



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY

Annual Report 2013-14



One Lawson Road, Kensington, CA 94707-1015
uucb.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2013-14 ANNUAL REPORT

Please know that this is a historical document that serves as a “snapshot” of UUCB as of May 18, 2014.

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Celebration and Planning

May 18, 2014

Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

AGENDA

Call to Order and Determine Presence of a Quorum

Jean Gleason, President, Board of Trustees

Adoption of the Agenda

Reading of the Covenant

Approval of the February 9, 2014 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Presentation of Schweitzer Awards to:

Abbot Foote by Linda Laskowski

Craig Scott presented by Natalie DaSilva

Presentation of the Plaque to Jo Maxon

State of the Congregation Report - Jean Gleason, President, Board of Trustees

Coordinating Team Report

Membership Ministry

Capital Campaign Project updates

Land Development

Motion: Line of Credit (included in the packet)

Stewardship Team Report

Treasurer's Report – Linda Laskowski

Budget for 2013-2014

Motion: To approve the budget for 2013-2014 as presented.

Endorsement of Nominating Committee Members The Board of Trustees recommends that the congregation approve new members for the Nominating Committee. **Motion to approve for two year terms:** Christina Creveling, Judy Sam, Ira Nelken and Lonnie Moseley, Alternate.

Note: Continuing Nominating Committee members are Abbot Foote, Lynne Cahoon, and Selene Fabiano. Since the alternate, Ellen Fisher, is now a member of the Coordinating Team, she is no longer on Nominating.

We thank David Rockhold, Kathy Guarneri, and alternate Maryann Simpson, for their two years of service. We also remember team member Monica Riley with affection and thanks for all she did for our church.

Emeritus Status

In response to numerous suggestions, the Board of Trustees recommends the following:

Motion: That the Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley award Emeritus and Emerita status to the Reverends Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway.

Blessing

Adjournment

TREASURER'S NOTES

The proposed budget for 2014-15:

- Shows a small surplus of revenues over expenses
- Significantly reduces pledge and contribution income from this year's budget, in line with current experience
- Adds a significant amount of rental income
- Has about the same expenses as last year
- Brings all employees to at least UUA minimums*, with those employees at mid-point or above getting no increases
- Includes a significant increase in health care costs (mitigated by moving to a less expensive plan)
- Includes a significant increase for Family Ministry
- Includes smaller increases for Music and Membership

* Subject to income realization, but at least 4%

Significant risks in this budget include:

- Pledge income could fall short by as much as \$60,000
- As of today (May 5) the contract for additional classroom space with our tenant is not finalized

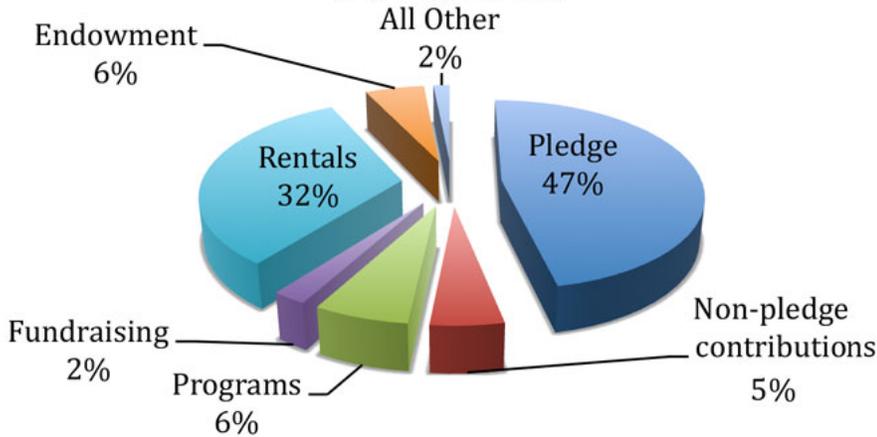
Significant opportunities in this budget include:

- Health care costs could be lower
- Community rentals could be higher
- As of today (May 5) the contract for additional classroom space with our tenant is not finalized

Want to know more? Check out <http://tinyurl.com/mo385hj>

PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2014-15: CHARTS

UU Church of Berkeley Proposed Income Budget FY 2014-15

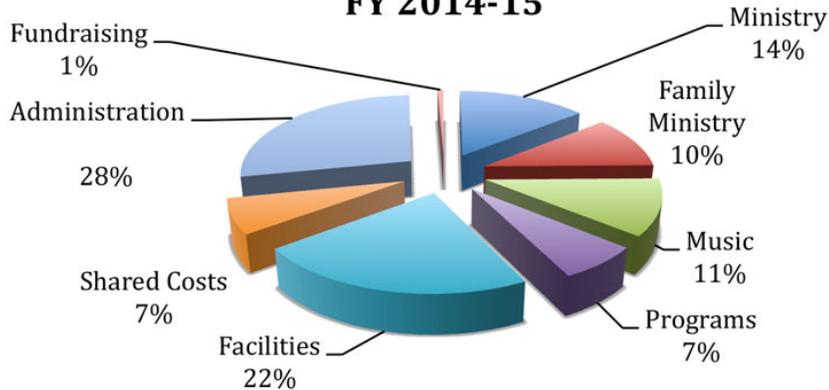


Income

Pledge \$460,000
 Non-pledge contributions 48,500
 Programs 62,900
 Fundraising 23,000
 Rentals 319,840
 Endowment 55,067
 All Other 15,125

Total \$984,432

UU Church of Berkeley Proposed Expense Budget FY 2014-15



Expense

Ministry \$139,000
 Family Ministry \$102,900
 Music 108,900
 Programs 65,300
 Facilities 217,500
 Shared Costs 67,500
 Administration 269,300
 Fundraising 6,500

Total \$976,900

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Awards, Canvass and Election

February 9, 2014

MINUTES

Call to Order and Determination of the Presence of a Quorum

President Jean Gleason called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m., asked for a count and announced that 89 members were present, sufficient for a quorum.

Adoption of the Agenda

President Gleason noted that the motion on land development had been deleted from the agenda at the request of the makers and asked for a motion to approve the agenda with that change. The motion was made by Lois Atkinson, seconded by Austin Henderson and passed.

Reading the Covenant of Right Relations

Paul and Terry Hudson took turns reading the covenant to the congregation.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Congregational Meetings

President Gleason asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 19, 2013 Congregational Meeting, and Anne Greenwood responded that Merrin Clough's name had been misspelled. The motion to approve the minutes with this correction was made by Larry Nagel, seconded by Patricia Brucker and passed.

Presentation of the Flaming Chalice Awards

President Gleason introduced the winners of these awards, which are given to members who have contributed to the life of the congregation on the recommendation of the past presidents, and the members making the individual presentations:

Cristina Creveling, presented by Lonnie Moseley

Larry High, presented by Jan McClain

Lisa Maynard, presented by Kay Fairwell

Deborah Schmidt, presented by Lynn Hammond

President's Report

After describing the process by which the church members participated in developing the revised Ends Policies recently adopted by the Board, President Gleason read them to the congregation. The balance of her report was devoted to the transition facing the congregation now that our ministers have announced their retirement and the process of finding an interim minister, which is the first step. She counseled patience, not panic.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Laskowski introduced the members of the Financial Council, newly formed to improve the transparency of the Church's finances, and then invited the congregation to step into discomfort as she talked about the future of the Church. She listed the assets, debt free land and buildings, the endowment, capital campaign funds already collected, and human capital including both staff and volunteers, saying we're a long way from financial catastrophe. She then presented slides to illustrate where the trends in declining membership and income would lead if not reversed. She concluded by pointing to the recent increase in new visitors as a leading indicator of success and urged continued discussion of how to generate income from the vacant land.

Ordination of Marcus Liefert

A motion to partner with the Oakland church to ordain Marcus Liefert was made by Paul Hudson, seconded by Warren Zittel and passed, with applause.

Contra Costa Interfaith Coordinating Organization Affiliation

Craig Scott asked members of the congregation who had been working with CCISCO to stand and then described the nature of the organization. We would be joining with other congregations and community groups and the dues would be \$1000 per year (half the first year's dues to be paid by the UUA). Craig made the motion to affiliate with CCISCO, Ellen Fisher seconded it, and it passed.

Coordinating Team Reports

Beth Pollard reported on the Capital Campaign that has \$811,000 pledged to improve buildings and grounds, and the CT's work of stewardship of assets. She noted that the membership ministry is being supported by Alisa Gould-Sugden. She thanked Cynthia Asprodites for five years of service on the CT, Kay Fairwell for stepping in when Margaret Goodmundsen died, and Jane Middleton who will be joining when her term on the Board of Trustees ends.

Bob Moore reported for the Stewardship Team, whose theme is "gearing up for the greater good," and quoted Jane Lundin from the kickoff event, that giving "makes me feel good," urging all to pledge.

Tom Tripp reviewed the process by which the capital improvements had been determined, from the reserve analysis on, including the formation of the projects management team and their concern for safety, quality, cost and schedule. He then made the motion from the agenda, that we approve a Capital Expenditure Plan to accomplish the project scopes in the Victory Goal and the Challenge Goal of the Taking Care of Our House Capital Campaign as funding allows, and projects in the Miracle Goal only if additional funds become available. The motion was seconded by Syndey Williams and members of the congregation discussed it. Bob Moore called the question, and when that motion passed with more than two thirds in favor, the main motion passed with only two opposed.

Tom then made the second motion, that we authorize a loan from Endowment Funds for the Capital Expenditure Plan. It will be no more than 90% of the total pledges minus what has already been collected in Capital Campaign funds and will be repaid. Ira Nelken seconded the motion, and it passed 86 to 4.

Linda Laskowski reviewed the Land Development group's process and introduced the consultants, Equity Community Builders. Suzanne Brown of ECB spoke about the process and potential of both residential development and school expansion.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

President Gleason thanked Stephanie Ann Blythe, Lynnette Delgado and Jane Middleton for their service, presented flowers to Stephanie Ann and Jane (Lynnette was not present) and the congregation applauded.

Results of the Election of New Board Members

Jane Middleton, acting as Vice-President, announced that Jean Gleason and Virginia Silver-Rimbach were re-elected (for three-year terms) and that the new Board Members are Lee Lawrence (three-year term) and Maryann Simpson, Mitch Sukalski and Miquette Thompson (all for one-year terms).

Installation of the New Board of Trustees and Blessing

Barbara and Bill Hamilton Holway then installed the new Board members, asking the congregation to support and encourage them and receiving a strong "we do" in reply. They concluded by blessing those that do the work and stay to the end, lead with integrity and joy, and with calm leadership in a time of transition.

Adjournment

President Gleason declared the meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Lundin,
Secretary

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Celebration and Planning

May 19, 2013

MINUTES

Call to Order and Determination of the Presence of a Quorum

President Jean Gleason called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., asked for a count and announced that 74 members were present, sufficient for a quorum.

