# Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Vol. 83 #6

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

### From the Minister

The cherries are growing. Still small and green but yellowing on a side and growing recognizable as the sweet and tart fruit that we'll soon try to eat before the cedar waxwings get them all. The skies have dried, and we've flipped the lever on the greywater pipe to send our wash water out to feed the plants instead of drain to the sewer. What I mean is, the season is turning, and this month, as the school year ends and summertime calls, we turn toward a slower time in the rhythm of our congregational life.

This month also marks a significant moment in the life of our faith tradition. At the virtual General Assembly of our Unitarian Universalist Association, delegates from congregations across the country will vote on a revision to Article II of our UUA bylaws—the section that contains the Principles and Purposes of our Association. While this change, like any significant change, comes with growing pains, I think it's a worthy cost to pay to be part of a living tradition: a tradition that evolves and adapts, that does not anchor itself in a set of creedal words that attempt to capture all truth for all time.

We have a theological tradition that runs deeper than the current Principles, adopted in 1984, and deeper than the original Principles of 1961. It runs back through the centuries as our spiritual ancestors wrestled, generation by generation, with the question of how to make sense of inherited truths alongside our lived experience and our evolving understanding of ourselves and the world. Last month I shared Rebecca Parker's articulation of the boundaries of belief that our tradition has identified, boundaries that speak to something deeper than the way we articulate our Principles in any given era. You can read her whole piece on the Challenge of Unitarian Universalist Theology here: <a href="https://www.questformeaning.org/quest-article/challenge-unitarian-universalist-theology/">https://www.questformeaning.org/quest-article/challenge-unitarian-universalist-theology/</a>

I'll be stepping back over the summer to take some time for rest and renewal as well as deeper study before we launch our next church year with Water Communion on August 18. I'll be out of the pulpit starting June 23rd, when we'll livestream the General Assembly service, until August 11. We have a wonderful group of guest preachers ready to join us in worship, many of whom are UU and Interfaith ministers affiliated with our congregation.

With you in work and in rest, Rev. Marcus Liefert



## **June Services**

Sundays 11 am

In Person, <u>Facebook Live</u> and <u>YouTube</u>

#### June 2

It Takes All Kinds
Flower Communion

#### June 9

One Wild and Precious Life

#### June 16

With Love at the Center

#### June 23

Livestream General Assembly Worship Service

#### June 30

**Topic TBD** 

# **Religious Education**

Will return in September

## **Coffee Hour**

Sundays at Noon

In person in the Social Hall

# **Sunday Programming**

#### **Summer Forum**

June 9 – Let's Support Equity in Berkeley Schools. Sally McLaughlin, Schools Support Volunteer Manager for the Berkeley school district, BUSD. In support of our Social Justice Council's new Sponsored Project, Sally will describe students' and teachers' needs and the many engaging ways we can help out.

**June 16 – Growing Up in the Black Panther Party**, Dr. Meres-Sia Gabriel

June 23 – The Power of a Meaning-Centered Life, Rev. Catherine Cox

June 30 – Time to Abolish War, a short documentary about the Hague Appeal for Peace presented by the Peace committee.

#### Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 10 am

Youth Choir will meet until June 9, then will resume in August.

## **Humanist Connections**

**June 2** – Ray Westergard "Positive Aspects of Death," followed by Paul Ulbrich "How Do you Determine How Certain You Are about Something?".

June 9 – Ray Westergard "Topic Selection for the Month of July" plus short topic discussions.

June 16 – Dennis Monthei "Radical Hospitality: What Is It, How to Exercise it?"

June 23 – Marcia Bates "Christopher Bollas on the Fascist Mind"

June 30 – Paul Ulbrich. "Circadian Rhythms"

# **Good Neighbor in June**

### **Richmond Emergency Food Pantry**

Website: <a href="http://www.refp.org/">http://www.refp.org/</a>

Mission: Provides food for over 40.000 individuals annually. It is run on volunteers and donations alone.

Special Events

June 2 during Service
New Member welcome

June 2 during Coffee Hour Final Assemble of Blessing Bags.

June 2 @ 2 pm Roads and Roles of Comedy: Six comedy play performances. A fundraiser for Music & Arts.

June 8 @ 10 am – 4 pm
The Art of Worship: A daylong
retreat to help build a community of
ritual artists at the UU Church of
Berkeley.

