

August 2024

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Vol. 83 #8

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

From Kathryn Jay

Director of Family Ministry

Hello everyone! My name is Kathryn Jay, and I'm happy to be the new Director of Family Ministry. I've been away from UUCB for several years, but some of you may know me from my time as a member here. I graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2020 with a MDiv. While at SKSM, I helped to create a new Chalice Camp curriculum focused on environmental justice. I also spent ten years as a high school history teacher and most recently ran youth and family programs—featuring a ten-week summer camp—for Urban Adamah, the Jewish farm and education center in Berkeley.

My wife Elisabeth and I brought our kids, Annabel and Arlo (now juniors in college!) to UUCB when they were first graders. I have wonderful memories of them singing in the children's choir, participating in Passover services, eating bagels in the social hall, ushering at Christmas, and learning so much from their RE and OWL teachers. They made friends with the other kids, of course, but they also grew to love many of the wonderful adults here. I'm excited to help other families find a similar sense of intergenerational warmth and opportunity for spiritual growth in the coming years. I hope UUCB's Family Ministry Program will be a community of radical belonging, a place where everyone can feel comfortable enough to stretch and grow into the fullness of themselves. I believe this congregation has the potential to move people toward more loving kindness, more urgency to transform the world and I'm so excited to be part of that!

In person Office Hours are during business hours on Tuesday and Thursday, and via appointment on Wednesday and Friday.

I'm really looking forward to working with you!

Blessings, Kathryn



August Services

Sundays 11 am

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

August 4

Rev. Carolyn West

August 11

Rev. Jeanne Foster

August 18

Water Communion with Rev. Marcus Liefert

August 25

Our Church Habitat with Rev. Marcus Liefert

Be our guest for:

Coffee in the Atrium before and after the service

Light lunch in the Social Hall after the service.

Board Listening Presence

Michael Armstrong: (510) 219-3847
michaelarmstrong2494@comcast.net

Sunday Programming

Summer Forum

Sundays at 9:30 am in person and/or Zoom

August 18 – Charlie Clason, our summer intern who has been engaged with a plethora of projects at UUCB from providing childcare to hosting the Social Justice Council table, concluding her stay here.

Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Returns Sunday August 18 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!

Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom

August 4 – Topic selection for September with Ray Westergard followed by brief (2-3 minutes) presentations, then discussions.

August 11 – “What if Trump wins?” with Marcia Bates.

August 18 (in person) – “Is there free will?” with Harold Ogren.

August 25 – “What supplements should we take?” with Dennis Monthei.

Good Neighbor in August



East Bay Housing Organizations

Website: <https://ebho.org/>

Mission: EBHO mobilizes the power and wisdom of our members to produce, preserve, and protect affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in the East Bay.

Special Events

August 15

Choir rehearsals return

August 17 DRUUMM Summer Strategic Planning Retreat:

A Gathering of Black, Indigenous, People of Color Unitarian Universalists. Build upon the success of the past year supporting 5 in-person and virtual retreats for BIPOC UUs in the Bay Area and beyond! DRUUMM | Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries.

August 18

Ingathering for the new church year

August 18

2 pm Memorial for Lee Perry (Lawrence)



August 25

9:30 am Ministerial Housing Fund Q&A

August 25

During and after the service: Three Sisters Fall Garden Blessing, Service, and Potluck Luncheon. A celebration of the fruits of the harvest led by Rev. Marcus and Kanyon CoyoteWoman Sayers-Roods

August 25

12:30 pm Newcomer Q&A
1 pm Chalice Circles Q&A

August 31

11 am Upscale Rummage Sale

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 (starting August 15)

Fridays

9:30 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 WOVS Working to Overcome White Supremacy (3rd Sunday)

Monday

11 am Textile & Art (2nd Monday)

Tuesday

10:15 to 11 am make sandwiches at GRIP (4th Tuesday)

11:15 to 12:45 serve lunch at GRIP (4th Tuesday)

Wednesday

7:15 pm Board of Trustees (1st Wednesday)

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 (3rd Saturday)

* Family Ministry monthly events will begin in September or later. Email kathryn@uucb.org to be on the email list.

