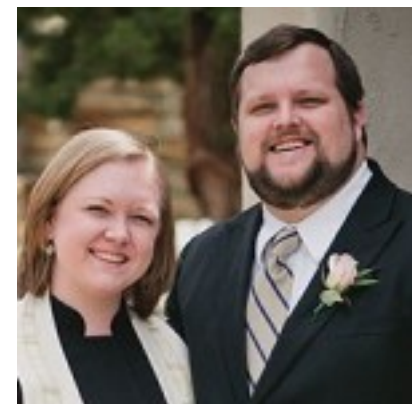


Beacon on the Hill July 2018

From the Ministers

We could not be more excited about the month of July here at UUCB, with a great lineup of preachers in worship and guests in our Summer Forum. Summers at UUCB are a little slower and more relaxed, with fewer events during the week. But Sundays are still a fantastic time to join us for a morning of spiritual exploration and nourishment and a chance to be with the community that is so deeply valuable to us.



Many of us may be taking a little time off, even if it's just a day trip down to a local park, to enjoy the summer weather. Your co-ministers are taking some time off to see family and restore ourselves after a very busy year. We hope you find time in these summer months, if possible, to refresh and restore yourselves, too. No matter what our schedules are like, it's important to take time, even if it's just a moment here or there, to be present to our bodies and minds and be good to ourselves.

We also you to make it here on Sundays whenever you're able, because we have a fantastic lineup of guest worship leaders joining us. Each summer, we welcome guests to our pulpit to give us different perspectives on the world, and to give our ministers a few Sundays off (already we've welcomed Alex Haider-Winnett and the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd in June):

- July 1: The Rev. John Buehrens, former UUA president, will join us again. You may have heard him a year ago at our installation. This summer, he'll preach "On Being Otherwise" for us.
- July 8: Rodney Lemery, a candidate for the UU ministry and intern minister at our sibling congregation in San Jose, will join us to preach about the transformational power of love and re-envisioning Unitarian

Universalism in that framework.

- July 15: The Rev. Christine Haider-Winnett (whose spouse Alex preached in June), will preach about her experience as an ordained and excommunicated Catholic woman.
- July 22: Our own Rev. Craig Scott, member of this church and retired UU minister, will preach on the individual and the community, and how those of us committed to both might think about their relationship.
- July 29: Rev. Kristin is back in the pulpit (and Rev. Christian will be back on Aug. 5) and excited about UUCB's future.

The Summer Forum, which meets at 9:30 on Sundays, is also worth your interest! We always have a great lineup of speakers and workshops in that time. Come early, check it out, stay for worship!

In faith,

Revs. Christian and Kristin

Special Appeal

Our 2017-2018 Fiscal Year is about to close on June 30th. We are grateful for those who have stepped up in the last month to augment our “**Faith, Hope and Charity**” budget line. To date we have received \$20,660 towards the \$40,000 line item. Can you help us close the gap? Mark donations with “FHC” (or, if using InFellowship online giving, “Unpledged”) so we know your intentions! For those of you who have paid next year's pledge early, can you consider making a 2017-18 FHC donation, too? We all need to face our sustainability challenge, and your generosity is the most important factor in supporting UUCB's financial needs.

Sunday Worship Services in July

Sanctuary, 11 am

Theme for July: New Perspectives

July 1 – *On Being Otherwise*. We are blessed this Sunday to welcome former UUA President, the Rev. John Buehrens, into our pulpit again. Lee Maranto, Worship Associate.

July 8 – *Washed in the Power of Love*, Rodney Lemery with Melissa Rosales, Worship Associate. Our religious ancestors believed in a universal salvation; a Love that was too large to turn anyone away. Unlike our Christian ancestors, many of us no longer believe that it is the blood of sacrifice that saves but rather the all encompassing *agape* Love that, once touched, is so transformative that we will save ourselves here in this reality. Please join us as we explore a re-envisioning of Unitarian Universalist salvation and the power of Love.

July 15 – *On Prodigals and Prophets*, Rev. Christine Haider-Winnett with Jim Gasperini, Worship Associate. Speaking out of her own experience as an ordained (and ex-communicated) Catholic woman, Rev. Haider-Winnett will reflect on what it means to leave, return to, and make home in communities that have hurt us. How can we claim our place – and make room for others – in the messy and dysfunctional “family” of humanity?

