



# Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Vol. 78 #5 May 2019

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

Dear UUCB members and friends,

This has been quite a year of learning, transition, and adapting here at church! Thanks to the Working Groups the Board has learned about our staffing needs, identified a well-respected consultant to help us with a future capital campaign, and explored whether relocation could be a path toward financial sustainability. In terms of transition, we saw the creation of the Committee on Financial Oversight, said goodbye to our beloved Director of Family Ministry a few months ago, and began the search for a new Director of Family Ministry and a new Executive Director to handle church operations. We've also begun the work of adapting the way we do church to the realities of the 21st century, including budget cuts and the awesome work the *Revise, Refresh, Renew* task force is doing to better meet the spiritual needs of our families into the future.

All of this has, of course, been guided by our church mission, vision, and ends. But over the course of the year, through all of this learning, transition, and adapting, a strong focus on growing the church has begun to emerge from many corners of the congregation. We know that it will take the work of all of us to welcome and grow with newcomers to our congregation. In his role as Congregational Services Director for the UUA's Mid America Region, Ian Evison has consulted with many congregations that have recently grown in numbers. In a recent blog post, he listed some key practices that growing congregations are doing. As you read the practices below, I hope you notice how many of them we are already focusing on here at UUCB and those that offer us new opportunities for growth:

- **Multigenerational congregations** – growing congregations grow relationships and structure programs to serve people of all ages together
- **Incremental planning** – rather than long strategic plans done by a few people, growing congregations make planning something all groups in the congregation participate in regularly
- **Proactive about conflict** – conflict is normal in any human community, but growing congregations engage it directly and everyone is empowered to call others back into covenant
- **Integral social justice work** – rather than something only the Social Justice Council or ministers do, social justice is understood to be everyone's work in growing congregations
- **Bite-sized involvement** – growing congregations give people opportunities to participate or help out that don't require the long-term commitment of a committee
- **Embracing diversity** – as church leadership expert Carey Nieuwohof writes, "an outwardly focused church creates the healthiest insiders." Growing congregations embrace an ever-widening range of the diversity in their surrounding communities.

Our worship theme for the month of May is "curiosity," so we hope you will join us in asking yourself and others some curious questions: What is the greatest blessing UUCB has to offer newcomers to our congregation? How am I being called to expand my welcome of others? How can I help UUCB grow so that the blessings that flow in, with, and among us can change even more lives?

In faith,

Kristin and Christian

## Worship Services in May

Sanctuary, 11am on Sundays

Theme for May: **Curiosity**

**Sunday, May 5 – Decades of Curiosity**, Rev. Christian Schmidt preaching; Bob Adams, Worship Associate. Each year this congregation bestows a special honor upon members who have turned 80. This week in worship we will welcome our newest “Doctors of Durability” and hear wisdom from longtime UUCB members Kendra Smith and Helen Toy.

**Sunday, May 12 – Flower Communion Sunday**, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt preaching; Cynthia Asprodites, Worship Associate. Please bring a flower of your choice to church and place it in one of the large vases at the front of the sanctuary before worship begins. Don’t worry - if you forget to bring a flower, we will have plenty of extra so that everyone can participate in this much-beloved Unitarian tradition. We will also be celebrating our K-1 OWL class graduates! This is a service for all ages.

**Sunday, May 19 – Safer**, Rev. Christian Schmidt preaching; Sarah Ward, Worship Associate. In our world today, what does it mean to be “safe”? Our congregation's safety policy aims to help keep us safe here.

**Sunday, May 26 – Rooted, Resilient, Rising**, Guest preacher Ranwa Hammamy; Melissa Rosales, Worship Associate. There is no shortage of injustice in our world, and these days it can feel as though it is growing exponentially. How do we sustain our spirits, our communities, and our faith as we work to transform our world? *Rev. Ranwa Hammamy (they/she) is the Executive Director of the UU Justice Ministry of California, which connects, informs, and engages UUs around California in the work of justice and equity. They also serve as the President of the DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) Steering Committee, a national organization that supports UU People of Color. When not working, Ranwa finds joy in singing, baking, and spending time with her spouse and their five fur babies.*

## Good Neighbor for May (sharing our offerings): **YES Nature to Neighborhoods**

([yesfamilies.org](http://yesfamilies.org)) works specifically with the low-income Iron Triangle and North Richmond communities to provide summer camps, community training programs, garden development, cooking classes, health programs and other vital experiences to ignite the imagination, build self-confidence and enhance leadership skills. Your offering today will support YES Nature to Neighborhoods in their work to support families in leading healthy, connected lives, motivating change in their neighborhoods, and inspiring a safe, thriving community.

