances lasted from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, August 15th which was strongly covered by local media, and made possible by an incredible array of volunteers including BFUU members and community helpers. Gene Herman has begun a new nighttime class studying Escalating Inequality, which is restructuring and will resume in October.

Last, but not least, BFUU members and friends gathered last July in the first-ever Facilitated Healing Session with the help of NVC practitioner Marlena Willis, in which we explored our past year of developmental ministry with Reverend Theresa Novak, what we liked, what we wanted to have been different, and what we would like to see in the future. Feedback on the event included enthusiasm for the open space for all to listen and be heard, love and gratitude for our wonderful fellowship which is a living and growing organism, ready to learn, and hopes and intentions for growing a healthier fellowship over the next year. Members and friends also gave feedback on the session with some criticism regarding time management and organization through a survey answered by more than half of the attendees. A summary of the comments made by members and survey results will be available soon for the membership to read on the back bulletin board and copies will be available by request.

During our facilitated healing session, many members expressed a desire for greater clarity and transparency in BFUU leadership and decision-making, a desire for collaboration and communication between the fellowship and ministerial and lay leadership, the development of a stronger lay leadership, and a desire to have more input on the choosing of a new minister. Others wanted more ways to address spirituality and creativity. Intentions expressed on how individuals will actively participate in making our fellowship healthier and stronger included the willingness to trust one's own experiences and speak directly, speaking up sooner when “things don't feel right,” working on a shared vision and mission, and being active participants in creating that vision and mission, including a process of discernment.

Our next congregation-wide meeting will take these concerns and intentions forward to work on gaining clarity about what our shared vision and mission are through a process of discernment. The goal is to let that shared vision and mission guide our decisions about what type of ministerial and lay leadership will serve our movement forward and meet our needs as a congregation. This meeting will take place on Sunday, September 13th, from 1-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be one of an ongoing series of congregation-wide meetings happening bimonthly throughout the year. For more information, please contact me via email at pcorton@yahoo.com or contact me in person after Sunday services.

In love and fellowship,

Pam Norton
President, BFUU Board of Trustees

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<th>Social Justice</th>
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“JUSTICE REINVESTMENT”: A CAMPAIGN IN ALAMEDA CO. TO TURN MASS INCARCERATION AROUND AND FIGHT INEQUALITY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR USING $$ FROM PROP 47 & AB109 for reclassifying records and more appropriate services for youth-at-risk.

Sponsored by Alameda community organizations including BFUU-BOCA, Oakland Congregations for Organizing-OCO within the LIVE FREE campaign of PICO

“Justice reinvestment” was first described in 2003 as a mechanism “to invest in public safety by reallocating justice dollars to refinance education housing, healthcare, and jobs.” (Open Society Foundations) Justice reinvestment shifts resources away from mass incarceration towards more effective economic and public safety strategies, including investment in schools, jobs, and other community resources. “Participatory Budgeting” is a process that includes community members in the expenditures of the money saved from Prop 47.

Our existing approach to public safety isn’t strengthening our communities or making them safer: over two-thirds of individuals released from prison will be re-incarcerated and money spent on “public safety” destabilizes families and communities. Mass incarceration disproportionately affects low-income communities of color and we spend millions of dollars to police and lock up individuals from these neighborhoods, while investing relatively little in services to strengthen these communities. Justice reinvestment offers an opportunity to begin to break the cycle of mass incarceration and rebuild communities.

Recent California criminal justice reforms, such as realignment from AB109 and Prop 47, have essentially increased the budgets of the Sheriff’s Office and Probation Department by decreasing current or future criminal justice expenses and providing counties with additional public safety funding. A “Justice Reinvestment” fund would reclaim these savings for the community and invest in a broad, holistic definition of public safety. Programs such as Participatory Budgeting empower community members to develop and vote on community-specific solutions to address local issues. New York City uses a participatory budgeting process to allocate $25 million of discretionary funds each year.

