

Beacon on the Hill October 2017

From the Ministers

Revs. Kristin and Christian Schmidt



We say this frequently, so bear with us, but the world has changed A LOT.

Recently, we saw the annual listing from Beloit College, called the “Mindset List,” which gives a sense of what members of the year’s incoming class grew up with. This year’s incoming class was born in or around 1999, and their list had some gems (among many others!). During their lifetimes:

- There have always been emojis to cheer them up.
- Justin Timberlake has always been a solo act.
- They are the first generation for whom a “phone” has been primarily a video game, direction finder, electronic telegraph, and research library.
- By the time they entered school, laptops were outselling desktops.
- They were never legally able to use a Montgomery Ward catalogue as a booster seat.
- Bill Clinton has always been Hillary Clinton’s aging husband.

As we have already embarked upon mission and vision work this year, it’s worth letting this sink in for a moment: the world is changing: from pop culture to changing demographics to the role of the Internet in more and more parts of our lives. Why, then, would anyone expect that our congregation and the reasons people come to us wouldn’t change? Certainly many things about our faith and the purpose we exist as a community are timeless, but a lot of the other things about how we do church are changing. Given how rapidly our world is shifting, an important part of mission and vision work is developing a shared understanding of who we are and what our context is today.

Who are we today?

This congregation has changed since it was founded in 1891, and again since 1961 when it moved to the present location in Kensington. We're also not the same congregation we were in 2000, or even just last year. There is a continuity of the congregation, a line of tradition and history that connects us to the congregation that was and the congregation that will be. But in this time of considering our priorities for the future, it's important to take stock of who we are as a community today. Believe it or not, as of mid-September, we have 376 members (plus a bunch of children and youth!), and **185 of them have joined in the last 10 years**. That's right, 49.2% of our current membership wasn't here even a decade ago. Talk about change!

Where are we today?

Similarly, the communities where we live, work, and play are not the same as they once were. The Bay Area has changed hugely in the last 126 years, and the East Bay significantly even in the last few years. There has been one great move for this congregation in terms of its own location – the 1961 move from Berkeley to Kensington. As we've mentioned before, even our own church campus has changed over the years. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities to learn about the state of our facilities and to explore the opportunities and needs in our wider communities.

Who are we today, where are we today, and what does that mean for us now and into the future? These are questions only we as a community can answer together, and we look forward to discovering those answers with all of you.

In faith,

Revs. Christian and Kristin

Mission and Vision Update

The process to reengage with our shared mission and vision has gotten off to

a great start! Twenty-seven people participated in the first conversation on September 7 and 64 in the second on September 17. Both conversations were based on the same three questions designed to help us discover who we as a community have been when we've been at our best:

1. No matter what brought you in our doors, what has kept you coming back to this church?
2. Think about the time you felt most proud to be a part of this community. What made you feel so proud?
3. Consider the most meaningful worship service you've been to here. What made it meaningful?

The passion people feel for this community was clear as they shared their answers, first with talking partners and then with the whole group. Towards the end, participants considered the group's responses to all three questions and identified some overarching themes in the best of our history. When at our best, UUCB has:

- Welcomed people of all ages warmly for who they are
- Affirmed multiple paths to truth and meaning
- Nurtured our children and youth and taught them our values
- Transformed through worship crafted and led by ministers, intern ministers, gifted musicians, and trained lay leaders
- Embraced the spectrum of human emotion ("it's ok to laugh, clap, sigh, and cry here")
- "Had one another's backs," especially when it comes to sticking up for those of us who are being oppressed, left out, or marginalized in the wider community
- Challenged ourselves to go beyond our comfort zones in order to better understand and then dismantle systems of oppression
- Put our faith into action, living out our values both inside our walls and out in our wider community

Our work to discover where we are being called to go and what we are being

called to do together next as a community is best rooted in the strongest, healthiest, most proud and meaningful parts of our heritage. The next phase of this process is all about developing a shared understanding of who we are as a community today. This will involve learning who we are as a community today, where our members live, taking stock of our gifts, resources, properties, and other assets as well as reflecting on the changing characteristics of the wider communities of which UUCB is an interconnected part.

A significant part of discovering who we are today is learning about the financial realities of our aging buildings and the commitment it will take to properly maintain them if we wish to continue using them as our church home. The Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board will host some information sessions in October to help educate the congregation about our buildings' very significant needs so that we can vote at a special congregational meeting on a path forward to do things like finish repairing the Safir Room.

