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May 2024

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# Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Berkeley Vol. 83 #5

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

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## From the Minister

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Still in the afterglow of that over-the-top fabulous celebration of Installation, I am full of gratitude for all you have done to welcome my ministry, both that day and this whole first year. Our community's dedication to care and beauty was evident in every element of the day: from the way people were greeted and welcomed, to the decorations, the flowers, the music, and the food, to the tree we planted and all the hopes and dreams we plant with it. Thank you for pouring out love in such visible, tangible, and tasty ways.

The words Jake charged me with—Worthy, Wild and Whole—are words we've spoken about for the last few years as I've met with him regularly for ministerial coaching. They are words that emerged for me as a guiding north star through a dark night of the soul, a way of holding onto a sense of personal mission in my relationship with the holy as the winds of the world, and especially those challenging, changeable winds of human relationship, buffet my sails and pull me off my course. I know that I will need to return to that charge, and to the many sources that help me to clearly define myself and my goals, again and again. Thank you for bearing witness as I continue learning how to answer this awesome call.

I look forward to watching the redbud tree we planted on the hillside by the terrace grow with you. I look forward to sitting on the bench there with you from time to time, literally or metaphorically, to planting our hopes and dreams there as well, getting our hands dirty in the earth and gazing out at the horizon together.

With love,  
Rev. Marcus Liefert



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## May Services

Sundays 11 am

In Person, [Facebook Live](#) and  
[YouTube](#)

### May 5

Let the Beauty You Love Be  
What You Do. Annual  
Celebration of "Doctors of  
Durability"

### May 12

Mother's Day. The Art of Peace.

### May 19

Room for It All

### May 26

TBA

## Religious Education

Classes: May 5 & 12

Celebration Chapel: May 19

Children's Yoga and Youth

Group: May 26

## Coffee Hour

Sundays at Noon

**In person** in the Social Hall

## Sunday Programming

### Personal Theology

Sundays at 9:15 am on Zoom

**May 5** – “The Poetry of Rumi” presented by Dr. Victoria Lee. Victoria Lee is a psychologist, author, singer, and long-time member of UUCB. She will discuss and recite her favorite Rumi poems.

**May 19** – “So Then, How Do We Change the World? My journey from the Oxford Group via the Left and the UUs to Restorative Justice” presented by Dr. David Belden. New member David Belden received a Doctor of Religion from Oxford, spent time overseas in India and Ethiopia, and eventually founded a fair-trade coffee program in Britain. He is a writer, former managing editor of Tikkun, and is committed to restorative justice.

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### Youth and Children’s Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 10 am

The Choir is open to all children and youth, ages 5 ½ and up. Prior musical experience is not required. We rehearse in the Meditation Room (below the Sanctuary) or on Zoom. We help lead the Sunday worship service once or twice per month. Occasionally we participate in other music events. We’d love to have you join us!

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### Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom

**May 5** – Comparing Ethics of Greece, Bali & Calif. Don Anderson

**May 12** – Topic Selection for June and Short Topic Discussion. Ray Westergard

**May 19** – New Discoveries in History of Our Species. Marcia Bates

**May 26** – Positive Views of Death. Susan Singh & Ray Westergard

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## Good Neighbor in May

**YES Nature to Neighborhoods:** <https://www.yesfamilies.org/>

Mission: In partnership with nature, YES nurtures leaders who champion the wellbeing of our community. Their vision is for Richmond youth, adults and families to lead healthy, connected lives; motivate change in their neighborhoods; and inspire a safe, thriving community.

## Special Events

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### May 5 @ 1:30 pm

Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent of the Social Justice Council will discuss the film *American Fiction* with Lonnie Moseley and Cordell Sloan leading the discussion. It's a funny, outrageous, tender, and thoughtful film about contemporary American culture.

### May 11 @ 5 pm

Contra Costa Chorale Spring **Concert**

### May 19 @ 12:30 pm

#### Celebration & Planning

**Congregational Meeting.** Award presentations, all things financial, state-of-the-church report, and more!

### May 24 – 25, 11 am – 5 pm

#### Art Sale

The Freestone Committee hosts a fundraising art sale including figurines, pottery, paintings, prints, and more.

### May 27 Memorial Day

Church Closed.

### June 2 @ 1 pm

**Roads and Roles of Comedy:** Six short plays written and directed by Harold Dean James.

## Weekly Events

For up-to-date details: [uucb.org/weekahead](https://uucb.org/weekahead).

### 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

11 am Religious Education (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

11:30 am Celebration Chapel (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

1 pm WOWS Working to Overcome White Supremacy (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

10:30 am Volunteer Lunch Program at GRIP (4<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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

### Board Listening Presence

Michael Armstrong: (510) 219-3847

[michaelarmstrong2494@comcast.net](mailto:michaelarmstrong2494@comcast.net)

### 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:** [support@chalicecamp.org](mailto:support@chalicecamp.org)

**Info and Registration:** [chalicecamp.org](https://chalicecamp.org)

05 - 09  
AUGUST  
2024

**CHALICECAMP**  
A SUMMER DAY CAMP

Hours: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Now @ Tilden Regional Park

Presenting Chalice Camp III:  
Climate Justice

Registration → \$400

[www.chalicecamp.org](https://www.chalicecamp.org)

## Stewardship Campaign Update

### Wake Now Our Vision



We directed a spotlight onto Stewardship during March, and got a wonderful response. Many thanks to all who completed their pledges for

fiscal year 2024-25 during March, to those who caught up by pledging during April, and to those who pledged and then decided to increase the amount! We are in good shape to establish an operating budget for 2024-25, though we are still working towards our stretch goal of \$500,000. (Details on pledge progress appear on the UUCB website, at the very top of any page you open.)