Adoption of the Agenda

President Gleason asked if there were any amendments to the agenda and Susan Lankford asked to have the Land Use Task Force Report added after the motion on Capital Campaign priorities. There was then unanimous consent to the adoption of the agenda as amended.

Reading the Covenant of Right Relations

The congregation stood while John Bailey and Mary Pugh read the covenant.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Congregational Meetings

President Gleason asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 10, 2013 Congregational Meeting, and hearing none asked for a motion to approve them. The motion was made by Austin Henderson and seconded by Warren Zittel and was passed.

Presentation of the Schweitzer Medals

Anne Greenwood and John Tucker presented medals to Lynne and John Cahoon, listing their long and varied service to the church, and the congregation stood to applaud them.

Approval of Sue Magidson's Affiliation with UUCB as a Community Minister

The motion was made by David Thomas and seconded by Maryann Simpson and passed unanimously -- Sue Magidson said she could hear the "ayes" through two closed doors.

State of the Congregation

Promising to be briefer than President Obama's State of the Union, President Gleason mentioned a number of good things that had happened during the year, thanking David Lingenfelter for his work on revising the governance manual, recognizing the work of the outgoing ministers, Marcus Liefert, Sherri Prud'homme, and Amy Moses-Lagos, and our members' involvement in the denomination, including Susan Lankford, Bill Hamilton-Holway and Linda Laskowski. She also celebrated our work for social justice, from the Read Aloud program to all the members in their yellow shirts at immigration demonstrations, and finished by inviting everyone to contribute to envisioning the church's future, starting with the café conversation on June 29th.

Coordinating Team Reports

Beth Pollard, standing in for Cynthia Asprodites who was absent on family business, reported on the Coordinating Team's work, noting in particular the successful search for a director of religious education, the Chinese immersion school that is moving this month into the space vacated by the German school, the River of Life mosaic mural that was funded by gifts in memory of Joan Swift, and Anne Greenwood's six years of outstanding service as Treasurer.

Katherine Jay, co-chair with Paul Hudson of the search committee, reported that Merrin Clough would join the church as RE director in August, and described her skills with enthusiasm.

Patrick Cullinane reported on the work of the Capital Campaign Leadership Team that he co-chairs with Jan Setchko, quoting T. S. Elliot about beginnings, the campaign being the beginning

of continued blessing for the lives of members and welcome to religious seekers for years to come, and asking for members to share their ideas now and their money in November.

Tom Tripp reported on the process of prioritizing the repairs and improvements to be funded by the capital campaign. In response to a question from Ann Harlow he estimated the costs of this process as between \$5000 and \$10,000.

Motion to Approve Funds for the Initial Phases of the Capital Campaign

The following motion was submitted by the Coordinating Team for inclusion in the agenda:

That we approve the expenditure of capital campaign funds to move forward on the Capital Campaign "Taking Care of Our House" that seeks to improve our atrium, patio and other spaces, strengthen the condition of our physical plant such as our roof, flooring, and heating, and analyze the potential for other property improvements to sustain our facilities.

Beth Pollard withdrew this motion and offered the following motion as a substitute:

Whereas in a congregational meeting in December 2012 the following motion was passed: *"The members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley affirm to have a capital campaign in the Fall of 2013: the proceeds of this campaign not to be expended until a plan for the expenditures of the campaign proceeds is approved by the members in a congregational meeting."*; and

Whereas UUCB shall be in receipt of some advance capital campaign donations prior to the official launch of the campaign; and

Whereas task forces organized by the Coordinating Team continue to analyze and prioritize the needs of our physical plant; and

Whereas expenditures on professional and consultant fees are necessary to refine the scope of some capital projects under consideration for the capital campaign;

Therefore, we move that:

1. Administrative costs of the campaign may be expended immediately;
 2. Normal and reasonable professional costs directly pertaining to the scope listed below, shall be part of the capital campaign plan;
 3. Capital campaign funds may be expended immediately towards this scope; and
- This scope may be expanded or modified by the congregation in the course of the capital campaign, in accord with the December 2012 motion.

Preliminary scope for which professional costs are authorized:

- Atrium: heating, skylights, bathrooms, new doors to patio and entrance, Social Hall and Sanctuary
- Landscaping: new plantings, removal of diseased Monterey pines
- Painting
- Parking lot and pavement: repair and improve
- Patio improvements: landscaping and beautification, lighting, repaving
- Roof
- Sanctuary: repairs to floor
- Utility upgrades: heating, electrical, plumbing
- Walkways and stairs: repair/replace/install, for access and safety

The motion was seconded by Kay Fairwell and discussed by the congregation at length. In response to a question about administrative costs Margaret Gudmundsson explained that these

would include printing and postage, the costs of keeping the members informed. A cap on these expenses was suggested but greater trust in the integrity of committee members was favored by most speakers. After a call for the question, which passed, the motion was passed unanimously.

Land Use Task Force Report

Susan Lankford narrated a slide show demonstrating the range of ideas the task force has been investigating in search of a plan that would yield an income stream for the church. Because it was already getting late and the budget was still to be considered President Gleason asked that questions be directed to Susan and the other Task Force members outside the meeting.

Beth Pollard, on behalf of the Coordinating Team, acknowledged the important work the Land Use Task Force has been doing in exploring future possibilities for the church's property and the congregation's consideration of them, and recognized the need for funds for professional services to fully understand the pros and cons of the plans they are developing.

Finance Reports

Anne Greenwood summarized last year's finances, giving thanks for pledges in excess of the budget, hardworking fundraisers who put on events like the Fiesta and Driving Miss Daisy, and those who helped secure the new school building tenant. And she announced that Linda Lasowski would take her place as Treasurer starting in June.

Austin Henderson gave the Stewardship Team report, mentioning the varied events they had planned and asking everyone who had not yet pledged to do so quickly to facilitate the planning and budgeting process.

Anne Greenwood then presented the budget for 2013-2014. Approval was moved by Ralph Nelson, seconded by Dave Rockhold, and after Lynne Cahoon expressed what everyone was thinking, that we should just give Anne Greenwood a hand, vote and go home, it was passed unanimously, with thanks to Anne for her six years of dedicated service.

Endorsement of the Nominating Committee Members

Jean Gleason moved and Warren Zittel seconded a motion to endorse the Board's recommendations for the Nominating Committee: Lynne Cahoon, Selene Fabiano and Abbot Foote for two-year terms with Ellen Fisher as Alternate. Continuing members are Kathy Guarneri, Monica Riley and David Rockhold with Maryann Simpson, the alternate, serving due to a resignation. The motion was passed.

Blessing and Adjournment

President Gleason offered a blessing adapted from John C. Morgan: Let us bless, and keep and support one another. Let kindness rule in our hearts and compassion in our lives, until we come again to this wonderful community. And with thanks to all, President Gleason declared the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m..

Respectfully submitted, Jane Lundin, secretary

The Tree of Life

**Celebrating the Rites of Passage
of our Members and Friends**



Blessed by the Arrival of Children

Phoebe Josephine Bodnar, daughter of Juliet Christian-Smith & Jon Bodnar

Malcolm Butler, son of Ann & Alex Butler

Everett Sanders Carlton, son of Rebecca Sanders and Ian Carlton, and brother of Vivian
Rose Anna Geraci, daughter of Jacquelin & Jesse Geraci, and sister of Marion & Helena

Carlos Alejandro Lagos, son of Amy Moses-Lagos & Ricardo Lagos

Dax Kingsley Nils Moe, son of Sarah & Nils Moe, and brother of Olivia & Amaia

Jamieson Requejo, son of Lynne Boone & Leslie Bandle, and brother of Jade & Eddie

Lucinda Hailey Swan, daughter of Megan Hailey-Dunsheath & Andrew Swan, and
sister of Henry

Baby Blessings

Caitlin Phillips Adams, daughter of Cynthia & Daniel Adams

Millicent Jane O'Brien, daughter of Chris & Megan O'Brien, and sister of Aiden

Margo Hall, daughter of Anne & Ryan Hall, and sister of Cooper

We celebrate with those whose lives included the blessing of grandchildren.

Weddings & Unions

Steve Caramia & Steve Smith

Ordinations

Marcus Liefert

Amy Moses-Lagos

Deaths

Ruth Jeane Arkley

Dave Brown

Georgia Carlson

Akira Chiwaki

Reed Cooper

Peter Franklin

Gerald Gavzy

Laura Gilkerson

Margaret Gudmundsson

Lois Lynch

Lynn Mahlmann

Virginia McClellan

Jean Moore

Monica Riley

Marva Rodgers-Hahn

George Staubus

Our hearts and thoughts go out to those who experienced the
loss of close family and friends this year.

SERMONS AND SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE 2013-2014

<u>2013</u>				
Date	Attendance	Choir?	Sermon Title	Worship Leaders
	9 am / 11 am / total in building Summer: 10 am / total in the building			
6/2/2013	180/216	no	Religious Education Celebration Sunday	Family Minister Amy Moses-Lagos, Intern Minister Marcus Liefert, RE Consulting Minister Sheri Prud'homme, Revs. Barbara & Bill
6/9/2013	97/136	no	Learning From the Lilies of the Field	Revs. Amy & Barbara & Bill
6/16/2013	125/155	no	Youth Sunday	Rev. Amy, Sheri, Youth Group Advisors
6/23/2013	164/207	yes	The Healing Power of Laughter	Carrie Knowles with Kay Fairwell, Bryan Baker
6/30/2013	130/165	no	Communities of Love and Justice	Revs. Amy & Barbara & Bill
7/7/2013	168/197	no	Blessings of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water	Revs. Barbara & Bill
7/14/2013	157/192	no	Healing Blessings	Revs. Bill & Barbara
7/21/2013	174/218	no	To Be a Blessing	Rev. Sue Magidson, Kay Fairwell
7/28/2013	(none taken)	no	The Web and the Stars	Revs. Jay Atkinson & Sue Magidson
8/4/2013	150/197	no	Awakening the Heart: The Buddhist Path of Compassion	Revs. Craig Scott & Sue Magidson
8/11/2013	123/146	yes	And the Greatest of These is Love: Teachings of Christianity	Rev. Lisa Sargent, Kay Fairwell
8/18/2013	144/179	no	The Soul of All: Teachings of Sufi Mystics	Revs. Barbara & Bill
8/25/2013	194/211	no	Teachings of Water and Earth, Water/Earth Ceremony	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Director of Family Ministry Merrin Clough
9/1/2013	178/193	no	The Work of the World	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough, Beth Jerde
9/8/2013	43/205/307	? /yes	A House for All Ages	Revs. Barbara & Bill & Jeanelyse Doran-Adams, Merrin Clough
9/15/2013	50/197/289	yes/yes	Lessons From the Flying Trapeze	Revs. Barbara & Bill & George Swank, Merrin Clough
9/22/2013	40/237/333	? /yes	Music Sunday	Revs. Barbara & Bill
9/29/2013	43/166/259	no/yes	Taking Care of Our House	Patrick Cullinane, Jan Setchko, members of the Capital Campaign Leadership Team, Merrin Clough
10/6/2013	36/204/290	no/yes	Racism and the Longing for Beloved Community	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
10/13/2013	33/198/277	no/yes	Call to Engagement and Service	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
10/20/2013	38/171/252	yes/no	Race, Diversity and Church Life	Lonnie Moseley, Rev. Bill
10/27/2013	38/211/299	no/yes	Life After Death, Migration to a New World	Rev. Sonya Sukalski, Student Minister Zak Wear, Merrin Clough
11/3/2013	49/204/275	no/yes	Seek and Find	Board President Jean Gleason, Revs. Barbara & Bill
11/10/2013	42/150/236	no/yes	More Precious Than Gold	Merrin Clough, Revs. Barbara & Bill
11/17/2013	43/183/280	yes/yes	First Gifts	Merrin Clough, Revs. Barbara & Bill
11/24/2013	35/200/252	no/yes	A World Without Boundaries	Revs. Karoly Vass & Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
12/1/2013	33/186/278	no/yes	A Larger Covenant	Revs. Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar & Sue Magidson, Linda Laskowski