We hope you will join us for those, and also for one of the next two Mission and Vision conversations scheduled for Thursday, November 2 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. over dessert and Sunday, November 19 from 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. over a light lunch.

In faith and service,

Reverends Kristin and Christian Schmidt

Sunday Worship Services in October

Sanctuary, 11 am

Theme for Month: Courage

October 1 – *The Courage to Covenant*, Amanda Weatherspoon, Intern

Minister, with Jim Gasperini, Worship Associate. Last year the Youth-Adult Team focused on the promise that we make to each other and the promise we make between generations within our community. Join us as we explore the promise of Covenant with UUCB's Youth-Adult Team. Middle and High Schoolers are invited to remain in the service while children in elementary school will have their regular classes. Come explore this vital aspect of community and service!

October 8 – ***Our Religious Home***, Rev. Christian Schmidt, with Mary Muehlbach, Worship Associate. Exploring how we human beings understand the world through a faithful perspective, and honoring the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

October 15 – ***To Fix or Fight the System?***, Rev. Kristin Schmidt, with Jeanne Foster, Worship Associate. One hundred fifty-eight years ago this week, in an attempt to arm slaves for revolt, John Brown led a raid on Harper's Ferry. Of the six people who funded Brown's raid, five were Unitarians. This week in worship we will seek wisdom and courage from our past as we consider today's liberal and radical perspectives on how to build a better world.

October 22 – ***Where the Heart Is***, Kathryn Jay, with David Roberts, Worship Associate. Some of us have spent a lifetime searching for a place to call home, a sanctuary of respite in difficult times. Others have been lucky enough to have sweet memories of a childhood home or have created their own places of spiritual and emotional renewal. How does home nourish your spirit? How can we as a church community help people feel at home? Can we find the courage to offer sanctuary to others?

October 29 – ***The Church Is Dead, Long Live the Church!***, Revs. Kristin and Christian Schmidt, with Carol Carlisle, Worship Associate. Five hundred years after Martin Luther courageously instigated the Reformation in religion, a new process of change and transformation has begun. Join us this Sunday as Reverends Christian and Kristin offer the next "ninety-five

theses.”

October Good Neighbor (sharing our offerings): Responding to the Call to Service, **Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)**

(<http://www.gripcommunity.org/>) transforms the lives of homeless, hungry and disenfranchised people.

Personal Theology

Sundays, 9:30 am, Fireside Room

October 1: **Claudia Miller**, MA from Naropa University, Oakland, a practitioner of non-violent communication and a mediator who facilitates dialogues to find common ground and mutual respect. ***Deep Listening as a Spiritual Practice.***

October 8: **Linda Heiderer**, part-time resident of Findhorn, has taken to pilgrimages as a spiritual pathway and has, among other things, walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. ***Findhorn: A Spiritual Community in Northern Scotland.***

October 15: **Susan Moon**, writer, teacher, former editor of *Turning Wheel*, the journal of socially engaged Buddhism, and author of many books, including *This Is Getting Old: Zen Thoughts on Aging with Dignity and Humor. From Small Self to Big Self: Accepting Myself as I Am, and*

Realizing My Connection With All Beings.

October 22: **Rev. Heng Sure**, Buddhist monk, director of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery, scholar, Graduate Theological Union alumnus, teacher at Pacific School of Religion (PSR), musician, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and youth leader. ***Guarding the Candle in a High Wind: Sources of Hope.***

October 29: **Rev. Michael Burch**, Northbrae Community Church Senior Minister, teacher, coach; co-teaches an ongoing class on World Religions. ***Muslim-Christian Dialogue.***

Humanist Connections

Sundays, 12:30 pm, followed by a potluck at 2 pm. Check kiosk in Atrium for location.

Format: A 10- to 15-minute presentation followed by moderated, timed discussion. All are welcome!

October 1: **Hanna Arendt and Her Concept of the Banality of Evil**, Walter Gorski

October 8: **Fantasy: Tolkien, LeGuin, G.R.R. Martin**, Ray Nelson & Don Anderson

October 15: **Music: The Universal Language**, Leslie Lundeen

October 22: **Images of Witches in History**, Diane Rusnak

Family Ministry

Suzette Anderson-Duggan

The signs of fall are starting to show – shorter days, color changing leaves and, most deliciously, pumpkin and ginger-spiced flavorings. Everything is settling into a nice, steady rhythm. And that is in no small part thanks to the 1000+ hours from our church community members who volunteer their time in a million and one ways with a unique mix of love, joy, and gritty spirit that makes UUCBers very special. We are truly blessed by your wisdom and support.