When you attend our May congregational meeting, you will have a chance to witness the vital role that pledging plays in our planning process. And if you haven't pledged yet, please be assured: we receive pledges with gratitude at any time of year! For more information about Stewardship, and links to online pledging, please visit the UUCB's Stewardship and Pledging webpage at <https://uucb.org/about-us/give/stewardship/>.

**Stewardship 2024 Team:** Cynthia Asproditas, Selene Fabiano, Kay Fairwell, Anne Greenwood, Rev. Marcus Liefert, Lisa Maynard (chair), Judy Sam, Helen Toy, Karen Tripp, Anne Wardell

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### Partner Church

Things are heating up around here. We are in the process of determining with Rev. Attila whether we will visit Homoródújfalu before or after the International UU Women's Convocation in September. It may be harvest time in the village. We have learned that Attila is a Scout leader. Their schedules are as busy as ours so we need to find

times that suit us all. Much of our previous travel has been planned for us, but we will do more of the heavy lifting this time.

An embroidery sale and fixing our Transylvanian Gate are still in the works. Another Zoom meeting between the boards of the two churches is possible. Lots to do, so join us!

**What's your first step?** Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe and Anne Greenwood at [steph62850@yahoo.com](mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com) or [annegt1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net) and we'll move forward from there.

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### From the Board of Trustees

#### By David Rosales

#### Welcoming Beauty

The total solar eclipse that passed through North America on April 8 reminded us that even a passing shadow can be a deeply beautiful and moving communal event. March & April were indeed also beautiful and special for our UUCB community which included a fantastic egg hunt with an amazing turn-out, as well as the much-anticipated Installation ceremony of Reverend Marcus Liefert. I would like to give a huge "thank you" to everyone that worked so hard for weeks to make these events such a success!

Amazing and beautiful things (like eclipses) happen all the time, all over the world, and like this eclipse or like Reverend Marcus' Installation ceremony, we might journey out to meet that beauty when it is nearby, but many people are not able to make such journeys. Thankfully, we are living in an exciting time where physical abilities or presence is no longer a prerequisite to belonging. With our livestream and assistive technologies, we are able to truly welcome so many more people into our community.

Welcoming means making a space and holding it open for that chance to connect. It means meeting someone where they are and AS they are. It means actively looking for gaps between what we can offer and what people need, not just waiting and wondering why they haven't come. It means trying, listening, adjusting, and trying again.

As we were reminded at the Installation, a flexible mindset and an openness to new ideas will not only help us to keep our footing through the rolling waves of change but will also make it easier for our community to create these new connections and continue to welcome and invite others to join. Alone we might stumble, but linked together, we are resilient, and we will have even more capacity to help others find their feet along with us.

Thank you.

David Rosales, member Board of Trustees

#### Board of Trustees April 2024 Actions

- 1. Endowment Capital Projects:** Approved repairs/hardware replacement for the black tri-fold doors in the Sanctuary, Atrium, Social Hall, and Fireside Room as the highest priority for the remaining funds. This re-prioritization was recommended by the Buildings & Grounds Committee and the Endowment Projects Oversight Committee to improve emergency/fire safety egress.
- 2. Nominating Committee:** Approved for May congregational affirmation new members to the Nominating Committee, which is responsible for selecting Board of Trustees candidates.

For a recording of a previous Board of Trustees meeting, please contact [secretary@uucb.org](mailto:secretary@uucb.org) for a link.

## Social Justice

Once again, the Social Justice Council is bounding with ideas, energy, and activities. All are welcome to join us in any of these projects as well as to meet with us on Zoom, 7 pm, on the second Wednesday of each month. You'll find the link in The Week Ahead.

### The World Peace Committee

At recent meetings, our group voted to donate to an organization helping the needy people of Gaza. After research and recommendations, we voted to **donate \$2,000** to a non-profit with an excellent record for its years of work in Palestine: PCRf – **Palestine Children's Relief Fund** (<https://www.pcrf.net>).

The group also decided to create petitions to be sent to Congressional Senators and Representatives, and to the President, calling for a cease-fire in the Israeli–Gaza war. The petitions were created by Dean Flint and Don Klose, who displayed them in the Atrium on recent Sundays, encouraged all of us to sign and forwarded them to Washington, D.C.

Roberta Shaw, [socialjustice@uucb.org](mailto:socialjustice@uucb.org)

### Blessing Bags

We are SOOOOOOOO grateful to all of you who have been so generous in providing toiletries, warm socks (lots of them!), H2O in aluminum containers (NO plastic) and a variety of snacks! Leyla and O'Neill Fernandez from **SOS** were with us again in March to assemble the second round of Blessings Bags. **SOS**, one of our Good Neighbor partners, stands for Safe Organized Spaces and brings mobile showers into encampments so that folks have a chance to clean up.