July 22 – *The Individual and the Community*, Rev. Craig Scott with Cami Fuller, Worship Associate. Our UU 1st principle calls on us to respect the “inherent worth and dignity of every person.” Our 7th Principle calls on us to respect the “interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.” How can we as a congregation, a religious movement, and a society work to create a world that recognizes both the worth of every person and our part in the interdependent web of community? After the service, there will be a membership information and signing session in the ministers’ office.

July 29 – *The Limits of Reason*, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt with Melissa Rosales, Worship Associate. Reason is an important part of liberal faith but it alone is not enough. Join us this Sunday for a service about the

many building blocks for strong, liberal faith. After the service, please plan to stay for a Church-Wide Fifth Sunday Potluck, with new members as our special guests.

Summer Forum: Towards a Just World

Sundays, 9:30–10:45 am, Fireside Room

July 1 – Political Poetry and More. (surprise guest)

July 8 – Professor David Hartsough, author of *Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Lifelong Activist*. Hidden strands of violence.

July 15 – Rev. Dr. Carrie Knowles, “recovering psychologist and recovering attorney” and UU minister. What’s happening with our veterans?

July 22 – Judith Tannenbaum, author, activist and teacher. Tannenbaum teaches poetry at San Quentin and in schools and communities.

July 29 – Tamara Shiloh, author, teaches black and women’s history all year long through engaging books.

Humanist Connections

Sundays, 12:30 pm, check kiosk for room

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!

July 1 – *Why Liberals Keep Losing*, Marcia Bates

July 8 – *Intersectionality of Race and Gender*, Leslie Williamson

July 15 – *Logotherapy: The Legacy of Victor Frankl*, Ray Nelson

July 22 – *Dark Energy and Dark Matter*, Sherry Fuzesy

July 29 – *Living in the Face of Death and Dying*, Ilsa Bartlett

Fifth Sunday Church-Wide Potluck

Plan to stay for lunch after the service on **July 29**, bring a dish or beverage to share, and get acquainted with some of our newest members!

Family Ministry

Zackrie Viczen

Each year we arrive at this point together. One church year behind us and a new one budding forth. There is excitement in such times, as we let go of what was and try our best to plan for what might be. For me, the thing that is most exciting about these transition times is how rich they are with new possibilities for growth and transformation.

Hoping to draw on some of these possibilities, Family Ministry is making some changes for the upcoming church year. Our hope is that these changes will allow us to better focus our energies on the areas that do not receive as much attention under the current program structure.

So what are these changes?

Starting July 1st my title will change from Family Ministry Assistant to Family Ministry Coordinator. In this new role, I will continue to hold all of my current responsibilities as well as take on more of the administrative functions of the program. Plus, I will provide staff support for special events like Easter, Reverse RE, and Field Day (now the All-Church Picnic, October 14). With this change in title, my position will go from 15-20 hours a week to 30 hours a week. This means that many of you will be seeing me on a regular

basis – including being at UUCB one to two Sundays a month.

Merrin will continue as the Director of Family Ministry, but will be working 25 hours a week. Her main focus will be on faith formation activities (RE classes, volunteer support, OWL, etc.). During her work time, Merrin will focus less on the administrative tasks and will instead turn her attention to program development, assessment, and support – with special attention given to revitalizing our youth programs.

Collectively we are working five less hours per week than in the past. This means we will need to do less. With Rev. Kristin and the Family Ministry Committee's input we've decided not to offer the Coming of Age program this upcoming year. We will also only provide one OWL class (K-1). No significant administrative or programmatic improvements will be made this year.

I do want to note that these changes are not meant to be permanent and do not represent the long-term staffing needs of Family Ministry. Rather the decision to implement these changes was born out of a response to balance the program's needs and Merrin's commitment to her new family. Our hope is that spending the next year working under this structure will help give us a clear sense of the future direction of Family Ministry as well as an opportunity to feel what it is like to do things a little differently.

Fall Family Activities – Save the Dates!