## Personal Theology

Sundays, 9:30–10:45 am, Fireside Room

**May 5: Rev. Lehel Molnár**, the 2018-2019 Balazs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. After his graduating from the Unitarian Faculty of the Protestant Theological Institute in Kolozsvár, he was then appointed as the archivist. He is presently a PHD student at the University of Szeged (Hungary) where his dissertation is on the Cultural and Church History of Transylvania between 1690-1725. ***The Hungarian Unitarian Church Celebrates 450 Years; Preserving its Archival Heritage.***

**May 12: Dr. Bernard Schlager** is Associate Professor of Historical & Cultural Studies and Executive Director, Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS), at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. His research interests include queer studies, the history of Christianity, LGBT pastoral care, and medieval social and religious history. He has published articles on ancient church history, medieval hagiography, the history of sexuality, and the history of

education, and has recently co-authored with David Kundtz the second edition of their book: *Ministry Among God's Queer Folk: LGBT Pastoral Care* (2018). Dr. Schlager will explore the connections between Christianity and the LGBTQ liberation movement in US History. ***Queer and Christian.***

**May 19: Dr. Victoria Lee** is a UUCB member, holds a doctoral degree, two master's degrees and a B.A. degree from Georgetown University, Western Graduate School, and George Washington University. Victoria is a licensed clinical psychologist, a couples' counselor and a certified sex therapist. She is a past-President of Santa Clara Valley Marriage and Family Therapists, and is a past Director of the Masters in Counseling Program at College of Notre Dame. ***Sacred Relationships and Sacred Sexuality.***

**May 26: Planning and Evaluation.** Please join us to help evaluate past speakers as well as offer suggestions for future topics and/or speakers. Your input and ideas are important to keeping the Personal Theology program current and meaningful.

## 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!*

**May 5: How We Overcame Our Dysfunctional Families** – Lee Lawrence

**May 12: Reconstruction of Organic Social Life** – Earl Williamson

**May 19: The Mueller Report** – Lee Lawrence

**May 26: How to Be a Hippie** – Ray Nelson

## Special Events in May and Early June

**Sun. May 5 – Doctors of Durability Service and Luncheon.** UUCB has been honoring our elders since 1952 and affirming their contributions to our church and to humanity. Those with milestone birthdays are awarded special distinction as “Doctor of Durability.” Our worship service will include reflections by some of our elders and the service will be themed on the contributions of older adults. We hope you will join us in worship. *Contact: Barbara Cullinane (510) 420-0415, [pb117@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pb117@sbcglobal.net).*

**Sat. May 11, 9:30 am–noon – Calendaring Summit.** If you're planning a UUCB event for any time in 2019-20, please try to come that morning and get it on the calendar, which could take some negotiating with others. Refreshments and useful information for people planning events provided.

**Sat. May 11, 2 pm – Roger Thompson Memorial Service.** Roger and Marion Thompson were longtime UUCB members and generously shared their time and talents. Roger died suddenly December 29 after a brain aneurysm, just days after attending our Christmas Eve service. The family invites you to join in celebrating Roger's life.

**Sun. May 19, after worship service: Annual Celebration, Planning and Budget Congregational Meeting**

**Saturday, June 1, 10 am to 1 pm, Social Hall. Anti-Child Trafficking Seminar** (see Social Justice, p. 6).

## Family Ministry

Suzette Duggan, Family Ministry Co-chair

Sundays at UUCB are bountiful with the energy of the congregation. And this past Sunday was picture perfect. Visually, it was a celebration of color as congregants and visitors came decked in hues associated with Easter, stylish hats and outfits, and an array of baskets. But what made it a “hoppin” occasion was the abundant fellowship that made this time-honored tradition of service in the sanctuary, brunch, egg hunt, and games a day to cherish. And yet the story of Easter and this time of year is bittersweet because many of us are closing chapters (graduation, moving, and end-of-year festivities) as we are saying hello to new beginnings (starting college, new jobs, and new schools).

In Family Ministry we are embracing transitions with a mixture of excitement, stoicism, and joy. The R3 Committee will be wrapping up its exploration of reimagining UUCB’s approach to religious education. We wait with anticipation for recommendations. The search for a Director of Family Ministry is off to a strong start. Our K-1 OWL class will have its culminating session in May and a few of our young adults will be graduating from high school. Amongst these changes is a reconfiguration of space for the Family Ministry office. And then there is Zackrie Vinczen, Acting Director of Family Ministry, who will be embarking on the next stage of his career. He has worn many hats, given selflessly to this church, and has used his talents to steward our program during this liminal phase.

