

---

## July 2022

---

# Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Vol. 81 #7

The mission of this church is to create loving community; inspire spiritual growth; and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service.

---

## Opening Task Force

by Lisa Maynard

---

Dear UUCB Community,

I hope you are all well and are staying safe. It's a change for me to produce the OTF Beacon article, and as I write I am away from home, so I decided to write you a letter.

Unfortunately, it seems that we are in the upward portion of another spike in COVID-19 infections. Perhaps you're getting news frequently about friends and connections who have tested positive for the virus. We can hope that we will get to that downward portion of the spike soon, maybe even during July. In the meantime, I hope that we will all maintain our vigilance, in spite of being tired and cranky about the long trajectory of this virus' effect on our lives.

Please, please, please come to church in-person activities **only** if you are free of symptoms of contagious disease. Yes, this means that if you have a cold and test negative for COVID, you should still stay home and enjoy our online options—a cold is a contagious disease. Also, for your own health and the health of others, be sure you have an effective mask that fits you well. There are many ways to get an effective mask, and there's masking advice on the CDC and California Department of Public Health websites. As you know, not every mask fits every face—and it's important to make sure your mask fully and snugly covers your nose, mouth and chin at all times when indoors at UUCB (and certainly recommended at places like the grocery store, too).

Here's the other Very Important Thing: if you do test positive for COVID within four days of attending any UUCB activity in person, please notify the church. With our Sunday Check In as you arrive, and our sign in sheets for other activities, we are able to notify specifically those people who attended a particular event of their possible exposure, so that they can be alert for any symptoms they develop, or even just take a test a few days later if they are concerned about passing on the virus to others.

Sincerely,

your correspondent from among the Ponderosa pines, Lisa Maynard



---

## July Services

Sundays 11 am

In Person and Online

### July 3

Rev. John Young preaching,  
Worship Associate Karen Elliott

### July 10

Rev. Emily Webb preaching,  
Worship Associate Don Klose

### July 17

Rev. David Sammons preaching,  
Worship Associate Jason Russell

### July 24

Rev. Stephanie Kroner  
preaching, Worship Associate  
Bill Brown

### July 31

Rev. Jeannie Foster preaching,  
Worship Associate Karen Elliott

## Coffee Hour

Sundays at Noon

**In person** on the Terrace

## Sunday Programming

### Summer Forum

Sundays at 9:30 am, in person & on Zoom

**July 3** – No program

**July 10** – Heather Macleod. Environmentalist. Currently working on preventing the expansion of the Oakland airport. Sponsor Sheila Tarbet.

**July 17** – Roberta Shaw and Don Klose. Leaders of our UUCB Peace Committee will lead a discussion on nuclear weapons and commitment to peace.

**July 24** – Dr. Bud Abbott, biologist. He will present a power point on his recent safari with Biologists Without Borders to Botswana. They trace and preserve wildlife. This time cheetahs and leopards. Bud spoke to us two years ago on a safari documenting elephants.

**July 31** – Milo Foundation. Morgan is their outreach person. The Foundation has 400 animals currently for adoption. They come from shelters, not rescue animals or pets. The Foundation has won the Jefferson Award for its work. Some of their adoptable friends will also come!

---

### Humanist Connections

Sundays at 12:30 OR 1 pm. See below for details. Contact Marcia Bates, [mjbates@ucla.edu](mailto:mjbates@ucla.edu), for info or check The Week Ahead for Zoom link.

**July 3, 1 pm** – Laughing with the Dalai Lama. Mary Muehlbach.

**July 10, 1 pm** – Topic Selection for June and Short Topic Discussion. Ray Westergard.

**July 17, 12:30 pm** – Echoes of the McCarthy Era. Rosalind Gordon. Potluck. Hosted by Gabi Kramer. Safir Room.

**July 24, 1 pm** – Big Pharma and Drugs. Dennis Monthei.

**July 31** – Managing Worldwide Food Shortages. Hope Carroll.

## Special Events

**July 8 @ 8 pm**

### Roy Zimmerman Concert: This Machine

Roy Zimmerman has brought the sting of satire to the struggle for social justice to stages, screens, and airwaves for thirty-odd years. (And they've been thirty ODD years.) "This Machine" is ninety minutes of Roy's songs, at turns heartfelt and hilarious. It's laughter and encouragement for progressive-minded people who need a lot of both. \$25 [online](#) or at the door (or pay what you can).

