

July 2024

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Vol. 83 #7

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

UUCB's Three Sisters Garden

Honoring a thousand-years old tradition of Indigenous peoples in North America that reminds us of the interdependence of all of nature and teaches us how to live.



On June 3, UUCB members and friends gathered for the Spring Blessing of UUCB's newly planted Three Sisters Garden. Rev. Marcus officiated, all who attended were invited to call out their blessings, members of the Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group (HIP) offered readings from Indigenous writers, and Evelie led us in song, "Now I Walk in Beauty." A wonderful, inspiring event!

We're honored to have Kanyon CoyoteWoman Sayers Roods of the Indian Canyon Tribal Nation in Hollister, CA, join with us in future garden activities.

Come visit the garden as it grows and flourishes, and stay tuned for garden updates!

In Beloved Community,
The Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group



July Services

Sundays 11 am

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

July 7

Graduates of Eden. Rev. Chris Schriner

July 14

Rev. Jim Scott, Service Leader.
Worship Associate Jim Scott.

July 21

Rev. Jane Ramsey

July 28

Rev. Elizabeth Hutchins.
Worship Associate Sandy Portillo-Robins.

Coffee Hour

Sundays at Noon

In person in the Social Hall

Sunday Programming

Summer Forum

Sundays at 9:30 am

Please look out for dates and topics for July's Summer Forum in The Week Ahead.

Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 10 am

On hiatus until September.

Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom

Please look out for dates and topics for July's Humanist Connections in The Week Ahead.

Good Neighbor in July

Safe Return Project

Website: <https://www.safereturnprj.org>

Mission: We are invested in building a base of power at the civic, social, and economic levels of formerly incarcerated persons across the State of California, addressing the root causes of poverty and the impact that the criminal justice system has had on black people and communities of color.



Special Events

July 1

First day of work for our **new Director of Family Ministry Kathryn Jay!**

July 3 @ 9 am American Guild of Organists Concert at UUCB!

Outstanding organ performances showcasing a variety of musical styles by internationally known performers James Kealey and Robert Horton. This event is open to our congregation. [Click here for more info.](#)

July 4 Independence Day.

Church Closed.

July 8 – 12

Unplugged Week. UUCB staff will be unavailable to the congregation and the public. All emails and phone calls will be returned starting July 15.

July 14 @ 1:30 pm

“The Year to Save the Earth”: A Multimedia Experience by Jim Scott.

July 14 before & after service

Transylvanian Arts & Crafts Sale

July 20 @ 2 pm

Memorial Service for Susan Singh

Weekly Events

For up-to-date details: 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 (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 (2nd Monday)

Tuesday

10:30 am Volunteer Lunch Program at GRIP

(4th Tuesday)

Wednesday

7:15 pm Board of Trustees (2nd Wednesday this month)

7 pm Social Justice Council (2nd Wednesday)

7 pm Program Council (3rd Wednesday)

Friday

11 am Textile & Art (4th Friday)

Saturday

9 am Work Party (3rd Saturday)

1 pm POCC People of Color Caucus (3rd Saturday)

4 pm Parents' Night Out (3rd Saturday)

6:30 pm Youth Social Event

Announcements

Board Listening Presence

Michael Armstrong: (510) 219-3847

michaelarmstrong2494@comcast.net

American Guild of Organists

July 3 @ 9 am

One of the concerts from the American Guild of Organists National Convention will take place at UUCB! Outstanding performances showcasing a variety of musical styles by internationally known performers James Kealey and Robert Horton. This event is open to our congregation.

The Year to Save the Earth

July 14 @ 1:30 pm

Mixing powerful songs and beautiful projected images, "The Year to Save the Earth" takes us from grieving to celebration and from protest to positive vision for the planet. Suggested donation \$20-\$25, no one turned away for lack of funds.



Transylvanian Arts & Crafts Sale

The Transylvanian Partner Church Committee is having an art and embroidery sale on Sunday, July 14 in the Atrium.

Memorial for Susan Singh

July 20 @ 2 pm

Susan was an active member of the Humanist Connection and the Aging With Grace group and will be missed by many.

From the Board of Trustees

For a video-recording of a previous Board of Trustee's meeting, please contact secretary@uucb.org for a link.

More Good News!

