



Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

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Journeying Together

Dr. Rev. Michelle Collins

Changes and transitions can often feel like times when we're wandering in the wilderness, wandering without a map and not sure where we'll end up or sometimes how we even got there in the first place. One thing that we might hope for is that we're not alone for the journey – that we have both other folks along with us as well as some guides and guideposts along the way. In that respect, I'd like to take the time today to introduce you to our Transition Team here at UUCB.

Now you might be wondering, what is a transition team? It's a team of folks who are representative of a variety of demographics here at the church (length of membership tenure, different interests, various identities, etc.) who were selected by the board over the summer to serve in this capacity. They are big picture thinkers who are supporting this time of change for UUCB alongside me. How are they doing this? Well, throughout the interim time, you can look forward to seeing them leading

congregational conversations about the transition and also about our hopes and dreams for UUCB. The team will be sharing their feedback from their listening and surveying with congregational leaders and with everyone. And the team will be engaging in some deep reflection on the needs and current trajectory of UUCB. I have to add that I have been delighted to meet each and every one of the members of the team and am quickly finding that they each bring a tremendous amount of perspective and insight to this leadership role.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the members of your transition team: Randall Hudson, Alice Lemieux, Camille Parker, Melissa Rosales, Ariel Smithlyer, Pier Sun Ho, and Barry Zuckerman. If you have any questions about this time of change for the church or have any thoughts or ideas about it, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the team or to myself. You can also email the entire team at transitionteam@uucb.org, and my email address is minister@uucb.org. You'll also be hearing from members of the team in upcoming newsletters.

As always, I wish you blessings for our journey...

Rev. Michelle

Sunday Services in September

[Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube Live](#), 11 am on Sundays

Theme for September: RENEWAL

September 6 – Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes. Rev. Michelle Collins; Deborah Schmidt, Worship Associate. You've probably heard the saying that the only constant in life is change. Now while that may be true, it doesn't mean that change is easy or something that we're all used to and ready for when it happens. There are lots of changes we're facing right now, both smaller scale changes as well as larger ones. We'll explore some of the dynamics and realities of change together today.

September 13 – The Power & Mystery of Water. Rev. Michelle Collins; Melissa Rosales, WA. Water is crucial for life but either too much or too little are not necessarily a good thing. In our celebration of water today, we'll explore some of the answers that water may give to us as well as some of the challenges that it also brings.

September 20 – What Is Trust? Rev. Michelle Collins; Cynthia Asprodites, WA. Trust is a crucial part of so much of our lives, our relationships, and our communities and institutions. Some would even say that trust is one of the things that makes the world go. For all of this, trust is still a rather abstract concept and can be difficult to define. We'll take a closer look at trust today and some of its surprising components.

September 27 – Return Again. Rev. Michelle Collins; Bob Adams, WA. Return

Again "Return again, Return again, Return to the home of your soul. Return to who you are, Return to what you are, Return to where you are born and reborn again." In the midst of the Jewish high holy days, we turn inward to the themes of Yom Kippur and to a time of turning and returning, a time of confession and atonement when we seek to return to the callings that pull us.

Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following worship on Sundays

After worship we invite you to switch over to Zoom for a time to connect "face to face." The link to Virtual Coffee Hour is listed below, but we will also share it in the comments on the Facebook Live feed during worship. Use the following information to join us:

Online https://zoom.us/j/332046821 Meeting ID: 332 046 821 Password: 810131	Telephone Dial 669 900 6833
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Vespers in September

Wednesdays 6:00pm Social Time, 6:20 pm Start Time

Zoom

Join us for our mid-week online vespers services. The 30-minute Wednesday evening service will provide a time for us to gather together to experience moments of reflection, prayer and song, grounded in our UU faith. Please be on the lookout for Zoom information in The Week Ahead.

Good Neighbor for September:

[Diverse Housing Working Group \(DHWG\)](#) is a community-based effort to engage and educate local organizations and individuals about the need for additional diverse housing resources in Albany. They recognize that a strong community includes people from all walks of life and income levels.