ALAMEDA COUNTY organizations are campaigning to work with the county departments dealing with criminal justice to include the community dedicated to turning the tide of mass incarceration by helping at-risk youth, especially, people of color, with effective services in job training, education, health etc.

BFUU, YOU ARE NEEDED! There are many ways to support Justice Reinvestment. Come to town hall meetings with the officials to show widespread community backing. Help organize our community groups, service agencies serving our at-risk young people.

CONTACT: TOM LUCE, LIAISON WITH BOCA: 510-229-3571 tomfluce@gmail.com
REPORT FROM PROTEST FEST
15 AUG 2015

There were fifty performers over a period of twelve hours, performing in song and poetry: the tradition of protesting.

The protests were against all manner of injustice - corporate greed, anti-choice agendas, climate change denial, and environmental racism and more.

Some performances included audience participation in the form of sing-a-longs. Two examples of this were the songs, “All the Right People are Here” and “This Land Is Your Land” by Woody Guthrie.

One of the many great performances was by the group HARBINGER. This group's performance was near the end of the festival.

Many performers and many volunteers made this possible.

I myself was among the volunteers - officially in the Green Room, unofficially in the kitchen, and at both entrances at different times in the course of this event. Other volunteers included timekeepers, as performance times were limited to ten minutes.

The Festival was truly a celebration!

Seon O’Neill
Dear BFUU Members and Friends,

What a year it’s been! This last year we’ve expanded to two Sunday classrooms (pre-K through 5th grade and a middle school classroom), added three new teachers/teacher assistants, added a young adult group (Pub Theology), a middle adult group (SpiritUUal Contemporaries, or SpiCon), run a series of UU knowledge and history classes, and brought other new and ongoing classes at BFUU under the umbrella of RE.

We also went to the local Mini Maker Faire as a group, had our first REAE sleepover (thanks to Kathy Riehle for coordinating!), attended workshops in San Francisco and Redwood City, led intergenerational services, and continued to learn and grow together.

The coming year, we continue with two Sunday classrooms—the Pre-K and elementary classroom and the middle school classroom—with the possibility of adding a third classroom (perhaps an outdoor/active play group for our youngers?) as we add to our growing group of under-five visitors and friends.

Our Fall 2015 curriculum themes are: Wonderful Welcome (Pre-K-5 group), and Riddle and Mystery (Middle School group).

Thanks to Sharon Hwang-Colligan for finding and coordinating our curriculum, Jeff Palmer for stepping up as Adult RE Subcommittee Chair, and all of the teachers, assistants, parents and friends who make our program so successful.

If you are wondering how you can get involved, would like to attend an existing class or group, or have an idea for a class or group that you’d like to bring to BFUU, please contact me (info below) or Jeff Palmer (jeffpalmer123@comcast.net). You are also welcome to come to our informal potluck meetings on the third Sundays of most months, from 12:30-2pm on the playground.

Warmly,

**Nanci Armstrong-Temple**
Religious Education and Exploration Chair
fraggle94@gmail.com
THE BANNER PROJECT is moving ahead
Our aesthetics committee has recommended to the board that we have nine new banners created and hung in Fellowship Hall. We are working with a local textile artist, who will duplicate the imagery onto new banners that will have a better finish, making maintenance easier over the years. Our building manager, Ed Keating, and I are working closely together to make sure they are created and hung with care for the overall aesthetics of the Hall upon completion of the project. We hope that will be within a couple of months! I'll keep you posted as things develop.

In the meantime, we are welcoming the Firecracker Forum/Russian Program back with their tutoring students in September. Jazz in the Neighborhood and Acoustic Music Berkeley will resume on the 3rd & 4th Saturdays, and there are rumors of a Block Party at the end of September.