Aug. 4 Family Ministry Committee Retreat, 9 am–3 pm

Aug. 26 Water Communion (All Ages Worship), 11 am

Family Ministry Volunteer Training, 12:30–3 pm

Sept. 8 Parents' Night Out resumes on 2nd Saturdays, 4:30–8 pm

Sept. 9 Children's Chapel, 11 am

Fall childcare hours resume, 9:15 am–1 pm

Sept. 15 Family Spirit Circle resumes on 3rd Saturdays, 4–6 pm at UUCB

Sept. 16 First day of children's RE classes & youth groups, 11 am

Open House for parents, 11:30 am – 1 pm

Sept. 21 3rd Friday events begin for middle & high school youth, time TBD

Sept. 22 Birthday Party Project @ GRIP, 5 – 7:30 pm

Oct. 6 Parenting & Mindful Digital Life Workshop, 10 am–12:30 pm

Oct. 14 All-Church Picnic (a.k.a. Field Day), noon–3 pm

Nov. 18 Food Drive, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Thanksgiving Celebration (All Ages Worship), 11 am

Thoughts from Community Ministry

Rev. Cathleen Cox

Last month I had the privilege of facilitating a meeting with members of the congregation who met to share their views on what is best for UUCB regarding the future of Freestone. This is a topic which will be the subject of a congregational vote in the coming church year.

At the meeting, I saw how many good people on all sides of this issue have put in countless hours as well as heartfelt effort and devoted care into thinking about this question.

The focus of our time together was understanding the hopes, concerns, needs, and values motivating those who saw this issue differently. The goal was not

for each side to present a case, which tends to build walls, but for each side, as well as those who are still questioning, to hear and listen to the perspective of those who are in a different place than they are, which tends to build bridges.

This is the most spiritually demanding work I know. No matter which part of my ministry of spiritual guidance I am engaged in – dealing with issues needing conflict resolution for individuals, couples, or congregations and their leaders – this spiritual challenge is always at the core. It's present in your life too – and in mine!

To stay grounded in what matters deeply to oneself and *also* to open to what matters deeply to others is black belt level spiritual practice, whether in our individual or community lives. It's also what saves us. It's what brings us back together, what enables us to “walk the talk” – and live our covenants and ideals. There is no more powerful way to honor “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” or to build “a world community of peace, liberty and justice for all” than to renew again and again – as we all inevitably must – our commitment to listen with open hearts and minds, to speak both authentically and respectfully, and to reach to understand core needs and values that are driving others who see issues differently than ourselves.

Often we are surprised to find how much we have in common, and this happened at the Freestone discussion. Both those who believe it would be in the best interests of the future of UUCB to keep Freestone, and those who believe it would be best to sell it, as well as those who are still questioning and/or are interested in the possibility of finding some third way – all lifted up the importance of being guided by the mission of this congregation!

I always find it valuable to ask: What could this difficult thing be good for? What is there here for me to learn? How is the Spirit of Life moving through us in this moment? Where is the opening that can bring us through together? It often takes time and patience (more time than we wish it did!) to live into the answer. I invite all of us to hold these questions both in our individual

lives and in our life as a community regarding whatever challenging situations arise for us.

I am grateful to the many people on all sides of the Freestone question who stretched to hold these questions with thoughtful care and open hearts in our time together. It was truly an honor to be with you. I am looking forward to our next time together in the fall.

With You on the Path,

Rev. Cat

From the Board of Trustees

As this issue went to press, Board President Jack Duggan was attending the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Kansas City. So we will use this space to share with you the new “Ends” adopted by the Board at its May meeting. In policy-based governance, ends statements are intended to provide guidance for decision-making to volunteers and staff, based on the congregation’s mission and vision.

UUCB is a vibrant multicultural, anti-racist, anti-oppressive congregation:

Reaching Out

- We embody and share Unitarian Universalism.
- Our communities experience UUCB as an active and dynamic partner in pursuing societal and environmental justice.
- People rely on UUCB in times of need.

Reaching In

- We invite people of goodwill to make a spiritual home with us.
- We celebrate the diversity of our congregation in the fullness of who we

are.

- We reach out to one another across differences to connect in shared purpose.
- We have fun!

