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Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

July 2020 – Vol. 79, Issue 7

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From the Board of Trustees

Helen Tinsley-Jones

Hello dear UUCB members,

“What a year, this month has been,” I heard someone say. So many events, of so great import.

Our ministers, Revs. Kristin Grassel Schmidt and Christian Schmidt, have journeyed onto their new positions: Kristin, as minister to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Christian, as interim minister to the UU Church of the Brazos Valley in Bryan College Station, Texas. We honored them with gifts, commemorations and a heartfelt Good-Bye car caravan past their Pinole home. We wish them well, sending love and gratitude for their spiritual and pastoral care, support of social justice issues, and leadership in guiding our community in governance.

We heartily thank the hard work and wisdom of our Interim Ministry Search Committee, and welcome Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins, our new Interim Minister, who will join us in August. She is coming from the Lewes and Rehoboth Beach area of Delaware.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused great suffering to so many, including to members of our congregation and their loved ones, and we grieve that suffering. Our church community has offered pastoral, and when needed, financial support and assistance with grocery shopping and delivery to members.

Through the efforts of Tess O'Riva, our Executive Director, the church was fortunate to receive a federal Payroll Protection loan, which has improved our financial picture for this fiscal year. If you've visited our church campus recently, you'll have noted the completed, and beautiful, renovation of the cottage—it's ready to be rented! In addition, The Good Earth and Pine Crest Schools have reopened in a modified form. In the coming months, we will continue to review and monitor our finances and make modifications as necessary.

And yet there is so much more... the tearing at our hearts and souls at the murders of African American men and women, fueled by centuries of entrenched racism, giving rise to the shout heard around the world: Black Lives Matter! We join together in solidarity with the pain and outrage of all people, partnering in the struggle and fight against white supremacy and for true and lasting equity and equality.

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness in the world... all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world awaits in darkness for the light that is you. –L. R. Knost

Look inside you heart. What are you called to do? –Kerry Simpson, Board President

With love and deep appreciation for our Beloved Community,

Helen Tinsley-Jones

Member, Board of Trustees

Note: Each month a different member of the Board of Trustees writes this column so you can get to know them better and get a sense of the issues dealt with by the Board. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Board as a whole. Board meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month, 7 pm (currently on Zoom), and all are welcome to observe them.

Sunday Services in July

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

Theme for July: Spiritual Practice

July 5 – Opening Worship from the UUA General Assembly 2019: A Love to Change the World This week we will be watching a worship service from last year's General Assembly. The message is as timely now as it was then. "We are living in defining times, precarious times. More is being called from us as Unitarian Universalists. If together we can lean into vulnerability, we can discern and listen to how we are being called and chart a path to wholeness, life and freedom.

July 12 – TBA. Kathryn Jay, preaching; Cynthia Asprodites, Worship Associate.

July 19 – Fly! Rev. Katie Culbert, preaching; Karen Elliott, Worship Associate. The bird is an intriguing metaphor appearing in many religious traditions, stories, songs and legends. We have long been fascinated by (or sometimes afraid of) the winged creatures. What lessons can we learn through the lives of birds and how can we apply these lessons during this unusual time in our lives?

July 26 – Vita and Visionaries. Catherine Boyle, preaching; Deborah Schmidt, Worship Associate. Explore the deep call that pulled ordinary Medieval folks into extraordinary lives.

Virtual Coffee Hour 11:45 am

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:

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

Wednesdays

Zoom, 6:30 pm

Join us for our mid-week online vespers services, led by our Worship Associates! The 25-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 click [this link](#) to join us.

Meeting ID: 862 9046 0367

Password: chalice

Good Neighbor for July:

[Emeryville Citizens Assistance Program](#) (ECAP)'s mission is to provide food, clothing, furniture, care and compassion to those in need in Emeryville, California and the surrounding bay area communities.

Special Events and Announcements

- **UUCB Staff Availability**

To maintain the highest level of safety precautions, our staff works mostly remotely from home. Additionally, some hours have also been reduced because of budget restrictions, and most of our staff now works part-time. Kindly allow two (2) business days for us to reply to your messages, and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding when making requests.

