June 6: Dedicated to the Proposition...
*Rev. Marsh Agobert (he/him)*

When we listen to the inspiring values in the remainder of this phrase, we are so moved that we never question their meaning. The meaning seems obvious, and in this age of lengthy and convoluted EULAs (end-user legal/license agreements) that we sign without regard for the promises we subsequently make, while being lulled into believing that whatever details follow don’t matter? We are approaching a point in time, a moment in which we will have to answer for our vagaries. Are we all created as equal? What do we mean by that? Does it matter? Isn’t it enough that it just sounds so dog-gone good? But what if it’s not empirically true? Will we still be able to call ourselves Unitarian or Universalist after that?

June 13: Who are We...?
*Doug Chambers (he/him) & Kathy Riehle (she/her)*

..as a congregation? What does UU history have to do with our past? What does the Pride celebration have to do with our future? Who _was_ Norbert Chapek? Bring these and other questions to our service on Arlo Chamber’s birthday. (Don’t expect answers. We’re UUs!)

June 20: The Legacy of Caring
*Eva Doucette (she/her)*

As our 2020-2021 program year draws to a close, we honor members of our volunteer lay leadership and reflect on our shared ministry together.

June 27: Unitarians Who Surrendered Their Lives for Their Faith
*Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles (she/her)*

On this Sunday, Canada celebrates All Saints Day. Unitarian Universalists offer no official sainthood to those who have given up their lives to stand for the profound principles of our faith. Yet Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles finds it well to offer our gratitude and admiration to Francis David, Servetus, and James Reeb for their wisdom and courage that has formed our faith through the ages.
"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.”

For the record, this is NOT a quote taken from The Emancipation Proclamation. It is what we may consider being the preamble to the Gettysburg Address. These opening statements refer to the Declaration of Independence, and the base that it sets for an insurrection, and the strivings begun by my distant relative, Crispus Attucks, and the other participants of that first skirmish in a war of Independence.

These words ARE inspiring. Yet, suppose one places a value on truth and rationality. To do so, we must examine what is said and ask ourselves if these assumptions are valid and the consequences of their accuracy one way or another. We base the success or failure of our nation, perhaps our world, and now our lives on this proposition.

Again, let me remind you that when you hear wise words – consume them carefully, digest them thoroughly, and in doing so, you may add to the observation. We often regard the terms of the wise to be the Last Word on the topic at hand. This instinct is the same one that has us follow leaders blindly (the extent to which I am a leader, I am blessed by the fact that you do not hold such a position with me.) No matter how wise the leader (including Dr. King and the Mahatma, Gandhi), don’t take their words for granted. Listen carefully, consider it for as long as you must, and then, in the realization that the life of humanity is an ever-changing and growing condition, ADD TO IT. That is each of our jobs as members of this sentient and perhaps even sapient species.
So toward that end, I ask you now to consider this: Are all members of the human species created equal? Is that a rational and truthful statement? Will the scientific method or at least logic uphold this inspiring statement as a singular truth?

Right away, if we impose logic and rational thought on the concept of universal equality, we can see that this is, at best, a poetic overstatement. What in nature, before we tamper with it, is equal? How do you feel right now in questioning this sacred cow? Be honest with yourself. Doesn’t what this seems to be saying annoy you, at least a little? There is no consistency in nature to demonstrate any two creatures as equal.

Nature revels in competition as we, in the post-Darwinist era, hold to be true. We fear the existence of “men” from outer space because we KNOW that if they have the transportation power to get here from somewhere way out there, we are outclassed and must accept whatever fate they serve up.

Let us take the meaning of the power of superior transportation and apply it to the movement of humans across our planet. What does this tell us about the value of technology regarding one culture’s capacity to enslave another? At the same time, it raises any number of additional questions, IE., does technological superiority imply social, emotional, spiritual, or any other form of advancement? What matters on the Earthly playing field? For what stakes are we playing? Isn’t that last question obvious?