RE Highlights for October

Children's Chapel –Our first gathering was well received. In case you missed it, Rev. Christian Schmid will be leading the next one on October 15. On these Sundays, there will be no RE classes for youth ages 5-12. Middle and high school groups will attend regularly scheduled classes. Parents and siblings are always welcome, but the service will be geared towards ages 5-12. Youth less than five years old should be accompanied by a parent for the duration of the chapel. Schedule for Children's Chapel:

11:00 am Children attend service with parent/guardian(s)

11:15 Children dismissed to Fireside Room for the remainder of the service

12:00 pm Minister takes youth to the field and parents will pick up their child(ren) from the field. If you are a parent attending the chapel, please kindly walk your child(ren) to the field and sign them out from RE before leaving church.

RE Events for October

10/1 Special Worship Service Youth & Adult, 11 am (Intern Minister Amanda Weatherspoon); RE Teacher Reflection Circle, Merrin's Office, 12:15 pm

10/8 Parent Discussion Circle, RE Bldg. Rooms 3 & 4, 9:45 am; RE Teacher Reflection Circle, Merrin's Office, 12:15 pm

10/13 Youth Retreat, 10/13 -15, Redwood City Fellowship – high school age group

10/14 Parents' Night Out, free childcare in Skytown, 4:30 – 8 pm. Parents connect briefly in RE Bldg. Room 6 before stepping out.

10/15 Children's Chapel with Rev. Christian in Fireside Room, 11:15 am

10/22 Parent Discussion Circle, RE Bldg. Rooms 3 & 4, 9:45 -10:45 am; RE Teacher Reflection Circle, Merrin's Office, 12:15 pm

10/28 OWL Retreat, 10/27-28, UUCB, contact Stephanie Kroner at owl@uucb.org

10/29 RE Teacher Reflection Circle, Merrin's Office, 12:15 pm

Last Thoughts

It's never too late to volunteer! Contact [Colleen Farrell](#), [Megan Hailey-Dunsheath](#) (RE) or [Karl Rimbach](#) (Legacy Link) to explore how your interests, skills, and experience can meaningfully shape the spiritual formation of our youth.

Special Events in October

The following event has been postponed, new date to be determined:

Sat. October 14, 10 am–4:30 pm – *Class Conversations* is coming to UUCB! This lively, interactive workshop for UUs is designed to help us

become more aware of economic and social class distinctions and of how they impact society as a whole, play out in our congregations, and affect the quality of our social justice work. The workshop format includes personal reflection time, paired and small group sharing, multiple frameworks for thinking about class, and investigations into the role of class in UUism. For more information and to register, go

to <http://www.pcduuma.com/upcoming-events.html>. (Scroll down to the October 14 UU Class Conversations calendar listing for the registration link.)

You are also invited to help ensure that this event is financially accessible by donating via Faithify <https://www.faithify.org/projects/uu-class-conversations-for-ca-bay-area-10-14-17/>. For more information, please contact Millie Phillips at 415-272-4152 or milliephillips@comcast.net.

Sundays, October 15 and 22, 1 pm – Free Song Fests featuring our talented UUCB singers (see Music Matters below).

Sun. October 29, 12:30 pm – Fifth Sunday Potluck Lunch. Bring something reflecting your ethnic heritage – and if you are in Hallowe'en mood, feel free to wear keepsakes or traditional clothing!

From the Endowment Committee

Make your legacy gifts count even more! Thanks to a challenge grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 10% of your legacy gift to UUCB (or any qualifying UU organization, including Starr King, UU Service Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Association) will be matched, up to \$10,000 per gift. This means, for example, leaving \$50,000 to UUCB in your will, charitable gift annuity, or other planned gift would generate an additional \$5000 to UUCB, payable in 2019 and 2020 regardless of whether or not UUCB had yet received the gift. To date, five UUCB members have submitted these forms for a potential matching total of \$48,000 in 2019 or 2020. Download forms and get more information

here: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>, or by contacting your Endowment

President's Column

Jack Duggan

The agenda for the board meeting in September at this writing has the usual reports from the ministers, the Coordinating Team and the Treasurer, confirming committee nominations, and business guidance. From month to month the board takes care of the church's business, approving actions of the various committees and the staff of the church. We ask questions, give guidance and try to plan for the future.