- **UUCB is not without ministers!** During the time between Revs Kristin and Christian's departure and Rev Michelle's arrival in August, two of UUCB's community ministers, the Revs Dr. Jane Ramsey and Sue Magidson are available for emergency pastoral care (pastoral care that is beyond what the PastoralAssociates can provide). They are also administering the Ministers' Discretionary Fund, so please reach out if you are in financial need. To find out who's on-call and her contact info, call the church and listen to the outgoing message, which will be updated as needed.

- **Midweek Vespers on Zoom** – Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. The 25-minute service, led by our Worship Associates, provides a time to come together

to experience moments of reflection, prayer and song, grounded in our UU faith.

Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86290460367>

Meeting ID: 862 9046 0367

Password: chalice

- **Coming in August: Commemorations of the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**
 - **SUMMER FORUM August 2 9:30 am:** Takashi Tanemori is one of the few survivors of the August 6, 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima. He lost both of his parents and two sisters to the effects of that weapon, and became an oyanashigo – a street urchin – who struggled to stay alive by searching waste sites and garbage cans for food in the ashes of postwar Japan. Today, Tanemori’s purpose in life is exposing and defeating what he has come to know as humankind’s greatest enemy: fear and hatred that cause darkness in the human heart. As founder of the Silkworm Peace Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to international peace, he has fostered forgiveness and helping others overcome barriers.
 - **LFDC August 2 12:30-2:30 pm:** We invite all UUCBers to read Hiroshima and then join us to discuss it with the Literature, Film & Drama Contingent. Don Klose hosts our discussion commemorating the 75th year after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This issue of The New Yorker was dedicated solely to this work by John Hersey, with no cartoons or ads. We encourage ALL members of UUCB to read Hiroshima and discuss it with LFDC, or within your group of preference.
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1946/08/31/hiroshima>
 - **SUMMER FORUM August 9 9:30 am:** Our speaker will be Marylia Kelley, who helped found Tri-Valley CAREs (or Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) almost 40 years ago. Tri-Valley CAREs serves both to oppose nuclear weapons and to operate as a watchdog for the Lawrence Livermore Lab, which, with Los Alamos Labs, is one of two facilities where all U.S. nuclear weapons have been designed. The group, with Ms. Kelley as its Executive Director, lobbies in Washington, D.C., speaks publicly against increasing nuclear weapons activities in the U.S. and publishes a quarterly newsletter, Citizen’s Watch, decrying the growing national budget for nuclear arms.
<http://www.trivalleycares.org/>

- On August 9th, both the service itself and Religious Education will carry over this theme to honor the history of the bombings.
 - **Let's not just weather this time together, let's celebrate together, too! Send us your Good News and we will feature them in the Good News Corner!** Send them to beacon@uucb.org.
-

Summer Forum

Toward a Just World

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am on Zoom

Contact [Lonnie Moseley](#) for Zoom information.

July 5 – No program. Holiday weekend

July 12 – Tipping Point: East Bay Battles for Environmental Justice

2020. Andres Soto, Organizer for Communities for a Better Environment, at 65 is still on the front lines and will bring us an update on many battles for environmental justice currently being fought in the East Bay. Some of these are AB 617 implementation in Oakland and Richmond, the ever corrupt Bay Area Air Quality Management District and refinery rules, the massive Army Corps of Engineers Bay Dredging Project to benefit the Bay Area Refinery Corridor, AB&I Foundry in East Oakland, the Oil Well Revival Project in Brentwood and how you can get involved to prevent planetary destruction. Hosts Dr. Sheila Tarbet and Dorothy Herzberg.

July 19 – The Arc of the Universe. Rev. Earl Koteen, UU Minister. King, Parker, Buddha, Shankar. Hosts Dr. Sheila Tarbet, Dorothy Herzberg.

July 26 – Biologists Without Borders. Dr. Bud Abbott. On a live Safari in South Africa. PowerPoint. Work with conserving African wildlife. Sponsors Dorothy Herzberg, Doug Frew.

August 2 – Honoring 75 years since August 1945. Mr. Takashi Tanemori, survivor of Hiroshima. Hosts Beth Jerde, Helen Toy.