From the Board of Trustees (BoT)

Beth Jerde, BoT liaison to the Widening the Circle of Concern Committee

When I joined the Board of Trustees in March of this year, I was curious about what the Widening the Circle of Concern was about—so I joined it! I wanted to widen MY circle and see what the committee does and what they bring to the culture of UUCB. This committee comprises Suzette Anderson-Duggan, Cynthia Asprodites, Karen Elliott, Dorothy Herzberg, Lonnie Moseley, Fran Moulton, and Melissa Rosales.

Noticing - Nudging - Acknowledging

The above is the mantra by which the members view the machinations taking place at UUCB: How are we humans treating each other? How is our space accommodating people? Are we aware of the needs of some folks in common situations we take for granted? If needs are not met, what do we do?

To give you a taste of what is taking place at our meetings, here are some examples of what we discuss and then share the info with our UUCB members via discuss lists:

- For the month of June, lists of multifarious events for Juneteenth and Pride Month were compiled and shared to celebrate! We will continue to honor the Heritage Month groups and inform people at UUCB of upcoming events.
- Significant movement has been made creating a group for newcomers who are in the LGBTQ+IA communities: programs and sacred space. We also prominently display LGBTQ flags in the atrium.
- We are in conversation with a Berkeley community member about a possible banner/poster standing against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and other forms of oppression named in our WTCOC Vision Statement.

When you are at UUCB and see/feel/notice something awry, nudge one of the members listed above. Our work is never done.

And finally, we'd like to present Charlie Clason to you, our summer intern who has been engaged with a plethora of projects at UUCB from providing childcare to hosting the Social Justice Council table, concluding her stay here with a presentation on August 18 for the Summer Forum. Get that on your calendar!

Board of Trustees July 2024 Actions

- Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC):** Appointed Freestone Committee nominee Bob Moore to replace former Freestone Committee member Alan Davis on the FOC, with appreciation to Alan for his service.
- Endowment Distribution:** Authorized a 5% payout rather than 4% payout from these permanent endowment funds: Kay Davis, Pooled Donors, and Building Maintenance. The additional 1% is based on the strength of the market and earnings in the past 1.5 years. The Board Designated Endowment Fund payout remains at 4%, due to the upcoming proposed loan from that fund.
- Board Meeting Schedule:** August recess; next meeting: September 4.
- Stewardship Chair:** Helen Toy and Patrick Cullinane will serve as a Search Committee for the next Stewardship Committee Chair.
- UUA General Assembly:** Summary from Melissa Rosales, noting adoption of Article 2 and the resolution "Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values," with affirmation of "Three Actions of Immediate Witness."
- Bylaws Task Force:** Board members Michael Armstrong & David Rosales are joined by Lorraine Schnurr, Andrea Brown, and Cynthia Asprodites.
- Congregational Meeting/Ministerial Housing Fund:** Educational outreach is occurring prior to the Board calling a special congregational meeting in the next couple of months seeking approval to borrow from the Board Designated Endowment to replenish the Ministerial Housing Fund and uphold UUCB's ministerial agreement.

Q&As later that week (specific dates and times still to be determined). The Board is planning to vote on the specific motion to be brought to the congregation at the September Board Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Update on Atrium Door Hardware Work

A contract has been awarded to repair and upgrade the atrium door hardware. The project has two components:

- Sanctuary Doors:** Modify door hardware on the center doors between the Atrium and the Sanctuary to provide panic hardware, safer exiting, and quieter operation. The project includes replacing broken closers and hold open devices, new panic bar hardware and eliminating connection between the two doors.
- Six Panel Tri fold Doors:** Modify and replace worn, broken and missing hardware as necessary to improve the function of the doors. We have contracted to repair one set of six doors as a test project, so the contractor can properly study the issues and order the balance of the hardware materials.