If we want to get to the bottom of this, mustn’t we be fearless in our approach? Shouldn’t we, as a species, consider that this implies a condition ‘beyond’ the sacred state of culture. Shouldn’t we be willing to examine the truths that we hold to be self-evident? In the process of the hero’s journey, she must confront her greatest fear, and that’s where we must go even to secure some chance to win in this game of the highest stakes.

Are all of us created equal? What does that even mean? As we move through the field of nature, what parts do sentience and sapience play in the survival of this species? Can any so-called “race” of humanity win an evolutionary competition, and why or why not?

Rev. Marsh

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**Regular Committee Meetings (via Zoom through Shelter In Place)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aesthetics (subcom. of B&amp;G)</th>
<th>Finance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meets as needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>contact <a href="mailto:AestheticsCommittee@church.org">Aesthetics Committee</a></td>
<td>contact <a href="mailto:BenAndAbbot@church.org">Ben and Abbot</a></td>
<td>contact <a href="mailto:VirginiaHollinsDavidson@church.org">Virginia Hollins-Davidson</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>odd months 3rd Thursdays 2:30 PM</td>
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<td>contact <a href="mailto:BenAndAbbot@church.org">Ben and Abbot</a></td>
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<td>contact <a href="mailto:FrancesHilyard@church.org">Frances Hilyard</a></td>
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<td>contact <a href="mailto:MargaretHurlbert@church.org">Margaret Hurlbert</a></td>
<td>contact <a href="mailto:SharonColligan@church.org">Sharon Colligan</a></td>
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<td>Social Justice Ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>contact <a href="mailto:PhoebeGeneDavid@church.org">Phoebe, Gene, and David</a></td>
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**BFUU Congregational Meeting**

It’s time for our Spring Congregational Meeting!

It will be held after service on **Sunday, June 13th at 12:30 pm** via Zoom

Our agenda will include a discussion on the reopening of BFUU for renters three times a week, reopening Fellowship Hall for our congregants, and our goal for hosting Zoom and in-person services.

There will be an update on BFUU’s current financial condition, and the current status of the New School.

We will also be electing new members to the Board of Trustees.

There are two open seats for 2-year Board members, and two open seats for 1-year Board Alternates.

The Nominating Committee endorses Jean Marie Stine and David Makofsky for the 2-year seats, and Phoebe Sorgen and Stephanie Doucette for the 1-year Alternate seats.

Any member can run for an open Board seat by petition! Now is the time for you to consider your importance to BFUU, and to think of running for the Board. Per Bylaw VI, E, “Additional nominees, who shall previously have agreed to serve if elected, may be placed on the ballot by written petition signed by at least ten (10) voting members of the Fellowship and filed with the Nominating Committee not later than the Saturday preceding the last Sunday before election.” This year, the deadline for written petitions is Saturday, June 5th.

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Karen Dewald, Marge Turngren, Christine Lucas, Melissa Rockliff, and Jeff Palmer) if you are interested in running for the Board.

**Come and join in!**

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**Board of Trustees Nominated Candidates - 2-year seat (2 open)**

**Jean Marie Stine** (she/her) (for 2-year seat)

Jean Marie Stine officially became a Unitarian-Universalist in 2002 in Northampton MA, though she had long admired UU principles and thought that if she ever joined a “church” it would be the UU. After moving to Berkeley CA, she discovered the BFUU and, along with her partner Frankie Hill, joined the congregation, where they served on the Sunday Services, Hospitality and Caring Committees, helped clean and straighten the Fellowship Hall after services each week. In the process, they developed an attachment to BFUU that has never waned. When circumstances caused them to move to Oregon, where they joined the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Eugene, their hearts remained behind. Now that they live in Mexico, where they have joined the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende, Jean Marie volunteered to fill an empty space on the BFUU board until the next election. She is a much published writer and the proprietor of a very small publishing company.
David Makofsky (he/him) (for 2-year seat)

David Makofsky: I am an 83 years old retired professor and civil servant. I have been socially and politically active all my adult life, in organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace and the Democratic Socialists of America. After retirement in 2007, I traveled to the Peoples Republic of China and to Turkey, where I taught English and wrote articles about a central Asian group, the Uyghurs. Uyghur is a Turkish dialect; I speak and read Turkish. I stopped and came back to Oakland permanently after a bad accident in December 2017.

