Upcoming Sunday Services

December 3: The Mystery of Who We Are
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, Guest Worship Leader
Breakthroughs in our knowledge of our ancestors, recorded in our DNA, yield surprises, wonder and hope. Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles sets forth the story of our diversity as a species and what we carry with us into the future.

December 10: Women to the Front
Rev. Elena Rose Vera, Worship Leader
With more and more women challenging centuries of gender inequality and rising to positions of power and influence, we have a chance to shake the world from root to crown. And in answer to that rising strength, we can see unprecedented backlash — which, together, we can all face down. We will discuss — and celebrate! — the fresh hopes for women's liberation and leadership, from the local to the global, in every sphere.

December 17: Mother and Sun
Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader
This is the season in which many committed Christians celebrate a famous mother and son combination that is certainly more popular than the secular Mother’s Day. We’ll take a quick peek into the universality of this relationship and how it shapes our world. This may yield a different perspective; one tempered by eons of experience.

December 24 (10:30 AM): Tidings of Comfort, Joys, and Concerns
Amanda Weatherspoon, Lay Worship Leader
This season is a time of reflection. It asks us to reflect upon our lives — taking stock and paying attention to the forces of power and spirit moving in and among us. Join us as we take inventory of this full year and our full selves; remembering, celebrating, and committing to move forward together in love.

December 24 (5:00 PM) Christmas Eve Evening Service:
Doertlis Schultze-Allen and Holly Harwood, Lay Worship Leaders
Celebrate the season with us! The children will present a Christmas pageant that tells the story of Christmas from the perspective of the wives of the three wise men. We’ll share music, cheer, and fellowship...and rumor has it that Mrs. Claus may join us!

December 31: Celebrating KWANZAA: Growing in Community
A service developed and shared by BFUU members and friends of African heritage
“Traditionally, the calendars of African countries were filled with festivals that celebrated all important events. Harvest festivals usually began in late December and continued for seven or eight days until the first day of the new year, with each day having a special meaning attached to it. The villages glorified the first fruits of the harvest with dancing and feasting. KWANZAA builds on the power of culture and roots to plant seed today for the harvest of tomorrow.” (Dorothy Winbush Riley)
On Sunday November 19, we celebrated the ingathering of new members – welcome, one and all! – and a sweet repast, where many of us continued the conversations Rev. Marsh helped us begin during the service. Here we are, surrounded by love.

**BFUU Ingathering November 19**

Kathy Riehle delivers a message with a smile!

Rev. Marsh Agobert welcomed four new members and a friend to BFUU with an Ingathering Service on November 19, 2017.

The December holidays are upon us. Many of you know I am an introvert in the extreme. I also have a little bit of seasonal depression. The holidays present some special challenges – like a lot of gatherings – when I would prefer to stay at home and draw the curtains. I don’t know what made me ready to change this longtime pattern but apparently my entire life up to this point had finally brought me to it.

And so a few years ago, my gift to myself was to accept as many holiday invitations as possible and in exchange to leave events when I was ready to go. I’ve used this strategy many times since, not just around the holidays, and have found it works beautifully! I step into community and more often than not, it surrounds me with love and welcome, or at least an interesting encounter or two -- not to mention my favorite food, which is almost anything that is cooked by someone else. In the song, “Christmas in my Soul,” Laura Nyro wrote, “Come to the book of love with me.” If you are wondering where to go this December, come and be with us.

By Elinor Roberts
**Inspiring Sunday Services**

**Tropical Song and Hula at BFUU**

At the October 29 Sunday service, near Halloween, participants in BFUU’s Summer Ukulele Camp performed some lovely Hawaiian ukulele songs and hula dance for congregants, bidding Aloha to all.

**A Special Muslim Sunday Service**

We had two special Muslim guests at our Nov. 12 Sunday service: Mr. Shaykh Yassir Chadly and Mr. Issa Nessim. A professor of Islamic studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley who was the imam (spiritual leader) of a multi-ethnic mosque in Oakland, Mr. Chadly discussed Islam and Sufism. Mr. Nessim, a Middle Eastern musician who has known Mr. Chadly from the time he was a child, performed some beautiful Turkish Sufi music and song. He was joined in one number by Mr. Chadly, who is an accomplished musician in his own right.

**From the Heart of the Caring Committee**

Wanted!! Needed!! Just a few more individuals who will volunteer on Sundays for the Welcome Table and the Greeters Table. This can be a shared project. It involves setting up before service, and putting everything away at the end of the service. If you love talking to people and making them feel welcome, this is the spot for you!! Questions... please call Kathy at 989-273-9066.