May is abloom with possibilities that wouldn’t exist without change. We will treasure the gifts that have been given deeply in our hearts, celebrate milestones and growing pains without apology, and hold tender the fellowship of one another – those who remain and those who will disembark. Change is bittersweet and embracing it takes courage, wonder, and a leap into the unknown. Together, we will move forward in knowledge and faith that come what may, what has already flowered is making way for this year’s blooms.

## From the Board of Trustees

Logan Stump-Vernon

### Our Church

This is not just my church. This is not just Family Ministry’s Church. This is not just Luminescence’s church. This is not just the board’s church. This is not just any single one of us’s church.

This is our Church.

When things get hard it’s a natural human response to retreat to the safety of what we know and start pointing fingers at what we don’t know. It is brave and necessary to resist that response. It is essential to the future of our church to resist that impulse. Only together, as a whole community and as a whole people can we face the challenges that we are staring directly in the face. We need to reach out with open hands, not pointed fingers, all of us together.

When you think of our Church, our community, think of what we all need to survive and thrive in these hard times. Think of what the church gives you, and what you can give the church. The beloved community we are searching for requires all of us to share, collectively. We cannot be people who only show up to receive.

I truly do believe in the future of UUCB. I believe that we are in a unique moment, a moment of incredible difficulty but also a moment of incredible possibility. Only by remembering the lessons of the past but looking towards the future can we become who we want to be. It will require hard work, sacrifice, and the ability to move beyond our own egos. But I believe we can do it.

I will be doing board listening this month before and after service. If you believe in our future, come talk to me about what that looks like to you. Let's have a conversation about what we can do to reach that future.

## Coordinating Team Notes

### Deborah Schmidt, Coordinating Team Convener

The Coordinating Team has been fine-tuning the 2019-2020 budget. It will be up for board approval May 1, at which point it will be published and open to your feedback. In preparation for the May 19th congregational vote, we offer a second info session 12:30-1:30 pm Sunday, May 5, in the Music Room.

The proposed budget includes three new staff positions: Executive Director; Acting Director of Family Ministry; and Membership Coordinator. The hiring process for the first two positions has begun. Those job descriptions have been posted and shared with the congregation, and congregants are encouraged to refer qualified individuals. The third job description is still being refined.

Next year's budget relies upon additional rental income, some of which will impact our campus use. As of June 1, the Good Earth preschool is moving its office to the Conference Room, and Pine Crest School will expand weekdays into the two RE classrooms currently used by Family Ministry. Family Ministry will retain full use of those rooms on Sundays, as well as all storage in the east cabinet wall. The Family Ministry office will relocate to the old intern's office. The CT wishes to express heartfelt thanks to Family Ministry for generously and creatively accommodating these changes.

Unfortunately, plans to rent the cottage to the Good Earth came up against prohibitively expensive permitting requirements, so we are going to be renting it residentially, hopefully by June 1. Many thanks to Dave Roberts and Jane Lundin for spearheading this important project.

*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](mailto:CT@uucb.org).*

## Stewardship for Sanctuary, Sustenance and Service

### Thank You – Challenges Await

Thank you very much to all who have submitted their gratitude commitments, i.e., pledge forms, for UUCB's next fiscal year. And for those who increased their pledge, a special thank you for your additional generosity. Your financial commitments to UUCB enable the Board of Trustees and the Coordinating Team to develop a realistic budget, knowing your support for the year to come. That support is a critical foundation for UUCB's sanctuary, sustenance and service.

At this time, we have pledge commitments of \$457,617, ranging from a pledge of \$20,000 to \$120. The median pledge is \$1,500 or \$125/month, \$29/week. The current pledges include \$31,495 in new and increased pledges and the matching donations from our Visionary Givers. We are grateful for these contributions.

However, our total commitment for the next fiscal year is currently \$24,584 less than what was pledged last year at this time. We were challenged this year by the sad loss of major contributors and resignations of membership, representing \$21,000 and \$6,000, respectively. We also have \$40,949 in outstanding pledges from individuals who pledged last year but have yet to pledge this year. These deficits are especially challenging with inflationary costs and emergent expenses like replacing aging furnaces.