June 8 @ 7:30 pm
Kensington Symphony Orchestra
Concert: Romantic Travels

June 15 @ 9:30 am
Work Party. Help spiffy up of our
UUCB Building and Grounds.
Enjoyable work for all, in good
company! party starts at 9 am with
coffee and cake; but come anytime
to help. Outdoor projects include
weeding, pruning, and improving the
terrace and parking lots. Bring work
gloves.

#### June 15 @ 1 pm

Death Café Conversations. "Death Café" is a recent movement that brings people together in small social groups to "drink tea, eat cake, and talk about death." The purpose is to help people feel safe talking about death and dying.

June 20-23 General Assembly

# **Weekly Events**

For up-to-date details: <u>uucb.org/weekahead</u>.

## **Mondays**

9 am Write For Your Life 9:30 am Women's Meditation Group

#### **Tuesdays**

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi 12:15 pm Applied UU Buddhist Sangha

#### Wednesdays

10 am Walk & Talk Group 10:30 am Aging with Grace

#### **Thursdays**

5 pm Javanese Gamelan 7 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **Fridays**

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

# **Monthly Events & Meetings**

#### Sunday

9:30 am Parents Discussion Group (1st Sunday) 11 am Religious Education (1st & 2nd Sunday)\* 11:30 am Celebration Chapel (3rd Sunday)\* 1 pm WOWS Working to Overcome White Supremacy (3rd Sunday)

#### Monday

11 am Textile & Art (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

#### Tuesday

10:30 am Volunteer Lunch Program at GRIP (4th Tuesday)

#### Wednesday

7:15 pm Board of Trustees (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) 7 pm Social Justice Council (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) 7 pm Program Council (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

#### Friday

11 am Textile & Art (4th Friday)

#### Saturday

9 am Work Party (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) 1 pm POCC People of Color Caucus (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) 4 pm Parents' Night Out (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday)\* 6:30 pm Youth Social Event\*

#### **Announcements**

#### June 15 Death Café Conversations

"Death Café" is a recent movement that brings people together in small social groups to "drink tea, eat cake, and talk about death." The purpose is to help people feel safe talking about death and dying.) At 1 pm.

## **June 8 Kensington Symphony Orchestra**

Our site partner, KSO, will have their last concert of the season: Romantic Travels.

# **Chalice Camp**

Chalice camp is a fun and meaningful week-long summer day camp for 1st through 6th graders. It deepens our Bay Area youth's understanding of themselves and Unitarian Universalist values.

When: Aug. 5–9, 9 am–4:30 pm Where: Tilden Regional Park Contact: <a href="mailto:support@chalicecamp.org">support@chalicecamp.org</a> Info and Registration: <a href="mailto:chalicecamp.org">chalicecamp.org</a>



<sup>\*</sup>Summer break. Will resume in August.

# The State of Our Congregation

Helen Tinsley-Jones and Pier Sun Ho UUCB Co-Presidents May 19, 2024

Hello beloved members of our vibrant congregation!

We are filled with immense joy and gratitude to celebrate the incredible journey we have embarked on together. Our congregation has been flourishing in so many ways, and we are thrilled to share some exciting updates with you.

First and foremost, we take a moment to rejoice in the growth of our community. To start with, since last May we've grown by one settled senior minister, and the celebration of his installation is an event our community will not soon forget!! We also see new people here in our Sanctuary almost every week, and seventeen new members have signed the membership book this past year, a testament to the warm embrace and inclusive spirit that defines us. Each new member brings unique gifts and perspectives, enriching the tapestry of our congregation even further. We encourage everyone to say hello and chat with someone you don't know, or don't know well every Sunday. We've also reconnected with our Transylvanian Partner Church, an international opportunity for community.

We are pleased to report that our current Stewardship Campaign is an ongoing success. One hundred and forty-one members and families have pledged thus far, and more are anticipated. Thanks to your unprecedented generosity, we have exceeded our goal of \$500,000, which among other things will allow us to **finally** bring **all** our dedicated staff to UUA minimum suggested fair compensation. To our amazing 2024 Stewardship Team, including Cynthia Asprodites, Selene Fabiano, Kay Fairwell, Anne Greenwood, Judy Sam, Helen Toy, Karen Tripp, Anne Wardell, and led by Lisa Maynard: thank you for your herculean efforts! The commitment we make ensures our

congregation remains financially secure and poised for continued growth and service.