Next month at a congregational meeting the whole congregation will decide on how we pay for operating funds and maintenance. With Freestone, the board is trying to consider the risks of deferred maintenance with the desire to use the building while balancing the overall financial needs of the congregation. The board represents the congregation, and with the congregation, we are concerned with the details of running our community. We are well aware of the overriding financial concerns, a nagging deficit and unmet maintenance costs, while at the same time we are striving to be a vital, unified and relevant community.

I believe it's important that we pay attention to the day-to-day issues of UUCB, that we run a good organization, and I thank god that she has given us people who are better at that than I am. By myself I couldn't do it, but together we can.

I also believe that the answer to our long range issues is not to address them

one by one but to look at the big picture, to look at how we operate for our vision and our mission. That's why I am very excited about the Mission and Visioning Process that we have begun. I don't think it's as much about deciding a mission and vision, we have that to update and refine. For me it is about how we decide to put that mission and vision to work, how with a long view we act in present time.

When I first came to UUCB, I was looking for a meeting mostly on Sundays with people who shared their struggles and triumphs. I found that here. And much more. I didn't expect to be challenged but I found a community that challenges me in who I am, what I believe, and how I act. I found a community that demands much more of me than I thought I had to give. I found a community that can make me uncomfortable. I began to look at the part I play in marginalizing people. I began to see more clearly how I can contribute to a truly universal and diverse community. My opinions, my understanding have changed in the last six years.

As the President of the Board of Trustees, I have opinions about where we should be going as a congregation, but I've also learned to be open and trust my friends. And that's why I am excited to participate in the process we have begun. I trust this congregation. Together we can participate and learn and together we can plan where we go as a community.

Thoughts from Community Ministry

Rev. Cathleen Cox

It's always worth remembering that we are all part of the shared ministry of this faith. There are UU parish clergy and religious educators, of course. There are also UU

Rev. Cathleen Cox,
Community Minister

Community Ministry clergy serving in and beyond the walls of our congregations in a wide variety of ways – five are affiliated with UUCB at this time (I am one), and we have had ten affiliated Community Ministers here

over the last 20 years.

There are also over 100 UU lay ministers who have been commissioned by their congregations. They have covenanted with those congregations to serve our faith at a deeper level of commitment and responsibility – think “deacons,” “elders,” and even “missionaries” for parallels in more traditional denominations. There is also every member of every UU congregation who is aiming to live and model our values here in our religious home and out in the world. This, together, is the shared ministry of our faith.

There is no point in denying that this church year began in a different place than a year ago for most of us. As a nation, we have moved deeper into dark times. As a denomination, we have moved through a crisis, and there is much to rebuild. Tensions are high all around us.

We need strategies to flourish in the circumstances of our times so that we can continue to serve this shared ministry together. Here are three I find helpful:

Choose mindfully the things that you can do in your life and ministry and bring your full focus to each task, one at a time. Focus on what can be accomplished with each and let go of what you cannot affect.

Remember it's not all up to you. The interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part is alive with like-minded souls who are motivated to actively contribute in myriad ways and are doing so. Visualize the earth covered in the many billion points of light that these people, communities and organizations represent. Let yourself rest in the web. It is real.

Value and attend to what you need to personally thrive. It's damaging to everyone to compare your pain and struggles to others and decide that yours doesn't count. Only if you thrive can you inspire others to give their best gifts to the world. Seeing burnout in their leaders and ministers frightens people away from contributing themselves because they then believe that's what

giving to others has to mean. Your modeling of a life that is energetically balanced is crucial in empowering them to step forward.

With You on the Path,

Rev. Cat

Coordinating Team Notes

Deborah Schmidt, Coordinating Team Convener

It has now been just three weeks since I joined the CT, and I am enjoying the concrete, operational focus of my new role, in contrast to the more theoretical, visionary work of the Board of Trustees. Both functions are really more relational than anything else, which has always been my favorite thing about volunteering at UUCB. It is a joy to be working with our amazing ministers, our talented business administrator, and all of you toward fulfilling the vision of this church.

I want to thank Lisa, not only for providing an exemplary model for me, but for taking time and care to help me transition into this position with all the necessary tools and information. Specifically, we have talked about keeping the momentum going as we implement our new safety policy and transition to a different way of providing hospitality at UUCB (contact lbmaynard3@me.com if Sunday hospitality calls to you!).

Other items of note:

We are entering fall retreat season, with two hard-working and team-building events coming up: a joint Board and Coordinating Team retreat on October 28, and a November 4 CT/Program Council retreat.