I became interested in BFUU because Cynthia Johnson and Hal Carlstadt were two good friends of mine. We were in a group together and always having events at BFUU. Since my final return in 2018 I have become more active in BFUU and the Social Justice Committee and the Music Committee, and I play the ukulele.

My immediate family lives in Santa Rosa, which is where my ex-wife, my daughter, her husband, and my two teen age grandchildren live.

Phoebe Sorgen (she/her) (for 1-year Alternate)

Phoebe Sorgen became a BFUU friend 27 years ago when she enrolled her boys in the RE program. Though unavailable on Sunday mornings due to work, she became active via the Social Justice Committee, which she eventually chaired. After becoming a BFUU member, she was elected to the Board during the time that BFUU transitioned from lay led and hired Rev. Kurt Kuhwald in hopes of increasing membership. She served on the then newly reconstituted Personnel Committee, and has also been on the Aesthetics and Nominating Committees.

For effective peace, democracy, and human rights advocacy, Phoebe was a 2005 Outstanding Woman of Berkeley and 2015 Tom Paine Courageous Spirit awardee. As a Peace & Justice Commissioner, she wrote many Resolutions that were adopted by the City of Berkeley. Some were adopted by other cities.

Phoebe is a Green Party County Councilor and state delegate to the GP-US National Committee (the decision making body.) She serves on the GP-US Peace, International, and Conflict Resolution Committees, and is active in the Women’s Caucus. Despite those responsibilities, and being on the Steering Committees of Move to Amend and Berkeley Citizens Action, she also serves as a BFUU Board of Trustees Alternate because our beautiful BFUU community means the world to her.

Stephanie Doucette (she/her) (for 1-year Alternate)

Better known as Eva’s mom, Stephanie is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. She grew up in the First Unitarian Church of Denver and was active in the UU Society of San Francisco as a young adult.

Stephanie served BFUU in the early 2000s as a board member and on the Religious Education and Sunday Services Committees. She is delighted that BFUU continues to provide a loving and inspiring spiritual home for her and for twelve-year-old Eva. Stephanie lives in Berkeley where she practices acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine professionally.
Community Voices

Margaret Hurlbert
Melissa R
Jack Sawyer

Worship Service

Worship Service Team April 25
top: Eva, Paikea, Steve; 2nd row: Andy, Margaret, Lawrance; 3rd row: Frances, Melissa, Barbara; 4th row: Doug, Lynn, Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles

Worship Service Team May 9
top: Eva, Paikea Joanna; 2nd row: Barbara, Kathy & Doug, Virginia Hollins-Davidson; 3rd row: Margaret, Frances, Andy; 4th row: Lynn, Elinor & Steve, Melissa

^ Worship Service Team May 16
top: Nathaniel Segal, Paikea, Lynn; 2nd row: Margaret, Kathy & Doug, Virginia; 3rd row: Melissa, Eva, Rev. Marsh; 4th row: James, Andy, Elinor

< Worship Service Team May 2
top: Andy, Paikea, Barbara, Margaret; 2nd row: Ardy, Lawrance, Lynn, Eva; 3rd row: Kathy & Doug, Virginia, Frances, James; 4th row: Melissa, Rev. Marsh Agobert
Transforming Hearts: Culture Shift and Radical Welcome

Two Perspectives on the Value of Sharing the Teachings in Community

The Transforming Hearts Collective “Watch and Chat” BFUU-sponsored series that about a dozen BFUU members participated in over past 6 weeks has been wonderful. I do not agree with EVERYTHING (do UUs EVER?) Rev. Mykal and Alex had to say about causes and biases that limit congregational and individual abilities and practices to function toward Beloved Community and Trans experiences/ persons’ “radical welcoming.” HOWEVER, the process, going through the videos and questions with other members, and using the examples, techniques and practices they demonstrated and recommended was VERY, VERY helpful and enlightening, I think both for the group and my own spiritual journey.