SERMONS AND SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE 2013-2014

<u>2014</u>				
Date	Attendance	Choir?	Sermon Title	Worship Leader(s)
	9 am / 11 am / total in building Summer: 10 am / total in the building			
1/5/2014	29/248/341	no/no	What Does is Mean to be Human and What Will You Do With Your Life?	Revs. Barbara & Bill
1/12/2014	38/208/297	no/yes	Devotion	District Executive Josh Searle-White, Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
1/19/2014	41/195/287	yes/yes	Healing Hopes for Change	Zak Wear, Merrin Clough
1/26/2014	49/213/324	no/yes	What Does if Mean to be Human? Promise and Possibilities	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
2/2/2014	46/178/273	no/yes	Dancing Ministries-- Community Ministry Sunday	Revs. Cat Cox & Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
2/9/2014	35/231/326	no/yes	Gearing Up For the Greater Good	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
2/16/2014	40/212/314	yes/yes	What's Needed?	District Executive Josh Searle-White, Rev. Sue Magidson, Merrin Clough
2/23/2014	30/201/288	no/yes	What's Possible Together?	Revs. Barbara & Bill
3/2/2014	32/204/300	no/yes	More Grateful, More Generous, More Loving	Revs. Barbara & Bill
3/9/2014	38/137/234	no/no	There's No Place Like Home	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
3/16/2014	46/202/304	yes/yes	Honoring UUCB Elders: Drs. of Durability	Anne Chapman, Jean Lipton, Roger Thompson, Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
3/23/2014	41/167/281	no/no	How Do We Care For one Another?	Committee on Ministry members
3/30/2014	37/221/330	no/yes	Thank You, Thank You, Thank You	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
4/6/2014	46/204/316	no/yes	Who Is Jesus?	Merrin Clough, Revs. Barbara & Bill
4/13/2014	28/212/293	no/yes	What Saves Us?	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
4/20/2014	182/186/416	no/yes	Easter Sunday: Praise For What Rises	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough Student Minister Zak Wear, Cheri, Dave
4/27/2014	38/146/243	yes/no	Addiction and Recovery	
5/4/2014	56/205/314	no/yes	What's Next?	Revs. Barbara & Bill, Merrin Clough
5/11/2014	41/224/283	yes/yes	House of Music (Music Sunday)	Revs. Barbara & Bill

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENTS

Fiscal Year	President
2013-2015	Jean Gleason
2011-2013	Stephanie Ann Blythe
2009-2011	Warren Zittel
2007-2009	Kay Fairwell
2005-2007	Susan Lankford
2003-2005	John L. Cahoon
2002-2003	Michèle Voillequé
2000-2002	Margaret Gudmundsson
1998-2000	Patrick Cullinane
1996-1998	Suzanne M. Lieban
1993-1996	Jim Burneo
1992-1993	Roger Thompson
1991-1992	Sheila Kennedy
1989-1991	Karen Campbell
1988-1989	Alex Holt
1987-1988	Mac Lingo
1986-1987	Bob Moore
1985-1986	Jeanne Griffith
1984-1985	John Tucker
1983-1984	Jeanne Loomer
1982-1983	Ann McDonald
1981-1982	Erda Labuhn
1980-1981	Jerry Wilson
1977-1980	Barbara Bridge
1975-1977	David Ulrich
1973-1975	Ed Lampo
1972-1973	Walter Nelson
1970-1972	Bill Ulp
1969-1970	Homer Merrill
1968-1969	Gordon White
1965-1968	Newell Nelson
1963-1965	Phil Calkins
1959-1963	Charles Shaw
1958-1959	James Shepardson
1957-1958	Joseph Fabry
1955-1957	Walter Roberts
1954-1955	Henry Butler

ALBERT SCHWEITZER MEDAL

At this year's May Congregational Meeting, the Awards Committee and the Board of Trustees awarded the Albert Schweitzer Medal to **Abbot Foote** and **Craig Scott**.

Schweitzer Medals are awarded to recipients who have been supporters of Unitarian Universalist churches for at least fifteen years and of our church for five years; who have participated in a number of church functions "above and beyond the normal call of duty;" who have been church leaders; and who have participated in outreach activities.

Abbot Foote by Linda Laskowski

Everyone needs a visionary, and Abbot Foote is mine.

A multi-generation UU, oops, I guess that would have been a "U", Abbot is no stranger to long term thinking. We make a good pair: while Abbot is working towards what the world needs in 2114, I am concerned about getting the church through next Tuesday.

Abbot was working on sustainability and solar power long before it was fashionable. As I described when I presented Abbot his flaming chalice award from this church in 2007, his stealth replacements of energy efficient bulbs and other devices, the first one in 1987, has probably saved this congregation hundreds if not thousands of dollars over the past few decades – most of that unrecognized. His suggestions about putting in solar panels decades ago were drowned out by concerns that we would never get our investment back, we should wait until the technology got better, we had too much fog and too many trees, and where would we get the money anyway?

From 2003 to 2008, Abbot and I were part of the team that eventually installed 336 panels above us, providing what is essentially all our electricity at zero cost (about \$20,000/year) – paid for by a loan from our endowment that was paid off last fall. This was part of Abbot's vision, his dream – not yet come to completion. That dream is solar panels on the roof of all UU churches.

So when I was asked to head a Land Use Task Force to address how we might insure the sustainability of this building, I went to Abbot. When I announced his addition to the team at a congregational meeting over a year ago, you all cheered. The discussions on the Task Force can be difficult, but I cannot imagine anyone whose voice is more important. For such a gentle man Abbot asks really hard questions: where is the building reserve in this budget? what are we doing to build the endowment? should we invest in a building that may not be sustainable? can we stay here? even if we successfully develop part of our land, where does the rest of the needed building investment come from?

These questions come from Abbot's sense of history and his dream of what is possible, even when faced with daily reality. This is Abbot's greatness, and why this award is so appropriate. To quote Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader at the turn of the 19th century, "when the dreams end, there is no more greatness".

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Craig Scott by Natalie DaSilva

It is indeed a great privilege to present this award to Rev. Craig Scott today. Craig has been a UU and a member of this congregation since 1998. He graduated from the Pacific School of Religion in 2004, and was ordained to the UU ministry here at UUCB in 2005. Craig has stood on the side of love, compassion, and justice long before the Standing on the Side of Love campaign unfurled its gold banners, and has often stepped forward in roles of leadership. In his earlier career as an attorney, he represented farm workers in the Central Valley, and other low-income, marginalized people over many years.

Here at UUCB, Craig has been part of a very special Evensong group since 1998, and has led several other Evensong groups. He has taught RE classes, and was part of the Caring Circle as a seminary student. He created and led a curriculum based on Karen Armstrong's "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life", and has led a Buddhist meditation group. He has played an active role in many immigration-related events as a member of our Immigration Justice Working Group.

Most recently, Craig facilitated the formation of a team of UUCB members to shepherd this congregation into formal membership with CCISCO, Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organizing, to help us all live our UU values more fully. Through Craig's tireless leadership with CCISCO, UUCB has participated in the Campaign for Citizenship, Richmond Ceasefire/Lifelines to Healing, and the Richmond Bay Campus, to name just a few.

Craig was the first minister to serve the UU Fellowship in Sonora, California, where he served for seven years. He will be named "Minister Emeritus" when he retires from that ministry in June.

If there is a public witness, or a public meeting, where the needs of the marginalized and disenfranchised are raised, and the call is for more justice and compassion, look for Craig. He will be there – and with a message that is grounded in faith, joy, hope, good humor, and humility. When I need inspiration and encouragement for continuing the work of bringing more justice into the world, I turn to Craig. It is an honor and a joy to work side by side with him, as many of you already know.

So, Craig, thank you for all you have given of yourself so far, and (borrowing one of your favorite sayings), may you continue to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Namaste.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER MEDALS

Prior to	Barbara Bridge	1994:	Roger Thompson
1980:	Marion Cope		Marion Thompson
	Raymond Cope		Martha Helming
	Walter Nelson	1995:	Eileen Peck
	Mazie Newman		Dick Boeke
	Frank Randall		Jopie Boeke
	Martha Randall	1996:	Jane Luckham
	David Ulrich		Jeann Stimel
1980:	Newell Nelson	1997:	Lois Lynch
	Lucille Parker		Bob Moore
1981:	Homer Merrill		Jean Moore
	Grace Ulp	1998:	Karen Campbell
1982:	Elaine Morgan Clarke		Bob Sayre
	Gwendolen Morgan Arata		Winnie Sayre
	Leolyn Morgan Griffith (for the Morgan Family)	1999:	Anne Greenwood
	Gertrude Beeson		Ira Nelken
	Russell Beeson		John Tucker
	Joe Fabry	2000:	Maya Elmer
	Judy Fabry		Ann Lane
	Eleanor Groszman		Mary Pugh
	Karl Groszman	2001:	Jay Hanks
	Everett Hunting	2002:	Margaret Gudmundsson
	Margaret Hunting	2003:	Jo Maxon
1983:	Lester Frank		Marilyn Warren
	Evelyn Johnson	2004:	Valerie Wolf
	Leevern Johnson	2005:	Jim Burneo
	Erda Labuhn	2006:	Dorothy Herzberg
	Bill Ulp		Lucile Miles
	Gordon White	2007:	Patrick C. Cullinane
1984:	Phil Calkins		Lee Lawrence
	Ladd Griffith	2008:	Susan Lankford
	James Shepardson	2009:	Donna Davis
1985:	Donna Rolls	2010:	Kay Fairwell
1986:	Hyman Roudman	2011:	Walter Gorski
1987:	Jeanne Loomer	2012:	Paul Worhach Hudson
	Flo Reeves	2013:	John & Lynne Cahoon
	Ken Reeves	2014:	Abbot Foote
1988:	Jeanne Griffith		Craig Scott
	Jess Blackstone		
1989:	Charles Shaw		
	Jean Lipton		
1990:	Ed Jackson		
	Vivian Jackson		
1991:	Ann McDonald		
1992:	Ellen Schon		
	Gertrude Hall		
1993:	Sheila Kennedy		

In recognition of loving service

Plaque in the Sanctuary

Barbara Morse
 Frances McDaniels
 Frank & Martha Randall
 Mary Edith McGrew
 Maizie Grace Newman
 Walter Nelson
 William & Grace Ulp
 Ladd Griffith
 Patricia & Walter Ellis
 Karl Ruppenthal & Jo Maxon

FLAMING CHALICE AWARDS

The Awards Committee and the Board of Trustees are pleased to present to the congregation four recipients of the Flaming Chalice Award: **Christina Creveling, Larry High, Lisa Maynard** and **Deborah Schmidt**.