Unless the outstanding pledge units submit pledges matching last year's contributions, the Board of Trustees and the Coordinating Team will have less revenue to cover anticipated expenses and need to make difficult decisions about program reductions. Every dollar is important to preserve and promote the value of UUCB for each of us, our loved ones and the larger community. Remember, a financial contribution is a qualification to be a voting member in UUCB decisions.

If you have already pledged but are inspired to help close the gap between 2018-19 pledges and those received to date for 2019-20, we would love to hear from you.

We value our church and our important work to provide sanctuary, sustenance, and service. We support our church. We hope all will choose to join us.

*Your Stewardship Committee: Lynne Cahoon, Co-Chair, Patrick Cullinane, Co-Chair, Mac Lingo, Jo Maxon, Bob Moore, Ira Nelken, Rev. Christian Schmidt, and Helen Toy.*

## Social Justice

The Social Justice Council of UUCB is sponsoring a free seminar on **Anti-Child Trafficking**. The event will take place in the Social Hall on **June 1** from 10 am to 1 pm. Did you know that California has one of the highest rates of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) in the United States? And that the Bay Area ranks in the top five for metropolitan areas for CSEY in the nation? This seminar, free and open to the public, is intended to educate attendees on the scope and definition of this hidden crime as well as what we can do about it. Speakers are Lucia Ray-Gullien, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager for Community Violence Solutions, and Gordon Jackson, National Director for PROTECT Prevention Education. Childcare will be provided by reservation. For more info, please email [uucbantitrafficking@gmail.com](mailto:uucbantitrafficking@gmail.com) or contact Anne Wardell at 510-932-9034 and leave a message. You are encouraged to sign up to attend on Eventbrite and to tell people you know who work with potentially vulnerable children about this program.

June 2019 is the month of **Youth Spirit Artworks**: UUCB will be constructing tiny houses alongside youth and others to provide housing for homeless youth. YSA is the recipient of our Good Neighbor program in June. On **June 2nd**, Summer Forum welcomes Sally Hindman to explain what's happening at YSA. A tiny house will literally reside in the UUCB parking lot for folks to tour, and the service will include participation from YSA. Jane Eisenstark ([maw.jane@gmail](mailto:maw.jane@gmail)) and Jim Acock ([jim.acock@gmail.com](mailto:jim.acock@gmail.com)) are the go-to folks regarding UUCB participation in this project.

Sheila Tarbet is the lead on **Addressing Global Warming & Environmental Injustice**. It is time for UUCB to proactively learn what can be done to “use their unique gifts to address global warming, environmental devastation and environment injustice.” Two workshops will be produced in order to inform people: “Awakening the Dreamer Symposium” and “Reversing Global Warming: Intro to Drawdown.” Stay tuned for the dates!

**Confronting Oppression** continues on as a vital portion of the SJC. There have been multiple events since the inception of this project, including the Literature, Film and Drama Contingent (LFDC); Taking Stock, which evolved into the People of Color Caucus (POCC) which produced the Multicultural Fair in March, and WOWS (Whites Opposing White Supremacy). This work forges on and we welcome all those wanting to interconnect. Helen Tinsley-Jones and Julie Rogers facilitate these two groups which meet regularly.

### LFDC Meeting Recap

A recent news report noted that the majority of CEO's in this country (white men) earn \$19M a year, while the average working white man earns \$59,000. (And a lot more folks earn a whole lot less.) Among other issues raised in her book, *Learning to Be White: Money, Race and God in America*, UU minister Rev. Thandeka documents why so many “have-nots” vote against their interests to keep the “haves” in the \$\$\$\$\$. The LFDC took this question on, along with other concepts, such as “shame” and “guilt,” and what we were taught about “race.” On May 12th, we'll discuss *There There*, by Tommy Orange, voted one of the NYT's ten best books of 2018. Gertrude Stein once said of Oakland: “There is no there there.” While she didn't mean it the way it has been taken, as an urban Native American, Orange's work of fiction presents the city in a very different light.

“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Community Ministry

Sue Magidson

What gives you the courage to step into the unknown? What helps you ground yourself in hard times?

Some of you have asked how I do the hard work of hospital chaplaincy, work that requires large doses of courage and groundedness as I companion people through pain, suffering, and grief.

One answer: I prepare. As I drive to work, I slow and deepen my breathing, express gratitude, and speak my intentions for the day. And then, as I walk through the tree-lined parking lot, I imagine myself as a tree.