**July 10 @ 1 pm**

**Poetry at the LFDMC!** Arif Gamal, author of *Morning in Serra Mattu: A Nubian Ode*, will join us to discuss his beautiful book! McSweeney's calls it "...a mosaic of interrelated stories exploding with personality, myth, and geohistorical weight, it is a profound, joyful meditation on life in modern Sudan. Epic in scope, spellbinding in its intimacy, generosity, and wisdom..., *this* is the book we didn't know we needed." Zoom link in the calendar and The Week Ahead.

---

## Good Neighbor for July

### Contra Costa Family Justice Center

<http://www.cocofamilyjustice.org/>  
Their mission is to bring together the community to support the healing of family violence survivors, and to integrate capable partners with a comprehensive service approach to renew individuals and our community from a trauma of family violence.

## Announcements

### Board Listening Presence

Cordell Sloan: [cordellsloan@hotmail.com](mailto:cordellsloan@hotmail.com), 510-388-1492.

### Assisted Listening Devices

Our ushers can assist you with acquiring an assisted listening device before service.

### Pastoral Care Need?

Email us at [pastoralcare@uucb.org](mailto:pastoralcare@uucb.org). While Rev. Michelle is on vacation, Revs. Jane Ramsey and Sue Magidson will be available for emergency pastoral care. Both Jane and Sue are professional chaplains, as well as UUCB community ministers. Please call the church office during business hours or listen to the outgoing message after hours to find out who is on duty and how to contact them.

### Learn Javanese music at UUCB!



Enjoy learning to play Javanese gamelan music on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7 pm, starting September 1. All ages and levels of musical skill welcome. This opportunity is perhaps unique to our congregation, as we learn, play, discuss and collaborate while experiencing firsthand the meditative and transcendent beauty of Javanese gamelan. Call or email Daniel 510-334-1334 [danielswinslowschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:danielswinslowschmidt@gmail.com); or Tom [tripphomas@yahoo.com](mailto:tripphomas@yahoo.com), 510-495-4879 with any questions.

## Board of Trustees

### June 2022 Actions

**COVID Vaccination:** Changed from requiring proof of vaccination for large events/worship service to requiring affirmation for all events. Opening Task Force reported they had not turned anyone away because they were not vaccinated or had not received a waiver, but they had turned away people who said they were vaccinated but did not have proof with them.

**Freestone:** Encouraged congregants to visit to Freestone this summer, during one of the twice/month daytime outings; see Week Ahead for details.

**Widening the Circle (WTC):** Amended the Board's WTC vision statement to expand the types of anti-oppression to dismantle and amplify the role of our youth; an abridged vision statement to be read at Board meetings and included in the Beacon and Week Ahead.

**Fire Station Parking Lot Lease:** Received presentation from the Kensington Fire Protection District on its 18–24-month use/lease of the lower parking lot for a temporary fire station. They showed the layout for the engines/equipment apparatus bay, modular units for office/living space, parking, and perimeter fencing. Informed about average of 1-2 calls/day, daily schedule, employee parking, noise (minimal siren use), removal of tree branches and speed humps at Craft entrance, UUCB community engagement/pancake breakfasts, indemnification, and post-lease paving.

**Ministerial Search Committee (MSC):** Is underway, with Greg Lemieux as MSC liaison to the Board. Helen Tinsley-Jones and Cordell Sloan will be the Board liaisons to the MSC.

## Social Justice

### Co-Chair's Final Message

As I finish my third and final year as Co-Chair of our Council, I'd like to recognize, appreciate, and thank all the leaders of work at UUCB Social Justice. You create the wonderful programs that center UUCB firmly in the wider justice community. Taking my place will be Carol Carlisle, with a strong leadership team including: Susan Blair as Treasurer, Natalie Campbell and Lonnie Moseley as Scribes, Jim Acock and myself as Sunday Table Coordinators, Mary Muehlbach as Communications Facilitator, and Camille Parker as Social Justice *Beacon* Editor.