Building Up

- We are generous with our time, talent and treasure.
- We steward our financial resources responsibly.
- We are comfortable, open and transparent in discussing both personal and congregational financial matters.

Coordinating Team Notes

Deborah Schmidt, Coordinating Team Convener

We welcome our new Lead Facilities Coordinator, Warren Smith, whose resume includes facilities management experience at Berkeley Tennis Club. He brings extensive experience to this position, and I'm sure we will all enjoy working with him.

Many of you have already met Pete Olandt, who is covering Sunday facilities needs this summer. When he can't be there, Marin Fischer and Ann Harlow have graciously stepped in to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Among the other volunteers who have come forward, I especially want to thank Michael DeWitt, who brings generosity, skill and good humor to the task of coordinating our audio-visual needs. Many thanks also to Don Klose and his admirable weed-whacking team, including Bob Adams, Lynne Cahoon, Jim Gasperini, Richard Hanway, Paul Hudson, Linda Laskowski, Bob Moore, Floyd Sam, Joanne Wile, and Don Wollwage. These good people have been working hard to clear our property per fire safety regulations and have saved UUCB almost \$5000!

If you are a potential volunteer seeking a satisfying fit for your skills, consider

joining our marketing team, headed by [Hilary Lorraine](#), which is focused on increasing community rentals and has huge potential to boost both our income and our outreach. As you can see from the above, you will be in excellent company!

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

Social Justice Council News

Sheldon Jones, Reporter

LFDC:

The Literature, Film & Drama Contingent of the Social Justice Council had a very energetic discussion of *The Color of Water*, a memoir by James McBride about being one of twelve African-American children living with and learning from their white, Jewish-turned-Pentecostal-Christian mother. We also recapped our afternoon with USF Professor James Taylor, who captivated us in a different way. On July 1, Andrea Brown will facilitate our discussion of *Citizen: An American Lyric*, a book of dynamic political poetry and prose by Claudia Rankine. All are welcome to bring a snack and join us!

Social Justice Council:

The Social Justice Council took a leading role in the hosting by UUCB of the monthly vigil at West County Detention Center where over a hundred people observed the daughter of a detained man dance her quinceañera dance in a beautiful dress with her cousin in lieu of her dad. To see the vigil and dance: <https://twitter.com/cbsnews/status/1006204468625625088?s=21>

The monthly potluck dinner meeting of the Social Justice Council heard reports about our current activities. Social Justice at UUCB in the last month has:

* Presented a facilitated showing of “Healing Justice,” a documentary about the racial injustice inherent in the criminal justice system and alternatives to that system.

* Supported “Report Back From the Border,” a potluck featuring seminarians from Starr King School for the Ministry who spent time at the U.S.-Mexico border in order to understand conditions impacting social justice.

* Heard a report from the Accompaniment Team, created as part of the SJC Sanctuary Church project, on their efforts in support of a family whose father was detained by ICE while dropping off his daughter at kindergarten and now is on bail release.

* Attended the Pastors for Peace potluck sendoff at UUCB for the annual Peace Caravan to Cuba.

Save the Date:

August 4, 8 pm – Roy Zimmerman in Concert at UUCB – Funny songs about peace and justice. Help us publicize this to the wider community. \$25 general, \$15 students and seniors, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Larry Nagel

At the February 11 Congregational Meeting, the Congregation approved a motion that appropriated up to \$758,000 to be spent from the Board Designated Endowment for

- Restoration of the Safir Room
- Repair of the rafter tails (main building and Safir wing)
- Exterior painting, caulking and sealing (main building and Safir wing)
- Replacement of skylights (main building and Safir wing)

- Up to \$35,000 for mold investigation and remediation for the RE building.

Since that motion passed, the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Oversight Committee, and our architects, Fredric Divine Associates, have been working on the design of the renovation projects and the request for quotations (RFQ) to be put out for bids for these projects. The mold investigation and remediation has been performed and is no longer on the list. The other four projects are about ready to go to bid.

The reason for this notice is to ask UUCB members if they have any recommendations for contractors to whom we can send the RFQ. We are interested in licensed contractors of whom you have personal knowledge, whom you personally can recommend, and who work on medium-sized projects such as our church building. All contractors will be vetted through a fairly vigorous qualification process, but the more bids we have the better and we would like to award the bid to a company that is known and respected within our church community, if possible.