Schedule:

We plan to start the work in late July, but the subsequent 6 panel door repairs will follow the test project. We hope to complete all work by September. The disruption to operations will be minimal.

Funding:

The project is funded by the Endowment Fund balance, augmented by funds from the Ladd Griffith Fund.

Partner Church

Many thanks to all who came by our table on July 14 for our Transylvanian Partner Church embroidery and crafts sale. Some of you bought a jar of Anne's blackberry jam. Köszönöm! Some of you gave new homes to books we had been given. Köszönöm! Some of you bought pottery from the famous village of Korond. Köszönöm! Some of you bought handcrafted embroidery. Köszönöm! And special thanks to Evelie for her generous purchase of a little bit of everything.

All told, we raised around \$500 to support our friends in Homoródújfalu. That might make this the biggest one-

Ministerial Housing Fund Update

In the July Beacon, the Board shared that we are planning to call a congregational vote in the near future to top up the Ministerial Housing Fund by borrowing internally from the corpus of the Board-Designated Quasi-Endowment. Informational materials such as a FAQ and short video will be distributed later this month. In order to get feedback from the congregation on this plan, we have scheduled an in-person Q & A on **Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 9:30 AM** in the Fireside Room. There will be additional Zoom-based

day fundraiser for the Transylvanian Partner Church Committee in many years. Köszönöm! Anything we didn't sell is still for sale, so ask Stephanie Ann or Anne if you want to look at something again, and maybe purchase it. Look in the display case in the atrium!

In the meantime, we've nailed down just about all our arrangements for our pilgrimage to Transylvania at the end of the month. When we visit the village, we usually carry greetings and small gifts from Berkeley. Got something you would like to contribute? Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net by Aug 25.

Freestone Oversight Committee

The Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC) actions for July 2024 include:

- Alan Davis is stepping down from the FOC so that he can devote more time to the Kitchen Team. The FOC thanks Alan for all the time, energy, and hard work that he has put into the Freestone rehabilitation project.
- The Freestone Committee nominated Bob Moore to replace Alan Davis on the FOC. The FOC recommended, and the Board of Trustees voted, to appoint Bob Moore to the FOC. The FOC welcomes Bob's institutional knowledge of Freestone as well as his expertise and his sense of humor.
- The Freestone Committee has decided to drill one or two wells on Lot 1 in hopes of finding water. The cost of drilling the well (or wells) will be funded by a donation from an "angel." The Freestone Committee has hired a well driller, Fisch Brothers Drilling. They have submitted a well drilling permit application to Sonoma County and they hope to get a permit within four weeks. The well drilling will occur a week or two after the permit is approved.
- Lots 1 & 2 are still listed for sale, although currently inactive in status pending new information from the well drilling.

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

Social Justice Council (SJC)

Please bring your thoughts about "composting" the Social Justice Council to our August Zoom meeting (August 14, 7 pm, link TBA), or send an email to Cyndy Greenleaf or Norie Clarke with your ideas. We hope to have fertile, engaged, and lively meetings of the Social Justice Council this year, with your good ideas and energies!

The September meeting of the Social Justice Council will take place IN PERSON at UUCB. We will eat, inspire, and engage in justice making together, starting at 5:30 pm on Sunday, September 8, in the Fireside Room. Social Justice has many important sponsored projects that also need your energy and care— please read about some of the work that is ongoing below.

Cyndy Greenleaf, socialjustice@uucb.org

Leading our upcoming meetings will be our **new co-chairs, Cyndy Greenleaf and Norie Clarke**. Ongoing officers are Susan Blair, treasurer, and Helen Toy, SJC Beacon editor. Offering continuity to the Planning Committee are former chairs Sheldon Jones and Carol Carlisle.