Special Events and Announcements

- **History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley:** Dorothy Herzberg would like to write, with help from the congregation, a booklet on the History of UUCB as a fundraiser. The booklet will showcase how wisdom, humor, resilience, compassion and commitment have held UUCB together for more than 130 years. If you have any anecdotes, history of programs, events, etc. that have held together this remarkable congregation, please send them to

dorothyherzberg@gmail.com or mail them to: Dorothy Herzberg, 1006 Richmond St. El Cerrito, CA 9530. Dorothy's recent book, *Through the Writer's Eye*, includes 10 UUCBers among its 17 authors, and it is available on Amazon.

- **September 4 – First Friday Social Time**, Zoom. 5-6 pm. Join UUCB folks for a virtual happy hour the first Friday of each month. Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88667460078> and the password chalice. Questions? annharlow@pacbell.net, 510-559-3616.
 - **Helen Tinsley-Jones is the listening presence on behalf of the UUCB Board for the month of September.** She can be reached at 510-334-1633.
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Humanist Connections

Sundays, 1:00 pm, Zoom

A discussion group to explore our humanity, values, ideas. *“A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” (Fourth principle of Unitarian Universalism.)*

September 6 – Solving Ethical Problems. Paul Ulbrich.

September 13 – Discuss short topics presented at meeting, and pick topics for October. Ray Westergard.

September 20 – Resiliency. Sandy Nixon.

September 27 – What is new in physics this year? Harold Ogren.

Watch for Zoom link in UUCB notices or contact Marcia Bates, mjbates@ucla.edu.
Group managers: Susan Singh, Ray Westergard, Al Kueffner, Lee Lawrence, Kris Homme, Anne Fitzmaurice.

Personal Theology

Sundays 9:30-10:30am

The Personal Theology program returns via Zoom sessions beginning September 13. With Rev. Michelle's input, we are revamping and refreshing the program.

September 13, 2020, Zoom – Dr. Karen Voorhees, UUCB member and writer, will present. Topic TBA. Please watch 'The Week Ahead' for details.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about Personal Theology and/or future speakers, please let me know. Thanks in advance for your support.

Anne Wardell, Personal Theology Chair

Family Ministry

Catherine Boyle, Director of Family Ministry



Dear Beloveds,

Family Ministry enters into this new season of Religious Education during the Age of COVID with two goals:

1. Foster Connection and Community Through Online Offerings
2. Keep Our Members and Friends Safe

Religious Education this Fall starts September 20th from 12:00-1:00 PM. We are not meeting during service due a) our teaching volunteers will be able to attend service at this time where spirituality is a balm, b) gives parents a chance to attend Coffee Hour without having to worry about babysitting their child/ren. Classes are available for K-12 and are all online. Your child will not need anything for RE except a device.

You must register for RE. If you do not register, you will not be given the Zoom room information. Registration is particularly important this year because we are online.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

Celebration Chapels (formerly known as Children's Chapel) is a multi-generational service led by Catherine and UUBC kids and youth for kids and youth only. These will also happen 12-1 on Sunday.

Multi-generational Sundays are the main Sunday service in the Sanctuary from 11-12. These services focus on a special message or theme for the entire congregation, from the youngest to the oldest. There will be NO RE from 12-1 on these Sundays.

Every Friday, FM @ UUCB Newsletter will be sent out. This will announce upcoming classes, events as well as opportunities to connect with other UU Congregations and Families. If you would like to be added to this mailing list, email Catherine at family.ministry@uucb.org

In addition to RE classes, FM is launching Game Night and Family Spirit Circle for this pandemic time. Game Night is for all family members. Join us once a month (3rd Saturday of the month 6:00-8:00 PM) for jackbox.tv games, fun, and more! Parents are welcome to stay or enjoy a break from being a parent for a couple hours.