The Flaming Chalice Awards are awarded in recognition of extraordinary service to our church community for at least five years, having been a supporter of the church, and having been active in one or more principal activities of the church during that time.

Christina Creveling by Lonnie Moseley

When Christina Creveling asked me to be her Presenter for the Flaming Chalice Award, I was beyond delighted. Delighted first that our church was honoring this spectacular woman and delighted secondly, that my efforts over these last seven years to convince Christina to be my friend, had finally worked.

Anyone who knows Christina also knows she hates having a fuss made over her. If she sees you walking towards her with appreciation in your eyes and those “outstretchy” arms, she will turn on her heel and pretend to be going in the opposite direction.

But I represent those of us who know her tremendous contribution to this church and have benefitted from her friendship, commitment, service, and no-nonsense good advice.

In the seven years Christina has been at UUCB she has...

- Served on the Council for its last year
- Volunteer on the Welcome Table and continues to welcome and greet each month
- Asked to be on Sara Roberts' Membership Steering Committee where Christina organized a team to do 4 or 5 New Member Breakfasts
- Christina has Co-led a Chalice Circle
- She listened three times in the Listening Campaign
- Mentored in the “Coming of Age Program in 2007”
- And then Christina volunteered to run for the Board! When I came onto the Board benefitted tremendously from her astute and sane observations.

While on the Board, Christina was on the Ends Rewrite Committee of 2009; at least three task forces, one or two working groups, and spoke to the Thursday night service 3 times.

And now she sings with the Early Birds, meets monthly with the Aesthetics Committee and still greets with me on the door. Wow.

But what I am MOST grateful to Christina for and I know she's proud of it, too, is how she joined with Board member, Bob Adams, to propose a Board Chalice Circle. This Chalice Circle helped the Board to change the tenor of its culture and to become a living embodiment of the UUCB Covenant.

Christina, when I told Cordell that you were receiving the Chalice Award, he immediately said, “You know, Christina doesn't like a lot of “thank you” and it's because she thinks giving and service is what you just do.”

And yes, my dear friend, Giving and Service IS what you just do. And I'm so grateful that you are in the world.

Christina, on behalf of the members of UUCB, I present you with the Flaming Chalice Award for years of service and loving dedication to this church family.

Larry High by Jan McClain

Compassionate. Caring. These are the words I have heard often as I've talked with others about Larry High. As Larry has participated deeply in this congregation for almost a decade, he has left his very personal mark on those around him. He has this marvelous sense of being able to act quietly, yet influentially, with a voice of reconciliation that comes from his intense love of people.

As Kai and I began attending this church, I remember seeing Larry every Sunday a few rows ahead--faithful, attentive, kind to others. He had such a sense of presence. We joined at approximately the same time and since then he has found many places to serve here. He has been a Chalice Circle participant, a devotee of Personal Theology and the classes on Non-Violent Communication, and an usher when needed. He was a table chairman for the Capital Campaign. He participates in the monthly prayer vigils outside the Contra Costa Detention Center. When he talks about these vigils, his deep love of humanity comes to the fore--standing outside, making noise with the others so that the immigrants inside can hear and be uplifted.

Larry's deepest service to this community so far has come with his three years of service on the Committee of Ministry. Those who served with him report that he was exceptional--the voice of wisdom and balance, truly speaking from his heart. He was a synthesizer--deepening the discussion--encompassing the interests of all the ages and groups here--caring about the welfare of others.

As part of his job on the committee, he scheduled those who would speak in the Sharing the Journey portion of the service. He was meticulous and kind with this--sometimes it took some serious convincing, but Larry's patience and attention brought many of us up here to bring forth our truth. To feel his support and see his joy as we stood up here was love in action. He truly is a Gentleman of the UUCB.

Lisa Maynard by Kay Fairwell

Lisa Maynard is one of our unsung heroes. She quietly goes about doing what needs to be done—without a lot of fanfare. Her list of contributions is long, and our allotted time isn't.

So, some highlights.

Lisa joined a Chalice Circle in 2007, and since 2009 has been a facilitator. She is currently co-facilitating the Chalice Circle program. Through Chalice Circles, she became involved in various church events such as the Obama election-night celebration and the Doctors of Durability luncheon. Discovering that she liked helping at events, Lisa jumped into fundraising, selling raffle tickets, decorating, and then helping to plan the events.

She also discovered the Valentines project, making and sending Valentines to church elders and Caring Circle recipients. She successfully encouraged her Chalice Circles to perform that service for the next four years—what fun!

She became involved in Stewardship in 2011 and has been on the Stewardship Team since then, working on engagement events and annual pledge drives.

Lisa put in many hours on our UUCB photo directory.

She is a member of the Appreciation Circle, which meets monthly to send cards of appreciation to those members who have contributed to the well being of this congregation.

As co-chair of the Capital Campaign Hospitality Team, Lisa helped plan various events that contributed to the success of the campaign.

And still she found time to help with the monthly Beacon mailings.

I am pleased and honored to present Lisa with the Flaming Chalice.

Deborah Schmidt by Lynn Hammond

I am pleased & honored to be asked to present the Flaming Chalice Award to Deborah Schmidt.

I have known Deborah as a wonderful writer since 2008, as a fellow choir member since 2004, & as a haunting flutist since 1996. If you come to Christmas Eve services, you know how Silent Night fades from singing to her lilting flute to silence.

Deborah and Daniel were married at UUCB in 1981--almost 33 years ago--and Deborah served on the Religious Education Committee and as Children's Music director from 1993—1996, raising enough money to buy instruments the children are still using today. ("We served a lot of lunches," she said.)

After joining the choir in 2004, Deborah joined the Music Committee in 2008. Since last year she has worked with the newly-formed Luminosity Events Subcommittee to attract new people to the church through concerts—not only Bryan Baker and Friends, which I hope you heard last night, & Love Songs & Chocolate coming in March but also outside groups like the Yale SOBs. As you undoubtedly recall, SOB stands for Society of Orpheus and Bacchus, and it not only created revenue for the church but also attracted many people I'd never seen before.

Deborah recently served as Chair of the Ministerial Review Committee where she exerted "impressive leadership," working to create a positive and collaborative review process and to make the work of the Committee on Ministry more visible. I wasn't surprised to hear what a great job she had done because I've never known Deborah to do anything with less than 100% commitment and excellence.

In 2013 Deborah was elected to the board. I sent emails to friends before the election because I wanted people to know what a superb job she had done corralling choir members' varying opinions in a letter to the ministers, which resulted in better communication and collaboration both within the choir and between the choir and the ministers.

Most important is Deborah herself, her quiet presence that unobtrusively makes people feel heard and honored. She has a deep commitment to helping people really listen to each other and then find a harmonious way to move forward together. We are so lucky to have her on our board & in our midst.

FLAMING CHALICE AWARDS

Prior to 1980

Doris Clark
Catherine Dewey
Martha Randall
Felice Zaikowsky

1980

Jean Lipton
Walter Lipton
Helen Lipton
Ken Lipton

1981

Bonnie Allen
Earl Saxton

1982

Grace Dilley,
posthumously

1983

Marion Daggett
Hyman Roudman
Ellen Schon
Whitney Woodhead

1984

Gertrude Hall
Helen Houmann
Cliff Nagel
Estelle Nagel
Sidney Williams

1985

Elizabeth DeVelbiss
Althea Ippolito
Bob Sayre
Bruce Watkins

1986

Jo Maxon-Dadd
Mac Lingo
Lucile Green Isitt

1987

Scott Merrick
Harriet Nelson
Doug Pryne
Esther Zane

1988

Cal Baze
Edgar Farrow
Geneva Gates
Sheila Kennedy

1989

Mary Fleagle
Jane Luckham
Bob and Jean Moore

1990

Walt and Laura Safir
Dorothy Gould
Joan Swift
Marion Modena

1991

Jon Ehlers
Ann Lane
Pat Dyck
Martha Helming

1992

Orpha Gibson
Anne Greenwood
Jay Hanks
Margaret Gudmundsson

1993

Maya Elmer
Lawrence Berger
Grace Gildersleeve
Karen Campbell

1994

Ira Nelken
Mary Pugh
Dick Labuhn
Terry Merrick

1995

John Tucker
Winnie Sayre
Norm Hutchings
Frances Hanna

1996

Al Cohen
Dorothy Herzberg
Jean Hyde - declined
Minerva Mendoza-
Friedman

1997

Ingeborg Neinhold
Maryann Simpson
Betty Tharpe
Mark Woodbury

1998

Jim Burneo
Sally McCleery
David Roberts
Orel Wolters

1999

Beryl Bates
Alan Comnes
Celia Karian
Ruth Schlotthauer

2000

Kay Fairwell
Betty Kipp
Suzanne Lieban
Jim Novosel

2001

John Cahoon
Leslie Comnes
Patrick Cullinane
Katherine Duke

2002

Lynne Cahoon
Aileen Hohmann
Malcolm Quint
Charlotte Teeples

2003

Barbara Cullinane
Eileen Dimmick
Lemar Morrison
Frederick Shaw

2004

Cynthia Asproditis
Donna Davis
Michèle Voillequé
Paul Worhach

2005

Roger Dillahunty
Linda Jackson
Nan Yarbrough
Linda Zittel

2006

Jay Bunker
David Lingenfelter
Sandra Pastermack
Warren Zittel

2007

Abbot Foote
Linda Laskowski
Jan Setchko
Eldon Wolf

2008

Ann Harlow
Lynn Mahlmann
Raymond Miles
Connie Pyle

2009

Stephanie Ann Blythe
Beth Glick-Rieman
Bill Trampleasure

2010

Patricia Brucker
Lynnette Delgado
Donna Lerew
Susan Thomson

2011

Sara Roberts
Judy Sam
Ray Westergard

2012

Marion Anderson
Kathy Guarneri
Catherine McDonald
Jim Milstead
Lonnie Moseley
Sandy Tremblay,
posthumously

2013

Natalie DaSilva
Jane Middleton
Beth Pollard
Betty Webster

2014

Christina Creveling
Larry High
Lisa Maynard
Deborah Schmidt

SPECIAL GIFTS TO UUCB

**Monica Riley Estate
\$20,000**

**Pat Ellis from the Walter Ellis Estate
\$16,896**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(as of 2/9/14)

Jean Gleason, President (second term)
(2014-2017; second term)

Deborah Schmidt, Vice President (first term)
(2013-2016, first term)

Jane Lundin, Secretary
(appointed 3/15/12; maximum 6 year appointment; ex-officio)

Linda Laskowski, Treasurer
(appointed 7/13; maximum 6 year appointment; ex-officio)

Kathleen Baumgardner
(2013-2016; first term)

Lee Lawrence
(2014-2017; first term)

Ladie Malek
(2013-2016; first term)

Virginia Silver-Rimbach
(2014-2017; first term)

Maryann Simpson
(2014-2015; completing term for Board member who resigned)

Mitch Sukalski
(2014-2015; completing term for Board member who resigned)

Miquette Thompson
(2014-2015; completing term for Board member who resigned)

Co-Ministers' Report

What a good and emotional final year of our ministry with you.