We will miss Mary Ellen Morgan and wish her all the best as she takes time out this month to recuperate from surgery. A hearty welcome to new bookkeeper Diana Steinbach, who will ease us through Mary Ellen's absence

and stay on to cover some key responsibilities.

Thanks to Larry Nagel and the Buildings and Grounds team, our long-awaited tree removal process is well underway, and we are close to some working figures for the Safir Room repairs.

This topic is part of one of our biggest challenges: how to cover ongoing maintenance, repair and renovation needs for our church home. Your board and CT will be structuring opportunities for you to join this important conversation.

The Coordinating Team currently meets twice monthly, at a time chosen by its members (currently on the first and third Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., but this may change with new CT members). 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.

Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe, Reporter

Our Partner Church in Transylvania can use some of your TLD (tender loving donations)! Let's talk about the cost of a high school education in Homoródújfalú. There are ten students in the village that would benefit from your generosity. They must go to a distant city for their high school education. Our donations help pay for their room, board, and other things not covered by the state. University and trade school students can also benefit. While any amount is welcome, you can sponsor a student for \$400 a year. The Partner Church Committee does not restrict how the scholarship committee in the village disburses the funds they receive from us.

We are asking for donations to assist the village in renovating the parsonage. While we can't show you the pictures here, they have replaced the roof and

made other improvements for the new minister. Villagers are also contributing money and home furnishings along with their labor for the parsonage. We can't be there to help out, but our contributions will go far in making the parsonage a wonderful home for the minister.

So what is the best way to make a donation for the students and the parsonage? Write a check to UUCB and put "Village Education Fund" on the memo line. Include a note if you would like your contribution to be for students only or parsonage only. Contact the church office if you wish to use a credit card or arrange for donations on a regular basis. Need more information? Ask Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net for anything you need to know about our long partnership with Újfalú.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Larry Nagel

I'm sure some people noticed that the first eleven Monterey pines were removed at the end of August. The even better news is that we have just been informed by Contra Costa County that they have completed the final study for the removal of the remaining 61 Monterey pines. After an agency review period of 20-30 days we will have our permit to remove the trees! The Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project has been sent to eight tree removal contractors. We also are making good progress in the specifications for the remodel of the Safir room. The goal here is to have the design ready for presentation at a congregational meeting later this year, hopefully in November.

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 fourth Monday of every month at 4 PM in the Fireside Room (except for December and May, when it is the third Monday).

Music Matters

Bryan Baker

A celebration of song in two afternoons full of beautiful and expressive voices. On October 15 at 1 pm, join us for “**New Voices**,” a collection of songs of this century, from Sara Bareilles to Craig Carnelia. This program features Dayana Claghorn, Bridget Eding, Corinne Eding, Michèle Voillequé, and Mark Walstrom.

A week later, on October 22, again at 1 pm, it’s “**Classic Beauty**” with art songs by great composers of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The singers are Meghan Dibble, Marcelle Dronkers, Richard Fey, Katie Lipka, Rod Lowe, and Barry Zuckerman. There is no charge for either concert.

In services in October, you will hear a great variety of music. Among the selections is “Give us Hope” by Jim Papoulis, director of the vibrant New York Children’s Chorus and a composer and arranger who has worked with Tony Bennett, Patti Labelle, Vangelis, and Christina Aguilera. “Like a Mighty Stream” is a gospel-like collaboration between John Jacobsen, a choreographer and composer for Disney, and Moses Hogan, one of the great voices in spirituals and the choral world in general. “Al Shlosa D’Varim” is a lyrical setting by Allan Naplan of a Hebrew maxim, that translates roughly as “the world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice and by peace.”

Yours in harmony,

Bryan

Social Justice News

At the September meeting, the Literature, Film, and Drama Contingent (LFDC) discussed *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. The time-warp-based fantasy written by the

famous, but now deceased, African-American author explores the lives of the enslaved and their white oppressors in the antebellum South. The lively discussion examined the author's method of writing, which revealed a horrible period of American history in a very human manner. During next month's LFDC meeting, we will hold a fishbowl discussion about class.