Family Spirit Circle is rebooted on the 4th Saturday of the month (except December when it is on the 2nd Saturday). Family Spirit Circle will start with all family members together and then go into Break Out Rooms with games for children and a private room for parents and caretakers to talk.

You may access the Family Ministry and Religious Education Calendar online here or at <http://www.uubc.org/fm2020>. Stay tuned as we are planning major FM events like Field Day and Cookie Party online.

Note that these dates and times are subject to change based on COVID, but we will do our best to stick to these schedules.

I hope in this strange time that FM provides a space for routine, time to breathe and opportunities for us to spend time with each other. The pandemic may have forced us away physically from each other, but we can still connect to each other's hearts and minds through technology.

RE and More Starts Online September 20

Register Now!

Registration for Religious Education Classes for K-12 is open now at UUCB.ORG/RE2020. You must register your child for them to attend RE.

Classes Offered

K-12 Religious Education classes are 2-3 Sundays a month from 12-1.

Coming of Age is a class dedicated to youth and their journeys of faith. 8th and 9th Graders meet together to learn and deepen their UU faith and values. 10th-12th graders and former 12th graders who missed this milestone of a class these past two years may register for this class too.

It is similar to a Confirmation or Bat/Bar Mitzvah as it celebrates the young person stepping into young adulthood. Students in this class pair with mentors, adult congregants to learn and grow from each other. Mentors and students will meet one on one two to three times this year on Zoom. This class meets every RE Sunday from 1:00-3:00 on Zoom. Depending on class size, there may be opportunities for social distant in-person meetings. For more information on the class or to volunteer as a mentor, email Catherine at family.ministry@uucb.org

OWL - At this time, we will not offer OWL in the fall. Stay tuned for the Winter and Spring.

New Office Hours for Fall

Got questions about faith and family? Have an idea for RE? Starting September 1st, Catherine's Office Hours are every Tuesday 12-2, Thursday 6-8 for drop-in on Zoom. Other times are available, schedule one by emailing family.ministry@uucb.org.

Recruiting Volunteer Teachers and Subs

RE is still looking for volunteers to help teach RE and/or sub. Must pass background check. RE classes are online from 12-1 two to three Sundays a month. Please look at the FM RE Master Calendar in the next article or online at <http://uucb.org/fm2020> for dates. Email Catherine to family.ministry@uucb.org to

volunteer.

Parents' Discussion Group Starts September 27

Touch base with fellow parents for community, connection and mutual understanding on Zoom September 27th from 10-11 AM. In addition to the Discussion Group, Online Game and Storyhour will be provided in a breakout room for younger kids who need supervision.

Welcome Back Game Night September 19 Online

Say hello to your RE friends! Kids, youth and family members are all invited to join us September 19th for an Online Game Night! Zoom information will be sent out over the FM Mailing List. If you are not on the list, email Catherine at family.ministry@uucb.org.

Family Spirit Circle Returns September 26 Online

Join us for Family Spirit Circle every fourth Saturday from 6-8 PM starting on September 26th. We will start with children, youth and parents/caretakers together and then go into breakout room for Parents and Kids/Youth. Kids and youth will play games while parents/caregivers have a chance to take a break and connect with other grown-ups. Zoom information will be sent out over the FM Mailing List. If you are not on the list, email Catherine at family.ministry@uucb.org.

Fall FM and RE Calendar

September 19 – Welcome Back Game Night for Kids and Youth. Jackbox.tv games 6:00-8:00 pm

September 20 – RE Begins

September 26 – Family Spirit Night. Breakout Rooms for Parents/Kids to give you a break, 6:00-8:00pm

September 27 – RE Class, Parents' Discussion Group + Online Babysitting 10:00-11:00 am

October 4 – Celebration Chapel

October 11 – RE Class

October 17 – Game Night for Kids and Youth. Jackbox.tv games 6:00-8:00 pm

October 18 – RE Class, Parents' Discussion Group 10-11 AM, Online Babysitting 10:00-11:00 am