UUCB has a new Director of Family Ministry – Kathryn Jay!! After Zoom interviews with five of the seven applicants for the position, followed by in-person meetings with three of those five – including observing how they worked with children – the DFM search committee was unanimous in choosing Kathryn. AND she will begin her ministry on July 1! Kathryn has a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King, served at Unity Church-Unitarian in Minneapolis and was highly respected when she served on the Board at UUCB. As a parent of twin teens and longtime former member of UUCB, she's very enthusiastic at joining us as our new DFM.

Also, our Board is looking for a volunteer from the congregation to join the **Update on the Bylaws Task Force**. Currently, Board members David Rosales and Michael DeWitt have joined the group as have Cynthia Asprodites and Andrea Brown. If you are interested in helping, please contact Selene Fabiano at secretary@uucb.org.

Final note: July and August will bring schedule changes for the Board. To avoid conflicts with those traveling on July 4, the **meeting will be held on the second Wednesday evening of the month, July 10 at 7:15 pm**. There will be no Board meeting in August, but regular first-Wednesday sessions will start again beginning September 4.

The Ministerial Housing Fund

As many in the congregation are no doubt aware, UUCB is fortunate to have a benefit we offer to the Senior Minister known as the Ministerial Housing Fund (MHF, which was formerly known as the Cope Fund). The MHF's purpose is to help defray the cost of substantive cost of housing in the Bay Area and allows us to attract the best possible ministerial candidates for our congregation. This fund was used by both the Hamilton-Holways and the Schmidts to assist in the purchase of a home while

they served as our senior ministers. Now that Rev. Marcus has settled in, the time has come for him to access the MHF for a home purchase!

However, you might also recall that the Board voted to borrow a substantial amount of money from the MHF more than a year ago, when we received the generous donation of the Lexington Lodge from Jane Lundin. There was then the possibility that the Lexington Lodge might serve as a parsonage for our future minister, and it needed both a mortgage payoff, as well as some renovations. Ultimately, the Lexington Lodge did not suit Rev. Marcus' housing needs, and the proceeds from the rental of the Lodge are being used to slowly refund the MHF.

So where does that leave us? Well, we need to top up the Ministerial Housing Fund! In consultation with the Finance Committee and the Negotiating Team, the Board believes that the best course of action to fully refund the MHF would be to borrow from the corpus of the Board-designated Quasi-Endowment. There are multiple benefits to this approach, including the fact that church will not need to take on external debt. The obvious major downside of this plan is that borrowing from the corpus will significantly reduce the earnings the fund currently generates. However, analysis of the budget indicates that this loss of income will be manageable in the time it takes for the corpus to be repaid with the Lexington Lodge proceeds.

This has been a foreseen, but still complicated matter. Borrowing money from the corpus of the Board-designated Quasi-Endowment requires a congregational vote, and the Board wishes to ensure that everyone feels fully informed before calling a special congregational meeting for this vote. The Board will be scheduling informational sessions and distributing other materials to provide more details and clarity and answer any questions. Stay tuned!

Board of Trustees June 2024 Actions

1. **Director of Family Ministry:** Approved Rev. Marcus' hiring selection of Kathryn Jay.
2. **By-laws Task Force:** Seeking two more congregants to serve; contact secretary@uucb.org
3. **Right Relations:** Acknowledged that the Board had faced some difficult historical issues and sought to provide healing for a former employee; and that an improved process is needed for repairing harms that are experienced at UUCB – which Rev. Marcus will help lead.
4. **Ministerial Housing Allowance:** Designated up to 100% of Rev. Marcus' salary as housing allowance, for purposes of IRS reporting.
5. **Ministerial Housing Fund:** Initiated a process leading to a congregational vote on borrowing Board-designated endowment funds to replenish the Ministerial Housing Fund (aka "Cope Fund") to loan to Rev. Marcus for purchase of a home - as provided for in his ministerial agreement with UUCB.
6. **Finance:** Endorsed the work of the Finance Committee and Treasurer to clarify UUCB financial roles and responsibilities.
7. **Board Summer Meeting Schedule:** July 10, instead of July 3. August recess/no meeting. September regular meeting and retreat.

new setups, including using the Social Hall to accommodate more activity in our larger space.

Please join us with comments and ideas as we explore different paths.

Thank you.