In the fall, we worked side by side with the Capital Campaign team, and we celebrate the good and joyous work of the team. We feel proud of the Capital Campaign brochure, the Reflections Booklet, and the pamphlet *An Invitation to Visit Our Church Grounds*, the beauty and hospitality of campaign events, the little painted houses, the growing altar piece for Taking Care of Our House and so much more. We are grateful for the congregation's enthusiasm and generosity. We offer appreciation to all the leaders who are carrying forward the work of the capital campaign.

We applaud your growing involvement in the larger interfaith community and your officially becoming members of CCISCO. Thanks to the community ministers and lay leaders who have given heart and soul to this work.

We cheer too the new energy and leadership in regard to in-reach and out-reach and membership. When we go over the visitor registrations, we find many families with young children coming to UUCB. This is good news.

Working with Merrin Clough, who began at UUCB in late August, has been a highlight of this year. We grow each week in deeper appreciation for who she is and how she serves as Director of Family Ministry and as one of your religious leaders.

In January we announced our plans to retire from parish ministry. Our attention has been focused on ministry, making a good goodbye, planning for Sunday Services and ministerial coverage of weddings and memorial services and pastoral care visits during the summer before the interim minister arrives, as well as the ongoing tasks of ministry, and planning our own next chapters. Such a busy and tender time.

We celebrate the Board of Trustees, their leaders President Jean Gleason, Vice-President Deborah Schmidt, Secretary Jane Lundin, and Treasurer Linda Laskowski. They and the Trustees are working to make a healthy time of ministerial transition.

With the worship staff, we have planned and collaborated on Sunday services through our last Sunday, June 1. What a joy for us to work with Bryan Baker, Michèle Voillequé, Katya Kolesnikova, Merrin Clough, and Zak Wear. Now we are working with them and others so as to have good worship services during the summer.

It is always a privilege to preside at rituals that mark life transitions — memorial services, baby blessings, new member welcomes, and weddings. We have attended to members in need of support during illness and surgeries and we are ever grateful for the chaplains, Caring Circle, and your care for one another.

Bill has continued to serve on the Coordinating Team. We are thankful for the people who have served and the people newly serving on this hard-working team.

Bill has been very involved in the work of Stewardship, and we are appreciative of the Stewardship Team and their work on behalf of everyone.

Barbara has organized Thursday night vespers and programs and gives thanks for the leadership of Merrin Clough, community ministers and others who share music and stories on Thursday evenings.

Barbara works with the Caring Circle and the Appreciation Circle. Plans are in place to continue their work during the transition.

Barbara is inviting ministers connected with UUCB and members to offer sermons, serve as worship leaders, and slide show creators and operators during the summer months.

Over the summer the Committee on Ministry will continue to invite Chalice Lighters, Sharing the Journey speakers and write cards to those who write on Sundays in the Memory Book. These people and the on-going music, office and facilities staff will bring familiar people and continuity and care for you during the summer.

This is a poignant time. We have been doing things for our last time with you, Christmas Eve candlelight services, Easter and so much more. We've even already said goodbye to some people we are unlikely to see again. Last times of Thursday night suppers, vespers, Sunday morning worship, all accelerate as we enter our last weeks of ministry here with you at UUCB.

We're pleased that we will celebrate our times together with a fun party on Saturday, May 31, 5:00-8:00.

The next day Sunday, June 1, we will ritualize our leave-taking and your recommitment to one another and to your mission. The 10:00 service will be followed by a picnic for all ages, games, and socializing out on the green field.

We leave you with much appreciation and with abiding love. We are ever grateful for these eighteen years of ministry with you, and we pray and believe your next chapter will be full of joy, growth and vitality as you make a difference in one another's lives and in the larger community and world.

With love and appreciation,

Revs. Barbara and Bill Hamilton-Holway
Co-Ministers

Committees & Programs

The following have Mission Statements approved by the Coordinating Team on 3/20/12:

Board of Trustees Authorized Committees (with contact):

Awards Committee	Deborah Schmidt
Endowment Committee	Anne Greenwood
Nominating Committee	Deborah Schmidt

Coordinating Team Recognized Committees:

Aesthetics Committee	Lynne Cahoon
Appreciation Circle	Barbara Hamilton-Holway
Committee on Ministry	Kay Fairwell
Community Ministry Committee	Rev. Jane Ramsey
Family Ministry Committee	Kathy Guarneri & Ariel Smith-Iyer
Freestone Retreat Committee	Norie Clarke
Internship Committee: inactive this year]	
Lawrence Lecture: inactive this year]	
Membership Ministry Committee	Paul Hudson & Lonnie Moseley
Music Committee	Ben Keeler
Peace Committee	Ingeborg Nienhold
Transylvanian Partner Church Committee	Stephanie Ann Blythe

Liasons:

CCISCO (Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organizations)	Rev. Craig Scott
GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program) Souper Center	Ray Westergard
Read-Aloud Volunteer Program	Judy Sam
UU Justice Ministry of California	Lee Lawrence
UU Service Committee	Lee Lawrence
Video Committee	Mary Pugh

Task Forces:

Archives	Alisa Gould Sugden
Awakening Wisdom Classes	Lynnette Delgado
Building Project Management Team	John Cahoon, Larry Nagel
Climate Core	Austin Henderson
DIR (Developing Indigenous Resources) Friends	Frederick Shaw
FUNdraising Team	Ann Harlow
Good Neighbor	Lee Lawrence
Land Development	Linda Laskowski
Landscape	Lynne Cahoon
Pathways	Lynnette Delgado
Stewardship/Canvass	Anne Greenwood
Ushers: 9am Service	Stephanie Ann Blythe
11am Service	Maryann Simpson

Activities:

Blended Voices	Donna Davis
Blue Mountain Center Meditation	Lois Schneider
Channing Club	Marin Fischer
Eclectic Songsters	Mark Woodbury
Film Series	Lee Lawrence

Gamelan
GenerationUU
Handicrafters
Immigration Working Group
Men's Group
Mist Tree Moon Circle
Roundtable Discussion Group
Safe Congregation Team
Thursday Night Supper
Walk & Talk Group
Women's Meditation Group
Write for Your Life Writing Group
Yoga (Hatha)

Daniel Schmidt
Sheila Fischer & Paul Hudson
Barbara Hilbourn
Natalie DaSilva
David Lingenfelter
Stephanie Ann Blythe
Mark Woodbury
Kay Fairwell
Lisa Harrington
Ann Harlow
Kendra Smith
Beth Glick-Rieman
Phyllis Whiteman

The following programs support and enrich our principle of diverse spiritual development:

Chalice Circles
Humanist Connection
Personal Theology
Summer Forum
Tuesday Morning Worship
Thursday Vespers

Alisa Gould Sugden
Lee Lawrence
Barbara Rockhold
Dorothy Herzberg
Alisa Gould Sugden
Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway
Stephanie Ann Blythe

Additional UUCB Programs & Activities:

Altar Flowers
Applied UU Buddhism
Caring Circle
Chalice Circles Registration
Chancel Choir (Luminescence)
Chaplains
Conflict Management Team
Coordinating Team

Cindi Clymer
Lynnette Delgado
Lynnette Delgado
Lisa Maynard
Bryan Baker
Rev. Jane Ramsey
Walter Gorski & Alisa Gould Sugden
Beth Pollard, primary contact
Ellen Fisher
Anne Greenwood
Bill Hamilton-Holway
Jane Middleton
Mary Ellen Morgan
Lisa Harrington
Kay Fairwell
Ann Harlow
Rev. Jane Ramsey
Suzanne Yada
Gillian Groszkiewicz

Freestone Reservations
Simple Gifts Book Table
Snack Table
Support Group
Young Adult Network
Youth Group (Senior High) Advisors

Committees, Liaisons, Task Forces, Activities and Programs Reports

If a group is not included below, no report was submitted.

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Committees

Aesthetics Committee

Contact: Lynne Cahoon

The Aesthetics Committee is open to anyone who cares for the appearance of the inside of the church buildings. We believe a clean, attractive, and well-maintained building is welcoming and enhances spiritual experiences.

We meet monthly except August and December on the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 pm. We assist facilities management with cleanup tasks, selection of rugs, paint colors, and fabrics. We lobby for such improvements as will enhance the beauty of the church. We co-sponsor Work Parties, and cooperate with UUCB's Crafters Group. That group, led by Lynn Sullivan, is making new shades for the Sanctuary.

If creating a little beauty in the world appeals to you, please join us.

Members are: Christina Creveling, Marin Fischer, Ann Harlow, Barbara Hilbourn, Aileen Hohmann; Lynne Cahoon, chair.

Appreciation Circle

Contact: Kay Fairwell

The Appreciation Circle meets second Tuesdays from 11:00 to 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. On behalf of the congregation, the Appreciation Circle writes postcards of appreciation to members of the community in gratitude for their contributions to the life of the congregation.

We begin our meetings with a reading and each of us shares personal gratitude and appreciation. Participants have included Claire Baker, Barbara Daniell, Kay Fairwell, Barbara Hamilton-Holway, Lisa Maynard, and Monica Riley.

All are welcome. Please contact Kay Fairwell, Appreciation Circle Coordinator, for more information.

Awards Committee

Contact: Deborah Schmidt, Vice President

The Awards Committee nominates persons for awards in recognition of their service to UUCB, to the UUA, and to the community at large. The committee reviews the importance of the service rendered to the church by nominees and ensures equitable and fair judgment in each selection and recommendation.

The members of the Awards Committee are former Presidents of the Board of Trustees.