October 24 – Family Spirit Night. Breakout Rooms for Parents/Kids to give you a break, 6:00-8:00 pm

October 25 – Multi-generational (Everyone attends 11:00 AM) service

November 1 – RE Class

November 8 – Celebration Chapel

November 15 – RE Class

November 22 – RE Class

November 29 – Multi-generational service

December 6 – RE Class

December 12 – Family Spirit Night. Breakout Rooms for Parents/Kids to give you a break, 6:00-8:00 pm

December 13 – RE Class

December 19 – GAME NIGHT for Kids and Youth, Join us for Jackbox.tv games 6:00-8:00

December 20 – Celebration Chapel, Parents' Discussion Group + Online Babysitting 10:00-11:00 am **December 27** – Holiday. No RE or Chapel.

From the Board of Trustees

Kathryn Jay

When I agreed to write this month's Board column, I was just an ordinary run-of-the-mill Board member. Now I'm the acting Board president!

In case you missed the news, Kerry Simpson announced she and her wife, Cynthia Asprodites, would be heading off to western Pennsylvania to be with their daughter and new grandson for a few months. The lure of the grandbaby is strong! As I step in as interim Board chair while Kerry is gone, I will strive to be as calm and capable as she has been during this time of crisis. She kept such a steady hand amidst tremendous upheaval for the church.

Change happens fast, and often when we least expect it. I'm guessing after the year we've been having, all of us know about unexpected changes. About sudden shifts in plans. About trying to build a plane while we're already flying it. Whew, this has been a time.

As summer ends and (online) school begins, we confront the reality that our ability to meet together in a physical space isn't coming back anytime soon. That hope that the disease would pass quickly and we could get back to "normal" has faded. Our church life is different. Not worse. But different.

I think of a passage from the Torah where the prophet Jeremiah encourages his readers to "stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." It feels like UUCB is at a crossroads, looking back to tradition, moving forward toward new good ways.

The Board of Trustees acknowledges this. We have been working to prepare for the many developments facing us as a community, trying to strike a balance between maintaining our traditional ways of being and doing and being open to the new. We

ask: how do we continue to “do church” without a building, without a shared coffee pot, without hugs and casual face-to-face conversations?

Most importantly, we ask: “how will UUCB live into its mission in the coming year?” This question is the heart of the Board’s work. How do we create loving community, inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service? And how do we do this not just for ourselves, but also for our neighbors who need UU values and community more than ever?

Last month, the Board explored which aspects of UUCB need to remain constant, those elements of our church life that should not be changed, regardless of whatever happens in the coming year. What, we wondered, is essential to UUCB?

Then we turned the question around. In order to work toward our mission, what aspects of UUCB need to change? As an online physically distant community, what do we need to do differently? Our fumbling first answers were sometimes practical and operational. They were definitely philosophical and aspirational. We left things out, no doubt, especially because we were speaking our individual truths instead of coming to a definitive shared conclusion.

This conversation needs to happen again and again, and the Board would be delighted to hear your answers to these questions! My fellow Board member Dave Roberts says that UUCB offers each of us “a place to refresh our energy, to remind ourselves of our shared values and to go out into the community with renewed commitment.” What do you think forms the essence of UUCB? Are there traditions and norms that need to be maintained and strengthened even as we meet online? And what needs to change so that we can fully live into our mission? Please let me know if you have ideas. You can email me at kathryn.cps@gmail.com.

Chalice Circle Leadership Team

Natalie Campbell

NEW CHALICE CIRCLES STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER

Summer chalice circles have wrapped up for the season, and according to facilitators and participants alike, they were a wonderful source of connection during a difficult and uncertain summer.

Over the summer, our circles were able to serve almost 100 members of our community. We experimented with different options for how long we would meet, and the response was very positive. With that in mind, the Chalice circle leadership team agreed to rethink our offerings for the Fall.

