
June 2022

Theme: Celebrating Blessings

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Vol. 81 #6

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

Executive Director Notes

Tess Snook O'Riva

It's June! Summer at UUCB is viewed as a slower season. School is out, families are on vacation/sabbatical, and people are just in a relaxation mindset. I was told that there was a task category called "Summer Projects." Well, I was first hired July 1, 2019, the middle of summer. The gas main was shut off two weeks after I started. 2020? Pandemic/Loss of Ministers/New Minister. 2021? Continued pandemic/Loss of two long-term staff/New database. It's never felt slow.

That said, this summer I feel like many pieces of the puzzle have been put into place. Hopefully, we calmed people's fears about UUCB's financial stability. We have a new full-time Director of Family Ministry and Lifelong Learning. We'll be done with the audit. Our Audio Visual (AV) universe is better than ever.

The list of Summer Projects is always longer than the summer months. Caitlyn will leave in August to welcome her new baby until December. Town Hall meetings with neighbors to talk about how we can work together and address their concerns. Our continued struggle to reduce combustible material means a summer of weed-whacking. (Volunteers?)

But there's a change in the air. People seem to be breathing easier, stepping up, and interested in composting, fundraising, and dancing (not at the same time). There's optimism that we can cautiously move forward. It feels good.

Many hands make light work, as the saying goes. We will focus on finding ways for people to pitch in according to their interests and time. So, will you help us reduce our paper storage needs by scanning old documents after worship? Build things with wood? Know a yoga/Zumba instructor needing a space? Want to lead a ukulele group? These are just some of MY ideas. What are yours? We want to hear them! Tess - ed@uucb.org



June Services

Sundays 11 am

In Person and Online

June 5

Halloween Service

June 12

Reproductive Justice

June 19

Question Box and Juneteenth

June 26

General Assembly Service

Coffee Hour

Sundays at Noon

In person on the Terrace

Sunday Programming

Summer Forum

Sundays at 9:30 am, Fireside Room

June 5 – David Hartsough, UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus.

Author. Lifelong Activist. Where is peace now?

June 12 – Occupella. Original political songs. Provocative, powerful, and fun. Hali Hammer leads. Sponsor Dorothy Herzberg.

June 19 – Rev. Michelle Collins. Ecological Footprints.

June 26 – Tamisha Walker. Safe Return. Working with women returning from the penitentiary. Sponsor Beth Jerde.

Committee: Dorothy Herzberg, Beth Jerde, Karen Elliott, Sheila Tarbet, Jim Acock, Roberta Shaw

Youth and Children's Choir

On break until September.

Humanist Connections

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

June 5, 1 pm –Where Do You Get Your News? Presented by Anne Fitzmaurice. Zoom

June 12, 1 pm –Topic Selection and Discussion with Ray Westergard. Zoom

June 19, 12:30 pm – Is Civilization Going to Hell in a Handbasket? Presented by Marcia Bates. In person, Safir Room.

June 26, 1 pm – New Ways to Think about Contemporary Life. Presented by Charles Carey. Zoom.

Good Neighbor in June

<https://eastbaysanctuary.org/> East Bay Sanctuary Covenant provides legal services, community organizing, and transformative education to support low-income immigrants and people fleeing violence and persecution.

Special Events and Announcements

June 4 @ 11 am

Bridget Eding's Celebration of Life. There will music, shared stories, food and art, a book giveaway – all things that Bridget loved. In person, [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#). <http://evite.me/3zWZhSzAtQ>.

June 7 & 21 @ 7 pm

Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group special summer spiritual journey book read, *Braiding Sweet Grass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*.

June 11

Pacific Central District Annual Meeting

June 19 Juneteenth and Father's Day

June 22-26

UUA General Assembly

June 26 @ 2:30-4 pm

All-Church Potluck Picnic. Celebrate summer with UUCB friends and meet new people. **Live Oak Park Picnic Area 1. 1301 Shattuck, Berkeley** (but closer to 1300 block of Walnut Street). Please bring a snack or beverage to share. Contact with questions or to RSVP: Ann Harlow, annharlow@pacbell.net.

