Black History Month:
Honoring Black History, Building Black Futures

February 7: How We Got Here and How We Move Forward as a Nation
Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)

Let’s take a look at how the American Civil War was intentionally and carefully undermined, how we live in the sway and shadow of that Oligarchic manipulation, to this day. Will this provide us clues as to how we can, in groups and personally, once again change the course of this mighty river?

February 14: We Are All Together: Love
Kele Nitoto (he/him)

Kele Nitoto reminds us on Valentine’s Day that love is more than just the romantic feelings shared between couples. Love is broader and deeper than that, encompassing the actions we take together to build love for our communities. Love is an action verb, a command – go forth and create love.

February 21: Celebrating Black History with a deeper understanding of our Next Door neighbor: Haiti
Dr. Yanick Louis-Lindquist (she/her)

Nicky will present a brief overview of Haiti’s rich and yet tumultuous history. She will reflect on her cross cultural experiences and the joy of reconnecting to her homeland after decades of living abroad.

February 28: Love and Marriage in the Time of the Pandemic
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)

In this unprecedented era of COVID-19 risk, social distancing and masks, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles considers the effects on love relationships in America.
Cleric’s Corner

Feed the Dog

With our trust levels low and our expectations high, how do we become a nation again? I ask you, today, to put aside whatever cynicism you may be feeling right now. There will be plenty of time to make and correct new errors. Meanwhile, at this juncture, charge yourself to get in touch with those values that you’d call yours. Take a few days to focus on these. Give rest to your most valid complaints. Take this time, at the beginning, to feed the dog you’d breed.

“The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.” – National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman

“We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this, if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts.” – President Joe Biden

“We will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. We will rise to the occasion.” – President Joe Biden

“The assault on our Capitol at this very place two weeks ago reminds us that a government designed to balance and check itself is both fragile and resilient.” – Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri

“When she takes the oath of office, little girls and boys across the world will know that anything and everything is possible.” – Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, on Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

“A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer.” – President Joe R. Biden

Feed your best Dog,
Rev. Marsh
Worship Service Teams!

Worship Service Team December 27 top: Andy, Paikea, Lawrance; 2nd row: Elinor, Doug, Rev. Dr. Carrie; 3rd row: Margaret, Joanna, James; 4th row: Eva

Worship Service Team January 3 top: Paikea, Joanna, Andy; 2nd row: Steve, Melanie DeMore, Lawrance; 3rd row: Kathy & Doug, Eva, Margaret

Worship Service Team January 10 top: Lawrance, Paikea, Kathy & Doug, Andy; 2nd row: Margaret, Steve, Rev. Tom, Joanna; 3rd row: Eva, Virginia, Frances, Melissa; 4th row: Rev. Marsh

Worship Service Team January 17 top: Andy, Paikea, Lawrance; 2nd row: Clovice Lewis, Eva, Joanna; 3rd row: Margaret, Frances, Kathy & Doug

Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)

Aesthetics (subcom. of B&G)
Meets as needed
contact Joanna Foley

Buildings & Grounds (B&G)
Meets once per month,
contact Ben and Abbot

Caring
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact Kathy Riehle

Committee on Ministry
meets as needed
contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve

Finance
Meets as needed
contact Ben and Abbot

Hospitality
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact Kathy Riehle

Membership
4th Sunday at 12:30 PM
contact Doug Chambers

Music
2nd Monday 2:00 PM
contact Margaret Hurlbert

Nominating
meets as needed
contact Virginia Hollins-Davidson

Personnel
3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM
Contact Kathy Riehle

Poetry
Meets as needed
contact Frances Hillyard

Religious Education
Meets as needed
contact Sharon Colligan

Social Justice Ministry
1st Sunday 12:30 PM
contact Jeff Palmer

Social Justice (SJC)
3rd Sunday noonish - after service
contact Phoebe, Gene, and David

Worship Services
2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM
contact Joanna and Sharon
Poetry Corner

I love you most for being

a great mom

a great grandmother

a great great-grandmother

and A

L

L that goes with it…nurturer, cook, cleaner oh yeah,

bottle and jar washer, chief of first aid…

Care taker of all, especially the lil ones…of all shapes, sizes,

colors, breeds or species

may Dolores’ love bless all the children.

When it comes to other things

I love you madly

sometimes badly

with politics

sometimes sadly

sometimes gladly

blues

dance

Broadway

Lady Day

ballet

any which way

You cook

I cook

Never at the same time

Need room to swing… baby

In the kitchen

and bedroom too

Love you

love you

do

Dolores.