Voting Justice

Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul. ~ Coretta Scott King

Action is the antidote to despair!

A recent blog by Robert Hubbell describes our "secret weapon"— the millions of grassroots volunteers who began as members of "the resistance" in 2017 and have matured into a "seasoned, professional, battle-tested citizen army ready to defend democracy." He describes the sophistication and planning of the grassroots groups: "They are data-focused, message-centric, and mission-driven."

Hubbell writes that women, and particularly Black women in the grassroots movement, have indeed become the soul of the nation. Women are motivated more than any other group by the pain and suffering of our nation and are working tirelessly to protect our liberty, our children, our planet, and our aged.

At UUCB, we, all of us, are aware of this pain and suffering. So Voting Justice continues unabated this summer, with postcard writing campaigns to encourage voters of color, youth, and environmentalists in North Carolina, Arizona, and Florida to remind registered Black women voters how vital their votes are!

To date, UUCB has sent out nearly 1500 postcards to voters in states impacted by voter suppression laws. With every mailing, we are professing our faith to ensure our freedoms, bodily autonomy, and futures. Ever onward to create the multicultural democracy of our prophetic vision!

Cyndy Greenleaf, socialjustice@uucb.org

Climate Justice Committee (CJC)

In August and September, in conjunction with the UUA and UU congregations all over the country, the Climate Justice Committee will “prepare the soil” and “plant the seeds” for our Climate Justice Revival here at UUCB. The last weekend in September, thousands of UUs and their congregations will collectively envision a spirit-filled future of community liberation and wholeness. We'll hold a highly interactive visioning workshop here at UUCB on Saturday, September 28, and Rev. Marcus will lead a coordinated “Climate Justice Revival” worship service the next day, Sunday, September 29. The Sunday service will be followed by an “advocacy hour,” to take direct action to influence issues that concern us.

The UUA is providing a great deal of support for these events. In August and September, we'll finalize our volunteer teams and receive facilitator training from the UUA as well as detailed plans for a visioning workshop we can adapt to meet our needs. We'll also receive curriculum materials for Pre-K, elementary, middle, and high school UUs; suggestions and resources for worship; and resources for an hour of congregational advocacy.

We hope to recruit many of you to lend your talents to make this happen. We'll have several teams: a facilitator team, a worship team, a team to work with our children and youth, and a hospitality team. In addition, we'll need one or more photographers and AV/tech experts. Other roles may emerge as we go.

Most important of all, we'll want to hear and honor YOUR voice at the visioning workshop on Saturday, Sept. 28. We look forward to celebrating our collective work in the follow-up Sunday worship service, and together making our voices heard after the service in the advocacy hour.

Please contact me if you're interested in helping us carry out what will be an awesome event!

Sheila Tarbet, socialjustice@uucb.org

Atrium Task Force

These past few Sundays, the Atrium Task Force, in consultation with the Aesthetics Committee, has been experimenting with some changes in the Atrium setup. We plan to try out new ideas throughout July and early August.

Have you enjoyed the pre-service coffee and tea in the “Atrium Cafe,” maybe stopping a moment to rest your cup on one of our new high-top tables? We hope these

changes are enhancing the atmosphere of welcome in our Atrium, for our UUCB community and first-time visitors alike.

We plan to use the Social Hall for more activity tables, still leaving plenty of seating space for people to enjoy the delicious lunches. The Buildings and Grounds Committee and staff are investigating better lighting for the Social Hall, to brighten the dim areas of this valuable community space and make it even more inviting.

The Atrium Task Force, led by Karen Tripp and Cynthia Asprodites, includes representatives from these groups: Program Council, Welcome, Hospitality, Fundraising, Social Justice, Family Ministry, Buildings & Grounds, Staff.