On the same day, Melissa Rosales organized the Religious Ed classes so that our youth would play a big hand in this process. We had a chalice lighting and then went around and shared what we knew about being “unhoused.” O'Neill told us his story of working in a restaurant, sleeping in the back at night. What do you know about unhoused people?

We put together about fifty bags; all but five of them were taken by UUCBers to hand out to folks they may encounter at the grocery store, on the street, or ????. Please share your encounter with us.

Our next and last ASSEMBLE will be Sunday June 2 in the Social Hall. See you there!

Beth Jerde, [socialjustice@uucb.org](mailto:socialjustice@uucb.org)

## Climate Justice Committee (CJC)

With Earth Day behind us, CJC will renew a focus on the UUA Green Sanctuary (GS) process, and we'll also prepare to participate in the nation-wide UUA Climate Revival in the fall. GS provides structure, leadership, and support for the UU community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement to fully live our principles and achieve a sustainable and just world for all.

The GS process requires us to complete a Congregational Profile (done), an Opportunity Assessment, an Action Plan, and a follow-up report. We need your input for the Opportunity Assessment! CJC members will meet with groups within the congregation to learn your perspectives and ideas. Your input will be incorporated into a congregational action plan. Both the Opportunity Assessment and the Action Plan will be submitted to the UUA GS program for approval as they are completed.

The GS process requires congregations to complete four campaigns, so we'll be asking for congregational input in these areas:

1. **Congregational Transformation** – What is the awareness, commitment, and grounding within the congregation for climate and justice work? What are the likely opportunities to increase awareness, collaboration and engagement in transformative climate action? Our work on the UUA Climate Revival campaign will lead directly into our work on the Congregational Transformation campaign.
2. **Mitigation** – What is the carbon footprint of our facility? How might we lower it? What are feasible ways for members to reduce their own carbon footprints? How can we work collaboratively in our communities to promote decarbonization?
3. **Adaptation and Resilience** – What planning might we do to prepare for severe climate impacts? How might we reduce vulnerabilities and develop resilience in our communities and in our local ecosystems?
4. **Justice** – How can we collaborate with our neighboring, low-income communities to respond to the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis they experience?

As we consider opportunities to work on all these campaigns, we'll also consider possible challenges, with both opportunities and challenges included in our Action Plan. We look forward to incorporating your thoughts and ideas into this process.

Sheila F. Tarbet, [socialjustice@uucb.org](mailto:socialjustice@uucb.org)

## Voting Justice

There has been such a heartwarming and inspiring congregational response to our Voting Justice project! So far, we have collectively written over

400 postcards to Georgia voters through the UU the Vote campaigns with the Center for Common Ground/Reclaim Our Vote. These efforts focus on empowering Black and low-income voters in voter suppression states. Postcards to voters work – there is good research showing how they increase turnout at the polls. And starting early works – research shows that 80% of voters in the primary go on to vote in the November election. Thank you all for contributing to this hopeful, helpful justice work.

We are now shifting our focus to Virginia, where UU the Vote is reaching out to 336,000 Black voters in 60 counties. For more information about the importance of these counties, see <https://www.viriniabusiness.com/article/on-the-cusp/>.

Soon we will begin writing postcards with The Environmental Voter Project to Nevada! We are joyous to have such eager postcard writers at UUCB!

Cyndy Greenleaf, [socialjustice@uucb.org](mailto:socialjustice@uucb.org)

## Social Justice on the UUCB Website

Hooray!!! Lonnie Moseley is heading up the project to update the “JUSTICE” section of our uucb.org website with more current images and information on all programs.

Check out the new sections on Voting Justice and World Peace.

Pictures of any social justice event are welcomed and should be sent to [socialjustice@uucb.org](mailto:socialjustice@uucb.org) and they will be forwarded to Lonnie.

## Rev. Marcus' Installation

In case you missed it, or would like to revisit the inspiring words shared on April 21, you can watch Rev. Marcus' Installation ceremony here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/AeSnVsgl6lE?si=88GzOnSFR-1HjPWP>

The theme was “From Compost to Rainbows.”







## 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 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

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Pier Sun Ho, Co-President  
Michael Armstrong, Vice President  
Selene Fabiano, Secretary  
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Kay Fairwell  
Beth Jerde  
Beth Pollard  
David Rosales  
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## Executive Advisory Team

Tess Snook O’Riva (Executive Director and Convener)  
Rev. Marcus Liefert  
Heaven Walker (Director of Family Ministry & Lifelong Learning)

## Program Council

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Robin Cooper (Family Ministry)  
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Carol Carlisle (Social Justice)  
Barbara Cullinane (Pastoral Care)  
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Jim Gasperini (Communications)  
Ann Harlow (Fundraising and Hospitality)  
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)  
Lenore Ralston (Chalice Circles and Finance)  
Cordell Sloan (Board Liaison)

## Staff (partial list)

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