Board Listening Presence

Michael Armstrong: call or text 510-219-3847 or send an email at arrowsdogs@comcast.net

Read the Executive Director's

Financial Pickle Report here:

<https://bit.ly/3LHnSDt>

Schweitzer Awards Presented To:



Ann Harlow

Presented by Lonnie Moseley:
"Many of you know Ann and cannot imagine the functioning of this church without thinking of the name Ann Harlow. We've seen her do SO MANY things for UUCB. Okay, I meant to say, we've seen her do EVERYTHING for UUCB.

Activities and events that we now take for granted happened ONLY because of Ann Harlow's devotion (obsession) and love for this place. At least fourteen of our incredible auction fundraisers happened because Ann stepped up as chair and with great volunteers planned and produced our best fundraisers. She has been a Board member serving multiple years. And then in other years volunteered to be Secretary of the Board twice! (Who does that?) If I asked for a show of hands of people here who have been on committees with Ann, almost all of us would be waving hands in the air. Do you know why we have the most updated By-Laws and Governance Manual? Ann Harlow. Do you know why we had (and will have again) an organized and ongoing Kitchen & Hospitality snack table? Yup, Ann Harlow now with Gerry Keenan. And who served in the past on the Freestone committee? And Landscape committee? Membership, Stewardship, Aesthetics, Building & Grounds. Do you remember that for a number of years, Ann handled the Beacon content before Charis took over? Ann has been the Convener of the hard-working Program Council, and now as one of the valuable members of the Honoring Indigenous People Group, along with Carol Carlisle, Ann maintains our internet webpage for this group! Oh, and that reminds me. Why does UUCB have the best Wikipedia page on the internet? You guessed it. And not everything is committee work. When Covid hit, Ann created "Wednesday Walkers" for anyone to walk outside together on various trails to stay connected and not isolated. She always thinks of how to be there for others. All of the forementioned activity is within UUCB. I won't even describe her work outside of UUCB as an art historian and president of the Berkeley Historical Society. That would take another award ceremony. Ann, I've learned from you what resilience, friendship, forgiveness, and love look like in action. I know personally that you have loved me into being a better person. I am humbled to be your friend and sister. AND I'm so delighted to present you with this long overdue Schweitzer Award for your more than twenty years of devotion to UUCB and to all of us. Thank you!"



Jean Gleason

Presented by Stephanie Ann Blythe: *"The Morristown NJ UU Fellowship was Jean Gleason's first contact in Unitarian Universalism. She saw the Seven Principles on the wall and thought they were a better deal than the Apostle's Creed.*

She wasn't there a long time but long enough to become the board vice-president. She then moved to Stockton and became involved in the UU church there. She gave a sermon on volunteerism and was also a delegate to General Assembly for the first time.

Along the way she met and married Larry Nagel, who is a lifelong UU, so by the time she arrived at UUCB she was ready for some serious volunteer work. I was chair of the Nominating Committee, and her name was at the top our list for prospective board members. Soon enough, she became vice-president and would take the gavel from me as board president. She is currently the convener of the Program Council. She has been active in the Social Justice Council and has been a Read Aloud volunteer. It is ironic that Jean has been on the interim minister search committees that brought Greg Ward and Michelle Collins to us. It seems that she was involved in the retirements of ministers in Morristown and Stockton, as well as Barbara and Bill Hamilton-Holway here at UUCB.

If you've ever been to Jean's house, maybe for one of Larry's scotch tastings or poker games, then you've probably been treated to her famous brownies. I highly recommend them. On a more personal note, Jean and I have closed down a couple of bars while at GA, and she credits me with the impetus for her and Larry to visit our partner church in Transylvania. However, she wasn't prepared for Anne Greenwood giving her \$1800 in cash to deliver to the church in Homoródújfalu. Jean lugged the contraband from Kensington to Glasgow, then all the way through Europe to Romania.