They start with broad theological, historical and social UU and nonviolence principles; work with ideas of gender and other stereotypes, how they’re conscious and unconscious in ourselves, society’s and UU congregations’ behavior and systems; and how they can be brought to awareness and moved toward change. The breadth and depth of the presentations and discussion were amazing for 6 sessions, all conducted with many readings, ritual and personal touches that lend themselves to UU-style meetings. Free to BFUU members!

Rev. Marsh Agobert & I co-led the first series of watch parties & chats for the Transforming Hearts Course “Trans Inclusion in Congregations.” These were held for 6 successive Wednesday mornings & Friday afternoons and were open to the Fellowship. Our Board was responsible for signing BFUU up for this heartfelt and insightful series of talks, readings, and expanding resources towards creating “radical welcoming” among us.

From a personal perspective, this felt like a 360 degree course in respect, navigating conflict, and learning how to open to “others” arriving at our doorstep. Watching, listening, reading, taking notes were all useful, but being able to share with each other – creating fuller relationships – was really the best part of this experience. Indeed, both Rev. Mykal & Rev. Alex, our guides throughout the course, emphasized that relationships were the key to becoming a welcoming congregation and moving towards the goal of Beloved Community.

I especially liked the practice of compassionate communication, where we are invited to interrupt the chain reaction from stimulus to response – starting with inserting a breath after our reaction to create an *intentional* response. It was also eye-opening to hear & see the differences between dominant US culture, UU culture, and Trans culture. BFUU could spend an entire year constructing and becoming aware of our own “iceberg.”

You are each invited to participate in the next series of watch parties & chats! The Fellowship has paid for this course so that all of us may benefit. You may sign in to watch the course lectures & receive additional resources on your own time. We simply ask that you have seen that week’s session to participate in the chat on Fridays. Registration is limited to 10.

Watch Parties: Wednesdays, 9-10:15am, 6/2-7/7
Chats: Fridays, 12:15-1:15pm, 6/4-7/9

Deborah Hamouris
Event Space Coordinator
Community Voices

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!

Special Donations
BFUU has received four donations toward the solar fund in honor Joel Scherzer.
We’ve also recently received general donations in honor of Dolores Helman, and to support the work of Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles. THANK YOU!

When a donation is made in someone’s honor, the honoree (or their survivor) is notified that a donation has been made, but the amount and name of the donor are not disclosed unless specific permission is given by the donor for BFUU to release the information.

GET READY TO VOTE ON THE 8TH PRINCIPLE AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING- June 13!

In the February and March “Communicator” you can read the basic information on the 8th Principle: “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.” Now passed by BFUU SJC and BOT.

You can also see the total story at <8thprincipleuoa.org>. A webinar is available at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/ministry-8th-principle>. The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville (FUUN) voted unanimously in January 2021 to adopt the 8th Principle: <https://www.firstnuash.org/the-8th-principle/>

The Long Beach UU has made this statement in support of the 8th Principle: “After working with UU congregations on these issues for over 15 years, Paula Cole Jones (Co Author of the 8th Principle) realized that a person can believe they are a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level. For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore racial issues, which is exactly what keeps white supremacy and the system of racism in our society alive.