Speaking of service, our congregation's dedication to justice is unwavering. The Social Justice Council and the Widening the Circle of Concern Committee have been engaged in many campaigns to increase awareness and take actions that impact our broader community. In line with our commitment to environmental stewardship, the Board was pleased to receive and support proposals for the Green Sanctuary Process and electrification of our campus. These initiatives underscore our dedication to caring for our planet and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

We also want to lift up the care we've taken of each other in the now. Our Pastoral Care team continues to do the important work of marking significant life events, both happy and sad, and ensuring we all have a listening ear we can turn to in times of need. Our Hospitality Team feeds our bodies with delicious snacks, and our remarkable musicians feed our souls with beautiful songs. We form deep connections in innumerable small groups: Chalice Circles, various meditation, study, and support groups, we explore, we learn, we write, we take walks, we create art, we break bread. We do this all together. These are the relationships that make our church not just a place, but home to so many.

But some must leave us as well. We were sad to say goodbye to our Director of Family Ministry, Heaven Walker, at the end of April. We wish her well in pursuing her calling to chaplaincy, and we're now in the midst of interviewing for a new Director of Family Ministry. We're lucky to have many excellent applicants, and we're hoping to have a decision by the summer. Remember to look for that new face in August and to warmly welcome them into our community.

Now, a little housekeeping. Normally at this meeting the Board would share our new or revised goals and priorities for year. However, as you may know, Rev. Marcus has been holding visioning meetings, to gather an understanding of where we are and where we'd like to go. (Have you been a

part of this conversation yet? If not, it's not too late!) We'd like our new Goals and Priorities to be informed by this process, so we've decided to postpone revisiting our Flower. Stay tuned!

Something the Board has been up to is a revision of our Governance Manual. Beth Pollard and Kay Fairwell led a significant review of the Governance Manual, and we adopted a new version in February. It includes the addition of a foundational section, and revisions or additions to further clarify numerous elements related to Board Governance, Delegation to Staff and Leadership, Care for Members, Care for Financial Resources, the Endowment, and Oversight. Some of the key revisions included clarifying the purpose of executive session, adding a board policy regarding co-officers, expanding the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, clarifying the Grievance Policy in relation to termination, authorizing non-competitive bids under certain emergency conditions, and clarifying several elements associated with endowment gifts and payouts. If you're interested in viewing the full revisions, the updated Governance Manual is available to all on the UUCB website under About/Governance.

As we embark on this bright new chapter with Rev. Marcus, let us hold steadfast to the goals we set forth last year: attending to our spiritual care and growth; championing love and justice; engaging in courageous leadership; supporting stewardship and sustainability; and building connection and community. Your continued support and dedication are integral to the success of our congregation, and we extend our deepest appreciation to each and every one of you who volunteer your time and treasure to make our community thrive.

Together, let us continue to shine brightly as a beacon of love, compassion, and justice in the world. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

In Beloved Community,

Pier Sun Ho and Helen Tinsley-Jones UUCB Co-Presidents

# **Executive Director Notes**

#### The Ministries of UUCB

I've often said that every personnel position at UUCB is ministerial. Recently I realized I should explain.

Music feeds the soul. Imagining a service without music hurts my heart. People who sing for us, with us, and to us, encourage us to join in the celebration. We reach into ourselves and lift our voices in expression and wonderment. Music is a ministry.

Being a human is not always easy. Whether a single-person household or a multi-generational household of twelve, families come in all shapes and sizes. What we have in common is that we are trying to be good examples for each other and mutually supportive in all areas of growth. Families are ministry.

Our physical spiritual home is the container in which we learn, explore, connect, and manifest so many aspects of our spirituality. Taking care of our land during a work party acknowledges our deep connection to Indigenous ancestors. Painting a fence uplifts the spirit of both the person painting and the multitudes that equate the result with care and compassion. Facilities are a ministry.

From the outside, it may look like the back office is just paying bills, dealing with paperwork, and doing the "business" of church. And we are, but the checks are to Good Neighbors and our congregants doing Good work in the community. The bills are paid to vendors we support and uplift underrepresented business to build generational wealth whenever possible. We provide free or discounted space to many organizations and help the public celebrate rites of passage, often introducing people to the welcoming atmosphere and sanctity of UUCB for the first time. Administration is a ministry.

The "Ministry" designation comes in many forms. Some people worship through food and join the Kitchen Team. Some people uplift specific areas

of their spirituality through writing, meditating, or participating in a variety of ritual activities. Some sit in Chalice Circles to connect deeply with others or become a Sunday Worship Associate. Some people get all the fulfillment they need that week just by participating in a Sunday service. There is no wrong way to worship, so they are all ministries.