May your Autumn Harvest be bountiful & blessed! .... Deborah Hamouris Event Space Coordinator

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**Featured BFUU Events**

The Fellowship Hall (1924 Cedar St) is accessible by a ramp on the Bonita Avenue side of the Hall. 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 second floor of our Religious Education Building (1606 Bonita Ave.) are not wheelchair accessible.

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**BFUU Escalating Inequality CSAI** is on hiatus for September but will be back in October, revamped and ready to roll!

**Screening the Green Film Series** has been cancelled for September due to unforeseen circumstances - They'll be back on October 1st with a wonderful film!

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**Monady September 7 is LABOR DAY! The BFUU Office will be CLOSED.**

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**Conscientious Projector Film Series: “Cowspiracy - The Sustainability Secret”**

*Thursday, September 10 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall–1924 Cedar St.*

“Cowspiracy-The Sustainability Secret” is a ground breaking feature length environmental documentary on the most destructive industry on our planet today. The intrepid filmmakers investigated the cattle industry and its impact on climate change and global warming. Don’t miss this exciting, shocking yet humorous film. It is as eye-opening as it is inspiring. Find out why the nation’s leading environmental organizations are afraid to talk about this seemingly obvious issue. Doors open 6pm. Refreshments served.

Suggested Donation $5 - $20. No one turned away for lack of funds.
Featured BFUU Events

BFUU Open Mic Featuring Ben Jones
*Friday, September 11 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

Join us for BFUU’s monthly Open Mic night! First come, first choice of 10-minute slots, available all evening or until the slots fill up. Featured Artist(s) perform around 8:30 PM.

September’s host Dolores Helman welcomes jazz musician Ben Jones at the BFUU Open Mic! Suggested donations of $5 – $20 will support the work of the Social Justice Committee. No one turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

**BFUU CONGREGATION-WIDE MEETING!**
Please join us following the potluck for a

**PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT**
*Sunday, September 13th 1:00 - 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall*

"Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" We want to come out of mystery to clarity about what our congregation wants to stand for, how we want to hold our members within our fellowship, and how we can best connect with our local community/ie. Before we jump into particular strategies of growth, let us begin with clarity and discernment.

A sample of discernment questions: What is the purpose of our fellowship - our mission and vision? How can this fellowship help its members grow and deepen in our understanding of each other and our interconnection? What kind of leaders do we need to fulfill our purpose and how do we look for them and/or grow them within our fellowship? What combinations of ministerial and lay leadership do we want? To make our world a better place, what can our surrounding communities and our fellowship offer one another in the next 3-5 years?

More information on the Process of Discernment meeting will be forwarded to the membership by email, snail mail and flyers at Sunday services over the next 3 weeks. For information, please contact Nanci Armstrong (fraggle94@gmail.com) or Pam Norton (pcnorton@yahoo.com).

Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events

**T’ai Chi & Qi Gong with Gene Herman**
*Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.*
*Wednesdays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.*

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

**Escalating Inequality -- Addressing the Issue**
This BFUU CSAI group is on hiatus until October.

**BFUU SpiritUUal Contemporaries**
*Thursday September 3, 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.
Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events

Wind Song West Cafe - Labor on the March / Labor of Love!
Friday September 4, Noon in the Fireside Room—1606 Bonita Ave.
Join us to share music, poetry, and discussion
Suggested donations of $5 – $10 are welcome.

Elders Circle
Tuesday September 8, 11 AM in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.
The BFUU Elders Circle meets at 11:00 AM on First Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

BFUU Second Sundays Potluck
Sunday September 13, after service (around 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.

BFUU Game Night
Monday September 14th & Monday September 28th 7 PM in Preschool Kitchen – 1606 Bonita Ave.
Please join us for board games and conviviality! All ages - children are welcome! This space is wheelchair accessible.

Pub Theology
Friday September 18, 7:00 PM at Au Coquelet (2000 University Ave., Berkeley)
BFUU’s young adult group meets monthly at Au Coquelet. Please contact Lincoln Statler lincolnstatler@gmail.com for more information.