Our team is pleased to announce the rollout of our new season, starting during the week of September 28th, 2020. We have two themed chalice circles which are tentatively being offered this year (subject to interest and facilitator availability). One of the circles is entitled "Exploring Our Own Faith and Spirituality" and the

other is focusing on the topic of Love. Both of these themed chalice circles will run eight weeks.

Chalice Circles will also now have the option of meeting for four sessions, eight sessions (four months of meetings) or the standard 16 sessions (eight months of biweekly meetings). You just need to let us know your preference when you sign up! No matter the length of a circle, the format is always the same – chalice circles are open and inclusive. They include time to check-in, but they also are organized around an agreed upon topic and have trained facilitators. To find out more, go to <https://uucb.org/learning/adult-programs/small-group-ministry/>.

Our overall intent is to facilitate your participation in as much community as you would like. We invite past, present and potential members to join us. If you have a friend who is not already a part of our church community, who might be glad of a new connection, invite them, too! We are open to all.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Natalie Campbell at nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com by September 21st (the sooner the better so we can create a group that works for you!) Please let her know if either of the themed sessions interests you, what length of time you are interested in meeting (4 weeks, 8 weeks, 16 weeks), if you are available for day or evening groups, and what days work best for you. We look forward to connecting with you!

Endowment Committee

Lenore Ralston

On June 19th, UUCB received an unexpected and very welcome bequest of \$250,000 from the Petczo One Family Trust to go into UUCB's Endowment. Those who opened the mail couldn't believe it was real! To our knowledge, this is the largest cash gift UUCB has ever received at one time.

Further, no one recognized the name of Petczo! There was the requisite Googling which turned up some information, including a photo of Ann Lane and reference to the fact that she had a sister named Susanna Petczo.

Dick Sherman, acting on behalf of the Endowment Committee called the lawyer administering the Petczo Trust and confirmed that the Ann Lane, who had been a member of our congregation, was indeed the sister of Susanna Petczo. Ann had predeceased Susanna.

Ira Nelken, long-time UUCB member, was a very good friend of Ann's and he writes:

"Ann Lane was very connected to this church. She was deeply involved for the years she was here. She and I had lunch regularly and discussed church business. When her mother died, at 95, she decided 70 was old enough to retire and enjoy her "golden years." Within six months she was diagnosed with cancer. Her well-meaning sister took her to Boston (where they were from). We heard nothing after that unfortunate choice. The day she left she secretively tucked

a \$3,000 check for the church into my hand to take care of for her. That was so typical of Ann Lane. She was dedicated to our Congregation and Unitarian Universalism.”



In addition to this \$250,000 becoming part of the UUCB permanent endowment, the Endowment Committee has proposed the installation of a memorial panel prominently displayed somewhere within the main part of the church to honor this level of generosity in perpetuity. Our present thinking is that there be a \$100,000 threshold (perhaps adjusted periodically to account for the effect of inflation) for a name to be added to this panel. Currently, this would therefore recognize the Kay Davis gift made in 2009 and a few other past gifts and this current bequest of \$250,000. In this connection, it bears noting that several members of the congregation have expressed their intention to leave similarly large bequests on their demise in the future, as part of the **Wake Now Our Vision** project that recently concluded. Hopefully, it will be many years before those names are added to the panel, but over time more members will be motivated to do the same! In response to our update in the UUCB Discussion Group, the importance of honoring generosity – of the heart, of peoples’ time, and their treasure – has received a number of important reminders from Congregants. Thus, it is probable that we will partner with the Board and ask for wider congregational participation in drawing up these guidelines!

In the meantime? We celebrate generosity in whatever form we are able to express it!

We are blessed!

Lenore Ralston

Chair of the Endowment Committee

From the Treasurer

Larry Nagel

Our financial position continues to improve as we close Fiscal Year 2019-20. We are making progress in cleaning up the books for the past years, and these corrections also reflect a more positive financial outlook. We have found several accounting errors, and are working on other improvements that will make the books easier to understand and more transparent.



