
April 2026

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Vol. 85 #4

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

Stewardship: We Are In the Homestretch

This year's pledge drive is getting close to ending. Have you gotten your pledge in yet? No shame if not: some of us on the Stewardship team have only just submitted ours! We're really hoping for 100% participation of all members and active attendees. All contributions are appreciated and make a difference, so don't be discouraged if you're not able to be as generous as you might like. We need everyone to participate with pledges of all sizes in order to meet our goals.

Not sure if you've pledged? Log onto breeze (<https://uuchurchofberkeley.breezechms.com/login>), click on MY PROFILE, find "Giving" on the left side and then click on "Pledges." Your Breeze login can also show what you pledged last year. Or reach out to stewardship@uucb.org, we'd be glad to help you. Don't let a lack of info stop you from pledging—we're here to help!

Thank you to all who have pledged—with \$413,680 pledged we're just over 75% toward our goal. The average pledge from last year is up over 16% with some pledges 25, 50 and even 100% higher! We still have about 84 pledges still to come in, and we'll begin reaching out in April to the folks we haven't heard from.

With love and care,

Your Stewardship Team



April Services

Sundays 11 am

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

April 5

Easter Sunday

April 12

Rev. Marcus Liefert

April 19

Earth Day, Rev. Kathryn Jay

April 26

Stewardship: "Admire the Fire" Celebration Sunday.
Rev. Marcus Liefert

Coffee & Community

Starts at 10 am in the Atrium

Lunch

In the Social Hall following the service

Sunday Programming

Personal Theology

Some Sundays at 9:30 am

April 12 – Dr. Karen Voorhees

April 19 – Rev. Dr. Jane Simmons

April 26 – Dr. Stephanie Krusemark

Caring for Aging Parents

April 12 & 26, 9:30 am Safir Room. Drop-ins welcome.

Are you caring for an aging parent? Join us for a supportive Discussion Circle where we'll explore the challenges and emotions of this journey together. Through readings, reflection, and deep sharing, we'll cover themes including grief and loss, complex emotions and changing roles, self-care and boundaries, and community support.

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!

Religious Education

Sundays at 11:15 am (during service).

Email Rev. Kathryn Jay, Minister for

Congregational Life: kathryn@uucb.org

Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm in person and on Zoom

April 5 – Topic Selection for next month and Free Thinkers Discussion. Harold Ogren.

April 12 – Harold Ogren will discuss "The Hardest Problem in Science: Consciousness"

April 19 – Dennis Monthei will discuss "Future Tech problems: Taiwan, AI, Data Centers"

April 26 – Marcia Bates will discuss "Detention Centers: For US Citizens Again?"

Special Events

Apr. 4 Sarah Bush Dance Workshop

Apr. 5 Easter Egg Hunt

Apr. 11 KFPD Shredding Event

Apr. 12 Raise Your Voice in Love, for Justice

Apr. 18 Indoor/Outdoor Work Party

Apr. 22 Lessons in Love, Loss, & Resilience Workshop

Apr. 24 Earth Day Event (p. 7)

Apr. 25 Bird and Plant ID Nature Walk (p. 7)

Apr. 25 Luminescence & Kensington Symphony Concert

Apr. 26 The Vitality of Indigenous Storytelling (p. 5)

Good Neighbor

Berkeley Food Network

berkeleyfoodnetwork.org

The Berkeley Food Network seeks to end hunger and poor nutrition by using innovative, community-centered solutions to build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system.

Weekly Events (see uucb.org/weekahead)

Mondays

9 am Write For Your Life

Tuesdays

9:30 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

12:15 pm Applied UU Buddhist Sangha

12:30 pm Immigrant Solidarity Project Vigils

Wednesdays

10 am Walk & Talk Group

10:30 am Aging with Grace

Thursdays

9:30 am Women's Meditation Group

5 pm Javanese Gamelan

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fridays

9:30 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

Monthly Events & Meetings

Sunday (1=1st Sunday, 2=2nd Sunday, etc.)

9:30 am Parents Discussion Group (1/3)

1 pm Working to Overcome White Supremacy 2

1 pm Immigrant Support Group (1)

Monday

11 am Textile & Art (1/3)

5 pm Climate Justice Committee (4)

Tuesday

10:15 Prep/Serve Lunch GRIP (4)

7 pm World Peace Committee (3)

Wednesday

7:15 pm Board of Trustees (1)

7 pm Social Justice Council (2)

7 pm Program Council (3)

Thursday

10 am Thank You Circle (3)

Saturday

9 am Work Party (3)

1 pm POCC People of Color Caucus (3)

2 pm Death Café (quarterly)

4 pm Parents' Night Out (3)

6:30 pm Youth Social Event (3)

Announcements

Board Listening Presence

Helen Toy helen_toy@yahoo.com



Sarah Bush Dance

Workshop Join dance artists Sarah Bush & KJ Dahlaw for a movement workshop for all ages and all bodies on Saturday April 4,

2026, from 2-5 pm. Workshop is free to attend.