We need your input, as there are various options to use our abundant yet finite space. Please give us your thoughts! Your feedback is essential as we continue to experiment. Email us at: trippklw@yahoo.com or cynthia.tas@gmail.com

Second Annual Labor Day Weekend Upscale Rummage Sale

Saturday, August 31, 11 am–3 pm, with leftovers on Sunday. Do you have high-end clothing, accessories, or décor items you would like to pass on to someone new? I think you can leave them on the stage marked “Rummage Sale.”

Can you spare a few hours to help set up, staff, or clean up after the sale? Please email me!

Ann Harlow, fundraising@uucb.org

Kitchen Team

Hello from the UUCB Kitchen!

In honor of the 100-year anniversary, we served our own Caesar's recipe on July 14th. A hundred years ago on the 4th of July, Caesar Cardini invented the Caesar salad in his Tijuana restaurant when supplies were low and hungry Americans at the height of Prohibition were looking for a meal. The original was a far cry from today's as it was made with lime juice and Worcestershire sauce, only seven ingredients, served at tableside in a bowl rubbed with garlic and eaten as whole leaves by hand.

Caesar salad today typically has the following ingredients: parmesan cheese (I very much prefer Pecorino over Reggiano), anchovies, Worcestershire sauce, lemons, Dijon mustard, garlic, pepper and a little salt. The original had eggs in it, but often it is made without them, as in the below version. Internationally, it differs; for example, large strawberries are often added to it in the UK and hard-boiled eggs in France, while in the US, chicken and tomato (ours had both).

Below is the recipe, but what we served had less garlic and salt than this version. We were running low on lemons, so it was made with both lemon and lime juice. Remember, we can always use Meyer lemons. We also welcome volunteers to cook with us on Sunday mornings. Contact annharlow77@gmail.com

– Alan Davis

Caesar salad

Serves 2 main course, 4 salad course

Ingredients

Pecorino cheese 1 cup grated (use Pecorino as important to salad taste)

Romaine lettuce, two large heads

Dijon mustard 1 TSP

Worcester sauce 1 TSP

Olive oil: 6 TBS

Garlic, fresh, minced or pressed: roughly 2 tbs or four large cloves

Anchovies; 1 small tin, drained

Lemon juice: 1 half cup (use Meyer)

Pepper 3 TSP

Salt 1/2 TSP

Herbes de Provence 2 TSP

French bread, cut into 1-inch croutons: 1-1/2 cups

Dressing

In a blender, combine chopped anchovies, 1 TBS minced garlic, Worcestershire sauce and mustard.

Run blender, then add 1 TSP pepper, 1/4 TSP salt, 2 TBS olive oil and 1/2 cup of grated Pecorino cheese and blend.

Finally, add lemon juice and blend. Pour into another container and set aside.

Croutons

Preheat oven to 400.

Using the same blender with remains of dressing, add Herbes de Provence, 1 TBS garlic, 1 TSP pepper, 1/4 TSP salt, and remaining 1/4 cup olive oil, then blend.

Pour contents into a large bowl and, with your hands, toss the bread completely in bowl

Spread croutons on metal baking sheet in one layer.

Bake for no more than 10 minutes total. Turn over after 3-5 minutes.

Take out when slightly browned.

Salad

Find a large pot or bowl and break lettuce by hand into 2-inch pieces.

Put lettuce in fresh cold water for about 5 to 10 minutes to freshen up lettuce and wash it. Romaine has a higher incidence of bacteria, so wash well.

Spin dry lettuce in batches. Add to salad bowl. Toss with these, one at a time: last cup of grated cheese, cooled croutons, 1 TSP pepper, and dressing.

Serve immediately.

Notes:

If dressing is too lemony, add more cheese and oil.

If adding tomatoes, use cherry tomatoes cut in half.

Pecorino has a longer flavor and less sharp than Reggiano so prefer.

Meyer lemons give this a sweeter flavor, less sharp.

Croutons can be made with many spice mixes or just thyme and garlic if preferred.

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.

Board of Trustees

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Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)
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Helen Tinsley-Jones (Board Liaison)

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