This article describes results for the month of June 2020. We closed FY 2019-20 in a very good position. Near the end of June, we received a bequest from a former member, Ann Lane, in the amount of \$250,000. With this bequest, Year-to-Date

Total Revenue is now ahead of budget by \$331,413. The bequest will be deposited in a separate UUA Endowment Fund. Year-to-Date Expenses are \$75,093 less than budgeted.

The bottom line is that the Year-to-Date Surplus is \$412,880, which is \$406,506 better than budgeted, but this includes the \$250,000 bequest.

As of June 30, 2020, the Mechanics Checking account is \$504,887 and the Mechanics Savings account is \$152,585, so our cash reserves at this point are \$657,472, but this includes the \$250,000 bequest. The UUA Board Designated Endowment is now at \$781,949.

If you have any questions, please contact me at lwn@att.net or call me at (510) 558-0842.

Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe

September is the start of a new church year and we always greet it with high hopes and expectations. Partner Church is no exception, but things feel different this September when so many things are up in the air. Ministerial transition, Covid-19, wildfires casting a pall over most of California, the electoral fight for the heart and soul of our nation are some of the things contributing to a sense of uncertainty.



One thing we can count on right now is Reverend Michelle's support of our Partner Church Committee. All of the congregations she has served have had partners in Transylvania or elsewhere, so she understands the importance of what we do. But she also emphasizes that it is the congregation and not the minister who do the work of international partnership. It might not be entirely clear where we go with this. Indeed, the UUA's Partner Church Council is going through its own leadership transition. Anne Greenwood is now vice-chair of the PCC, and she will keep us informed on how the Council redefines or redirects its mission, but mutual partnerships and face to face (even virtual) relationships between our congregations are and always will be central to the mission of the Council. Join us in keeping our relationship with Homoródújfalu alive!

Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com and Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net.

Social Justice Council

The SJC Honors UUCB's Graduating High School Seniors.

At the August meeting, Lonnie Moseley announced that despite the social distancing and Zoom only meetings of our congregation, we raised \$2,200 for our high school grads. \$500 will be given to each of them with the remaining split among last year's grads as a supplemental boost. Lonnie asked Haley Smith, Jared Lipka, Alejandra Robins, and Elijah Fox Darquea which principle means the most to them as they begin this first stage of adult life. Alejandra said the 7th Principle - Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Niki concurred with the importance of the 7th Principle and said she is trying to eat less meat to reduce the stress on our planet. Jared said the 4th Principle - A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. And Elijah said the 5th Principle - The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Meaningful principles that can help guide all of us in facing the challenges confronting us today. The ceremony concluded with a blessing from our Director of Family Ministry Catherine Boyle.

The 75th Commemoration of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Social Justice Council hosted these events for an introspective remembrance of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

August 2

Summer Forum welcomed Takashi Tanemori to hear his story of having survived the Hiroshima bombing. People engaged with Tanemori-san with questions that would have continued the conversation beyond that day. He started the Silkworm Peace Institute, on the foundation of forgiveness. He has spent his entire life working on forgiving that his family members were killed in the bombing, sharing his piercing story with all.

The **LFDC** discussed John Hersey's famed 1946 New Yorker Magazine article, *Hiroshima*. Our discussion was active, intense, and far-reaching. We shared our emotional responses to and reflections about the stories of the six hibakusha—survivors of these bombings—with whose experiences of the bombings Hersey wove together his narrative. Members shared their own experiences of having visited Japan and Hiroshima in the past and how this impacted them. Don Klose moderated the discussion, supplementing it with some historical perspectives on the still haunting questions of what entered into the decisions to drop the atomic bombs and what were the critical factors that brought WWII in the Pacific to a close.