Committee on Ministry

Contact: Kay Fairwell

The Committee on Ministry strives to see, hear, and love the congregation into engaged ministry with each other. We ask the question, "How can we care for each other?" During this time of transition, as the congregation looks to the future with new ministry, the Committee is focusing on making ourselves available to receive concerns, questions, inspirations, doubts, and hopes. Please share your thoughts with us.

The duties of the Committee on Ministry consist of arranging for chalice lighters and journey sharers for Sunday worship services. The Committee also writes notes to those who write in the Memory Book.

The Committee will be active through the summer until the interim minister arrives. At that time, the interim minister will most likely select a transition team to assist during this time of change.

Committee on Ministry members are Victoria Bowen, John Cahoon, Kathy Guarneri, Kay Fairwell, Jan Setchko, and Hoa Voscott.

Endowment Committee

Contact: Anne Greenwood, convener

Members: Anne Greenwood, Convener, Abbot Foote, Anne Chapman, Austin Henderson, Linda Laskowski, Treasurer ex officio

The committee meets at least quarterly, and more often if needed.

We have reviewed and revised the Gift Acceptance Policy and the Endowment Policy. No substantive changes were made to the Gift Acceptance Policy. The endowment policy changed the formula for the recommended annual payout to the operating fund to reflect a more conservative payout as follows:

"The intent of the Endowment Fund is to provide a permanent source of income to support the UUCB's work. The level of annual expenditure from the Endowment Fund (the "Annual Amount") will be recommended by the Endowment Committee in consultation with the Coordinating Team and adopted by the Board. The level of base payout will be 4%, with an additional payout of 0 to 1.5% based on the following:

- * the endowment's rate of return for the past 12 quarters (as reported by the UUA)
- * the potential effects of inflation or deflation
- * the potential use of the funds for one time versus ongoing operations, for example, start-up costs for a new program or staff member, or hiring of consultants for a specified project."

This policy was adopted by the Board at its February 2014 meeting.

We have revised the Maybeck Legacy brochure and offered a workshop on wills and estate planning led by Sara Diamond, a Berkeley Estate Lawyer.

Family Ministry Committee

Ariel Smith-Iyer and Kathy Guarneri: co-chairs, along with Merrin Clough

Mission Statement:

The Family Ministry Committee is the support committee for the Director of Family Ministry, the religious education program for children and youth, and our community of families. In collaboration with the Director, the Committee helps to develop plans and policies to foster a rich and growing program that will prepare young Unitarian Universalists for a lifetime of spiritual and ethical exploration and growth. The Committee also works to build community among families and with the wider church by supporting our Director in connecting and meaningfully engaging people in the program. The Committee is invested in cultivating a sense of shared ministry within the program and with the wider church that fosters a multi-generational community of faith at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley.

The group's activities and accomplishments over the last year include starting with our new Director of Family Ministry, Merrin Clough, running a successful RE program for pre-school to 5th grade, providing teacher support, teacher/facilitator trainings, YRUU group, MUGGS group, monthly Family tUUGther nights, Family Thursday night suppers, a monthly meeting for parents of children with special needs, twice a month parent discussion circle, child care for events and services, tween/teen game nights, Our Whole Lives, Halloween haunted house, Family/ Congregation potlucks, Easter Sunday breakfast, egg hunt, end of year BBQ/field day, summer religious education program, Bring your weight in Food, Youth and Children's Choir, and children reading the call to worship.

Those who served this group in the last year: Richie Dawkins, Julie Cowles, Robin Cooper, Liz Camara, Kathryn Jay, Virginia Silver-Rimbach, and Amy Moses-Lagos.

The Family Ministry Committee is composed of 8 members. Two co-chairs, plus 6 members who provide leadership for one of three task force areas. The task force areas are Faith Formation, Faith in Action, and Connect & Engage. Each task force may also include Partners who are active leaders within the task force's area of specialty and who collaborate with the Committee to include families, children, and youth in their ministry.

Membership Ministry Committee

Contact: Lonnie Moseley & Paul Hudson

Mission Statement

The Membership Ministry Committee works to make the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley a welcoming and inclusive spiritual community. We reach beyond our church walls to strengthen UUCB's visible presence in the wider community. We reach within this church community to guide newcomers along the path to membership, and nurture newcomers and members alike towards greater involvement and leadership in the congregation.

Leadership Transitions

The Membership Ministry Committee (MMC) – newly renamed from the Membership Committee to reflect our active role in the ministry of our congregation, in 2013 had new leadership in place, after Sara Roberts stepped down from six years of service, and after about a year without volunteer leadership. Lonnie Moseley and Paul Hudson will serve as co-chairs of the MMC for three year terms. Alisa Gould Sugden, our Membership Coordinator on staff, continues to lead and support ongoing committee functions, activities, events, and initiatives.

Alisa coordinates ongoing functions of the committee, such as staffing of the Welcome Table and

Greetings, organizing new member welcome services, printing nametags, tracking newcomers in the database, among many other duties. Lonnie and Paul are focusing, respectively, on initiatives for In-Reach and Out-Reach, while also supporting Alisa in committee activities. Alisa, Lonnie and Paul together serve as leaders of the MMC.

Lonnie's In-Reach activities are focused on making UUCB an inclusive and welcoming community to newcomers, and finding ways of engaging and nurturing all people in our church community towards membership, greater involvement, and leadership, and deep spiritual and personal connection.

Paul's Out-Reach initiatives seek to make UUCB better known beyond our church walls. The Outreach Action Team has been organized to take on projects from small to large, from one-time to ongoing, to make our presence widely known. This include the use of social media (Twitter and Facebook), planning new outreach events in addition to the Solano Stroll (such as the MLK Day Parade in El Cerrito, in which we marched this year), organizing an ongoing "Invite Your Friends" information campaign, and making sure that everything we do at UUCB – from our Good Neighbor offerings to our partnership with CCISO to our music and performance events – are made externally – and internally – visible. New members and projects leaders are needed for the Outreach Action Team – please speak with Paul.

Lonnie's In-Reach initiatives include reviving a former New Member "Buddy" system where a current member of the congregation partners with a new member to be a support, answer questions, and help guide the new member's spiritual interests (connecting the new person with people who have participated in Chalice Circles, Choir, etc.). Another initiative is to have a buddy or Membership member accompany new members to at least one Thursday night dinner without charge so that new members become familiar with this wonderful connection. Lonnie continues to manage the members who welcome on the front doors of UUCB and plans to expand the list of Greeters so to engage more congregants.

The MMC has set a five year membership goal of 500. This will be a challenge. Our current membership is under 430, after several years of steady decline. We will need to do better at retaining members through our In-Reach initiatives, and do much better in attracting newcomers through our Out-Reach activities. If we all work together to make UUCB as welcoming, inviting, visible, engaging, justice seeking, and alive as we can, we can meet this challenge, while making UUCB that much more of wonderful place for ourselves. We need YOU!

Music Committee

Contact: Ben Keeler

The past year has been quite a busy one for the Music Committee. We started with an ambitious project of re-leathering the organ. We birthed a new concert series, and we continued our support of our traditional music programs.

Our organ, which is an integral part of our sanctuary, has been aging. The sanctuary and the organ were made for each other. As the sanctuary has deteriorated so has the organ. As an investment, our Aeolian-Skinner organ would cost over a million dollars to replace. It seemed only reasonable to replace the parts that had worn out over 50 years.

Some of the key components of our organ are made of supple leather. They had grown hard and ceased to function properly. There was also some water damage due to a leak in the roof, which further hardened the leather. The re-leathering entailed replacing over six thousand pieces of thin leather: two leather pieces for each of the organ's 2,957 pipes, plus bellows leather and other

leathers. The organ had to be taken apart, and many small pieces of leather, and other parts had to be fabricated, replaced, and reassembled. There is no organ parts store, so these are fabricated by hand.

Jo Maxim, Patricia Ellis, Marion Anderson, and many others took on the daunting task of raising over a hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the project.

Marion Anderson took on a key role as the liaison between the church and Schoerster & Company, with much help from Ron Swedlund, who was our organist at the time. They started the work in July, and finished in September. We give many thanks to Jo Maxon, Karl Rupenthal, Patricia and Wally Ellis, and many others for their extremely generous donations.

Luminosity Events is our new concert series drawing performers and visitors to its spectacular venue with a mix of cultural events as vibrant and eclectic as the people of our Bay Area. Guided by the UUCB mission and managed by the Luminosity Committee, *Luminosity* supports the growth and diversity of UUCB and its connections to the wider community.

We provide opportunities for performers to engage with church life and programs beyond the concert series through workshops and appearances in worship services. We are open to partnership with other non-profit organizations.

We have incorporated our existing concerts as well as new ones with outside groups. It has been a huge success. To raise money for the UUCB general fund and to reach out beyond the congregation the choir performed in a number of events. The *Messiah Sing-Along* in December was the best attended yet, and our most successful community outreach. Earlier that month, the choir sang for the Shadi Christmas Display on Moeser, which was another cheerful and successful outreach event. Love Songs & Chocolate was yet another fundraiser for the church, and we included two new elements this time. We joined in honoring the Doctors of Durability, and also shared the income generated with an outside group: the Read Aloud Program.

The Joint UU Choirs concert in April is a tradition that UUCB has spearheaded in recent years. It not only brings funds in, it also builds connections with congregations across the Bay Area. By collaborating with the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, we encourage further outreach to a diverse audience of potentially interested community members. In addition we brought in outside groups such as Yale University's a cappella group The Society of Orpheus and Bacchus. Our most recent concert was the debut of Serenade, Strings, and the Mad Diva, which was made up of the Serenade Chamber Choir, Ashton String Quartet and our own Marcelle Dronkers as the Mad Diva.

We are blessed at UUCB to have a wide range of extremely talented musicians, both as paid staff, as well as lay musicians, with positions such as Section Leaders, Youth and Children's Choir director, and organist to name a few. Luminescence, led by Dr. Bryan Baker, is a dedicated choir who are ever-present at Sunday services.

The choir prepared, rehearsed and sang in-service a variety of music. Pieces were chosen to link with the theme of the service. These pieces inspired, delighted, soothed, or gave focus to the congregation as fit the day.

The choir had a number of special events during the year, and special rehearsals in preparation for these. Two Music Sundays offer extra time for music to further the message in service. Christmas Eve and Easter always call for an abundance of music of exceptional expressive character.

As a community, the choir comes together in support of members with health challenges, their own or those of a loved one. We have welcomed new singers, supported continuing singers, and built bonds while preparing music for services and events. Many have volunteered to perform at memorials and other community events outside the regular choir schedule.

Daniel Schmidt leads the Gamelan group, in songs for our Sunday services, as well as other performances around the community. Daniel has a report submitted separately.

We have been graced with the tunes of Muse Crossing, and the Early Birds.

