Upcoming Sunday Services

December 2: Remembrance, Resilience, and Resistance: A Celebration of Trans Life
Lauren Renée Hotchkiss, Guest Worship Leader

Please join Lauren Renée Hotchkiss and Nanci Ira Armstrong-Temple for a music-filled service dedicated to re-centering Trans Life and a rejection of the current attempted erasure of Trans community and people. There will be an opportunity to donate to TRUUST (https://transuu.org/2018/11/2/), the UU association for trans religious professionals.

December 9: Ingathering
Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

You may be thinking that it is customary for the celebration of “Ingathering” to take place at the very onset of the church year; and you are right. Yet, there is more to the meaning of this tradition; more that calls us to plumb its core values and celebrate who we are now. They call us together to celebrate and give thanks for the person sitting next to us. Today, let us love these closest neighbors as if they are divine.

December 16: Turning off the Valves at the Border
Leonard Higgins, Guest Worship Leader

Oil from the Canadian Tar Sands flows into the US through giant pipelines at the border. What would happen if someone turned off the valves that regulate that flow? Leonard Higgins and four companions decided to find out. These “Valve Turners” were arrested and they put the nation’s energy policy on trial. Leonard Higgins is one of the leading UU activists in the Environmental Justice movement.

December 23: What’s on Your Holiday List This Year?
Rev. Marsh Agobert, Worship Leader

Knowing what we truly want is a gift in itself. I’ll tell you something about me that you may not know...and why it took ½ my life to learn to like Christmas (the holiday season my family acknowledged.) Today we’ll help each other shop for the best present ever.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service
Holly Harwood, Lay Worship Leader

Please come celebrate with us in this special service with an emphasis on the music of the season.

December 30: Kwanzaa Service: A Time to Connect with Family
Simone Chiodini, Guest Worship Leader

The service will center on family traditions related to the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. We will all get a chance to explore the symbolism of this day, as we pledge to reconnect more closely with our own families in the coming new year.
Music Committee

Halloween Dance

On October 26, we gave our monthly dance a Halloween theme and cut out bats and hung them up as well as other spooky decorations. Holly Harwood made a perfectly boo-tiful balloon sculpture and folks danced in costume to waltzes, swing dances, and more. Eva Doucette arrived in a fanciful handmade costume that she had created all on her own and danced some lovely waltzes. Margaret Hurlburt supervised the cutting out of paper bats with Jesse Ingber under her watchful eye. New members Toni and Leroy also danced the night away, and Christine Dickson showed off her home-made wolf mask. David Makofsky donated some Halloween essentials like spider webs and candy corn for the refreshments. Prizes for the costume contest were a big back rat with red eyes and a black crow.

Keep on the lookout for our next dances which happen on the fourth Friday of the month and include a beginner dance lesson!
Committee Events

Sunday Services Teams!

October 21: People Who Play Together Stay Together!
(L to R) Margaret, Claire, Andy, Jef, Susan, Holly, and Melissa

October 28: Creating the Community You Long For
(L to R) Andy, Jesse, Rev. Marsh

Aesthetics Subcommittee

Artist Reception for Guy Colwell on Sunday November 18
The reception was well attended, despite the air quality. A second reception for Guy is planned for December 9. About twenty people came through and several made purchases of Guy’s art! Left, Guy in front of his self portrait. Above, Virginia and Guy chat at the merch table.

Regular Committee Meetings

Aesthetics (Subcom. of B&G)
2nd Friday at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Buildings & Grounds
Meets once per month, contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote

Caring
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Committee on Ministry
meets as needed contact Abbot Foote

Finance
Meets as needed contact Ben Burch or Abbot Foote

Hospitality,
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Membership
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Music
2nd Sunday 12:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Personnel
3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM Mike Gardener’s house

Poetry
Meets as needed contact Holly Harwood

Religious Education
Meets as needed contact Sharon Colligan

Social Justice Ministry
1st Sunday 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Social Justice
3rd Sunday 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Sunday Services
2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
The nowhere that is here

Fleeting moments revisit me
from a foggy past
sudden overpowering revelation
of the sweetness of life
known, unknown, remembered, forgotten
of scenes so indescribably sweet, so poignant
they took my breath away
overcame my soul with brushstrokes
swift, overriding everything tangible
all attempts to assign neat words.