BFUU Board Meeting
Thursday September 24, 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Wordswell Writing Workshop
Sunday September 27, 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

Northern California Climate Mobilization
Thursday, September 10, 7-9 PM in the Connie Barbour Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.
Join our Planning Meeting for a mass march and rally in Oakland on November 21st to demand a global agreement to implement dramatic and rapid reduction in global warming pollution.
Help us continue the work started at the Northern California People’s Climate Rally in Oakland last September 21st. Join our committees: outreach, media and logistics. Invite other groups. Endorse: www.norcalcclimatemob.net
Other Community Events held at BFUU

**Jazz in the Neighborhood: Trio Ochs-Johnston-Robair**
*Friday, September 18, 8-10 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Three long-time Bay Area musicians — Larry Ochs on saxophone, Darren Johnston, trumpet, and Gino Robair, percussion — make magic happen in this newly formed trio. An intersection of their creative collaborations, it started in January when Ochs and Robair made some really cool musical connections with Thollem MacDonas, and expanded as Ochs and Johnston toured as Spectral with Chicago altoist Dave Rempis in May.

Merging collectively under the alternate sobriquet “Play That Thing or Throw It Away,” Trio Ochs-Johnston-Robair gave their first concert on June 19 at the Center for New Music. It was a great concert, to be followed by more Bay Area performances, including a date at Jazz in the Neighborhood’s Berkeley venue, and culminating with a recording session in 2016.

General Admission $20 / Students $5  http://jazzintheneighborhood.org/
Tickets: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/trio-ochs-johnston-robair-tickets-18176776227

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**Acoustic Music Berkeley Presents Ulysses Trio: Ethno-Jazz**
*Sunday, September 20, 4-6 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Irish jazz vocalist Melanie O’Reilly joins pianist Frank Martin and saxophonist George Brooks in their ensemble “The Ulysses Trio”, a new, riveting, innovative and unique sound expressing a compelling bridge between Irish music and jazz, – which is the trio’s own powerful expression as part of the “ethno-jazz” movement currently developing in Europe and worldwide.

Advance tickets: $15 – Day of show tickets: $20 at the door http://acousticmusicberkeley.com

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**Acoustic Music Berkeley Presents Euphonia:**
*American Roots Party Music*
*Friday, September 25, 8-10:30 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

Euphonia, a café-style acoustic folk combo featuring soaring harmony vocals and sophisticated musicianship. This group brings together the compelling voices, restless minds and nimble fingers of four remarkable Northern California musicians.

Advance tickets: $15 – Day of show tickets: $20 at the door

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Firecracker Math offers an extra-curriculum program that will help your child to build a solid foundation and understanding of mathematics. Students will learn and explore math concepts and problem-solving techniques. Theoretical instruction is combined with practical exercises and group discussions that employ games, puzzles, and paradoxes.

- Grades K-10
- Small groups and individual approach
- Experienced and enthusiastic teachers
- Intellectually stimulating environment

(510) 488-4556  www.FirecrackerMath.org
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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong*</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine</td>
<td>11:45 am AA</td>
<td>7 pm NA</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
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<td>6 pm Augustinie Fellowship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 Hospitality &amp;Membership Mtg*</td>
<td>6 pm AA Men's Mtg</td>
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<td>12:30 Wordswell*</td>
<td>6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
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<td>8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>7 pm Game Night*</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong*</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>7 pm AA Men's Mtg</td>
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<td>7 pm Acoustic Music Berkeley</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
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<td>6 pm AA Men's Mtg</td>
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<td>7:30 am Soul Motion Mornings</td>
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<td>7 pm Acoustic Music Berkeley</td>
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<td>4 pm Tai Chi/ Qigong*</td>
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<td>7 pm NA Men's Mtg</td>
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<td>7 pm Core Connexion</td>
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</table>

* 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 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: October 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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