GBH – 2/15/15
Community Minister’s Report

Living with Covid last year, most of my community ministry was bearing witness and solidarity with social justice events in the Bay Area for the Poor People’s Campaign. I also joined the Board of Youth Spirit Artworks in December and supported the work of the Tiny House Village on Hegenberger Road in Oakland.

Rev. Tom McAninley, BFUU Community Minister

Attended rally for Black Lives Matter at San Francisco City Hall

Attended car caravan at Port of Oakland in support of the unions working on the cruise ships without protective equipment.

Attended car caravan in solidarity with union SEIU to bring attention to the need for more protective equipment to essential medical workers.

Observing the progress and getting update from YSA director, Sally Hindman, who’s leading an inspiring and very creative project!

Participated in car caravan and rally for Filipino rights at the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, in solidarity from the Poor People’s Campaign.

Participated in car caravan to stop evictions in the Bay Area.

This caravan was in San Francisco.

Poetry Corner

Sun-flooded trees
Make visible morning to those who mourn

As they collect sunrise remember the calls of birds fresh from the safety of sleep

Frances Hillyard

Community Voices

Eva Doucette
Margaret Hamilton
Dolores Helman
Syl Scherzer
ADD AN 8TH PRINCIPLE FOR ANTI-OPPRESSION?

Part 1 01/15/21

By Tom Luce

Would any UUA member, let alone a UUA congregation or UUA administration team commit oppression? Is oppression against UUA’s 7 Principles? Could racism be involved in any UUA decision making?

Well, two months before his term ended in June 2017, UUA President Peter Morales – the first Latinx and second POC UUA President after Rev. William Sinkford – announced he was resigning immediately. He announced this because of the “…ongoing controversy regarding the UUA’s hiring practices and lack of diversity in our senior leadership.” One of the actual cases of discrimination under Pres. Morales was the hiring of a white minister to replace a retiring white minister for the Southern Region of the UUA. A Chicana Latina was turned down for this position, Christina Rivera, who said although she was a finalist, she was told she was not “the right fit for the team.” [https://www.uuworld.org/articles/critics-challenge-uu-a-hiring-practices]

In spite of UUA support for promoting equality for Blacks and other oppressed groups through the promotion of the AIW, “Black Lives Matter” in 2015, and the formation of BLUU-Black Lives of UU in 2016 with a long term $5.3 million grant, the hiring in 2017 of the white male over Ms. Rivera brought a renewed movement to deal with the oppression of groups. Aisha Hauser, director of religious education at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, Washington, and a member of the UUA Nominating Committee, led the charge on social media to challenge the UUA’s hiring practices. “It’s not enough to say we believe in equality,” said Hauser, who identifies as racially black and ethnically Arab. “It’s not about intention but impact, and the impact is a white supremacy paradigm with zero accountability.” A letter signed by 121 UU ministers and other religious professionals said that “the practice of hiring white people nearly to the exclusion of hiring people of color is alarming and not indicative of the communal practice to which our faith calls us.” [https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uu-a-president-steps-down-amid-outery]

“Finding Our Way Home” the annual retreat hosted by the UUA for Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious professionals of color at its March 17, 2017 meeting learned of Ms. Rivera’s story. From that date on social media charges spread that the UUA had hired a white person over an unidentified woman of color.

The Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism-BLUU, called the controversy “a moment of crisis for our faith” in a March 27, 2017 statement. “We cannot effectively respond to ‘looming threats’ of white supremacy beyond us until we tackle the white supremacy within us.” They added, “Specific, drastic, and swift changes are needed.” They also recalled Dr. Martin Luther King’s words, “Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

So BLUU endorsed adding the 8th Principle “articulating a commitment to the dismantling of white supremacy, within the stated principles of our faith.” April, 2017: “We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” The UUA Board elected 3 co-presidents, Rev. William Sinkford, 7th president of the UUA (1st Black man); Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Asst.Prof at Starr King school (a Black woman); and Dr. Leon Spencer (also African American), serving since 1985 for Black concerns in Atlanta. “Sometimes it takes a shock to a system to get it unstuck,” said Rev. Sinkford.
General Assembly (GA)
100% Virtual Event!
June 23-27, 2021

Open to the public: General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship and Sunday Morning Worship will be streamed live and publicly accessible; no registration is required to view.

