The mission of this church is to create loving community; inspire spiritual growth; and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service.

From the Co-Ministers

I say this every year, but it's no less true: it feels strange at this time to write the new year. 2019. Stranger still to think that means it's less than one year until I will be writing 2020.

I remember this sense of wonder at the dial turning, the new numbers coming up as we approached the millennium, now almost 20 years ago. The idea that 1999 would become 2000 soon was fascinating to me then, though I suppose 18 years later it seems pedestrian.

On the one hand, these markers of time are arbitrary – we could mark a new year's beginning at any point, not just January 1. But whenever we mark it, there's something powerful about that change, about the idea of the seasons coming around again in their cycles, our bodies changing and adjusting, first to the growing and maturing we experience in early life, then to the slow onset of age, first subtle, gradually less so as years and decades go by.

Though I don't often make New Year's resolutions, I do like to take time in this month to think about the year that was in 2018, and what might be to come in 2019. For this congregation, that will no doubt include new things, new people, and new experiences, and the loss of other things.

For myself, I hope that it's a year that will include time to rest and relax even in the midst of the busy and important time spent with family and in my vocation.

For the world, my greatest hope is that more justice, more people, and more empathy will come to life; for all people over all the world, especially those facing oppression, poverty, war, and other evils.

For all of us then, I wish and hope for a wonderful 2019 – may it not pass too quickly into 2020.

In faith,

Rev. Christian

Happy New Year!

Worship Services in January

Sanctuary, 11 am on Sundays

Theme for January: Possibility

Sunday, January 6 – *Starting Anew*, Revs. Christian and Christian Schmidt with Bob Adams, Worship Associate. Join us for our annual "burning of grudges" service.

Sunday, January 13 – *The Possibilities Among Us*, Rev. Kristin with Jeanne Foster, Worship Associate. Church is one of the last places in our society where people don't have to be segregated by age, yet so many of our experiences in this congregation are still divided according to how old we are. This week in worship we will consider how worshipping and learning together as a whole community more often could open us up to the possibilities already right here among us.

Sunday, January 20 –**2020 Vision**, Rev. Christian with Melissa Rosales, Worship Associate. The year 2020 is 345 days from now. I remember well the turning over of the numbers as 1999 became 2000, the sense of anticipation. A year from now, what will we be doing, what is possible, who do we want to be?

Sunday, January 27 – Old Ways to New Worlds: Deep Ecology, Green Shinto and Reclaiming, Kiya Heartwood. For a more environmentally sustainable future, we need a new ethical, spiritual model where science and religion are integrated and humans are a part, not rulers over the Earth. Join us this Sunday as we seek out this "new" way through the work of modern practitioners of ancient faith traditions from around the world. Guest preacher Kiya Heartwood is an award-winning UU songwriter, activist, and Starr King seminarian. She is also the artistic director of the People's Orchestra of Austin, Texas.

Good Neighbor for January (sharing our offerings): The Berkeley Food Pantry (<u>berkeleyfoodpantry.org</u>). Its mission is to ensure that every food insecure child, adult and senior living in Berkeley and Albany has access to adequate healthy and delicious food at times when bills for food, rent, health care, and other items overwhelm them.

Personal Theology

Sundays, 9:30–10:45 am, Fireside Room

Jan. 6: Kit Hewitt, UUCB member, Facilitator for UUCB Write For Your Life writing group, and Personal Theology publicist. "Joy: Galapagos Islands."

Jan. 13: Rev. Dr. Sue Magidson, lifelong UU; UUCB member for over 20 years; UUCB Community Minister. Ordained a UU minister, Sue serves as a hospital chaplain at San Leandro Hospital. She considers herself a professional listener. "Radical Listening as Spiritual Practice: The Transformative Power of Giving Someone Our Undivided Attention."

Jan. 20: Hana Matt, teacher of world religions at GTU and Interfaith Chaplaincy; author, spiritual director, and counselor. "Ways to Cultivate Vibrancy and Flourishing: From the World's Religions and Modern Scientific Studies."