The first big event for this new team will be our "Congrats to Grads," program, when we will honor graduating UUCB young people at our July 13 meeting. Hope to see you there (via Zoom that is)!

Sheldon Jones, SJC Co-Chair ([sejones1960@gmail.com](mailto:sejones1960@gmail.com))

### Poem-in-the-Making for Sheldon

Dear Sheldon,

*You are steadfast, sweet, steady, trustworthy, wonderful, a smooth operator, my brother, warm, very patient, passionate, integrity, dedicated, a man-for-all-seasons, persistent, a listener, my beloved, understanding, enthusiastic, awesome, inspired.*

Composed by Social Justice Council members on June 08, 2022. Thank you, Sheldon, for your time, talent, and treasures, in leading the SJC these past three years!

### Youth Spirit Artworks

Youth Spirit Artworks continues making progress towards creating Tiny House Village 2. In recent weeks they've had meetings with Oakland's mayor and several council members, seeking support for the leasing by the City of a one-acre lot next to Tiny House Village 1, as well as \$250,000 in funding towards construction costs. UC Berkeley and USF architectural students are designing a community center for the Village as part of an international green competition. Village #2 will have three mini-villages intended to serve as possible models for mini-villages that could be built for unhoused Oakland residents on vacant lots around the city. As this project evolves, I expect there will be many opportunities for members of our UUCB community to contribute and participate. Look for further updates.

Jim Acock ([jim.acock@gmail.com](mailto:jim.acock@gmail.com))

### Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent

We enjoyed a lively couple of hours, full of information about (and listening to) African American music. Jim Acock deemed the power of Black music to be for "personal connection, musical healing & joy"! For Cordell Sloan, it is for "emotional endurance, resiliency, social protest & Black love"!

Slides and music videos compiled by Lonnie Moseley displayed the genres that were discussed: Gospel, Blues, Jazz, Rock & Roll, Social Protest, Folk & Country. Genres saved for another day were: Field Work songs, Spirituals, Ragtime, Doo Wop, Classical and Hip Hop.

We appreciated all the research, love, and care – and for the joyous afternoon!

[camilleparker@comcast.net](mailto:camilleparker@comcast.net)

## **World Peace Committee's Sponsored Project for 2021-2022**

My awareness of the grossly excessive expenditure for nuclear weapons in the proposed U.S. Budget prompted me to apply for a Sponsored Project, which I called "Cut the Pentagon Budget; Shift Funds to Human Needs." The objectives were to: (1) influence U.S. lawmakers to reduce our government's bloated military budget, particularly by cancelling the obscenely expensive plans to produce new nuclear weapons, and (2) move the money saved towards increasing the budgets for underfunded U.S. Departments such as Health, Environment, Education, Housing, etc. The members of our small World Peace Committee and some other SJC members agreed that this was an important issue. Don Klose agreed to work with me as Co-Chair of this Project.

I am sorry to report that, when the proposed budget came up for a congressional vote, a large majority of our government representatives approved the new military budget, which was for an even larger amount than the increases which Trump had added! So, we were not successful in reaching our objectives. But, in the future, we hope to return to methods, mentioned below, that we had planned when this Sponsored Project was written.

Last year we had hoped and expected that UUCB would be meeting in person by the summer of 2021. Don and I planned to present occasional informative talks after services to make members of the congregation aware of the subjects of this Sponsored Project. We planned to notify people of upcoming government bills related to such subjects and encourage them to write or call their elected representatives. We planned to organize occasional group letter-writing gatherings after services, and also have any important petitions available for signatures. We hoped to hold monthly Action Tables in the Atrium, wherein one of us would sit at the table, hand out info, and encourage others to sit down and write a brief letter to a government representative, and the other would roam the Atrium and Social Hall, handing out info and encouraging people to visit our table. It turned out that none of these plans materialized because of the church's long closure. And, even now, since UUCB's re-opening, the services are not very well-attended, and not many people stay around on Sundays after service the way we used to do. So, we have not felt motivated to try putting our plans into effect.