Registered Attendees: Access to all workshops, performances, lectures, and events listed in the GA Program. Registrants will have exclusive access to a chatroom, recordings of previous streams, and dedicated support.

Women & Religion PCD VIRTUAL Retreat
Saturday, March 13 8:30 am to 8 pm on Zoom

Theme: HANGING IN, HANGING ON
We’ll have an opening orientation, small groups, learning sessions, a scavenger hunt, Suffragist bingo, a memorial for lost members, and a closing session.

Registration is $25. Net proceeds split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women’s Convocation.

To be added to the retreat email list, send blank email to: PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io or see the Facebook listing at https://www.facebook.com/WandRPCD. We will email you when registration is open.

Connect with local Bay Area UU’s!
Bay Area UU Meetup meets every other week, and they’ve started a new practice of focusing on anti-racism efforts being conducted by the various congregations of the Bay Area. There will still be space for people to ask questions and get support for other matters. More details, including notes form prior meetings, can be found here: https://www.uusf.org/sfbauumeeatup
Weekly Meetings

**BFUU Choir Practice** on Wednesdays at 3:15 PM
Choir members practice songs for worship service and fun!
Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

**Rev. Dr. Carrie's Reflection and Connection** on Tuesday afternoons
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles invites BFUU members and friends to join her in a series of small meetings on zoom. Participation is limited. Please email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

**Rev. Marsh's Think Tank remains on hiatus**
T4 (or T3 #2) may or may not resume in another form. If you feel strongly about this, please send a brief text (i.e. “T# yes.”) to Rev Marsh at 707-557-5707 (preferred.) If you have more to say, also email revmarsh@bfuu.org. If you can’t text or email, please leave a message on the office voicemail 510-841-4824 ext. 1

**Worship Service Rehearsal** on Saturdays at 1:00 PM
The worship team for each service meets on the Saturday before to run through the script. Please contact Sharon and Joanna at worshipservices@bfuu.org

**Worship Service** on Sundays at 10:30 AM
All are welcome to attend Worship Service!
Please contact Sharon and Joanna at worshipservices@bfuu.org

Monthly Meetings

**Board of Trustees Meeting** 4th Thursday 2/25 at 7:00 PM
BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

**Committee on Ministry Meeting** 1st Thursday 2/4 at 2:00 PM
This committee is a communication channel between the ministers and the community.
Please contact Kathy, Jinky, and Steve at COM@bfuu.org

**Elders Circle** 1st Tuesday 2/2 at 11:00 AM
Come one, come all who are young at heart! Age does not matter! Join us for snacks and lively conversation. We may even solve some of the world’s problems... or not. We’ll have fun trying. Please contact Rev. Marsh by text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or email revmarsh@bfuu.org.

**Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings** 4th Sunday 2/28 at 12:30 PM
Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

**Men’s Group** 2nd Thursday 2/11 at 7:00 PM
We invite all men to this group. Our goal is to encourage each other as we build community.
Please contact Jeff Palmer.

**Music Committee Meeting** 1st Monday 2/1 at 2:00 PM
Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

**Personnel Committee Meeting** 3rd Thursday 2/18 at 2:30 PM
Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** 3rd Sunday 2/21 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Ministry Meeting** 1st Sunday 2/7 at 12:30 PM

**Worship Service Committee Meeting** 1st Friday 2/5 at 1:30 PM
Please contact Joanna and Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

***some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3***
# Fellowship Calendar February 2021

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<td>3:15 pm Choir Practice*</td>
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<td>Presidents Day BFUU Staff Holiday</td>
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<td>Noonish - after service SJU SJC Meeting*</td>
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### Please Plan Ahead:
Some of the links here send an email to the meeting organizer. The direct links have * after the link. If you send an email, please allow a few days for them to reply.

If you have questions, please email office@bfuu.org or call the office at 510-841-4824 ext. 1.

* denotes Fellowship event  
† denotes meeting link
Spiritual Growth and Social Justice in the Heart of Berkeley

Building character, enriching spirits, promoting community, and serving humankind through spiritual growth and social action.

BFUU OFFICE CLOSED - We are working from home

BFUU OFFICE STAFF
Deborah Hamouris - Event Space Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 3
Working Days: Tue, Wed & Fri
Email: rooms@bfuu.org

Susan Macke - Office Coordinator
Phone: 510-841-4824, ext. 1
Working Days: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri
Email: office@bfuu.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR February COMMUNICATOR: February 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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