Jan. 27: Hana Matt (see bio above). "Ways to Transform Stress and Cultivate Resilience: From the World's Religions and Modern Scientific Studies."

Humanist Connections

Sundays, 12:30 pm, check kiosk for location

Format: A 10- to 15-minute presentation followed by moderated, timed discussion and a potluck at 2 pm (bring a dish to share or donate \$5). All are welcome!

Jan. 6: Green New Deal, Albert Kueffner

Jan. 13: The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis, Marcia Bates

Jan. 20: How Fascism Works by Jason Stanley, Lee Lawrence

Jan. 27: Richmond, CA Politics, Elaine and Susan Singh

Special Events in January

Saturday, January 5: **Concert and Reception with Martí Ruiz i Carulla**, Atrium, 4–8 pm. Wine, tapas and magical music at sunset. Limited to 35 people with a \$35 minimum donation. Contact annharlow@pacbell.net to reserve a spot.

Sunday, January 6: Quarterly New Member Welcome in the service and **All-Church Potluck Lunch** to celebrate new members and the new year. Please plan to bring a dish or beverage to share and label any potentially problematic ingredients.

Wednesday, January 9: Social Justice Council Potluck and Meeting, Fireside Room, 6 pm. Come meet people and learn how you can get involved!

Sunday, January 20: Discussion on Anti-Semitism, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room. We will explore stereotypes, personal experiences, current events, and wherever our discussion leads us. Everyone welcome! (Contact: dorothyherzberg@gmail.com)

Sunday, January 27: Board of Trustees Candidates Forum, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

From Our Director of Family Ministry

Merrin Clough

Our Whole Lives - Sexuality Education

This spring we are offering an outstanding sexuality education class for K-1st graders at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. This class, called <u>Our Whole Lives (OWL)</u>, begins in February and will continue through early May, meeting on Sundays from 1:00-2:00 pm.

Rooted in Unitarian Universalist values, OWL supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies, and families. Sessions will engage children with stories, songs, and activities that are age appropriate vehicles for sexuality education. In addition to eight class sessions, this program is designed to promote dialog at home with weekly homework activities for parents and children to do together and a helpful parent guidebook.

To learn more about the class, attend the optional **OWL Info Session** on February 10 from 9:00-10:45am. All participating families must attend the **Parent Child Orientation** on February 24 from 12:30-3:15pm. Space is limited. Register your child online. If you don't have an InFellowship account, please sign up.

Questions? Email the OWL team at OWL@uucb.org. (Merrin Clough, Paul Hansen, Alice Lemieux, Michael Armstrong, Megan Hailey-Dunsheath)

Religious Education Curricula for Children

New lesson curricula begin on January 20. The lesson schedule is available online in the UUCB calendar.

Toddler Team —one to four years old

The toddler class has been canceled for the remainder of the church year. Instead of this religious education class young children will participate in our wonderful childcare services.

World of Wonder-Kindergarten - 1st Grade

This class delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle. It instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development.

Moral Tales—2nd-3rd Grade

Moral Tales engages children in identifying and articulating their own sense of right and wrong. As they interact with a variety of stories from folk and faith traditions and share stories from their own lives, children are encouraged to articulate and apply their own spiritual compass to find moral direction. Children have opportunities to earn "gems of goodness" for behavior that reflects positive moral choices, and explore why it is not always easy to follow one's inner voice and choose behaviors that are good and just.

Sing to the Power—4th-5th Grade

Sing to the Power affirms our Unitarian Universalist heritage of confronting "powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." Power does not belong only to adults. This class gives young people opportunities to experience and explore ways they can use their power as agents for positive change.

Thoughts from Community Ministry

Rev. Sue Magidson

I'm writing this column a few days before Christmas and strains of "Do you hear what I hear?" are dancing in my head. I'm particularly fond of this Christmas song because it was written by Noel Regney, a member of the UU congregation where I grew up.