The Social Justice Council (SJC) potluck dinner meeting had a number of informative discussions, including:

- On the UUCB's Immigrant Sanctuary project as it relates to DACA. Those wanting to support DACA enrollees can come to the **Heritage Potluck on October 29** to write postcards or go to the web site: <https://www.youcaring.com/dreamersinfinancialneedduetoneewemergeneydeadline-941284> to connect with a crowd funding campaign to help prospective DACA enrollees afford the \$500 fee to the federal government.
- The People of Color Caucus, a part of the "Taking Stock" project, held a dinner on August 26. Those attending shared their experiences as people of color in a majority white UU congregation and what the congregation might do to make UUCB a more welcoming place for people of color.
- Good Neighbor Nominations for the next church fiscal year are due by **September 30**. Application forms are online and at the church. Eligible organizations must be either UU affiliated or be a 501c3 nonprofit serving either Alameda or Contra Costa county.

After marching in the kickoff parade, SJC members staffed a table at our UUCB booth during the very warm Solano Stroll. We met many interested people and got the contact information of five people who wanted to learn more about social justice at UUCB.

With Combatants for Peace and other local organizations, the SJC will be co-sponsoring *Disturbing the Peace*, a documentary film about former Israeli Palestinian combatants now working for peace. The showing will include a panel and takes place on **Tues. November 7, 7 pm**, St. John's Presbyterian

Church, 2727 College Ave, in Berkeley.

JOIN TEAM UUCB FOR THE GRIP HARMONY WALK

Come walk with us in this year's Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) Harmony Walk, followed by a community festival. The Harmony Walk is a chance to build community with our interfaith neighbors while raising money for GRIP, which provides shelter and resources for homeless families.

WHEN: Sat. October 28

9 am Registration begins

10 am Warm-ups and Walk/Run

11 am Festival with music and food trucks

WHERE: Nicholl Park, at MacDonald Ave and 31st Street in Richmond.

If you want to make a financial contribution (tax deductible), please make your check payable to UUCB with "GRIP Harmony Walk" on the memo line, and simply put your check in the Sunday collection basket. If you are raising money from people outside UUCB, you can have them make the checks out to GRIP Harmony Walk and bring them to the Walk with you. Turn in \$100 or more on the day of the Walk and get a free 31st Harmony Walk commemorative T-shirt. (Under 18 raise \$25 or more for a free T-shirt!)

For more information, visit the GRIP website at gripcommunity.org or contact Ladie Malek at ladie.malek@gmail.com or Ariel Smith at arielwest@yahoo.com

From a Silk Cocoon, a documentary film about the Japanese internment during WWII, will be shown at UUCB on **Sun. November 5 at 3 pm**. The film's producer and former internee, Satsuki Ina, will be on hand to answer

questions along with immigration lawyer Laura Craig and Council of American-Islamic Relations Executive Director Zahra Billoo. The film tells the story of a Japanese-American couple who struggled with their incarceration in an internment camp during WWII, and the consequences of resistance. Their story connects US history of the past to US history of the present, and into the future. **Tickets**

required: <https://silkcocoonuucb.eventbrite.com>

The Unitarian Universalist Association's "Common Read" for 2017-18 is *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*, by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen. The Literature, Film & Drama Contingent of the Social Justice Council (the LFDC) will discuss the book in January.

Other Social Justice Opportunities and Information

Ceasefire Walks: Friday nights in Richmond at 7, contact maw.jane@gmail.com.

GRIP: UUCB volunteers prepare and serve lunch to hungry and homeless people at the GRIP Souper Center in Richmond on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Want to volunteer? raywest2@sbcglobal.net. To help with supper at GRIP on fourth Saturdays, contact arielwest@yahoo.com.

Read-Aloud: Volunteers needed for next school year to read aloud at local elementary schools in Richmond and San Pablo. Contact Judy Sam at jssam47@yahoo.com.

Poetry

MESSENGERS

A mother dove claims

an outside rafter

at entrance to church.

Fledglings crowd the nest

of bonded twigs & straw.

We gaze in awe at the

almost hidden nest –

mother dove cooing

who cannot sing.

Just like many of us

leaving or entering

our sacred space,

the birdlings don't know

everything about trust

freedom & the sky, yet

one day they too will fly...

(c) Claire J. Baker

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

- We covenant to build a religious community guided by love and sustained by respectful relationships.
- Believing that building healthy relationships is a spiritual practice, we aim to listen appreciatively, speak with care, express gratitude, honor

our differences, and assume good intentions.

- We endeavor to communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- When we hurt one another, we will try to forgive, make amends, and reconnect in a spirit of love.
- In celebration of the common purpose that unites us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant.

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

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

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

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

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

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

UUCB general discussion list:

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

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