August 9 – Speaking on nuclear energy. Marylia Kelley is the Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment), based in Livermore – and a dynamic speaker. Kelley researches the work of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, and has testified before Congress, the California Legislature and the National Academy of Sciences in opposing increased funding for nuclear

weapons. Kelley was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

August 16 – Working with environmental issues. Dr. Paloma Pavel and Carl Anthony. Co-founders of Breakthrough Communities. Hosts Dr. Sheila Tarbet, Dorothy Herzberg.

August 23 – Training in use of solar and natural energy in developing countries. Bruce Gardner, founder of Solar Roots. Hosts Barbara Daniell, Dorothy Herzberg.

Humanist Connections

Sundays, 12:30 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.)

July 2020

July 5 – What about Defunding the Police? – All

July 12 – Short topics and topic selection for July – Ray Westergard

July 19 – How to Deal with Health Losses – Susan Singh and Marcia Bates

July 26 – Financial Issues with Late-Life Care – Ray Westergard

Group managers: Susan Singh, Ray Westergard, Al Kueffner, Lee Lawrence, Kris Homme, Anne Fitzmaurice. Communications: Marcia Bates mjbates@ucla.edu. Contact Marcia for Zoom information.

Chalice Leadership Team

UUCB's Summer Chalice Circles are up and running. Between the five continuing Chalice Circles, and the five brand new Summer groups, 80 members of our community will be embraced by UUCB's Summer Chalice Circles! During this time of isolation and disconnection, our circles will strive to develop connections and strengthen our ties within our community

Many thanks to all of the 2019-20 facilitators who are shepherding their circles into the summer: Lenore Ralston, Jean Hyams, Dick Sherman and Cynthia Asprodites, Karen Elliott and Marta Tobey, and Lynne Cahoon and Hilary Lorraine. When our congregation got hit with the one-two punch of

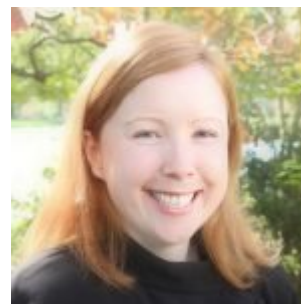
the pandemic and the ministers leaving, these dedicated Chalice Circle facilitators answered a request from their participants and volunteered to continue meeting, in order to fill a deep need to stay connected over the summer.

A heartfelt thank you is also extended to all of the “new” facilitators who stepped up to lead special summertime Chalice Circles, which started the week of June 15th. These leaders are Lisa Maynard, Lenore Ralston and Joanne Wile, Victoria Bowen, Linda Laskowski, and Natalie Campbell. The five newly formed groups will be touching the lives of 35 additional people this summer.

It is our hope that these Chalice Circles help in a time of need. We will be sharing deeply and engaging in a safe and nurturing environment. We are striving for deep and lasting connections during these uncertain times. If you are interested in participating in a Chalice Circle, please contact Natalie Campbell at nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com.

Family Ministry

Catherine Boyle, Acting Director of Family Ministry



Hi Friends!

With the pandemic, many camps and activities are shut down until it is safe to meet again. Your child may be feeling bored, restless, antsy or all of the above. To alleviate the summer blues, **UUCB Family Ministry presents Summer Shelter-in-Place Action Pack**. This packet contains activities, games, and media related to a different topic each week and ties it into living our UU values out loud. There is a wide range of activities based on different age levels and interests. From June 14th to August 10th, 2020, a new Action Pack each week will be posted.

July 5 – ValUUes

July 19 – Laughter

July 26 – Power

August 2 – Creativity

August 10 – Resilience

The Summer Shelter-in-Place Action Pack is posted once a week on <https://uucb.org/summer2020/> and shared with the UUCB Families mailing list. Please feel free to share with friends.

Thanks to Alice Lemieux and Colleen Farrell for their inspiration and help creating and writing this program with Family Ministry.

Chalice Circles Closed for Summer

The Family Ministry Family, Parents and Youth Chalice Circles are finished for the summer. Stay tuned to see new imaginings of virtual meeting circles for the Fall.