Those moments so fleeting,
so swift yet whole,
so deep yet wide,
so powerful yet fragile

Yes, fragile, as if trying to hold onto them
would make them disappear
as quickly as they came
from out of the nowhere
into the here of now
the now of never
the never of disbelief
of doubt
of uncertainty
of fear that they might never
appear again
to overtake the finite self
and transform it into
a drifting, shapeless cloud

The everywhere
that is nowhere
is here
but will not stay.

Marianne Robinson

Vic Sadot - Save the Date 2/17/19
BFUU will host a memorial for Vic Sadot on Sunday February 17. More details to come.

Her true colors shine
in the autumn of her life
maple tree

Holly Harwood
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.

**Sharing Circle**

*Saturday December 1 at 2 PM in the Preschool Rooms*

All BFUU members who identify as women are invited to join together after the election, in this safe space, to share our spiritual community and support. You may share your story, and the group will affirm: “We believe you. We love you.” You may instead sit quietly to write about or draw your feelings in a separate space. You may work with those developing an action plan to counter sexual harassment. We will all gather together for healing community with readings, poetry and music. We will affirm our resiliency as we pledge to continuing supporting each other and all the brave people coming forward now to tell their stories. Confirm to Joanna Foley (so we will have enough snacks): jfoleynyc@aol.com

**Tibetan Festival of Light**

*Sunday, December 2 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall*

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.

**Artist Reception - Guy Colwell: Being in the Living World**

*Sunday November 18 at 12:15 PM in Fellowship Hall*

The BFUU Aesthetics Subcommittee invites you to join us for a talk by the artist, view the art in Fellowship Hall, and enjoy light refreshments. The reception will feature a selection of dollhouse scale miniature oil and acrylic wildlife paintings on canvas, handmade painted boxes and books.

For info on art at BFUU contact Joanna Foley, Chair at aesthetics@bfuu.org.

**ROY ZIMMERMAN: RIZE UP**

*Friday December 14 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall*

In the current political horror show, do you need some laughter? Some encouragement? Perspective? Inspiration? RIZE UP is Roy Zimmerman’s latest extravaganza, full of funny songs about ignorance, war, and greed. “With music this good and humor this insightful, there is good reason to be optimistic.” – No Depression Magazine

Roy’s songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He’s shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin, and tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby. More info, vids, & merch at https://www.royzimmerman.com

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. $20 suggested donation-sliding scale. No one turned away for lack of funds.
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.

A Valve Turner In Person!!
Is Civil Disobedience Necessary for Environmental Justice?
Sunday December 16 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
Leonard Higgins and four other Valve Turners decided to turn off the valves that regulate the pipeline flow of Canadian crude oil into the US. They were following the honored tradition of civil disobedience – take the bold action, have it documented for all the world to see, then wait to be arrested. At their trials, they sought to use the Necessity Defense to challenge the nation’s energy policy.

Higgins is the only UU in the group of three men and two women. By their actions at the US borders, they demonstrated strong commitment to Environmental Justice.

Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. Donations appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Human Rights and Dignity in the Americas
Human Rights and Wrongs and Plan Colombia
Tuesday December 18 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall
Authors Adrianne Aron and John Lindsay-Poland discuss their new books, Human Rights and Wrongs (Sunshot Press) and Plan Colombia: U.S. Ally Atrocities and Community Activism (Duke University Press), respectively. Both books recount stories of individuals and communities - especially in Latin America - resisting U.S. and state violence, often at great cost, and the power of human solidarity. Aron’s vignettes in the style of Eduardo Galeano draw from her experience as a psychologist and work with Central American refugees. Lindsay-Poland narrates a Colombian peace community and a massacre, as well as the policy of training and equipping Colombian forces that serves as a template for U.S. intervention globally.


Sponsored by the BFUU SJC. Donations appreciated. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Vintage Invasion Old Fashioned Dance Party
Friday December 28 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.
**Weekly BFUU Events**

**Qi Gong & T’ai Chi with Gene Herman**
*Mondays, 4-5 PM in the Connie Barbour Room*
*Wednesdays, 3-4 PM in the Connie Barbour Room*
This practice improves health and well-being at any age.

**Pastoral Care**
*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.

**BFUU Choir Practice**
*Wednesdays at 7-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall*
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. There’s no pressure to sing in the choir on Sundays. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

**Monthly/BiMonthly BFUU Events**

**Orientation for Newcomers**
*Sunday, December 2 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.

**Elders Circle**
*Tuesday, December 4 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall*

**Uke Practice / Uke Jam / Uke Practice**
*Fridays - December 7, and December 21 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!