I deeply appreciate the congregation passing the proposed budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year in support of all our ministries. Without our mission, the budget has no point, and without all our ministries, we cannot serve our mission.

Together, we are ministry at UUCB.

### **Partner Church**

As we start to gear up for our pilgrimage to Transylvania, a lot is happening right now in Homoródújfalu. We hope that you signed the supercards we had in the Atrium on Sundays in May. The first was for Reverend Gyerő Attila's 40th birthday on May 12. The second was on May 26 to celebrate Attila's marriage to Zsusza. Gratulálunk! (that's congratulations in Hungarian)

UUCB member Dean Flint has made some generous donations to Partner Church recently. There's money for repair of our Transylvanian Gate. But we're also sending \$500 as wedding gift for Zsusza and Attila. Another \$750 will go to upkeep for the church in Homoródújfalu. Thank you, Dean, for your generosity! We still have a nice balance in the Village Education Funds, and so when we visit the village in late August, we may be able to give scholarship funds to the students in person. We are also planning a sale of handmade embroidery from the village to add to the coffers. Look for more information about the sale.

There's plenty of time during the summer for you to make your contribution to the Village Education Fund and our Partner Church activities. Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe and Anne Greenwood at <a href="mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com">steph62850@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net">annegt1@sbcglobal.net</a> and we'll tell you how to do it!

# From the Board of Trustees

## By Kay Fairwell

#### Celebrations

Our annual May Congregational Meeting is called our Celebration and Planning Meeting. And, as at that meeting, there has been so much to celebrate in the life of this congregation.

On April 21, we celebrated the installation of Reverend Marcus Liefert, our settled minister. This special occasion celebrated our dreams and visions for the future as we live into our shared ministry. UUCB's installation of Rev. Marcus was a ritualized ceremony to celebrate our choice and Rev. Marcus's choice to mutually enter a long-term covenantal relationship. Colleagues, family, and friends from around the country joined our congregation in observing this ceremony. In fact, there was such a large crowd in attendance that church members acted as "parking attendants" to make sure we could gracefully accommodate this amazing gathering.

On May 19, at our Congregational Meeting, we voted on the proposed 2024–25 fiscal year budget. At the time of this writing, UUCB was predicted to meet our stretch goal of over \$500,000! Many kudos to our amazing Stewardship Team. At this meeting we also celebrated the extraordinary dedication and work of Ariel Smith-Iyer and Tom Tripp, recipients of UUCB's annual Schweitzer Award. Schweitzer medals are awarded to recipients who have been a supporter of UU churches for at least 15 years and have participated in the life of UUCB in ways "above and beyond the normal call of duty" and in outreach activities.

We also continue to celebrate the old and the new. On May 5, we held our annual Doctors of Durability service and luncheon, honoring our church members 80 years of age and better.

Representatives of this august group—Elinor Armor, Donna Davis, and Mick Sullivan—shared their wisdom during our worship service. And in celebrating the new, members of the Board are personally reaching out to new members of the congregation. The purpose of these calls is to

welcome these new members, to answer any questions they might have, and to direct them to appropriate contacts or resources.

Of course, these are just a few of the many of the celebratory activities here at UUCB. We hope you continue to join us for celebrations big and small.

#### **Board of Trustees May 2024 Actions**

- 1. Nominating Committee: Members for congregation affirmation on May 19 are: Anita Mermel (continuing), Sandy Portillo-Robins (continuing), Andrew Swan (continuing), Bill Brown (new), Suzette Anderson-Duggan (new), Liz Der (new), Randall Hudson (new), Carisa Orwig (new) Lorraine Schnurr (new)
- 2. Board of Trustees Summer Meeting Schedule: Will discuss in June possibly rescheduling July and/or August meeting dates
- 3. **Bylaws Task Force**: Put out a call for volunteers to work with Board Members David Rosales and Michael Armstrong on reviewing/proposing revisions to Bylaws
- 4. **2024-25 Budget**: Approved budget for congregational vote on May 19
- 5. May 19 Congregational Meeting: Approved agenda. Members will pick up voting cards at the door (or raise their hands on Zoom) on the honor system - given the routine nature of the agenda items
- 6. Voting Delegates to June UUA General Assembly:
  Designated Anne Greenwood, Evelie
  Delfino Såles Posch, Helen Tinsley-Jones, Rev. Jane
  Ramsey, Kathleen Slobin, Ladie Malek, and Melissa
  Rosales; Alternate: Lonnie Moseley

For a recording of a previous Board of Trustees meeting, please contact <a href="mailto:secretary@uucb.org">secretary@uucb.org</a> for a link.

