April 4: Can We Agree – To Disagree?
Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)
We are about to engage in controversial while non-combative, and yet constructive, Conversation. While I have been gently and subtly gesticulating toward the message of communicating with those with whom we disagree, a grand opportunity for such has arisen; right here at home in BFUU. How, you may ask, does this address speaking to “The Other?” Well, we Fellows are perfectly capable of being our own Other. We know how to disagree—now let's take the next step and learn how to do so in a highly productive fashion. Practice makes perfect.

April 11: Trees Are Us: A BFUU Poetry Service
Frances Hillyard (she/her)
Today let’s take some time to savor creative expressions of wonder, awe and joy from people you care about but might not know as well as you think you do. Join in exploration through poetry and music, our place in the interdependent web of all existence.

April 18: Create Your Own Religion
Paikea Melcher (she/her)
Paikea Melcher, lifelong BFUUer, will reflect on the value of our liturgical traditions, and ask each of us to consider three steps in spiritual creativity.

April 25: Do We Parent Our Pet—Or Is the Pet Our Parent?
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)
Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles weighs in, on this National Pet Parent Day, on the power of pets on our life and our lifespan, and how they help in this time of the pandemic.
Here Comes the Sun

Here’s one thing brought but left unsaid at the service of March 14th (the day before the Ides of March.) In hindsight, I think you might appreciate it.

Music is the art of patterns in time; dance is the art of patterns in time and space. Music and dance can bring about ecstatic enlightenment as no other art forms can. There is a point when, in some forms of music, in some performances, the musician ceases to create patterns in time and begins to reflect the variety of patterns in space. In the music-dance ritual of ancient China, where ancestors were invited back to dance and sing, the music and dance, so in tune with the rhythms and shapes of the great flux, could weave itself through the barriers of time and reach into the past. Joined with their reappeared ancestors in transcendent enjoyment of the same music, the participants were united with the One and All. Consider these things with the thought that music is our path.

The I Ching (Reifler translation) –

Adapted by Rev Marsh Agobert

I try to leave you with something to view or read relevant to a part of the current congregational conversations. I thought I would leave room for what I hope will be a center of focus for most of us during this Spring cycle of our year. This is the time that I would usually offer a small group or two for the extra boost that we naturally get from this time of year. Instead, I will support and participate in the “Transforming Hearts - Watch Parties and Chats.” This is, of course, the Anti-bias course that many BFUUers have been talking about. We’ve found an anti-bias activity that seems to be wonderfully matched with our Fellowship souls. This is genuinely heart, mind, and eye-opening. I sincerely hope you will, each and everyone join us in at least the first session.
OK...one bonus, purely as a defense against the Tsunami of lies and false information that continues to abound:

Fake science news: 6 tips to debunk misinformation online [from https://apple.news/AaTIS80s8Q9WKLIWALv1m6Q]

Here Comes The Sun: The Vernal Equinox, March 20th 2021 09:37 UT...Northern Hemisphere.

Rev. Marsh

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**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.

**Doug Chambers and Kathy Riehle** are our BFUU delegates!

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**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/sfbauumetup](https://www.uusf.org/sfbauumetup)

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**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**
- 1st Friday at 1:30 PM
  - contact Sharon Colligan
Hello BFUU Community:

The BFUU Staff and Board are planning “Watch and Discuss” sessions using the wonderful anti-bias series from the “Transforming Hearts Collective.” These classes emphasize the interrelationship of our trans-gender community with our society as a whole: acceptance, denial, opposition and oppression. The classes become an even more powerful tool for us by illustrating the intersection of racism, sexism and other form of oppression to trans-gender oppression.

We are very excited to recommend these classes and are planning a number of small group watch-and-discuss meetings in April. Let us know that you wish to participate by contacting Rev. Marsh via text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or emailing revmarsh@bfuu.org or Mike Gardner nge6144@gmail.com.

For the Staff and Board, Mike Gardner.

How to enroll in the TRANSFORMING HEARTS COLLECTIVE sessions.

The first-time enrollment procedure is a bit squirrely, so if you experience any problems, please contact a Board member for help. The next time you enter a class, you will go directly to it.

**o This is the Coupon Code for Congregation Members**

Our unique coupon code is: BERKELEYUU

Everyone who is part of our fellowship community, now and in the future, can use this coupon code, BERKELEYUU, to individually enroll in the course using the instructions below—we've purchased access for our entire congregation for the life of the course.

**o Instructions to enroll:**

- Go to the course page ([https://transforming-hearts-collective.teachable.com](https://transforming-hearts-collective.teachable.com))
- Scroll to the **bottom** and select the $400 option (nearly all the way to the bottom! You won’t have to pay anything.
- Click “Enroll”
- On the next page click the red text “Add Coupon” **VERY IMPORTANT!**
- In the box that appears, enter BERKELEYUU and click “Apply” (the total will be adjusted to FREE)
- Continue with enrollment
- A rather lengthy Survey follows – be patient – Mike

Note that this coupon code can be used only by our congregation. Please do not publicize it publicly or post it online. There are a limited number of people who can use it, but if it stops working at any point we will contact the Collective and will increase the quantity.
Worship Service Teams!