The Youth and Children's Choir currently boasts about 16 singers, ranging in age from 5-14. The Choir helps lead the 11 a.m. worship service once or twice a month and provides music for a Christmas Eve service and an Easter Service, as well as other events throughout the year. The YCC is a remarkably friendly and fun-loving group of musicians, who are very welcoming of newcomers. Many singers say that being in the YCC is one of their favorite things about UUCB. They appreciate being able to lead worship and offer pieces they have arranged just for you. Thank you for making space at UUCB for to connect and share the joy of music!

For anyone in the congregation, wanting to learn how to sing, Michèle Voillequé offers a class for you- "Everyone can sing, we just need to know how."

We are very pleased that the choice of Katya Kolesnikova as our new organist has proved such a good match for UUCB. She is trained as a professional musician at Conservatory in Russia and Church Music Institute in Germany. She has over 25 years of experience as a professional musician, and over 14 years as a church organist. She embraces a wide variety of musical styles while setting her preferences on traditional 'classical music' styles. She is flexible with experimental and diverse music.

In the future we plan to fill out our concert series, and expand its reach to more of the surrounding community. We are planning more education opportunities for members of the congregation, and our existing programs, as well as reaching out to the outside community.

We will continue recruitment for music programs as a means to giving members a meaningful connection and interaction as a spiritual interaction, as well as enhancing community worship.

Music Program at UUCB - Mission Statement

The Music Program at UUCB offers high-quality music designed to touch people intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. This is done through a variety of musical media including excellent keyboard instruments, the inspiring Gamelan Ensemble, our extremely talented music staff, Youth and Children's Choir, the adult choir Luminescence and guest musicians.

Goals:

Provide beautiful and appropriate music within worship services to deepen and enhance the spiritual experience.

Educate members of the congregation about music as well as provide enjoyment by presenting pieces from a variety of periods and traditions during Sunday Worship Services.

Involve the congregation and surrounding community in annual programs such as the Messiah Sing-Along and Christmas Eve services which provide inspiring group singing experiences.

Present musical programs throughout the year for the congregation and surrounding community

to raise funds for the UUCB General Fund.

Encourage members to embrace music through participation.

Ben Keeler- current committee chair; Marion Anderson- past committee chair; Bryan Baker, Marin Fischer, Carol Hudson, Katya Kolesnikova, Jo Maxon, Jenni McLean, Jim Milstead, Daniel Schmidt, Deborah Schmidt, Ron Swedlund, Michele Voilleque, Mark Walstrom and Barry Zuckerman.

Nominating Committee

Contact: Deborah Schmidt, Vice President of the Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee identifies the best candidates for the Board of Trustees. We seek candidates that reflect the diversity of our congregation, are able to focus on the goals of the board and congregation, able to express themselves authentically and with consideration for others, are committed to doing the work of a board member, and have an appreciation for leadership as sacred work.

Transylvanian Partner Church Committee

Contact: Stephanie Ann Blythe

Mission Statement:

We endeavor to join with our partners in faith in Homoródújfalú to exchange the stories of our lives, to deepen our faith, to share our learnings and resources in order to support each other's dreams.

Goals:

- Educate our own congregation about our partner church and deepen our mutual understanding of each other's churches including historical roots, culture and current issues.
- Provide financial support for mutually agree upon projects and continue to support the Village Education Fund. [We currently send \$400/year per student in two installments in May and December. The students are selected by the Homoródújfalú Education committee]
- Support and encourage our partner church congregation as they strive to integrate into the European economy.

The Transylvanian Partner Church Committee seeks to fulfill UUCB's End Statements in several ways. Two, in particular stand out:

- Children, youth, and adults experience and explore the wisdom that all religions have to offer and can express UU principles and values.
- Congregants can fulfill the UU values of social and environmental justice, and community organizations experience UUCB as an active and dynamic partner in this work.

Transylvanian Unitarians live and worship a tradition largely unchanged since the 16th century. American Unitarian Universalists learn to appreciate the differences and similarities of these divergent theologies that rose from common roots long ago. In the past year we have learned of efforts to expand mining in the traditional Unitarian lands of Transylvania. While our partner church village is not threatened, we are striving to help our Romanian friends deal with this economic justice issue.

Activities:

We served lunch at the snack table on several Sundays in the past year to raise funds for the Village Education Fund. A raffle of embroidered linens from Homoródújfalú was also held. UUCB is the host congregation for this year's Balazs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry along with his family. He is the Rev. Károly Vass who serves the congregation in Sepsiszentgyörgy, Transylvania. UUCB member and Starr King seminarian Jo Green traveled to Transylvania and Homoródújfalú as the 2013 Starr King Immersion Scholar. A potluck lunch on September 29 was held where Jo made presentation about her experience in Transylvania. UUCB Board President Jean Gleason and Larry Nagle also traveled to Romania in 2013 and visited our partner church, enjoying the hospitality of the Rev. Ilkei Arpad and his wife Judit. Our RE classes have done various art projects which are sent to the children of Homoródújfalú, including holiday greetings for Saint Nicholas Day which is celebrated in early December. Regrettably, the latest news from the village was about a fire in March, 2014, which destroyed three barns along with equipment and livestock. We are currently seeking donations in our congregation to aid the victims in Homoródújfalú.

Participants: Stephanie Ann Blythe, Anne Greenwood, John Tucker, Mary Pugh, Roger Thompson, Marion Thompson, Marion Anderson, Lynn Sullivan, Jo Green, Susan Toth, Walter Gorski

Liaisons

Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO) Team

Contact: Rev. Craig Scott

On February 9, 2014, the congregation voted unanimously to enter into a formal affiliation between UUCB and Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO). We are one of about 20 Contra Costa County congregations that are CCISCO affiliates.

During the past year, our core leadership team has participated in community organizing training, in-house organizing meetings, and various community activities through CCISCO (described below).

Our CCISCO affiliation provides opportunities for congregants to "fulfill the UU values of social and environmental justice, and community organizations experience UUCB as an active and dynamic partner in this work." (From UUCB End Statements).

Our CCISCO team is inclusive. We invite any member interested in working with us to build community within UUCB and our wider area to join together with us.

Mission Statement:

The CCISCO Team's core mission is to build and sustain "beloved community" within our walls and within our local areas. Through building community, we seek to promote equity and justice on a range of issues consistent with our Unitarian Universalist values.

We partner with local congregations and community organizations to counter oppression, injustice, and inequality.

Activities over the past year:

- Organized a core leadership team to train in community organizing and to work with CCISCO to accomplish a formal affiliation;

- Participated in the Richmond Lifelines to Healing (Ceasefire) program. Many of our members gather at local churches to walk through local neighborhoods, promoting a message of "alive and free;"

Participated in meetings of clergy from churches in the Richmond area to promote connection among local congregations and coordinate justice work;
Engaged in community advocacy concerning the UC/LBNL Richmond Bay campus to be located in Richmond. Our advocacy is aimed at ensuring that the project includes binding commitments concerning education, job opportunities, local business opportunities, workforce training, and housing relief;

Participated in immigration-related activities including:

- local advocacy to convince the Contra Costa County Sheriff to limit cooperation with ICE under the SCOMM program;
- Working for passage in California of the TRUST Act which assists people in danger of deportation;
- Assisting young undocumented “dreamers” with their applications for temporary non-deportable status under the DACA program;
- Advocacy for federal immigration reform, including participation in public actions;
- Co-hosting with CCISCO an immigration vigil at West County Detention Facility.

Those who served this group over the past year:

Cynthia Asprodites, Stephanie Ann Blythe, Lynne Cahoon, Norie Clarke, Natalie DaSilva, Nathan DaSilva, Jane Eisenstark, Jean Gleason, Anne Greenwood, Sharon Hayes, Larry High, Beth Jerde, Linda Laskowski, Lee Lawrence, Jane Middleton, Lonnie Moseley, Bill Murphy, Meredith Murphy, Larry Nagel, Rev. Craig Scott, Maryann Simpson, Helen Toy, Zak Wear, Barbara Weisman, Gil Weisman, Ray Westergard.

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) & Souper Center Lunch Program

Contact: Ray Westergard

The mission of the GRIP Souper Center lunch program is to offer a free lunch to hungry, disadvantaged, and homeless people in and around Richmond, CA. Last year, as in the past 24 years, UUCB bought, prepared, and served lunch for the Souper Center on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Thank you to all the UUCB volunteers who participated in this project during the past year: Judy Abel, Marion Anderson, Marcia Bates, Liz Camara, Barbara Daniell, Natalie DaSilva, Nathan DaSilva, Gabriel, Regina and Daniel Escobar, Rob Feraru, Anna Fisher, Peter Franklin, Doug Frew, Gabrielle Fuchs, Betsy and Mark Graham, Barbara Hamilton-Holway, Dorothy Herzberg, John Hurtado, Elizabeth Hutchins, Beth Jerde, Lee Lawrence, Dan Lee, Dave McFarlane, Diana McMullen, Ren Monson, Larry Nagel, Maria Norall, Leslie O'Hara, Joanne Orengo, Camille Parker, Monica Riley, Lois and Peter Schneider, Carol Sheridan, Delia Taylor, and Ray Westergard. Hope every volunteer has been included -- apologies to anyone omitted.

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California (formerly UU Legislative Ministry)

Contact: Lee Lawrence

The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California has transformed during the past year under the leadership of a new executive director. Rev. Lindi Ramsden retired and now Evan Junker, a past legislative aide and organizer from the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church is our new executive director. Along with the spiffy new name, Evan is bringing new energy and connection to the UU Justice Ministry of California. UUJMCA continues to work through partnerships with other organizations in the areas of economic justice, environmental justice, LBGTQ equality, healthcare, and has recently adopted immigrant justice as a 6th area of emphasis.

Our UUCB immigrant group has been participating in events with UJUMCA under the leadership of Natalie DaSilva and Jane Middleton. Lee Lawrence and Sarah Armstrong participated in a Economic Justice workshop and training at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church. This committee continues to bring the opportunity to participate in a statewide network of Unitarian Universalists on issues critical to the future of the state of California. In the light of the current drought, our work on water justice and ensuring the right to clean drinking water for all citizens appears prescient. Our community minister, Rev. Sonya Sukalski has been participating in leadership training for young adults, and is currently walking the Pacific Coast Trail for water justice. May is Membership month for the UJUMCA. Join at www.uujmca.org and contact Rev. Craig Scott, Natalie daSilva, and/or Lee Lawrence about activities at UUCB.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Contact: Lee Lawrence

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. In 15 countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights. UUSC is a nonsectarian organization whose work around the world is guided by the values of Unitarian Universalism and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our committee at UUCB works to support UUSC and communicate its activities and goals to our congregation. During the holidays we participate in Guest at the Table, a program providing small boxes for remembering those in need around the world at our holiday tables. Natalie DaSilva and her son, Nathan DaSilva organize and distribute the boxes within our congregation. Our church also donates \$2 per member to support UUSC in its activities around the world. Every day, UUSC is taking action to advance a full array of human rights — promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting civil liberties. UUSC also works to deliver aid with dignity and advance the rights of people left behind during humanitarian crises, which include forgotten conflicts and natural disasters. Specifically, UUSC engages people in owning their power as values-driven consumers, acting to protect workers' rights, and joining a movement for economic justice. In the wake of the 2010 earthquake, UUSC has made a long-term commitment to creating a recovery that advances justice for Haitians.