**BFUU Second Sundays Potluck**
*Sunday, December 9 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.*
Monthly/BiMonthly BFUU Events

**BFUU Writers Groups 1 and 2**
1-Sunday, December 9 at 1 PM in the Preschool Room - no animals
2-Sunday, December 23 at 1 PM in the Preschool Room - service animals
Wheelchair accessible. Beginners welcome! Group 1 (2nd Sundays) is for those who are allergic to animals, and/or don’t need to bring service dogs. Group 2 (4th Sundays) allows service animals. We include all levels and genres. After a 7-minute writing exercise, we write for an agreed-upon period of time. Then we read our work aloud and give each other positive feedback.

**The Hardly Strictly Acoustic Jam**
*Friday, December 14 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!

**BFUU Board Meeting**
*Thursday, December 20 at 7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall*

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Other Community Events held at BFUU

**Women & Song, a women’s singing group**
Directed by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris
*2nd & 4th Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm 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

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**Reclaiming East Bay Solstice**
*Sunday December 9 at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall*
Join us for a Solstice celebration. BFUU folks are especially welcome. Kids’ activities and singing start 5:30, ritual 6pm, followed by magical silent auction and community social time.
Bring snacks to share, non-alcohol drinks - and magical items for our silent auction!
Small donation requested - no one turned away.
Details: <BayAreaReclaiming.org>
Questions: <ReclaimingEastBay@gmail.com>
### Fellowship Calendar December 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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| 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*  
10:30 am Sunday Service*  
12 mm Newcomer Orientation*  
12:30 pm SJM Mtg*  
7 pm Tibetan Festival of Lights*  
8 pm AA Mtg | 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6:30 pm Soul Motion | 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship  
11 am Elders Circle*  
7 pm AA Men’s Mtg | 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
7 pm NA Men’s Mtg  
7 pm Choir Practice* | 11:45 am AA Meditation | 7 pm Uke Practice* |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*  
10:30 am Sunday Service*  
2nd Sunday Potluck*  
12:15 pm Artist Reception Guy Colwell*  
12:30 pm MusCom mtg*  
1 pm BFUU Writers Group 1 no animals*  
5:30 pm Reclaiming East Bay Solstice  
8 pm AA Mtg | 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6 pm Tai Chi Chuan  
6:30 pm Soul Motion | 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship  
10 am Sunday Svcs Cttee Mtg*  
7 pm AA Men’s Mtg | 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6:30 pm Sound Spirit  
7 pm NA Men’s Mtg  
7 pm Choir Practice* | 11:45 am AA Meditation  
7 pm Women & Song | 11:30 am Aesthetics Subctee Mtg*  
7 pm Roy Zimmerman Rize Up* |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*  
10:30 am Sunday Service*  
12:30 pm SJC Mtg*  
7 pm A Valve Turner in Person*  
8 pm AA Mtg | 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6 pm Tai Chi Chuan  
6:30 pm Soul Motion | 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship  
7 pm AA Men’s Mtg  
7 pm Poland & Aron Book Release Celebration* | 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
7 pm NA Men’s Mtg  
7 pm Choir Practice* | 11:45 am AA Meditation  
2:30 pm Personnel Committee (at Mike Gardner's house)*  
7:15 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*  
11 am Communicator Deadline | 7 pm Uke Jam* |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*  
10:30 am Sunday Service*  
12:30 HMC-Hospitality, Membership and Caring-Cttees Mtgs*  
1 pm BFUU Writers Group 2 svc animals*  
8 pm AA Mtg | 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6 pm Tai Chi Chuan  
6:30 pm Soul Motion | 7:30 am Augustine Fellowship  
7 pm AA Men’s Mtg  
Christmas Eve BFUU Office Closed | 3 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
7 pm NA Men’s Mtg  
7 pm Choir Practice* | 11:45 am AA Meditation  
7 pm Women & Song  
Christmas Day BFUU Office Closed | 7:00 pm Vintage Invasion Dance Party* |
| 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal*  
10:30 am Sunday Service*  
8 pm AA Mtg | 4 pm BFUU Qigong/ T’ai Chi*  
6 pm Tai Chi Chuan  
6:30 pm Soul Motion |     |     |     |     |     |

The BFUU Office will be CLOSED on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The BFUU Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, January 1

* 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 JANUARY COMMUNICATOR:** December 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