Karen Tripp and Cynthia Asprodites

Freestone Oversight Committee

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

- In April, the Freestone Committee received bad news from the groundwater survey report. All six locations came up with the minimum range of potential well flow, 0-3 gallons per minute (gpm). It is not recommended to drill wells in this range. The prospective buyer subsequently notified us he was backing out of the sale. Moreover, our realtor advised us that without a well that yielded at least 1 gallon per minute (gpm) selling Lots 1 and 2 for the \$ 300,000 listing price would be problematic and asked our broker to send release from sale papers for his signature, then ours.
- The Freestone Committee decided to drill 1-2 wells in hopes of finding water so Lots 1 and 2 can be sold. Fortunately, the Freestone Committee located an "angel" who was willing to fund the cost of 1-2 wells. With funding secured, the Freestone Oversight Committee approved drilling the wells. Securing and awarding bids for the drilling is in progress and drilling the well(s) should be completed within 4-6 weeks.
- The Freestone Committee held an art sale at UUCB on May 24-25 which netted about \$ 1,500 for Freestone refurbishment.

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

Task Force Through the Aesthetics Committee

Welcome Summer.

It's a time to break the routine and explore what is beyond the bonds of "normal." The Atrium Task Force, with the Aesthetics Committee, is looking at the process for setting up tables on Sundays and where they are placed, taking into consideration group needs, safety requirements and overall, Sunday flow. We do have limited Atrium space, and each committee/cause needs to be recognized. Throughout the summer we will be trying some

Partner Church

Want to own some original Transylvanian art or craft pieces? **The Transylvanian Partner Church Committee is having an art and embroidery sale on Sunday, July 14 in the Atrium.** We have acquired a number of pieces of art and craft pieces during our visits to our partner church in Homoródújfalu. Some pieces have been gifts to us, but we have also purchased embroidery from the craftswomen in the village. It's a labor of love that deserves some compensation for the time and attention given to their handicrafts.

The embroidery is traditionally done with red yard on a background of undyed handwoven cloth. We also have pieces done with green, blue or black yarn. We will also be offering some hand painted woodcraft. Most of the designs on both embroidery and painted wood are floral, reflecting the native plants and flowers in the village's area of Transylvania. All the proceeds from the sale will benefit the people of Homoródújfalu directly or support our committee activities. Check our table on Sunday, July 7 for a preview of sale items.

If you want to visit Transylvania this September, time is running short to make airline reservations, as well as register for the International Convocation of U*U Women. Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net right away if you want to go!

Social Justice (SJC)

Again, the Social Justice Council is jumping with ideas and projects – even though there will be no SJC meeting in July. Instead, please send your ideas and visions for "composting" social justice in the upcoming year to Cyndy Greenleaf and Norie Clarke. We will be discussing ways to inspire new growth and invigorate our justice making at the August SJC meeting. You can reach Cyndy and Norie at socialjustice@uucb.org. Here are accounts of both recent and upcoming SJC activities:

WOWS – Working to Oppose White Supremacy

WOWS continues to offer a safe, supportive space for congregation members to talk about their MAUBs (Moments of Awareness of Unconscious Bias) and MOIs (Moments of Illumination). In addition to these conversations, there will be guest speakers who offer insight into specific topics. Moving forward, we will continue our work on microaggressions and begin examining maternal health disparities, using films and facts to highlight these critical issues. We meet via Zoom at 1 pm on the third Sunday of each month.

Julia Rogers, socialjustice@uucb.org

Let's Support Equity in Berkeley Schools

At the June 9 Summer Forum we heard two important speakers, the manager of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund Volunteer program as well as one of the leaders of the district's Office of Family Engagement and Equity. The speakers described the schools' critical needs, particularly for students of color, as well as three types of programs geared to meet those needs. One is called **School Support Volunteers**, where community members help with food deliveries, food pantries, grant writing, tech help, educator and library support – outside the classroom and with no long-term commitment. A second program is called **Classroom Volunteers**. These folks work in classrooms, gardens or libraries, sometimes in after-school settings, committing at least an hour a week. Volunteers help with the basic academic subjects as well as drama, art, after-school "maker space" projects and more. Third, under the important OFEE program, Berkeley students and their families are supported in very personal ways such as with clothing and help in finding housing.

The "Equity in Berkeley Schools" program is a new Sponsored Project of the SJC. We have a table in the Atrium where volunteers are enthusiastically encouraged to sign up to help in an area so needed in our communities and in our country.