"Do you hear what I hear?"

My off-the-cuff response is, "Probably not." For one thing, we each hear differently, filtering words and sounds through our own experiences and expectations. Also, in my role as hospital chaplain, I'm privileged to hear stories that have rarely been told. As you might expect, people talk to me about illness and injury, grief and loss, death and dying. They tell me about grace and gratitude, faith and family, hopes and fears, joy and courage. I hear about being Black – or an immigrant – or Latinx – in the United States. I hear what it's like to live on the streets or in a car, and the challenges of living in neighborhoods filled with violence, drugs, and poverty. As I listen, my heart opens wider and wider. I learn and grow.

I'm grateful and humbled by the trust offered me by strangers at such vulnerable times. Why do people talk to me so candidly? Partially, it's my role as chaplain. Partially, it's the openness that comes with crisis. And partially, it's the way I've learned to listen – compassionately, nonjudgmentally, lovingly, attentively, spaciously – creating a safe container in which folks can share what's on their hearts.

This type of listening is counter-cultural – it's not how most of us are taught to listen. If you'd like to learn more, please join me at Personal Theology on January 13. I'll be speaking on "Radical Listening as Spiritual Practice: The Transformative Power of Giving Someone Our Undivided Attention."

News from the Holiday Fair Silent Auction

Ann Harlow

Thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Fair Silent Auction. It's raised more than \$5,000, in addition to more than \$2,000 raised through sales of holiday merchandise and refreshments. About half of the events sold out, but there are others you could still sign up for by emailing me (annharlow@pacbell.net) or adding your name to the list next Sunday at church. Two of them **need more signups** or they will be canceled. In chronological order they are, with minimum bid:

New Year's Eve Party for Early Birds - \$25

Monday, December 31, 7-10 pm

Celebrate with UUCB folks and fondue (both cheese and chocolate), bubbly drinks, crudités, conversation and some optional activities. We'll ring in the New Year when it's midnight in New York, then head home to bed at a sensible hour.

Sunset Concert and Reception with Martí Ruiz I Carolla - \$35

Saturday, January 5, 4-8 pm

Enjoy wine, tapas, the sunset over the Bay, and a magical music demonstration by a visiting Spanish musician, Martí Ruiz i Carulla, specializing in a wonderful avant-garde instrument, the cristal, similar to a glass harmonica.

iPhotography Class - \$25

Saturday, January 19, 9 am-noon

Carol Carlisle is an award-winning photographer and smart phone photography teacher. Join her for a fun and informative morning of photography including lessons and demonstration followed by a mini photo safari. Coffee and snacks included. Past students are welcome to return for more tips.

(Minimum 5 participants, 2 so far)

Dinner Theater - \$50

Saturday, March 23, 6 pm

In a modern-day farm house and studio tucked high in the hills, you will enjoy a festive evening of libations, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert ... then be treated to stories by three master storytellers: Kirk Waller, Brother Ben Tucker and MaryGay Ducey.

Tasting Tour of the Single Malt Scotch Areas of Scotland - \$40

Friday, March 29, 7-10 pm

There are six regions of Scotland where single-malt Scotch whiskies are distilled. Each region produces a Scotch that is distinct in flavor, aroma, and finish. The lucky winners of this auction item will learn about Scotch and the regions of Scotland from whence Scotch comes and, most importantly, will sample single-malt scotches from each of the six regions. If you do not enjoy sipping Scotch whisky, this auction item is not for you. Your contribution to UUCB will get you six single-malt Scotch samples, snacks between samples, and dessert and coffee at the end of the evening. The host of this event offers rides home to any participants who sip a little too much.

Get to Know Your Board (and Enjoy Wine and Cheese) - \$40

Saturday, April 6, 1-5 pm

Here's your chance to hang out with UUCB Board of Trustees members and other UUCBers, while enjoying a bay view from Cynthia and Maryann's home and deck. Open house/drop in, 1 to 5 pm, with premium wines, gourmet cheeses, and hors d'oeuvres.