And so it is my great personal pleasure to present the Schweitzer Medal to Jean Gleason."

From the Board of Trustees

SO MUCH is happening to shape our UUCB future!

Congratulations to the 8 members selected for the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). Your esteemed committee includes (*in alphabetical order by first name*): Ariel Smith-Iyer, Deborah Schmidt, Don Klose, Greg Lemieux, Ladie Malek, Lorraine Schnurr, Sandy Portillo-Robins, Suzette Anderson-Duggan.

The MSC will explore with the congregation what type of ministry to seek (Contract, Settled or Other). They will be supported/guided by the congregation, along with the national resources of the UUA.

But I would like to first express extreme gratitude for all the respected nominees from the congregation who were willing to serve on this committee. Their nomination by you, their fellow members, reflects the admiration felt by the entire congregation toward all the potential committee members. We truly have had an abundance of riches in this effort.

The final determination of the MSC included:

- Appointing an 8-member committee (rather than our original target of 7), seeking to reflect the range of interests, talents, and perspectives in our congregation.
- As seen these past two years, unanticipated events can strain time commitments available to even the most dedicated; having an 8th member will provide cushion for unexpected possibilities and more support for the committee.
- We expect the work of the committee to rely on seeking consensus, working through points of any disagreement to find solutions. Having an even number will not hinder this process.

The UUA provides experienced guidance to committees in their search development. Their Transitions Office provides coaching for the team through the process. Other resources for our MSC Committee include:

- A specific “Search Committee Training” held for our UUCB MSC Committee (and other congregations) – set in June, led by the UUA Transition Office,
- The “Transitions Settlement Handbook”: https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/settlement_handbook.pdf

Once the type of ministry has been decided and approved by the Board, the committee then moves into next steps:

- Deeper questions about UUCB's needs/desires.

- Conducting a UUA congregational workshop, “Beyond Categorical Thinking,” to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process.
- Creating a UUCB congregational profile for ministers in search.
- Next winter/spring: Receiving and reviewing information from prospective ministerial candidates and narrowing the list of candidates to final choice(s).

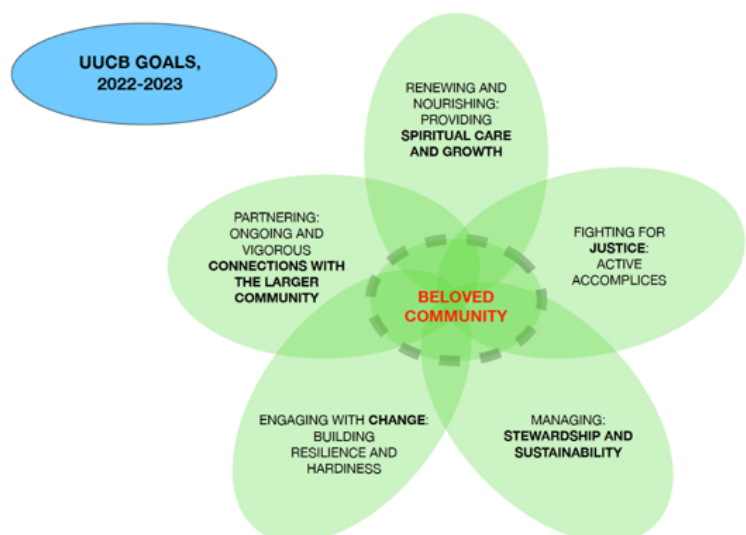
We are so excited to embark on this new adventure to ensure the ongoing stability and inclusiveness of our beloved UUCB.