# **Freestone Oversight Committee**

### by Larry Nagel

The Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC) is comprised of Beth Pollard (Board Rep and Cochair), Tom Tripp (Co-chair), David Wemmer (Freestone Committee Rep), Alan Davis (Freestone Committee Rep), Susan Lankford, and Larry Nagel. The FOC actions for April and May 2024 include:

- The Freestone Committee listed Lots 1 and 2 on MLS on February 23, 2024, and the list price for both Parcels is \$300,000. Two offers were received on March 9, 2024, and March 11, 2024. The prospective buyer began his due diligence on the property and was concerned mainly about whether there is sufficient water on the lots to support a well, which is required for a building permit. The prospective buyer almost backed out of the deal.
- To save the deal, the Freestone Committee requested to use the remaining money in the Contingency Load Fund (\$5,162) to perform a water survey to estimate how successful drilling a well might be. The Freestone Oversight Committee approved this expenditure with the provision that any additional funds required would be provided by Freestone Committee funds.
- Unfortunately, the groundwater survey report
  was all bad news. All six locations came up with
  the minimum range of potential well flow, 0-3
  gallons per minute (gpm). Drilling of wells in this
  range is not recommended. The prospective
  buyer subsequently notified us he was backing
  out of the sale and asked our broker to send over
  release from sale papers for his signature, then
  ours.
- The Freestone Committee is now pondering available options and next steps.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at FOC@UUCB.org.

#### Social Justice Council

At our May meeting, the Social Justice Council voted to support four Sponsored Projects for the 2024-25 church year:

The Confronting Racism and Oppression
 Project, which includes the People of Color
 Caucus, Honoring Indigenous Peoples, and
 Working to Overcome White Supremacy. New
 this year will be a workshop series for the

congregation on microaggressions and a workshop on disparities in maternal health. Each of these groups will continue to offer educational and inspirational activities and programming to engage the congregation in honoring human diversity and overcoming racism and white supremacy.

- 2. A new project, Let's Support Equity in Berkeley Schools, is a partnership with Berkeley public schools' volunteer office to support students, teachers, families, and librarians in a district with the nation's second largest achievement gap between students of color and more privileged white students. Opportunities will include assisting in the classroom, after-school tutoring, delivering food to families, helping in school libraries and more.
- 3. The Climate Justice Committee (CJC) will continue working to engage the congregation in creating a Green Sanctuary church and moving forward UUA's process that includes congregational transformation, mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and justice. The CJC will continue to inform the congregation about opportunities to act personally and systemically to protect the planet.
- 4. Voting Justice will continue working to involve the congregation in getting out the vote by engaging low-propensity voters and people of color, youth, and people living in poverty and in voter suppression states. The project has already sent more than 500 postcards from our congregation to voters. Look for continued postcarding and opportunities to join letter writing, text banking, and phone banking circles in the fall.

In addition, the Social Justice Council announced that it will be developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) application to solicit project ideas worthy of Kelly Kelly's passion and social justice concerns. Congregants are invited to help develop the RFP. Please contact Carol Carlisle, Cyndy Greenleaf, or Sheldon Jones for more info or to volunteer.

Cyndy Greenleaf Socialjustice@uucb.org

# **Blessing Bags**

Our FINAL ASSEMBLE of the Blessings Bags will be Sunday June 2nd after the service in the Social Hall. We're prepping for this and we still need and appreciate the socks, toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, rinse, soap, and lotion that you have contributed! Please do one more round! There is a box in the atrium by the door into the Sanctuary to leave these items. Then join us on June 2 to assemble a bag to take with you to hand out to someone in need.

Beth Jerde Socialjustice@uucb.org

# **Climate Justice Committee (CJC)**

With Rev. Marcus' installation, April was a busy month for many of us, and it was especially busy for the Climate Justice Committee as we led several activities in honor of Mother Earth and the web of life. April 21, before the installation, Phil Maynard introduced the RE children and youth to the birds and native plants on our campus, everyone walking mindfully together and focusing on the natural world. The following Saturday, April 27, Phil led both a bird walk and a native plant walk for adults, and 20 members of the congregation joined in. That evening we screened "The Letter," a deeply touching film featuring Pope Francis and international representatives of youth, the Indigenous, the poor, and researchers of ocean life. The film shares these representatives' stories about how global warming is affecting their lives now as well as their futures. Twenty-eight of us watched the film together and participated in a discussion afterwards. Special thanks to Evelie Delfino Såles Posch, whose singing inspired us after the film. If you missed the screening, you can watch it online: https://www.theletterfilm.org/.