Still, we will continue making an effort to create a more peaceful world – with fewer (preferably ZERO!) nuclear weapons in the world, and more U.S. governmental funding for human needs. Don Klose and I will present a talk for Summer Forum at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 17, live in the Fireside Room (and also on Zoom). And, I hope that in the future we can put into action some or all of the methods described above, plus other forms of outreach, to make significant contributions towards our original objectives in particular, and to World Peace in general.

Roberta Shaw ([shawroberta@hotmail.com](mailto:shawroberta@hotmail.com))

## **Church? Congregation, Community, What's in a Name?**

Rev. Fran Moulton and I propose that UUCB change its name to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Berkeley!

There are many reasons for this. The word "Church" connotes a Protestant Church. We are not a Protestant Church. Some members of the Jewish faith cringe seriously at the thought of stepping into a place called a "Church." Many Jewish houses of worship are called "Congregations." It is a more inclusive, universal term.

We are a congregation-based organization. Although we have a Minister, the congregation calls and selects them. "Congregation" better describes who we are.

Let us know what you think! [dorothyherzberg@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyherzberg@gmail.com) and [fkoulton@comcast.net](mailto:fkoulton@comcast.net).

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

*Love guides this church.*

*The quest for truth and justice is its common purpose.*

*To give thanks, listen deeply, speak with care, honor our differences, and seek and grant forgiveness –*

*These things we covenant with one another.*

**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 an “introduction to membership” session, sign the membership book, and commit to supporting this church through participation and financially. To become a member, please contact [membership@uucb.org](mailto:membership@uucb.org).

**NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS:** Submit announcements and articles by email to [beacon@uucb.org](mailto:beacon@uucb.org). Due to limited space, we do not publish announcements for events occurring outside the church community. **The deadline for submissions** is the 15th of the month. **Questions?** Please email [beacon@uucb.org](mailto:beacon@uucb.org). (Beacon is compiled and edited by Charis Domador.)

**WEBSITE:** <http://uucb.org>

**PHONE:** 510-525-0302

### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter** or “The Week Ahead at UUCB,” email [connections@uucb.org](mailto:connections@uucb.org). You can also find both newsletters at the [uucb.org](http://uucb.org) website under “News.”

### **UUCB general discussion list:**

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

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

### **Our Board of Trustees Widening the Circle Vision Statement:**

*We, the trustees of UUCB commit ourselves to championing racial justice, embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia and religious oppression, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) in everything we do.*

## Board of Trustees

Beth Pollard, President  
Helen Tinsley-Jones, Vice President  
Selene Fabiano, Secretary  
Lenore Ralston, Treasurer  
Michael Armstrong  
Bill Brown  
Pier Sun Ho  
Randall Hudson  
Elaine Miller  
David Roberts  
Cordell Sloan

## Executive Advisory Team

Tess Snook O’Riva (Executive Director and Convener)  
Rev. Michelle Collins  
Alice Lemieux (Family Ministry and Program Council liaison)  
Beth Pollard (Board president)

## Program Council

Jean Gleason (Convener)  
Suzette Anderson-Duggan and Alice Lemieux (Family Ministry)  
Victoria Bowen (Membership)  
Lynne Cahoon (Buildings & Grounds)  
Barbara Cullinane (Pastoral Care)  
Marin Fischer (Music/Arts)  
Jim Gasperini (Communications)  
Sheldon Jones and Natalie Campbell (Social Justice)  
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)  
Lenore Ralston (Finance)  
Cordell Sloane (Board Liaison)

## Staff (partial list)

Minister: Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins  
[minister@uucb.org](mailto:minister@uucb.org), 301-675-5314 (either call or text)  
Executive Director: Tess Snook O’Riva  
[ed@uucb.org](mailto:ed@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 305  
Office Administrator: Caitlyn Vincent  
[administrator@uucb.org](mailto:administrator@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 306  
Connections Coordinator: Charis Domador  
[connections@uucb.org](mailto:connections@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 304  
Facilities Manager: Antonio Toro  
[facilities@uucb.org](mailto:facilities@uucb.org), 510-525-0302, ext. 308