We need to decenter whiteness and other dominant cultures in Unitarian Universalism. The 8th Principle came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles. Many Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color (BIPOC) have been attracted by the values and potential of UUism, but their souls have been repeatedly wounded by its whiteness. Let’s make our actions match our values. Let’s be part of the UU movement of churches that have adopted the 8th principle!”<https://www.uuclb.org/act/the-eighth-principle/8th-principle-task-force-april/>

Here is another site with Paula Jones: <https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/bipoc-and-8th-principle>

There is the UUA “Article 2 Commission” that is currently dealing with the addition of the 8th Principle so that by 2022 the UUA will be able to vote on this addition at the GA that year.
Israel has a little dreidel

Israel has a little dreidel
They spun it out of lies
It spins and spins and spins
The truth it still denies
Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
Where is your accountability
Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
There is no democracy
The destruction of Palestine
Is what I plainly see
Mass killings of mothers and children
It’s as clear
as
it
can
be
Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
True justice for each and all
Only
only that
will set the holy land free...

A washed out day in Erie Pennsylvania;
Rainbow around the sun or possibly the moon
pulsing in its nest of clouds.
So much color
evanescent, transcendent,
grazes the sheer stone school,
tilts above shabby trees.

I walk away from that gleaming moment.
In my life it’s a speck not a spark,
and my feet trudge through muck
up to my heart.

Gene B. Herman
8/5/14

Frances Hillyard
BFUU Online Meetings (mostly alphabetical)

Weekly Meetings

**BFUU Choir Practice** on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - please note day and time change!
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 12:15 PM
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 6/2, and discussing it on Fri 6/4, then move through the next videos in order. We need 6 participants to sign up in order to start the discussions, and will limit the sessions to 10 participants.

Register for Watch Parties or send Rev. Marsh text to 707-557-5707 (preferred) or revmarsh@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 6/24 at 7:00 PM
BFUU BOT meetings are open to all!

**Committee on Ministry Meeting** 1st Thursday 6/3 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 6/1 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 revmarsh@bfuu.org.

**Hospitality, Membership, and Caring Committees Meetings** 4th Sundays at 12:30 PM
**NOTE:** no HMC Committees meeting in June. Will resume in July.
Please contact Kathy at caring@bfuu.org

**Men’s Group** 2nd Thursday 6/10 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 6/7 at 2:00 PM
Questions? Please contact Margaret at muscom@bfuu.org

**Personnel Committee Meeting** 3rd Thursdays on odd months at 2:30 PM - No meeting this month
Please contact Kathy at personnel@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** 3rd Sunday 6/20 after service (noonish)
Please contact Phoebe at sjc@bfuu.org

**Social Justice Ministry Meeting** 1st Sunday 6/6 at 12:30 PM

**Worship Service Committee Meeting** 1st Friday 6/4 at 1:30 PM
Please contact Sharon at worshipservices@bfuu.org

***some committees meet as needed - please see committee meeting list on page 3***
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am Worship Service*</td>
<td>2:00 pm MusCom Meeting*</td>
<td>Reflection &amp; Connection*</td>
<td>9:00 am Transforming Hearts Watch Party #1*</td>
<td>2:00 pm COM Meeting*</td>
<td>12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #1*</td>
<td>1:30 pm Worship Svcs Committee Mtg*</td>
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<td>Reflection &amp; Connection*</td>
<td>7:00 pm Choir Practice*</td>
<td>9:00 am Transforming Hearts Watch Party #2*</td>
<td>7 pm BFUU Men’s Group*</td>
<td>12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am Worship Service*</td>
<td>Reflection &amp; Connection*</td>
<td>9:00 am Transforming Hearts Watch Party #3*</td>
<td>(Note: no Personnel Committee mtg in June)</td>
<td>12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #3*</td>
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<td>10:30 am Worship Service*</td>
<td>Reflection &amp; Connection*</td>
<td>9:00 am Transforming Hearts Watch Party #4*</td>
<td>7 pm BFUU Board of Trustees Mtg*</td>
<td>12:15 pm Transforming Hearts Chat #4*</td>
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<td>Noonish - after service SJC Meeting*</td>
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**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.

* denotes Fellowship event  
*1 denotes meeting link  
*2 denotes meeting registration  
* denotes meetings are full - no new registrations are being accepted
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: June 20
Please email newsletter@bfuu.org with submissions.

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