Roots spring from my toes, the balls of my feet, my heels. Fat sturdy roots and fine delicate roots travel through the pavement, deep into the sweet, dark earth, anchoring me, grounding me, nourishing me. My roots run deep and wide, intertwining with roots of other trees in an interdependent web of connection. My roots are elastic: I walk, knowing I am attached to the earth.

My arms are branches, reaching for the light, opening to receive whatever comes. I dance in the breezes. I bow and bend in the storms, letting the wind blow away what I no longer need, always returning to center. My seeds fall, some taking root. As sun and rain and wind pass through, I embrace what serves and release the rest, making space for new growth.

The trees guide me through my days. Their flexibility and solidity serve as inspiration. I'm grateful for their teaching and their presence.

Can you imagine yourself as a tree?

## Buildings and Grounds Committee

Larry Nagel

We had another very successful work party on Saturday, April 13. Lynne Cahoon and I were hoping for a dozen volunteers and decent weather and we were thrilled to have 20 volunteers of all ages and an absolutely gorgeous day! We were able to work outdoors pulling weeds and weed whacking, as well as indoors sweeping, aligning the pews in the Sanctuary, cleaning and arranging the kitchen, and cleaning the Standing on the Side of Love banner over the front doors. A special thanks to Lynne Cahoon, who oversaw the event and who fixed breakfast for the early birds.

Our final permit appeals hearing for our permit to remove dead and dying Monterey Pines from our 1 Lawson Road campus was held on March 27 and it is with great pleasure that I announce that we can now remove 41 of the 62 trees that we applied to remove. We will be issuing a request for quotation (RFQ) soon and expect to begin removing the trees in mid-May.

We have some good news and some bad news on the heating situation. Pacific Heating was able to repair the small furnace that heats the Music Room and Meditation Room, as well as the furnace that heats the Social Hall. We now have two opinions that the main furnace that heats the Sanctuary has cracks in the heat exchanger and should not be used. We will be meeting with Max Saidnia from FARD Engineering to review the options for replacing this furnace. Our goal is to have the heat back on by the end of July.

*If any of these projects fits your interests and your skills, we would love to have you on our team. Please contact Larry Nagel at (510) 558-0842 or lwn@att.net. Or, just drop in at the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting which is the first Thursday of every month at 4 PM in the Safir Room.*

## Freestone Committee

Don Klose

### The Freestone Retreat's Existential Question

What is Freestone? A geodesic dome, perched on a serene Sonoma County hilltop, that has hosted church committee meetings, workshops, weddings, memorials, and all kinds of individual and collective meditative retreats? A major, historically self-sustaining UUCB asset which exists as a monument to countless gifts of both money and labor by many, many church members from the 1970s down to the present? Or since shut down and out of operation for the last four years, for many church members, an unknown, a question mark, or a nagging source of controversy? All of the above, and more.

Last year our Board of Trustees decided it was time to sell the Freestone property, to close the book on the Freestone Retreat, and the Board put the question to the Congregation, where it has to be answered. At our congregational meeting last October, the motion to sell failed to attain the two-thirds affirmative vote required to pass (about 56% Yes, and 44% No). A significant minority voted to give Freestone more time, and it is a tribute to our community that this minority sentiment was honored.

Nevertheless, the future of the Freestone Retreat remains a challenging question. The Freestone Committee has proposed selling the two smaller, unused parcels (of the three-parcel property) to raise the funds needed to repair and restore the Retreat to full functioning. This action has been authorized by the Congregation on two prior occasions in the past but was never implemented, for reasons now obscured by the passage of time. Earlier this year the Board authorized appraisals of all three parcels, to gain current information about their marketability, and to inform future decision-making. These appraisals are now being undertaken.

Meanwhile, the Freestone Committee is now reaching out to church members and friends who may be interested in helping with minor maintenance projects and the county-required fire safety measures of clearing the grass surrounding the Dome as it turns golden in the late spring warming. The Committee's longer-term plan includes reaching out to neighboring UU congregations in the region, to explore interest in sharing the blessings of the Retreat, and possibly to forge a way forward to ensuring that Freestone will have a future life in the UU world.

## Help Needed

### Help Celebrate our Elders

Volunteers may still be needed May 4 and/or May 5 to help us recognize and celebrate our Elders for May 5 Doctors of Durability Sunday. Roles/tasks include Saturday, May 4: sous chefs and restorers of order; May 5: curbside greeters, welcome table greeters, setters up and decorators, hosts and hostesses, luncheon servers, and restorers of order. Please contact Barbara Cullinane, 510-420-0415 or [bb75c87@gmail.com](mailto:bb75c87@gmail.com) to learn more.

## Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe

There's a lot happening right away in May for the Transylvanian Partner Church Committee. First off, Rev. Lehel Molnár, the Balázs Scholar, will be speaking at Personal Theology on Sunday, May 5, at 9:30 am. He will be speaking on "The Hungarian Unitarian Church Celebrates 450 Years; Preserving its Archival Heritage."

Next on the agenda is our monthly meeting. We need more visibility in the congregation, so we are trying out second Sundays. Before you take Mom out for brunch on Mother's Day, take her to our meeting on May 12 at 12:15



pm in the Conference Room. Find out what's going on and how you can be part of it. Mark your calendar for May 12 and June 9 and show up!

There are lots of travel opportunities in the coming months. Our own Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson will lead a historical study tour on the Unitarian Beginnings and Heritage in Poland from July 27 to August 1. See Jay for the details. The UUA's Partner Church Council is sponsoring a Summer 2019 Budget Transylvania Pilgrimage from July 31, 2019 to August 13, 2019. Go to <https://uupcc.org> for more information. Registration closes May 7.

We are talking with Mark Sumner, San Francisco UU's choir director, about a Transylvanian tour next year. Or we might plan our own tour that would give us plenty of time in Homoródújfaló to meet with and get to know our village partners. Or we might bring Rev. Gyëro Atilla from Homoródújfaló to Berkeley for a visit! No matter what we do, it will be so much better if YOU are a part of it.

Are you planning to attend General Assembly? There are a number of Partner Church events worthy of your attention. Whether it's one of several offerings on the GA agenda or the Partner Church Council's annual meeting and luncheon, there's something for your international interest. Oh, that annual meeting? Our own Anne Greenwood will be running for a second term on the Partner Church Council. Congratulations, Anne! As always, you can contact me or Anne at [steph62850@yahoo.com](mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com) or [annegt1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net)

## Preview of Summer Forum

June 2 – **Youth Spirit Artworks** representatives, who work with youth 18-25 developing job skills, will bring a Tiny House and talk about their housing project for homeless youth.

June 9 – **Rev. Dr. Phil Lawson**, former minister of Easter Hill Church, co-founder of GRIP, and eminent social activist in Richmond

June 16 – **Anna Rabkin**, author of *From Krakow to Berkeley*, "Autobiography of a Holocaust Survivor"

June 23 – **Nadya Tanous**, Education & Advocacy Coordinator at Interfaith Peace-Builders and General Coordinator for the Palestinian Youth Movement

June 30 – **Gail Simpson**, "Return to Ethiopia"

## Concerts

These are rentals, but you might attend and encourage others to attend so the performing groups will want to keep coming back to UUCB!

May 4, 7:30 pm, and May 5, 4 pm – **Berkeley Broadway Singers** (by donation) (the Cullinanes are among them)

May 18, 8 pm – **Contra Costa Chorale**, "Out of the Shadows: Choral Music by Women Composers" (\$20, Students/Seniors/disabled \$15, kids free)

May 19, 7:30 pm – **East Bay Harmony** (a cappella popular music, \$15, Students & Seniors \$10)

June 8, 7:30 pm – **Kensington Symphony Orchestra**, "Symphonic Scandinavia" (\$25, Students & Seniors \$20)



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

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### 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](mailto:membership@uucb.org)), or speak with one of the co-ministers.

**NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS:** Submit announcements and articles by email to [beacon@uucb.org](mailto: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](mailto:beacon@uucb.org). (Beacon editor is Ann Harlow.)

**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](mailto:administrator@uucb.org). You can also find both newsletters at the [uucb.org](http://uucb.org) website under “News.”

#### UUCB general discussion list:

[http://groups.google.com/group/uucb\\_discuss/about](http://groups.google.com/group/uucb_discuss/about)

**Email list for families:** Email [family.ministry@uucb.org](mailto:family.ministry@uucb.org)

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### Coordinating Team

Deborah Schmidt (Convener and Board liaison)  
Hilary Lorraine (Program Council liaison)  
David Roberts (Co-Chair, Committee on Financial Oversight)  
Rev. Christian Schmidt  
Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

### Program Council

Gail Simpson (Convener and Music/Arts)  
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Ann Harlow (Communications)  
Beth Jerde (Social Justice)  
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)  
Larry Nagel (Buildings and Grounds)

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