Please send all recommendations, questions, and suggestions to me at the following e-mail address: lwn@att.net.

Thanks!!!

Larry

Partner Church Committee News

Stephanie Ann Blythe, Reporter

It may be summertime, but it's still a busy time for Partner Church! Our dessert social on June 2 was a wonderful time for a small but enthusiastic group of supporters. Anne Greenwood's cold cherry soup was a hit with everyone. The evening was a farewell to Balázs Scholar Rev. Emese Bodor. With the help of László Tihanyi from Eszterlanc

Hungarian Folk Ensemble, she sang and danced for us. Zackrie Vinczen gave a presentation on his time in Transylvania last year. It was a very uplifting time for him, although he noted that the ethnic tensions between Hungarians and Romanians were on full display in a soccer match he attended. Many thanks to Lisa Maynard, Lynne Cahoon, Gloria and Dwight Merrill, John Tucker, and Anne's grandsons for their help in putting on this event.

News out of Transylvania is not so uplifting. The Hungarian Unitarian Church's response to a letter of concern from the Partner Church Council, the UUA, and the International Council of UUs about their position on same-sex marriage is that it is an internal affair, and we should not interfere. There's a lot more to this story. Perhaps next month Anne and I can report back from General Assembly on what more we can learn.

We are also sad to report that our friend Rev. Levente Kelemen, minister in the neighboring village of Ocland, has had another surgery for cancer. We hold him and his family in our thoughts and prayers. Levente's parents, Emma and Imre Kelemen, have hosted us many times in their home in Homoródújfalú.

If you can't wait for our report next month on all the Partner Church activities at GA, contact [Stephanie Ann Blythe](#) or [Anne Greenwood](#) for all the details.

Endowment Committee

There's no secret handshake to learn. Or password to memorize. To be in this society requires only one gesture: naming UUCB to receive something – no matter how little or how much – in your estate plans.

Called the “*Maybeck Society*” after famed architect and UUCB benefactor Bernard Maybeck, this designation of UUCB folks recognizes those who have committed to this church receiving an estate bequest.

A bequest can take various forms in your will or trust: setting a specific

amount or percentage; designating that the principal or interest only be used for a special or general purpose; or naming UUCB as one of your beneficiaries in your life insurance policy or retirement account.

It wouldn't come as a surprise if, like most people, you've been putting off your estate planning. There are three reasons to move it up to the front burner this summer:

One: There is a UUA-wide program, *Wake Now Our Vision*, which in 2020 will give UUCB up to 10% of your estimate of your bequest. The program will reach its maximum giving capacity any month now, so time is of the essence in getting your paperwork done via [Wake Now Our Vision weblink](#) or a member of the [Endowment Committee](#).

Two: You will be treated to a free lunch on Sunday, October 28 if you notify the Endowment Committee that you have named UUCB as a beneficiary in your estate. For advice about getting started in estate planning and/or including UUCB, please contact any one of us on the Committee.

Three: Once you've taken care of your estate planning, you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the rest of your summer knowing that your to-do list has one less thing, and that one thing will benefit the people, values and places you hold dear.

– Beth Pollard on behalf of the Endowment Committee (Lenore Ralston, Ira Nelken, Susan Singh, Grace Ulp)

Freestone Committee

Stop by the Freestone Committee table in the Social Hall on Sundays for “Freestone Facts” handouts, to ask questions of committee members, or to volunteer to help out. We will soon set a date for a big August picnic and open house at UUCB's Freestone Retreat in Sonoma County. We want the congregation to be well informed before taking a vote on whether or not to

sell this beautiful property. Like the Buildings and Grounds Committee, we are looking for contractors interested in bidding on the work needed there.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

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

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

NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS: Submit announcements and articles by email to beacon@uucb.org. Due to limited space, we do not publish announcements for events occurring outside the church community.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. **Questions?** Please email beacon@uucb.org.

WEB SITE: <http://uucb.org>

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

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

UUCB general discussion list:

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

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

Social Justice email list: Email sejones1950@gmail.com