UUCB and CJC member Deb Lloyd recently received special appreciation for her work on the Climate Action Now app! The staff of Climate Action Now identified her as one of its most prolific action-making volunteers! Advocacy actions that she's written have been communicated to decision makers nearly 200,000 times! Think about the impact 200,000 advocacy messages can have!

We're so proud of Deb. If you haven't downloaded the CAN app on your phone, you can do so by going to <u>climateactionnow.com</u>. Be sure to enter the group code 310 to become a part of our UUCB CAN action group.

Many of our members are working with the Voting Justice Committee and Environmental Voter Project as well as other groups to get out the vote. The CJC recognizes how critical it is for us to elect leaders who will support policies to address warming and other environmental issues.

We'll also renew our work on the UUA Green Sanctuary (GS) process, which provides structure, leadership, and support to engage in ambitious environmental and climate justice projects. Our next step in the process is to complete an Opportunity Assessment, and hearing from the congregation is critical! Expect to see us as we reach out to UUCB's groups and members for input.

We're also preparing to facilitate UUCB's participation in the nation-wide UUA Climate Revival involving hundreds of congregations. The revival, entitled "Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era," will include a special service and additional activities in the summer and early fall. In mid-May, the UUA came out with a press release about the revival. You can find it here: <a href="https://www.uua.org/pressroom/pressreleases/uua-joins-climate-revival">https://www.uua.org/pressroom/pressreleases/uua-joins-climate-revival</a>.

We're looking forward to working on climate and environmental justice with you!

Sheila Tarbet

Socialjustice@uucb.org

# The Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent (LFDMC)

"American Fiction"

Thank you for the suggestion, Camille!

Our meeting Sunday May 5 was a discovery of the seemingly endless layers of the movie *American Fiction*. The story of a frustrated Black writer seems to be about white cultural dominance, seeing and not being seen, and unresolved family dynamics around secrets. But while the writing alludes to so much in the history and present state of racism and anti-racism, the actors bring a great humanity and even greater humor to their characters' struggles, while the director's art makes a seemingly straightforward story much more complex.

We were joined by four members of Lonnie and Cordell's long-standing play-writing class in Oakland, and we all could talk about the insightful moments and the cringe-worthy scenes with honest and respectful exchanges. This is a tribute to the introduction to the discussion, which invoked our UU convenantal tradition and our mutual pleasure at finding more and more to discover in this film. The American "fictions" about who we are and are not, while laugh-out-loud lampooned are also seriously portrayed as a work still "in progress."

# 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 <a href="mailto:beacon@uucb.org">beacon@uucb.org</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:beacon@uucb.org">beacon@uucb.org</a>. (Beacon is compiled and edited by Charis Domador.)

WEBSITE: <a href="http://uucb.org">http://uucb.org</a>
PHONE: 510-525-0302

#### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter or "The Week Ahead at UUCB," email <a href="mailto:connections@uucb.org">connections@uucb.org</a>. You can also find both newsletters at the website under "News." UUCB general discussion list:

http://groups.google.com/group/uucb\_discuss/about

Email list for families: Email 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**

Helen Tinsley-Jones, Co-President
Pier Sun Ho, Co-President
Michael Armstrong, Vice President
Selene Fabiano, Secretary
Carolyn James, Treasurer
Michael DeWitt
Kay Fairwell
Beth Jerde
Beth Pollard
David Rosales
Helen Toy

## **Executive Advisory Team**

Tess Snook O'Riva (Executive Director and Convener) Rev. Marcus Liefert

### **Program Council**

Marta Tobey (Convener)
Robin Cooper (Family Ministry)
Victoria Bowen (Membership)
Lynne Cahoon (Buildings & Grounds)
Carol Carlisle (Social Justice)
Barbara Cullinane (Pastoral Care)

Marin Fischer, Virginia Frederick and Phyllis Van Kranenburgh (Music/Arts)

Jim Gasperini (Communications)
Ann Harlow (Fundraising and Hospitality)
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)
Lenore Ralston (Chalice Circles and Finance)

Cordell Sloan (Board Liaison)

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