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**Regular Committee Meetings**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aesthetics(Subcom. of B&amp;G)</th>
<th>Committee on Ministry</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Friday at 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room</td>
<td>Meets as needed, contact Abbot Foote</td>
<td>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Buildings &amp; Grounds</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch</td>
<td>Meets as needed, contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote</td>
<td>1st Sunday 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caring</th>
<th>Hospitality,</th>
<th>Poetry Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall</td>
<td>4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall</td>
<td>Meets as needed, contact Holly Harwood</td>
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<tr>
<th>Social Justice</th>
<th>SundaySvc</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Sunday 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room</td>
<td>1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Preschool Kitchen</td>
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Community Voices

Thank you Gene!
Gene Herman brings eggshells for the BFUU garden! Be like Gene! BFUU needs eggshells, newspapers (black ink on white newsprint only), and WORMS for the worm farm! Please leave newspapers and eggshells in a neat pile in the garden behind the ramp and contact the office and/or Jim Beatty if you have worms to share with us! We can’t do it alone!

Please help!

Singing a Fond Farewell and Good Wishes to Robert Berman

Members of the BFUU Choir visited beloved member Robert Berman at his retirement home in November to sing him a fond farewell and wish him a good journey. Bob will be moving away from the area to be closer to his son, and we’ll miss him. The BFUU community also bid him farewell after a Sunday service in late November.

To the BFUU Yo Oh Manager Susan Mack

It is with sadness that I inform you of my departure from the Bay Area. I will move to Eureka to be near my son Kenneth. He now has POA and takes care of my affairs. This move will simply be life and I will be happy with the move. Ken will come to Oakland in late Dec. to help with moving details. We will then leave on the 30th for Eureka. You should know that Evelyn and I loved the Berkeley fellowship. The congregants were always so loving and warm. In addition, I want to mention the kindness and attention given by Rev. Mark and Rev. Elena during the period of Evelyn’s decline and passing. I will also mention Kathy Rich for her knowledgeable help in planning for the very successful memorial.

With much love,
Bob
Private Conservators

This is a short article as I have little information about this important, even essential, subject.

Basically there are public state-appointed conservators, paid for by taxes, and there are private conservators. I have no doubt that there are those who need others to make decisions, especially legal decisions, for them. I am discussing Private Conservators in this article.

I know of two cases personally that I consider conservator abuse.

One was a friend, a late member of BFUU, whose funds were conserved partially. She told me she went to court about the matter and the judge said such actions are rarely contested. I do not know the result of the case. Years later, the member’s house and her property were taken. She was institutionalized in San Leandro for the convenience of the conservators, although she owned a home in Berkeley, in which she lived for some time. Of course I do not know all of the factors in the case, I only mention what I do know. My late friend died in the institution in San Leandro, within two or three months. I visited her once, and attempted to call her a second time to learn she would not talk on the phone. I was upset by this and spoke about this on a disabled list serve.

The other was around six months later when I spoke with a woman B. She had lost her home in Kensington, in which she’d grown up. B still lives to speak with me, and said a friend of hers physically removed her from the courtroom at which the conservators took her home; her friend saved her. B was able to save some of her personal possessions, but now she is renting a room in a house in El Cerrito.

The most similar thing about both of these cases is that they involved seizure of multi-million dollar houses; one in Alameda county, the other in Contra Costa county. I have heard second-hand of other cases, but in the two cases I mentioned, I knew those conserved personally. This may be legal but is In my Humble Opinion (IMHO), it is a crime.

I have included some links, also unfamiliar to some, often elderly people, yet elderly people are most likely to be conserved. The references I have provided are online and include information and narratives about conservatorship. (Note that we don’t endorse these or any specific legal firms.)

https://stopguardianabuse.org/
http://www.fitzwatermeyer.com/articles/conservatorship
https://www.wsj.com/articles/abuse-plagues-system-of-legal-guardians-for-adults-1446225524 (req.WSJ account to read)

by Ardys DeLu
View from Rooms

Our Hall and the Connie Barbour room have become a haven for all kinds of dance events.

Soul Motion, led by Valerie Chafograk, has Monday night events weekly, as well as 1st Friday nights, both in the Hall. Most Tuesdays, Stefana Serafin leads She Moves, Her Body Knows - a women’s dance-centered workshop. On 1st Wednesdays, the Core Connexion conscious dance community is led by members in dance practice.

In the Connie Barbour Room on 4th Friday nights, there is Dances of Universal Peace, led by Sadaya Zimmerle, including live music and singing. She Moves will have twice monthly workshops on 1st & 3rd Friday nights. Jyoti Arvade will be teaching Classical Indian Dance every Sunday afternoon for children, teens, and adults (3 separate classes.)

We’re in the process of adding a permanent bluetooth speaker in the Connie Barbour room to facilitate the dance and other groups using playlists from their devices. This will make it more fun for parties, too.