(Minimum 10 guests, 6 so far)

Coordinating Team Notes

Deborah Schmidt, Coordinating Team Convener

UUCB hosted eleven (11!!) events in December! These were representative of the range of events that come to us. There were parties, including a big bat mitzvah party and a gala; memorials, ranging from quiet family gatherings to Winnie Sayre's lovely December 22nd event; and many musical occasions, from student recitals to well-attended community concerts, including our own Messiah.

We envision this busy-ness is the wave of the future. In these very challenging financial times, rentals already provide a big percentage of our revenue and have the potential to increase significantly. As we share our beautiful and unique facility with many individuals, families and organizations from our community, we want to be able to offer a first-class experience, complete with up-to-date and reliable audio-visual technology. Being on-site for these events has given me the opportunity to understand from the inside-out what our church needs in order to provide this.

In addition to working on outreach for rentals, Hilary Lorraine has made a connection for us with Jesse Mills of Elephant Ear Audio, who developed and oversees the AV systems at Spirit Rock. Hilary worked with Michael DeWitt to identify needs, and then she set up meetings with Jesse to plan for our improvements. We will probably begin in the new year with upgrades to the Sanctuary, and then work through one space at a time in priority order, balancing economy with maximum impact and longevity. These changes will enhance the experience for all of us in the congregation as well!

The Coordinating Team meets on first and third Thursdays from 10 am to 12 noon. If you're interested in attending, please contact the CT Convener to verify meeting time and place. Questions for the CT? Email CT@uucb.org.

Social Justice Council: Report on 2018 Activities

ACTION ITEMS

Africa Library Project: Nearly 700 books sent to Sierra Leone.

Human Flow: Documentary film by Ai Weiwei. This community event raised \$503 for the International Rescue Committee.

Immigrant Detainee Bond Raising Campaign: UUCB's total \$6210.

Solano Stroll: Annual Participation.

Healing Justice: Causes and consequences of the justice system and its effect on marginalized communities. Discussion facilitated by Ericka Huggins.

West County Detention Facility Vigil: Hosted in June.

Coalition Building with West Contra Costa County faith communities

Church as Sanctuary: Potluck lunch, panel presentation and congregational vote on becoming a Sanctuary. Accompaniment Teams helping individual immigrant families.

RISE for Climate, Jobs & Justice March in SF – SJC contingent.

Pastors for Peace Cuban Caravan Send-Off in June at UUCB.

Report Back from the Border with Kathryn Jay.

Richmond Ceasefire Walks to reduce gun violence (now defunct).

Vigils at West County Detention Facility to call attention to detained migrants – every first Saturday monthly. Success brought an end to this.

Making/serving lunch at GRIP – last Tuesday each month.

Women's March in Oakland - SJC contingent.

Conference by UC Berkeley Haas Institute on the **50th Anniversary of the Kerner Report**. SJC sent a delegation.

Stamp Money Out of Politics – Ben & Jerry's Campaign.

Celebration & Farewell for Craig Scott and Karen Paull.

Human Trafficking Conference at UC Berkeley.

Protests with El Cerrito Progressives against Parent-Child Separation at border.

Rapid Response Vigils in Richmond, supporting families of victims of gun violence.

Wrote 750 postcards for ACLU to get out the vote!

Fundraising for Butte County Camp Fire victims: More than \$1600 sent to Caring Choices.

Food Drive for Richmond Emergency Food Pantry: truck load delivered.

SPONSORED PROJECTS

Confronting Oppression: Creation of People of Color Caucus and Whites Opposed to White Supremacy Caucus **Opposing Human Trafficking:** Selected ROYLS Inc. as a Good Neighbor recipient for 2019.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

SJC Info Table each Sunday and at public events.