Helen Toy, Lonnie Moseley, Cordell Sloan, socialjustice@uucb.org

Climate Justice Committee (CJC)

Musical Sunday: The Year to Save the Earth, July 14, 11 am and 1:30 pm

On July 14, we're hosting an exciting event with UU musician Jim Scott, who will be conducting our Sunday service. Then at 1:30, Jim, working with our multi-talented Evelie Delfino Såles Posch as host and MC, will present his multimedia concert. The event is titled "The Year to Save the Earth." Here's how Jim describes it:

"Mixing powerful songs and beautiful images, Jim's lyrical melodies and outspoken poetry raise up celebration, grieving, protest and positive vision for the planet. As well as hard reality, the program's message is one of optimism with many invitations to join in singing. Facing the urgency of the environmental crisis, the musical and visual experience challenges us to feel, learn and act."

A prolific composer and guitarist, Jim brings warmth and humor to his jazz- and world music-influenced songs as well as outspoken messages of peace. He has played at over 700 UU churches over four decades. Jim was awarded an NEA grant to present this multimedia concert in Worcester MA. Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim composed their celebrated *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*. He has recorded nine CDs of original music and published a growing line of choral works. Among the originators of the UU "Green Sanctuary" program, Jim also compiled the *Earth and Spirit Songbook*, an anthology of songs by many contemporary composers.

UUA's Climate Justice Revival, September 28 & 29

The CJC is also getting ready to participate in the UUA's Climate Justice Revival in late September. The UUA is currently developing innovative materials for: an interactive workshop for adults; coordinated activities for children and youth; and a special service focused on climate justice. To prepare for this Revival, we're recruiting volunteers from the congregation to work in teams to

facilitate the events and to help with the worship service. The teams will have UUA materials and there will be online training provided by the UUA. Please let us know if you're interested in helping and we haven't contacted you yet.

Sheila Tarbet, socialjustice@uucb.org

Blessings Bags

We thought the Blessings Bags project was done, but it has been re-ignited! Carlson Clay was an unhoused person in Oakland who recently died. His executor gave us a gift of \$100.00 to be used for the Blessings Bags. That same day, a UUCB member gave us \$20.00. Hmmm...

The youth of UUCB have been **very** engaged in assembling the bags. We have also partnered with SOS (Safe Organized Spaces - they visit encampments and provide mobile showers). And we've given some to Albany Thrives.

On June 9 at Summer Forum, speaker Jocelyn Foreman explained how students in the Berkeley public schools need assistance in multiple ways, even some Blessings Bags! So, maybe the first ASSEMBLE in the fall will go to Berkeley students.

As we enter summer and people start traveling, please collect toiletries to contribute to the Blessings Bags: Shampoo, rinse, lotion, soap, toothpaste, brushes, and floss.

Any queries: Beth Jerde, socialjustice@uucb.org

Kitchen News

We hope you enjoy our tasty Sunday lunches this summer and will consider joining the vibrant kitchen crew in creating unique salads and other original dishes. With your help, expect meals bursting with the special flavors of the season from strawberries in our salads to fresh basil in our casseroles.

Members often ask us to give them the original recipes we prepared that Sunday, and starting now, each month, we plan to share recipes in the Beacon, starting with one of our popular salad dressings below.

We hope to see you soon in the kitchen. Please see below for one of our standard salad dressings, a recipe created in the UUCB kitchen which works particularly well with salads containing fruit. Bon appetit!

We invite you to volunteer with us in the kitchen. In the next month, we will be giving a short class in knife safety. We welcome people to sign up for our crew and learn new cooking techniques in the process. Please remember, we can always use more help cleaning up afterwards, too.

Cumin lemon salad dressing:

1 tablespoon rice vinegar or white wine vinegar (wine vinegar will give you a bolder flavor)

3 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper ground fine

1 teaspoon ground fresh ginger or powdered ginger

1 teaspoon maple syrup

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

Variations: All of the above, except replace the lemon with lime or Meyer lemon

Alan, Ann and Hilary

Assisted regularly by Jeff and Michelle



Photo of our Great Horned Owl and owlet (raised at UUCB) that have now flown off nest and away.

Photo taken May 30 by Phil Maynard.

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 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.

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