DND Campaign - Looking for New and Experienced Players and DMs

UUCB FM is starting DND Campaigns online to stay connected and have fun with each other. Whether your child is an expert at slaying dragons or completely new to the RPG world, all are welcome! We are also looking for experienced DMs. Grown-ups are welcome as players too! If interested, email Catherine at family.ministry@uucb.org

Support During This Time

The pandemic is a scary and stressful time. If you need resources, whether material or emotional, email me at family.ministry@uucb.org for support. Available by appointment by phone or Zoom – email to schedule. We here at UUCB are here for you.

Stay safe!

Catherine Boyle, Director of Family Ministry

From the Executive Director

Tess Snook O'Riva, Executive Director

By the time you read this, it will have been a year since I joined UUCB. I can't decide if it feels like I walked through the doors just yesterday or like I have been here a lot longer. I definitely feel like there has been a lot crammed into those 12 little months. Rather than repeat what I wrote in the Annual Report, I will just stick to what is current and on people's minds today.



The new Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins will start with us on August 1st. We will let everyone know when they can expect to see her in worship services and/or coffee hour once she is here and we can begin to discuss her schedule. Communication requests in advance of her start date should come through me so she has but one point of contact before her actual start date.

Reopening Plan: I am working to convene the appropriate and interested parties in discussing a phased-in plan for reopening (and re-closing) UUCB consistent with State and County public health recommendations. Our preschools are already open, we are testing parking lot events, and we are discussing rentals of outdoor spaces and small groups in socially distant indoor spaces. Although we have not yet opened our doors to this last group, here are some safety measures we have already put in place or are working on:

- Motion-sensor lights are being installed wherever possible
- Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer available in multiple locations, especially near shared surfaces
- We are marking various spaces to keep people 6 feet apart, sitting and standing
- Doors are being propped open during business hours & we are researching foot-powered door openers
- Signage has increased to remind people of best practice recommendations in the bathrooms, kitchen, near sanitizing stations, and throughout the campus
- We are looking into ways to improve the ventilation of every room
- We are researching design interventions for our spaces to decrease airborne vectors, like plexiglass barriers, where possible

Our biggest challenge continues to be large groups in indoor, “forced air” environments. When people are singing, using a projected speaking voice, or playing woodwind/brass instruments, there is an increased concern that a 6-foot distance is not sufficient to protect people.

However, we are not alone in our struggles. I continue to monitor UUA and CDC guidelines, as well as participate in webinars by insurance companies and worship groups. Safety is our priority, and we will make modifications wherever we can. If there isn't a good solution, we will wait for a vaccine and adjust accordingly to keep functioning.

We have no idea what the “new normal” will look like, but we are working to be flexible and adapt to recommendations as they are released. We appreciate everyone’s understanding, support, and recognition that we are in this together, and we will succeed together.

Feel free to reach out to me directly (ed@uucb.org) or join my new UUCB Open Lounge Hour on Zoom, Tuesdays at 4 pm (see uucb.org for details)!

From the Treasurer

Larry Nagel

As you read this article, we will have just concluded Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and just started Fiscal Year 2020-21. This article describes results for the month of April 2020. However, I will attempt also to shed some light on the rest of the Fiscal Year as well.



After the terrible month of March 2020, things could only get better, and indeed they did. Year-to-Date Total Revenue at the end of April was ahead of budget by \$35,901. Year-to-Date Expenses are \$49,430 less than budgeted.

The bottom line is that as of the end of April, the Year-to-Date Surplus is \$62,530, which is \$85,330 better than budgeted. Our cash reserves stand at a very healthy \$272,653, and the UUA Board Designated Endowment now at \$752,341 because of a gain in value of \$67,301 in April.

There will be more good news in the May 2020 numbers. Due to a lot of hard work by our Executive Director, Tess Snook O’Riva, we received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loan from the Federal Government in the amount of \$102,370. Our two schools also received PPP loans, so the rental income from the schools will continue.