August 9

Our **Summer Forum** speaker was Marylia Kelley, who founded Tri-Valley CARES (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) 40 years ago. Tri-Valley CARES serves both to oppose nuclear weapons and act as a watchdog for the Lawrence Livermore Lab, which, with Los Alamos Labs, is one of two facilities where all US nuclear weapons have been designed. Congress allotted 88.7% of Livermore

Lab's funding this year for nuclear weapons, whereas just 1.7% went to civilian science projects. Such priorities are what drive the international arms race. Under President Trump there has been a huge jump in arms funding, particularly for a large number of entirely new nuclear weapons. Trump is also promoting nuclear weapons testing, not carried out in the US since 1992. Hopeful news: In 2017, 122 UN member states voted to put forth a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. Forty-four countries have ratified the Nuclear Arms Ban, and when 50 have ratified, the treaty will go into effect. Kelley believes that when that many countries have come together to "ban the bomb," other nations will feel pressure to join the group and begin eliminating their nuclear weapons.

The commemorative worship service led by Reverend Michelle was intended to evoke the past, center us in the present and take us into the future. The prelude music by Katya; harp by Susan Mashiyama; and jazz by Anthony Brown gifted it with vitality. The intention of the **Big Bands Behind Barbed Wire E.O. 9066** was to show the complexity of life that Japanese Americans experienced during WWII: The second generation (Nisei) were serving in the military on behalf of the USA, while their families were incarcerated in internment camps in the US, with relatives being bombed in Japan. Don Klose's homily, **Reflections on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Going Forward**, sends us into the future: WHAT will we do to abolish nuclear arms?

Thank you to the World Peace Committee for their contribution to our speakers August 2 & 9.

UU Anti-Racist Campaign Task Force - Sheldon Jones

- Helen Toy and Judy Sam have organized an opportunity for members of UUCB to purchase anti-racist books for Richmond's Verde Elementary School. Fifty titles were compiled by two school librarians and can be purchased from the Richmond Multicultural Children's Bookstore. A book plate will be inserted with your name and UUCB.
- The next Zoom meeting of the People of Color Caucus is in December.
- The Honoring Indigenous People Group, with eight members, has begun meeting. The goal of the group is to acknowledge the Indigenous People on whose land UUCB sits, provide education to the congregation, and suggest ongoing actions that honor Indigenous People.

Sponsored Projects

- **Confronting Racism** – Helen Tinsley-Jones, Julia Rogers
- **Whites Opposing White Supremacy** Next meeting September 27, from 12:30 -2:00 pm.
- The next Zoom meeting of the **People of Color Caucus** is in December.
- **Literature, Film, and Drama** Contingent will discuss *The Waterdancers* by Ta-Nehisi Coates on September 6, 12:30 pm.

- **Reclaiming Our Democracy** – Our congregation will have written and mailed 4,000 postcards with the help of friends and family!
- Please EVERYONE, friends and family, red states and blue (this is greater than politics) write your Congress Rep. and Senators, that you need a well-functioning post office. Make it personal. SAVE THE U.S. MAIL!
- **Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Project** –Jim Acock. Congregational members painted 17 signs to be installed in the fence surrounding the two-acre campus of Tiny Houses for homeless youth.
- **Sanctuary Family** – Helen Toy. We are looking for a volunteer to work with the two young girls in the family to operate a laptop.

From the Executive Director

Tess Snook O’Riva, Executive Director



“The only constant in life is change.” – Heraclitus

I think everyone has figured out that things will never be the same. The first four months of the pandemic, schools, businesses, and the population at large felt a general sense of “What is actually going on?” We were all just trying to get through the summer without major personal upset, hoping that there would be answers on the other side. And now we have entered wildfire season. “Seriously?”

All that being said, I am grateful to have things to focus on. They may seem small in the larger context of all that is going on, but it is extraordinarily helpful for my mental health. Like Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins said last Sunday, I need my refrigerator box, my cocoon, and I’ll be okay.