Donations to SBDP & UUCB also welcomed.

Participants will be invited to present a movement piece in the 11am Easter service the following day.

Easter Egg Hunt April 5



Lessons in Loss, Love, & Resilience with Arik Housley

Lessons in Loss, Love, & Resilience

In his memoir *Always November: Lessons in Loss, Love, and Resilience*, Housley shares his courageous journey through grief with unflinching

honesty. This workshop explores the shift from living *in* grief to living *with* it—integrating our past heartbreaks into a narrative of

strength and grace. uucb.org/events/hope-and-resilience-workshop-with-arik-housley/

From the Board of Trustees

Board Actions March 2026

1. **Welcoming:** The Board welcomed new Trustees Ryan Devine and Selene Fabiano, Board Secretary Beth Pollard, and the 18 new UUCB members who have joined since September 2025.
 - a. **Board Member Roles:** With the new Board composition came re-assignments to Board Committees and task forces, as well as liaison roles that the Board revised to align with its governance role and responsibilities.
2. **Calkins Trust:** Appointed Anita Mermel to be a second trustee to administer this trust, alongside Anne Greenwood.

Resist With Red

My Brownie friend Cindy knitted me a mini red hat for my birthday in February.

I was curious about this mini red hat and started to read about the history of it. During the WWII Nazi occupation of Norway, Norwegians began wearing red knit caps as a sign of resistance. Thursday, February 26th, 1942, such wearage was outlawed as a form of protest. Norwegians then wore paper clips on their jackets in a subtler manner of resisting (paper clips keep papers together, so therefore symbolize unity). Due to what happened in Minneapolis earlier this year, the Needle & Skein Yarn Shop resurrected the hat pattern—

the Melt the ICE Hat-- encouraging people to wear hats in support of values the Norwegian Resistance Fighters stood for: Democracy, Menneskeverd*, and Unity. (You can read more about it on redhatfactory.com/creed)

The legacy of the red hat In Norwegian folklore comes from the gnomes that reside in any respectable Norwegian barn, wearing a red hat!

The Textile & Arts Group, the Peace Committee, the Social Justice Council and our Immigrant Solidarity at UUCB are collaborating on this RESIST with RED FUNDRAISER! We have mini red hats you can wear on your lapel.. People have knitted them, felted them and crocheted them! We are wearing mini red hats in solidarity, resisting this current regime.

Funds that are raised go to Cuba-Gaza-our local Immigrant community. We will continue this fundraiser through May 1.

*Menneskeverd: Norwegian word for “the value of the human being, merely for being human.”

Beth Jerde





Construction on Campus

The Buildings and Grounds Team is advising that there will be construction on the campus this spring. A contractor will be excavating the entire play field, installing gopher mesh, playground wood fiber material and rubberized surfacing to improve the safety and appearance of the playground. Once these improvements are completed, the Good Earth School will install a new shade structure.

Please be patient during the project, as there will be excavators and trucks entering and leaving the campus.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Peter Barnholdt, Facilities Manager.

The Vitality of Indigenous Storytelling: Place, Time, Beings

Considering the centrality, endurance, creativity, and variety of Native Stories in North America as well as their ongoing role in resistance, resilience, and healing.

Sunday April 26 at 1:30 pm, Fireside Room



Hertha D. Sweet Wong, UC Berkeley Professor Emerita in the Department of English and UUCB Member, is author of *Sending My Heart*

Back Across the Years: Tradition and Innovation in Native American Autobiography as well as numerous articles on Native American literature, autobiography, and environmental non-fiction; editor of Louise Erdrich's *"Love Medicine": A Casebook*, and co-editor of *Reckonings: Contemporary Short Fiction by Native American Women* and *Family of Earth and Sky: Indigenous Tales of Nature from Around the World*. Her most recent book is *Picturing Identity: Contemporary American Autobiography in Image and Text*. Over the course of her career, she has served two terms as Chair of the Department of Art Practice, one term as Assistant Chair of the Department of English, and several years as Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

SPONSORED BY UUCB'S HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES GROUP (HIP)

Partner Church

Easter and Pentecost are important dates for Hungarian Unitarians. A quick look at these traditions will take us in unexpected directions. Let's see where they go.