All in all, the facilities are bouncing with dancing feet!

All the best,
Deborah

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.

Conscientious Projector for the 99% presents film and discussion: Generation Zapped
Saturday December 2 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

Don’t miss this important, just released documentary on how to reduce wireless tech risks! Learn the facts and how to minimize associated risks during this technological revolution. Today we encounter a hundred thousand times the level of radiation from wireless technologies than we did decades ago. Safety standards are outdated. Prolonged exposure to Radio Frequencies (RF) affect health, from links to breast and brain cancer, to associations with infertility and genetic mutations related to autism/ADHD, to new illnesses such as Electrical Hyper-Sensitivity (EHS).

“A wifi classroom is like the inside of a microwave oven set at very low power. Children are exposed to that wifi radiation 6 hours every school day, 5 days a week.” - Magda Havas

Discussion afterwards led by Lloyd Morgan, Senior Research Fellow, Environmental Health Trust, Retired Electronic Engineer, and Ellen Marks, Director of the California Brain Tumor Association. Opening remarks by BFUU Social Justice Committee co-chair Phoebe Sorgen

$10 - $5 requested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds.
A project of WIRED (WIreless Radiation Education & Defense) and the BFUU Social Justice Committee.

More info at www.GenerationZapped.com for more info on the film
Info we all need! Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7R4gKs8ViI&feature=youtu.be
**Featured BFUU Events**

**Transition Berkeley Presents:** Presentation, Discussion & DIY  
**Re-use and Re-create this Holiday Season!**  
*This time of year 25% more landfill trash is created! Let’s change that!*

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**  
(6:30 – 9 pm, 6:30 pm - refreshments, 7 pm - program starts)  
BFUU Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.

**Join us for an evening of inspiration celebrating creative reuse!**

Meet local Berkeley treasure, Jana Olson owner of Panache Lighting. She’s an artist, craftsperson and lighting fixit wizard. Jana loves old things and reuses them in unexpected ways: making lighting from old kitchenware, spools, and iron remnants.

Watch Annie Leonard’s video, “Save Money & the Planet This Holiday Season”. Annie urges us to slow down, shop less and enjoy time spent together more. After the video we’ll share ideas for activities that help us have less stress and more fun during the holidays. Making things together is one of the secrets so we’ll spend some time sharing DIY (do-it-yourself) projects.

Everyone will have a chance to try a project and get a copy of the directions for creating at home.

*This event is sponsored by: Transition Berkeley and BFUU Social Justice Committee*

**Suggested Donation:** $5-20 to cover event costs. No one turned away for lack of funds!  
**Bring:** An earth-friendly, package-free dish to share at 6:30 pm if you like!  
**For info:** Transition Berkeley’s fb page or website, info@transitionberkeley.com

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**The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam**  
*Friday, December 8 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

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 appreciations for all forms of art.

Suggested donations of $5 – $20 No one turned away for lack of funds! Volunteers appreciated!

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**Tibetan Festival of Light**  
*Tuesday, December 12 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall—1924 Cedar St.*

Ventul Rinpoché, who teaches reading and writing to Tibetan children on Sunday afternoons at BFUU, offers this gift in gratitude for the community's help with the Tibetan Resettlement Project. Everyone is invited to come for homemade soup and cookies with butter tea or sweet tea. Chanting & meditation are optional. Rinpoche-la pays for all the food and cooks it himself, over a three-day period, as his gift to the community. Please come and accept the Tibetans' generosity.
**What About Islam?**
A Talk About Islam From a Muslim Activist, With Middle Eastern Music  
*Thursday, December 14 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*

In this time of anti-Muslim propaganda, what about hearing from real Muslims who live among us? Come hear activist Ahmed Salah speak about how Islam has deeply influenced his philosophy, which is to create social change while preserving life on both sides. Ahmed Salah was one of the primary organizers of the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 where hundreds of thousands of protesters filled Tahrir Square, leading to the resignation of an oppressive president. Mr. Salah is the recipient of the Center for Justice and Accountability’s 2013 Champion of Justice Award. There will also be live Middle Eastern music at the event. Let’s listen and discuss together. The event will be held in the historic Fellowship Hall at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (BFUU).