UUCB is my cocoon right now. Even in a pandemic, we have made progress on new revenue sources. The Music Department has offered the music/choir room to be shared space with one of our preschools. Our parking lot continues to be the weekly home of Baskit, the pay-as-you-can produce delivery company. We are entering into contract with an outdoor school that wants to use our grounds for their programming. Even the cottage is rented! So we are making progress, even when it feels very slow.

Staff is working with Rev. Michelle on all the Interim Ministry projects that need to happen, the main focus being evolving the way we do things to match our current reality. Her fresh perspective has been enormously helpful, and her support of us as people and acknowledging our struggles has been beyond validating. It’s hard to do things right now. But together we are all making the best of it, even taking this time to improve our systems for the future.

As many of you know, the Coordinating Team (CT) meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month and has been open to all congregants since before the pandemic. We are exploring the format, use, and structure of this committee, including allowing for time for input and questions outside the agenda. Although we are not there yet, this is the place where we “get into the weeds” and have discussions on how we want to do things. I will be putting this meeting on the uucb.org calendar and sharing meeting minutes to continue to improve transparency. Feel free to listen in, and if you have any questions or concerns, you can always email me. See information below.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we all try and navigate these ever-changing waters. Let’s hope the storms subside soon!

Feel free to reach out to me directly (ed@uucb.org) or join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 10 am for the CT meeting (see uucb.org for details)!

Music Department

Bryan Baker

Dear Congregation,

The last time Luminescence, our chancel choir, and I met person was February 27. The pandemic will keep us from returning to in-person rehearsal for at least for the rest of this year, and I can’t really imagine us gathering as a full group again before March. It’s heartbreaking, but singing brings special concerns with potential virus transmission, so we dare not hurry back.

Once the choir can begin in-person music making again – and how I long for that day! – it will be with small subsets singing in large spaces for short times. In order to ensure airflow and plenty of room for distancing, we will probably use the Fireside Room or Social Hall, maybe the Atrium or the Terrace. Neither the Choir Room nor the Sanctuary offer the best option.

And so, when Tess asked me if there was any possibility that we could rent the choir room and music office to The Good Earth School*, I had to give the idea fair consideration. Then I consulted with the Music Committee. We all agreed, after our initial surprise and resistance subsided, that it made sense. We will not absolutely need the Choir Room for the next year, and the church will very much need the income the rental will generate.

That left us with the practical considerations of clearing the spaces and safeguarding the few corners we’d hold onto. We developed a plan, coordinated with Antonio and Tess, and boxed and cleared and moved and locked. The gamelan and choir robes now have a well-protected alcove, thanks to Antonio’s ingenuity and good work. A locked cabinet has some music program essentials. Otherwise, the sheet music and supplies were boxed up and moved out - that took a lot of

effort and thanks go to volunteers from the music program and most importantly to Antonio who did the lion's share. Not everything has reached its final destination yet, but the space is clear for the school.

This is a very strange time, and for this one school year, the choir will not use the Choir Room, strange as that sounds. In the meanwhile, we will zoom our way through rehearsals, and bring you our best efforts in virtual videos.

With admiration, appreciation and good wishes to you all,

Bryan

*The Good Earth (TGE) is the preschool in the Nursery/Childcare building for the past 3 years now. There will be a maximum of 12 kids, ages 5-6 years old. The school emphasizes outdoor play and more information can be found at their website.

<https://thegoodearthschool.com/>

The Music Committee negotiated that half of the \$30,000 rent be credited as a Music fundraiser to honor the work necessary to make this happen. TGE School will be Monday-Friday, 8-6, so evenings and weekends are still available, similar to the Family Ministry spaces.

As a multi-generational congregation, exposing more kids and families to UUCB is certainly additive. We have had multiple visitors to Sunday services, Field Day, and Christmas Eve that have their kids at one of our preschools. With Good Earth promoting UUCB events, we even had two families attend our Black Lives Matter vigil! Both existing preschools mirror our values, and I'm looking forward to more partnership opportunities.

With sincere gratitude,

Tess



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