Worship Service Team February 21

- top: Eva, Paikea, Andy; 2nd row: Tom, Dr. Yanick Louis-Lindquist, Lawrance; 3rd row: Kathy & Doug, Ardy, Joanna; 4th row: Margaret

Worship Service Team February 28

- top: Frances, Paikea, Elinor & Steve; 2nd row: Andy, Margaret, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles; 3rd row: Joanna, Eva, Kathy & Doug; 4th row: Melissa, Ardy

Worship Service Team March 14

- top: Destiny Muhammad, Paikea, Joanna; 2nd row: Elinor & Steve, Sara Bergdahl, Margaret; 3rd row: Eva, Lawrance, Judith; 4th row: Milo June, Christine, Melissa; 5th row: Kathy & Doug, Andy, Virginia; 6th row: Frances

Worship Service Team March 7


Worship Service Team March 21

- top: Lawrance, Paikea, Elinor & Steve; 2nd row: Eva, Kathy & Doug, Andy; 3rd row: Ardy, Pastor Jacqueline Duhar, Melissa; 4th row: Joanna
Celebrate a life well lived – Dolores R. Helman

Thanks for all you do.

Ah  let me count the ways...
There's nurturing…most important the mothernurseshaman in the house
Healthy cooking, cleaning...always cleaning
And laundry…don’t ever forget the laundry
Then there is the spiritual caring soul

And then there is the political
Most definitely political…way way out in left field
And grandchildren
mostly the little ones
mentioned first.

And the list goes on
and on
and on........

OMG…don’t forget dance and tap and ballet
and blues and swing and salsa
the sauce – mild
the dance-hot ‘muy caliente’

To my very special soulmate
Let me tip tap toe on outahere

Gene B. Herman, BFUU Poet Laureate
Oct 1, 2013 - Berkeley

We will be sharing the video of Dolores’ Memorial Celebration in the Dolores Helman ~ In Memoriam Facebook group and by request when it is ready. The beautiful slide shows shared by granddaughters Becky and Wendy are already posted. Email office@bfuu.org for more info.
Circle of Life

Syl Scherzer's only son, Joel Scherzer, age 51, died suddenly in his Oakland hotel on January 20th. Syl shared that he voted for Pres. Joe Biden & lived to see that victory! He loved music and nature. Syl is asking for gifts in honor of Joel be made to BFUU and show in the memo line: Solar Project in memory of Joel Scherzer. The fund so far has $100. Syl thanks all for your kind words & cards.

No memorial service is planned at this time.

Community Voices

Jean Lieber

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!!

The Fellowship, the Board, our Staff and every other aspect of the BFUU community would like to send our love, congratulations and deep appreciation to Elaine Miller, BFUU’s Bookkeeper. In April is Elaine’s 10th anniversary of working and keeping our books in order! Her loyalty and commitment to the finer details of the task of bookkeeper for the past 10 years are amazing.

Thank you, Elaine, for all the work that you do for BFUU.

Poetry Corner

HOPE

Egg-tooth

crack the tight shell

open to fresh air.

Poems grow.

Smiles blossom in the street:

love and food, freedom and respect.

We greet each other, strong, healthy, gentle, confident that the words we spill

like seeds, ripen into grass

to feed next season’s flight.

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Poet Laureate Emerita

Clivia miniata

We asked last month if anyone knew the name of the plant Jim Beatty gave to Karen. The answer, with 75% probability is Clivia miniata, the Natal lily or bush lily!
Weekly Meetings

**BFUU Choir Practice** on Wednesdays at 4:00 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. Email Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles at revcarrie@bfuu.org and let her know of your interest.

**Transforming Hearts Watch Parties and Chats** Wednesdays at 9:00 AM and Fridays at time TBD
Watch the Transforming Hearts anti-bias training videos together online Wednesday mornings and discuss the intriguing and eye-opening topics together in community on Friday afternoons. You can join the conversation whether or not you have started the trainings - *your view is unique and important*! We just ask that you watch that week’s episode before participating in the conversation about it. We plan to start watching session 1 on Wed 3/31, and discussing it on Fri 4/2, then move through the next videos in order (ie. watch session 2 on Apr 7 and discuss on Apr 9, etc.). We need six participants to sign up in order to start the discussions.

Register for Watch Parties or send Rev. Marsh text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or revmash@bfuu.org.
Register for Chats or email Deborah at rooms@bfuu.org, or call 510-841-4824 ext 3

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

Monthly Meetings

**Board of Trustees Meeting** 4th Thursday 4/22 at 7:00 PM
BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

**Committee on Ministry Meeting** 1st Thursday 4/1 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 4/6 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 worlds problems... or not. We’ll have fun trying. Please contact Rev. Marsh by text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or email revmash@bfuu.org.

**Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings** 4th Sunday 4/25 at 12:30 PM
Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

**Men’s Group** 2nd Thursday 4/8 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 4/2 at 2:00 PM
Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

**Personnel Committee Meeting** 3rd Thursday 4/15 at 2:30 PM
Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** 3rd Sunday 4/18 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Ministry Meeting** 1st Sunday 4/4 at 12:30 PM

**Worship Service Committee Meeting** 1st Friday 4/2 at 1:30 PM
Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

**Some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3**
**Please Plan Ahead:** Direct links to meetings/registration have ¹ or ² after the link. The remaining links send an email to the meeting organizer. 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.

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* denotes Fellowship event ¹ denotes meeting link ² denotes meeting registration

² meetings requiring registration may be cancelled if the minimum participant requirement isn't met
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: April 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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