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

Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe

As we move into summer, we saw several things not happen. Anne and I did not go to Transylvania. The Spring Balázs Tea, postponed from April to June, did not happen. Indeed, the departing Balázs Scholar was having difficulty in

securing flights for his return home. A glance at the program schedule for the virtual 2020 General Assembly did not appear to have programs involving Partner Church and world-wide Unitarianism. Fortunately, the Partner Church Council was able to hold its annual meeting online. We will report next month on what transpired there.



We haven't heard from our partners in Homoródújfalú for some time. Romania put in shelter-in-place orders not long after Italy went into its lockdown. Although Harghita County where our partner church is located has had a low number of cases, data seem to indicate a spike following relaxation of the SIP orders in mid-May. We'll get back to you next month with word from Homoródújfalú.

As always, we are here to answer your questions and we're looking for your donations to the Village Education Fund. That need is always present. Oh yeah, it's about time I make my donation too! And we remain, Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com and Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net.

Good News Corner

This pandemic, what we're living through, seems like a real-life version of an episode of The Twilight Zone. Remember that show? It is becoming increasingly difficult to stumble upon positivity and good news. It feels more and more like we have to battle for hope and optimism.

In this new section of The Beacon, we want to include all the celebrations, fun moments, and every instance that fills our congregation with hope, and keeps us going day after day. When you need a pick-me-up, come to the Good News Corner!

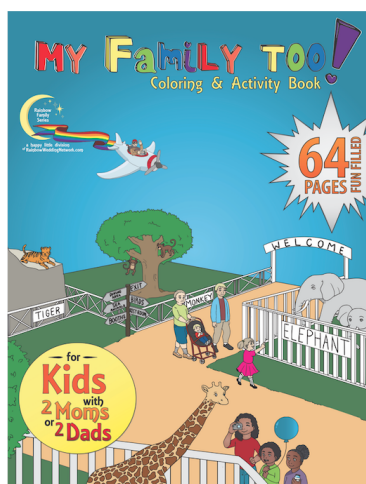
- **Sheya Rose Miller was born on April 22!**

I wanted to share my good news that my daughter was born on April 22, Earth Day! Her name is Sheya Rose Miller and she is deeply loved. I'm so glad she's here and am excited to raise her in UU community.

– Ali Miller



- **RainbowWeddingNetwork.com** just published a **64-page coloring book** called **"My Family Too!"** which is specifically for kids with **2 moms or 2 dads**. It is available through Barnes & Noble. You can visit this link for more information: <https://bit.ly/3fY76Ai>



- **Thanks to all who created, assisted with and joined in UUCB's Black Lives Matter Vigil on Saturday, June 20, 2020.** A sacred space of collective mourning, healing and resolve to take action happened in our very own parking lot. I've attached a few photos below. A video of the Vigil is being edited and will appear on our website in the near future.
– Helen Tinsley-Jones



- **The Wright Institute in Berkeley has started a new service, the COVID-19 Support Line.** They are offering eight free counseling support sessions through video conferencing or telephone to help with the challenges we are experiencing during this time. Please call the institute at (510) 239-2018 for more information.
- **Dozens of neighbors join black man afraid to walk alone**
Shawn Dromgoole posted on social media that as a black man, he was afraid to walk around his own neighborhood alone. "The fear of not returning alive to my family kept me on my front porch," he wrote in the heartbreaking post. Almost immediately, he got a flood of responses from neighbors who wanted to join him for a walk – and dozens did. <https://cbsn.ws/2NmWE9u>
- **Kids create artwork on boarded up businesses in Michigan**
When businesses boarded up windows in Kalamazoo, Michigan, an art teacher didn't see destruction – she saw a blank canvas. Mandy Clearwaters had her students create works of art with powerful messages to help brighten the neighborhood. <https://cbsn.ws/2YoloVb>
- **9-year-old raises more than \$20,000 for people in Minneapolis**
Like many kids, 9-year-old Kamryn Johnson loves to make friendship bracelets. But she decided to sell hers – and now she has raised more than \$20,000 for Minneapolis businesses and families in need. <https://cbsn.ws/2YVQGle>

Let's not just weather this time together, let's celebrate together, too! Send us your Good News and we will feature them in the Good News Corner! Send them to beacon@uucb.org.



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