We first learned about egg-sprinkling (*locsolkodás*) on Easter from UUCB member Susan Toth, who grew up in Budapest. Here's a description from the website of Follen Church in Lexington, MA: "Among Hungarian Unitarians, it's the tradition on Easter Monday for all men and boys to visit every house in the

village, sprinkling perfume on all the women and girls. Everyone is dressed well. After they spray, boys are given Easter eggs and maybe some coins. Men get a drink.” Susan commented that Easter Monday was not her favorite day of the year.

Our friend and Unitarian archivist, Lehel Molnár, tells us about Pentecost in the Hungarian Unitarian Church on his Heart of Hungary website: www.heartofhungary.org

Pentecost is the date, 50 days following the ascension of Christ, that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Disciples. For our Hungarian brethren it is more than simply a religious observance. Lehel writes, “The year 1868 was of significant importance for the Unitarian Church, as it marked the 300th anniversary of its establishment. The church used this anniversary to reinforce its identity and emphasize its role in promoting the ideals of national and religious freedom. The 1860s were a crucial period for the Unitarian community, as after several years of interruption, a synod for electing a bishop was convened, resulting in the appointment of János Kriza as bishop in 1861. The new ecclesiastical leadership focused on strengthening the community’s sense of self-identity and promoting the historical significance of religious freedom. The 1868 celebrations took place during Pentecost, with particular care taken to ensure that the event did not become a political protest but instead was a commemoration of religious freedom and a milestone in the church’s history, in the spirit of Christian tolerance and interdenominational peace.”

Lehel Molnar produces the Heart of Hungary website with his wife, journalist Eva Szabo. While Lehel’s writing includes

summaries in English, Eva’s YouTube videos are only in Hungarian. To nobody’s surprise, she includes an interview with Lehel about his archival work. In any event these are fascinating glimpses into Hungarian Transylvania. As always, we are here to help guide you in this wonderful corner of Europe. Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council, after a successful No Kings Day event on March 28, will be organizing to encourage participation in a nationwide day of action on May 1.

World Peace Committee

The UUCB World Peace Committee is urging our community to Make Our Voices Heard and Refuse To Be Silent, in opposing the Trump Administration’s use of the U.S. Military to commit extrajudicial killing on the open seas, raiding and kidnapping in Venezuela, and now waging an undeclared war of choice against Iran.

At our display table in the Social Hall each Sunday, we offer a petition to sign and stamped postcards to send to our U.S. Senators and the Representatives to express our opposition to the war and to urge support of the ongoing efforts to curb President Trump’s unconstitutional war-making. We provide current information, including articles on the rekindling of the nuclear arms race, which sadly has been pushed off the front page of public awareness but is still rushing forward without significant opposition.

Climate Justice Committee

April is Earth Month! Come join the Climate Justice Committee as we celebrate our Earth home and renew our commitments to our amazing planet and all its precious creatures, including our beautifully diverse human friends and neighbors.

Phil Maynard, native species champion, will host a work party to remove invasive species from our incredible church grounds on Saturday, April 18, from 9am to noon. On Sunday, April 19 Rev. Marcus' service will include an Earth Day theme, and Phil will take the RE children and youth on an outdoor nature hike.

The following Friday evening, April 24, the CJC will host an all-church gathering featuring voices from our members, including children and youth, sharing their love and their actions, big and small, to support a healthy planet for all. We'll have art, singing, and sharing in small groups, as well as a featured speaker from the Center for Biological Diversity. Our gathering will be organized around the UUA's

Green Sanctuary Four Essentials, and together, in loving community, we'll explore and renew commitments to integrate our commitments to a healthy planet into our lives. Stay tuned for more details. We expect to meet from 7 to 9 pm. It will be fun, educational, and inspiring!

The following day, Saturday, April 25, Phil will offer his fascinating bird and plant nature identification walks. The bird walk will be from 9 to 11 am, and the plant walk from 11 am to -1 pm. On Sunday, we'll offer an alternative/clean energy vehicle show in the front parking lot from 10 am to 1 pm. More details to follow. Join us!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

We covenant to build a religious community guided by love and sustained by respectful relationships. Believing that building healthy relationships is a spiritual practice, we aim to listen appreciatively, speak with care, express gratitude, honor our differences, and assume good intentions. We endeavor to communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict. When we hurt one another, we will try to forgive, make amends and reconnect in a spirit of love. In celebration of the common purpose that unites us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant.

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: 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 kathryn@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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