LITERATURE, FILM and DRAMA CONTINGENT:

- Discussed Pudd'nhead Wilson: Those Extraordinary Twins, by Mark Twain.
- Guest speaker: Betty Reid Soskin, author of Sign My Name to Freedom.
- Fishbowl Conversation on Disability.
- Discussed Dear White America: Letter to A New Minority and White Like Me: Reflections on Race from A Privileged Son, by Tim Wise.
- Guest speaker, Shahrnush Parsipur, author of a memoir: *Kissing the Sword* and many other books.

- Discussed Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want the UUA's Common Read for 2017-18.
- Discussed The Obama Inheritance: Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir.
- Guest speaker, USF Professor James Lance Taylor.
- Discussed *The Color of Water*, by James McBride.
- Discussed Citizen: An American Lyric, by Claudia Rankine.

GOOD NEIGHBOR RECIPIENTS FOR 2018

- 1) Berkeley Food Pantry distributing 200,000 meals a year.
- 2) YEAH! (Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing) Shelter/services for youth 18–25.
- 3) **Planting Justice** inspiring disenfranchised residents with skills and resources for food production and economic opportunities.
- 4) **YES Nature to Neighborhoods** Outreach to Richmond youth, adults and families to lead healthy, safe, caring communities.
- 5) **Youth Spirit Artworks** Uses art and art-based jobs to empower the lives of homeless and low-income youth.
- 6) East Bay Center for the Blind Serves the sight-impaired.
- 7) **HipHop4Change** Uses hip hop culture to educate for social justice.
- 8) **Developing Indigenous Resources** Community Development in India.
- 9) **Read-Aloud Volunteer Program** in West Contra Costa Unified School District elementary schools, volunteers read to K–2 graders.
- 10) **GRIP** (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program) Family homeless shelter that also provides lunches daily to whoever arrives; showers; mail pick-up.
- 11) 1951 Coffee Trains and employs 80 refugees a year in the coffee business.
- 12) **East Bay Sanctuary Covenant** Sanctuary, advocacy and legal advice to those escaping war, political persecution and other violence.

From the Stewardship Team

Challenging Times: Sanctuary – Sustenance – Service

You tell us. What draws you to UUCB? We hear that UUCB serves each of us in three major ways: Sanctuary, Sustenance and Service.

- Sanctuary from a world seemingly so out of sync with our UU principles, especially respect for the
 inherent worth and dignity of every person. A place where we find solace, comfort and the energy for
 renewal of our humanity, our joy in the world.
- Sustenance for the times we are in stress, in need of spiritual support, a kind word, a helping hand.
- Service when we respond to our sixth UU principle to use our energy and talents to make UUCB and other communities places of peace, liberty, and justice.

So tell us what draws you to UUCB. Share your thoughts with Stewardship Co-Chairs, Patrick Cullinane, 510-420-0415, pbc117@sbcglobal.net, and/or Lynne Cahoon, 510-526-5638. With your permission, we will post your thoughts in the Atrium so we can learn the values we share and cherish that need our steadfast support.

Mark your calendars for key dates in our campaign to secure financial support for what we value about UUCB.

- Kick Off Sunday, March 3, 2019
- Campaign Time, March 3 to 24, 2019
- Celebration Sunday, March 24, 2019

Your Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance for sharing your thoughts and for your support of our Beacon on the Hill. Lynne Cahoon, Co-Chair, Patrick Cullinane, Co-Chair, Mac Lingo, Jo Maxon, Bob Moore, Ira Nelken, Rev. Christian Schmidt, and Helen Toy.