Program:  
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm Middle Eastern music  
7:30 pm – 7:45 pm Break  
7:45 pm – 8:45 pm Talk by Ahmed Salah  
8:45 pm – 9:00 pm Q&A  
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm Socializing, book signing  
Suggested donation $10-20; no one turned away for lack of funds  
https://whataboutislam.brownpapertickets.com/

**Come Celebrate the Birthday of the Prophet**  
with Shaykh Yassir Chadly  
*Saturday December 23 from 1 PM - 4 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*  
Moroccan Music and Food

**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, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room– 1606 Bonita Ave.*  
This practice improves health and well-being at any age.
Recurring/Ongoing BFUU Events

BFUU Choir Practice
*Wednesdays at 7-8:30 PM (except 1st Wed. of each month) in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*
We practice songs for the Sunday services, learning melodies, and working on musicality. During the first part of the evening, we focus on choir numbers with harmonies. From about 8 pm on, we practice the hymns we’ll lead on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in for fellowship and to be able to sing more confidently and joyously on Sundays. Please invite your friends and neighbors. There’s no pressure to sing in the choir on Sundays. These gatherings are something BFUU offers as a service to build community.

Uke Jam
*Once per month, various days/times*
BFUU holds a uke jam once a month 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. Welcome! *Please email jeffpalmer123@comcast.net for details on next meeting*

Orientation for Newcomers
*Sunday December 3 12:15 PM (after service) in the lobby of Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*
The Rev. Elena Rose Vera conducts an orientation for newcomers after service on the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall lobby. All are welcome, whether or not you are considering membership.

Elders Circle
*Tuesday, December 5 at 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, December 10 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! *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, December 10 at 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-no animals
2-Sunday, December 24 at 12:30 PM in the Preschool Room – 1606 Bonita Ave.-service animals*
Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 (2nd Sundays) is for people who are allergic to dogs, and people who don’t need to bring service dogs to the group. Group 2 (4th Sundays) is for people with service animals and people who are not allergic to dogs. You are welcome to attend both groups if you are able. Our writers group is for all levels and all genres. After a 7 min. 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, December 28 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall – 1924 Cedar St.*
Other Community Events held at BFUU

**Women & Song, a women’s singing group**

Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris  
December 14 and December 28, 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

**Make Your UUA/PWR Assembly Travel Plans Now!**

**UUA General Assembly June 20-24, 2018 : Aall Are Called Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri**  
Registration will open on March 1

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, “How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. More details to come!

**Pacific Western Region Assembly April 27-29, 2018**  
**Double Tree Hotel, Portland, Oregon**

**Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience**

The keynote speaker on Saturday, April 28, will be Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. Jayapal is the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress. Before being elected to represent Washington State’s 7th District in 2016, Congresswoman Jayapal was an immigration and labor activist in Seattle. Her writing has been featured in The New York Times and The Nation.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber will speak at our worship service on Sunday, April 29. As an NAACP leader and civil rights activist in North Carolina, Barber led the “Moral Mondays” protests in that state beginning in 2013. The founder of Repairers of the Breach, an organization formed to train religious leaders across the country in social justice work, Barber is currently leading a new “Poor People’s Campaign.” His most recent book is The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement.

The Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, the newly elected president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will speak to us to share her emerging vision for the future of the UUA and our wider movement.

The Rev. Erika Hewitt will be presenting a workshop for religious professionals, including ministers, religious educators, and music directors, on multi-generational, multicultural worship during the day on Friday, April 27, immediately before the regional assembly. Hewitt is on UUA staff as the Minister of Worship Arts and is the editor of Braver/Wiser, a weekly spirituality series.
## Fellowship Calendar December 2017

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>7 pm Soul Motion</td>
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<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>7 pm Film: “Generation Zapped”**</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>12:15 Newcomer Orientation*</td>
<td>12:30 pm SJJC Mtg* 12:30 pm MusCom* 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 11 am Elders Circle 6:30 pm Sunday Svcs Cttee Mtg 7 pm AA Men’s Mtg</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Transition Berkeley Presents “Re-Use and Re-Create this Holiday Season”**</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>12:30 pm 2nd Sunday Potluck* 12:30 BFUU Writers Group 1 (no animals)* 8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>4 pm T’ai Chi/ Qigong* 6 pm T’ai Chi Chuan 6:30 pm Soul Motion</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men’s Mtg 7 pm Tibetan Festival of Light*</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation 7 pm Women &amp; Song 7 pm “What About Islam”**</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
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<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
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<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship 7 pm AA Men’s Mtg</td>
<td>11:45 am AA Meditation</td>
<td>1 pm Celebrate the Birthday of the Prophet with Shaykh Yassir Chadly* 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>9:30 am Choir Rehearsal* 10:30 am Sunday Service*</td>
<td>8 pm AA Mtg</td>
<td>6 pm Tai Chi Chuan</td>
<td>7:30 am Augustine Fellowship</td>
<td>7 pm AA Men’s Mtg</td>
<td>9 am ASCA 6 pm Augustine Fellowship</td>
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Note that the office will be CLOSED and BFUU Qigong/T'ai Chi will not be held on Monday, December 25 for Christmas Day, and Monday January 1 for New Year’s Day.

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

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