Feel free to reach out to any of us with your insights or ideas or email board@uucb.org

Michael Armstrong

Board of Trustees May 2022 Actions

1. **UUA General Assembly (GA):** Designated UUCB delegates to the June GA: Suzette Anderson-Duggan, Stephanie Ann Blythe, Evelie Delfino Sales Posch, Liz Der, Jane Lundin, Melissa Rosales, Rev. Jane Ramsey. Alternates: Victoria Bowen, Helen Tinsley-Jones.
2. **Kensington Fire:** Received report that Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) is interested in leasing lower parking lot for a temporary fire station.
3. **Vaccination verification:** Discussed Opening Task Force recommendation to transition from showing proof of COVID-19 vaccination for attending UUCB events to asking for verbal or other affirmation of vaccination to attend. Board tabled decision to June 1, asking for congregant comments in the meantime.



Partner Church

We recently sent \$2,700 to our Transylvanian partners in Homoródújfalú. The donation was to be split three ways: \$2000 to the Village Education fund, \$500 to their Ukrainian relief efforts and \$200 for Rev. Attila to use in any way he sees fit. It seems that it takes a village to send money to a village, as there were many hands at UUCB needed to make the wire transfer happen. Thanks to all, but especially to all who have donated to our partner church. Keep up the good work and join in the support of our Transylvanian partners!

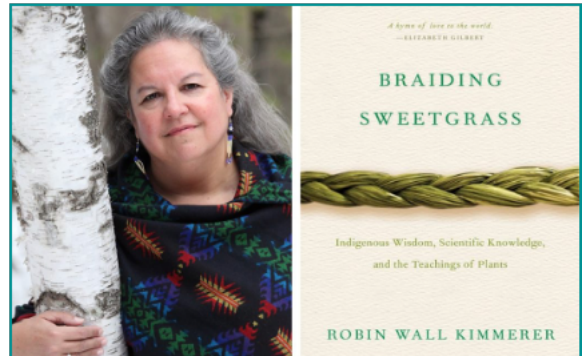
Relief for Ukraine is still a top priority. Rev. Kovács István, the bishop of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, Rev. Rácz Norbert Zsolt, deputy bishop of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, and Szabó László, president of the Providence Charity Organization, have expressed their gratitude: *"On behalf of the Hungarian Unitarian Church and Providence, its charity organization, we express our heartfelt thanks for your generous support regarding the humanitarian aid work we have been carrying out for the victims of the Ukrainian war. We hope to be able to continue assisting the refugees in Romania and supporting the war victims in their homeland as long as it's needed."*

There are so many needs for our Ukrainian relief dollars, but the most heartwarming may be the kindergarten for refugee children in Kolozsvár. The refugee children come from many cities across Ukraine: Odessa, Kyiv, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, and Donetsk. To put it in stark terms, these children used to live in the bombed-out apartment buildings you see on the news. Eight Ukrainian children were selected to attend an "urban camp" during the Orthodox Easter school holidays. Find out more at: <https://intlwomensconvo.org/page/supporting-people-affected-by-the-war-in-ukraine>

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

Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group (HIP)

You are invited to a special spiritual journey book read of ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



4 Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 pm, 6/7, 6/21, 7/5, 7/19

1 meeting onsite @ UUCB, Sunday, 7/31

You need not come to all sessions to participate, and the Book Read is open to the UUCB community and friends.

Author Robin Wall Kimmerer is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, botanist, distinguished professor, poet, mother and award-winning writer. This best-selling book (on the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times best-seller lists) lives at the intersections of science and spirituality, of botany and environmentalism, frequently inviting the reader to stop and reflect, awakening our poetic souls and teaching us to be better stewards of the earth.

Check out the reviews on [Goodreads](#) and enjoy a talk by Dr. Kimmerer on [Open Space Trust](#) (available for free and on demand through midnight, Sunday, 6/4).

For questions or to sign up for the Book Read, please contact Helen Tinsley-Jones, htinsleyjones@yahoo.com.

Social Justice

Co-Chair's Message

July 1st will mark the beginning of a new start for the Social Justice Council. There will be a brand-new Planning Committee, and we would love to have your help on the Council! Meetings will be held every other month on the second Wednesday, from 7-9 pm. (July, September, November, January, March, May – as well as a meeting in December, when we will meet with Good Neighbor candidates.)