Partner Church Committee News

Stephanie Ann Blythe

Boldog új évet. That's Happy New Year in Hungarian. Anybody know how to say, "It's time to roll up our sleeves and get busy!" in Hungarian? Yes, that's what we need to do. A lot of restarts need to happen with the Partner Church Committee. We'll get our Sunday table in the Atrium or Social Hall going again (with a makeover to get your attention). Frankly, the committee hasn't had a regular monthly meeting for a while. We'll need some feedback to help select a meeting time that can accommodate those interested in learning more about our partnership. That can lead to some fundraising activities that will bring more interest. Got an old family goulash recipe? How about poppyseed cake? We can sell them at a Sunday lunch. Last year's dessert social with the Balázs Scholar could be repeated. Lots of things are possible. The next goal would be to get enough congregants who would attend a Saturday gathering led by the UUA's Partner Church Council as a "program reset." That would be followed by a Sunday service about our Transylvanian partnership. From all of this we have several pathways: fully funding our Village Education Fund so that the students in Homoródújfalu get more than just a token amount from UUCB to support their high school and university educations; visiting the village with our ministers and/or the choir; or bringing the village's minister, Rev. Gyero Attila, and/or congregants to visit us. It's not impossible, because we've done all this before!

Now that we've got your attention, let us know what you think! Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Project Oversight Committee Report

Larry Nagel, Tom Tripp, Ira Nelken, Jane Lundin, Randolph Hudson, Susan Lankford, Lenore Ralston

The schedule for the Safir Room has slipped by about two weeks because of an unanticipated back order on wood trim. The exterior stucco is complete, the painting is 90% complete, the roofing patch has been completed, the skylights are ready for installation, the pre-stain, stain and wood finishing is in process, and the lights are ready to be picked up and installed. As of this date, the Safir Room should be back in service by mid-January.

The Exterior Painting project is still in final negotiations with the low bidder, and work is expected to start in the spring. This work will include the painting and sealing of exterior wood and concrete, caulking the windows, and repairing the rafter tails. This work can begin in the spring of 2019.

The Atrium Skylight work is awaiting a decision on the status of the Endowment Projects and can begin in the summer of 2019.

The Oversight Committee forecasts that the work voted by the congregation will be completed within the authorized budget of \$758,000.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

- We covenant to build a religious community guided by love and sustained by respectful relationships.
- Believing that building healthy relationships is a spiritual practice, we aim to listen appreciatively, speak with care, express gratitude, honor our differences, and assume good intentions.
- We endeavor to communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- When we hurt one another, we will try to forgive, make amends, and reconnect in a spirit of love.
- In celebration of the common purpose that unites us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant.

MEMBERSHIP in this Unitarian Universalist congregation is open to all who see this church as their religious home and the principles for which the church stands as their own. People who wish to join participate in a "pathways to membership" session, sign the membership book, and commit to supporting this church through participation and financially. To become a member, please contact our Membership Co-Chairs, Lonnie Moseley or Paul Hudson (membership@uucb.org), or speak with one of the co-ministers.

NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS: Submit announcements and articles by email to beacon@uucb.org. Due to limited space, we do not publish announcements for events occurring outside the church community. **The deadline for submissions** is the 15th of the month. **Questions?** Please email beacon@uucb.org.

WEB SITE: http://uucb.org

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter or "The Week Ahead at UUCB," email administrator@uucb.org. You can also find both newsletters at the uucb.org website under "News."

UUCB general discussion list:

http://groups.google.com/group/uucb_discuss/about

Email list for families: Email family.ministry@uucb.org

Welcome, Visitors!

Every Sunday morning in the Atrium, visitors are invited to talk with our Welcome Table volunteers before and after worship services. There is a separate welcome table for families with children. Coffee, tea and snacks are available in the Social Hall, and if you use a purple cup we will know to greet you as a newcomer.

Childcare is available on Sundays from 9:15 am to 1 pm in the childcare building and play yards.

Contact Information

Office Hours: M-F, 9 am-5 pm

Phone: (510) 525-0302

Fax: (510) 525–9631

Email: info@uucb.org

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AC Transit Bus #7, which stops at the Berkeley and El Cerrito Del Norte BART stations. Call (510) 817–1717 or visit www.actransit.org for schedule.