At our June meeting (on Wednesday, June 8th) we will vote on our new Planning Committee. We still need a few more slots filled; so, if you are looking for a way to participate and help out the Social Justice Council, please contact us! The people on the Planning Committee are a fun bunch, who really enjoy working for social justice; work together to plan our meetings, and discuss the direction of the Social Justice Council. Our meetings are always full of laughter and harmony. It feels good to be on a team that is making a difference in our community.

Positions for 2022-23, and those needing to be filled are:

Co-Chair: Carol Carlisle **(A second Co-Chair needed!)**

Secretary: Natalie Campbell

Treasurer: Susan Blair

Sunday Table Co-Coordinator: Jim Acock **(A second Co-Coordinator needed!)**

Congregational Communications: **(Someone needed for this role!)**

Please consider joining our Planning Committee. If you would like to be put on the ballot for the June 8th vote, or know someone who might be a good fit, contact Natalie Campbell at nataliehcampbell@yahoo.com.

Environmental Project: Restoring Our Earth For All

Our dedicated committee of eight is identifying exciting future projects with real impacts. By staffing a table after Sunday services, we can show church members how to opt to receive up to 100% clean energy in their homes; how to download and use the Climate Action Now app to become climate and environmental justice advocates, and we can pass on other critical information to involve everyone in regenerating our one and only Earth home.

With UUCB leadership, we are exploring steps we can take to significantly lower our congregation's carbon footprint by composting food waste (as required by law) and reducing and recycling plastic waste.

We think now is a great time to consider a big idea – becoming a Green Sanctuary as we start to gather in beloved community on the hill. A Green Sanctuary is a UU congregation that lives its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable lifestyle for its members as individuals and as a faith community.

The committee will begin exploring the five-stage process, usually accomplished in 1-3 years, to become accredited; and we will share information with you along the way. If interested, you can read more about it at <https://www.uumfe.org/resources/green-sanctuary/>.

Contact Sheila Tarbet for more information or to join us at starbet99@gmail.com.

Mourning the Change in Climate and the State of the World?

UUCB and USSB (Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara), in conjunction with the Good Grief Network, are offering a unique Zoom workshop series of drop-in sessions providing **social and emotional support** to UU church members and friends who feel overwhelmed about the state of the world and who are looking for a way forward.

Drop-in groups April 6 - June 8 (Ten weeks, 10 Drop-in sessions, on Zoom.)

The Program helps us work through the sense of despair and isolation that is a normal response to the existential threat of climate change and other emerging human disasters. The program builds personal resilience and empowerment as it strengthens community ties.

Using group sharing, literature study, journaling, and embodiment exercises, we create a brave grounded space where we can collectively work through our heavy feelings. From this space we can envision new ways forward, access our unique personal gifts, and reorient our lives toward action – at a time when action is essential.

This program is provided through a generous grant from the Prairie Vista UUA fellowship in western Nebraska. Find out more and register here: www.goodgriefnetwork.org/uu.

Elaine Miller: elau.usher@gmail.com.

Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent

In May, we honored Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, as we discussed Julie Otsuka's beautiful books: *When The Emperor Was Divine* and *The Buddha In The Attic*.

On June 5, no reading is necessary, as we celebrate Black Music Appreciation Month, created in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter. All are welcome to come enjoy Jim Acock's presentation of "The Songs We Carry With Us" when he will be "...playing and discussing some of the songs and artists that have had special meaning for me over the years; that evoke memories of people and events in my life, both personal and within the larger community. I'm hoping that others also will share some of the songs they carry with them." Camille Parker: camilleparker@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.

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. (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. 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

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Rev. Michelle Collins
Alice Lemieux (Family Ministry and Program Council liaison)
Beth Pollard (Board president)

Program Council

Jean Gleason (Convener)
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Victoria Bowen (Membership)
Lynne Cahoon (Buildings & Grounds)
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Sheldon Jones and Natalie Campbell (Social Justice)
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)
Lenore Ralston (Finance)
Cordell Sloan (Board Liaison)

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