UUSC is on the cutting edge of ensuring that all people — no matter their skin color or bank account — have access to safe, affordable water. We work through partnerships with indigenous organizations that share our values; we attempt to innovate creative solutions that could be replicated throughout the world, and we try to mobilize active UUs to work for social justice. To learn more about UUSC at UUCB, contact Lee Lawrence or Natalie daSilva.

Task Forces

Awakening Wisdom Pathways

Contact: Lynnette Delgado

For over thirty years UUCB has offered classes and workshops that express the UU value of drawing inspiration from diverse faiths and philosophies. Awakening Wisdom Pathways (formerly

Center for Spiritual Development) is the committee that solicits and facilitates listing of classes in the biannual publication, Pathways, and on the church website. The committee also arranges for the payment of honoraria. Anyone interested in pursuing spiritual practice as a transformative life experience may enroll. As we develop psychologically and spiritually our social actions become more compassionate. Classes provide an environment for the realization and enhancement of our connection with the larger Reality in which we live.

For several years, Lynnette Delgado (chair) and Martha Helming were responsible for detailed coordination with teachers and staff. In March of 2014 Helena Knox, Ray Nelson and Lonnie Moseley joined the committee, and Lonnie assumed leadership. Martha and Lynnette remain supportive but will gradually phase out.

Fall 2013 Classes

Writing for Publication led by Helene Knox and Ray Nelson; Unitarian Universalist History 101 led by Helene Knox; Study Group on Personal Myth and the Sacred (2013) led by Richard Stromer; and The Power of Myth at the Movies, 7th Series led by Richard Stromer.

Spring 2014 Classes

The Power of Myth at the Movies, 7th Series – “The Journey of Life” led by Richard Stromer; One-Day Dream Workshop led by Jeremy Taylor; Small Group Dream Work (6 weeks) led by Jeremy Taylor; Creating Great Relationships, A New Playbook for Men, led by Brad Britton; Reviving Myth: Reading ancient texts to unlock mysteries for modern spirits led by: Carolyn West; Finding Your Voice: Navigating The Tricky Conversation With Those Closest To You led by Jan McClain, Unitarian Universalist History led by Helene Knox, PhD, M.Div.

Building Project Management Team

Contacts: John Cahoon, Larry Nagel

The Coordinating Team (CT) officially appointed John Cahoon, Larry Nagel, and Tom Tripp as the UUCB Building Project Management Team in January, 2014. The mission of this team is to coordinate and oversee the building construction projects which are funded by the proceeds of the 2013 Capital Campaign.

Our responsibilities include the following items:

- determining the scope of each project
- writing Request for Bids for each project
- putting the projects out for bid
- awarding the bids
- obtaining the necessary permits and approvals from Contra Costa County
- scheduling the work on the various projects
- supervising the projects to ensure that each project is performed to the level of quality that everyone at UUCB expects

The Project Management Team will provide monthly reports to the Coordinating Team on the status of the projects, as well as greatly shortened status reports in the Beacon.

The Project Management Team has the overarching goal of enhancing our precious building to remove safety hazards, renovate, replace, or repair many major systems which are now more than fifty years old, and ensure that the building better meets the needs of all congregants. In this sense, the work of the Project Management Team supports all of the Ends recently adopted by the UUCB Board of Trustees.

Climate Core

Contact: Austin Henderson

A Community of Concern for Climate Change (C6), started in Fall 2013, is a UUCB task force whose purpose is to support UUCB awareness of, and focus on, Climate Change. We believe that humans are seriously affecting the only planet we have available to us. We are concerned with what can be done to reduce the harm we are doing, and to live with the mess we have made. We are very unsure of how to proceed. C6 is a place to explore what we know and how we know it, what action we can take, and joining with other organizations to take those actions. As of Spring, 2014 we are small group of people (around 25) with invitation and outreach to all members of the UUCB community. We are organized as a number of projects including readings, speakers, the big question, administration. We provide evolving communication through a wiki website (<http://climatecore.uucb.org>). Contact us by e-mail at admin@climatecore.uucb.com.

Developing Indigenous Resources (DIR) Friends

Contacts: W. Frederick Shaw, Linda Laskowski, Jim Gasperini

DIR is Developing Indigenous Resources, an NGO founded by UUCB member Frederick Shaw who is working primarily in two slums in Chandigarh, India.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Friends of DIR is to:

- Formalize the relationship between UUCB and DIR.
- Instigate and support efforts to raise funds for DIR.
- Educate the UUCB membership about the efforts of DIR to promote social justice in the wider world.

Activities and accomplishments over the last year:

DIR:

- The Infant Mortality Rate in the slums in which DIR works is now 20% of what it was when the project began 8 years ago.
- 87% of children under five were severely malnourished when the project began. The rate is now 19%.
- Almost every child in the slums has been immunized against the 7 common childhood contagious diseases (a better rate of coverage than in California.)

Friends of DIR:

- Met twice to strategize and plan fundraising efforts.
- Took out a three-month subscription to the Foundation Center, an online resource for grant-seekers.
- From the Foundation Center database, compiled three lists of potential grant sources, prioritized by likelihood of interest in DIR.
- Assisted Frederick and Roberta Shaw in selling DIR crafts, at the UUA Pacific Western Assembly Meeting and at UUCB.
- Submitted Frederick Shaw as candidate for profiles in publications and interview subject in broadcast.
- Arranged presentations about DIR to gatherings of potential donors.

Group officers: Linda Laskowski (co-chair), Lucille Miles (co-chair), Bob Sayre (treasurer), Jim Gasperini (secretary)

FUNdraising Team

Contact: Ann Harlow

The purpose of the FUNdraising Team is to provide financial support for the general operating budget. We generate fundraising ideas and serve as a focal point and clearinghouse for ideas from the congregation. We provide multiple avenues for generosity of time, talent, and treasure, and we build loving community as people work and play together.

In some cases we create task forces and recruit volunteers for major events; at other times we advise, assist, or collaborate with individuals and groups raising funds for the church. The Sunday Snack Table, eScrip, and the SHARES program are ongoing efforts of the FUNdraising Team.

Highlights of 2013-14:

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, May 4–5, 2013

For this event, we combined the Saturday night dinner-dance model with the Sunday afternoon family fiesta. A silent auction of 112 auction items from 71 donors (36 UUCB and 35 outside) was the major source of revenue. Entertainment included Spanish songs performed by UUCB members Saturday night and a piñata and craft activities for children Sunday. The core planning team was Carol Carlisle, Ann Harlow, Lisa Maynard, Salene Schaffer, and Karen Tripp. Sheila Fischer designed a wonderful poster. Nan Yarbrough mounted an impressive sale of succulents and other plants. The net income for the Fiesta was approximately \$6700. A portion was donated to CCISCO.

Holiday Fair, December 8 and 15, 2013

This was a collaborative venture. The Handicrafters Group provided stuffed animals, knitted and crocheted items, jewelry, eyeglass cases, etc. Other handmade items were donated by the congregation, including Christmas decorations and an antique quilt that went into the silent auction. There was a small plant sale, and three craftspeople had individual tables with 50% of sales given to UUCB. Lunch food was provided by Minerva Mendoza-Friedman, the Freestone Committee, and the Partner Church Committee. The silent auction had 19 items, all donated by congregants. Barbara Hilbourn played a crucial planning role, and many other people helped out. Total proceeds for the event: about \$5800.

Snack Table

The snack table nets over \$5000 a year for the church and helps encourage socializing after Sunday services. Many thanks to all who have donated food, and to the stalwart regular volunteers Aria Cahir, Barbara Daniell, Dody Silver, Lynn Sullivan, Sue Sutton, Hoa Voscott, and to occasional others. Thursday Night Supper leftovers have been a welcome addition this year, and Richie Dawkins has pitched in to help get food on the table.

Costume Closet Clean-Out Sale

Donna Davis, Margaret Gudmundsson, and I, with help from the Facilities staff and others, filled the stage with excess costumes, props and furniture from the overcrowded, musty storage room and raised several hundred dollars for the church.

Too many people helped with fundraising this year to mention them all, but all are greatly appreciated! Please contact me if you would like to get involved in FUNdraising, or watch for our frequent calls for volunteers. Coming next: another silent auction on Sundays, May 4–18.

Ann Harlow

Land Development Task Force

Contact: Linda Laskowski

For the past year and a half, the Land Development Task Force has been meeting with a number of people with experience in land development to get a better sense of what is possible. This includes a developer, a real estate attorney, a commercial realtor, numerous architects, two

geologists, civil engineers, a co-housing advocate and the Contra Costa County Planning Commission. We hired Equity Community Builders (<http://www.ecbsf.com/>), who works extensively with non-profits on land development, to help us through this process. The first hurdle, determining if we had active faults (we are on the eastern edge of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake zone), has been passed with no appearance of active faults.

We have identified the following criteria:

- a development in concert with our values
- a risk level that does not jeopardize the financial future of the church
- a minimum amount of intrusion into the look and feel of the property
- a resulting revenue stream with significant contribution to the church (at least \$100,000/year)

As articulated at the February 2013 congregational meeting, the reason we started this investigation was the need for about a quarter million per year in additional income to cover the needed investment in a 50+ year old building. We could get that additional investment by all of us increasing our pledges by 50%, or increasing membership by 50%, or having a capital campaign every 4 to 5 years, or getting additional revenue from our buildings or land. We can also reduce expenses, but that would not be without significant cuts in personnel and programming. Some combination of the above is the most reasonable.

Preliminary estimates indicate that we could develop up to 11 lots with a net profit to the church of \$2M - \$3M. Assuming it goes into an endowment that would sustain the building in perpetuity, a 4% payout (our current policy) would provide \$80,000 - \$120,000 annually, within our target. Our next steps are to determine how we might increase the probability of being in the upper range.

The next steps involve a variety of surveys and testing that require about \$80,000. Our intent is to borrow this from the endowment, and will request approval to do so from the congregation at the May 18 meeting, along with a repayment plan. Congregational approval is required for any development decisions. Our expectation is that this is a 3-5 year project.

Members of the Task Force: Linda Laskowski, Chair; Susan Lankford, Candace Hyde-Wang, Abbot Foote, David Roberts

Landscape Committee

Contact: Lynne Cahoon

The Landscape Committee is open to anyone interested in the church grounds. We meet monthly except August and December on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. We co-sponsor Work Parties with the Aesthetics Committee.

We are fortunate to have on the committee folks with expert knowledge of plants – Katherine Gavzy and Lindsay Mugglestone. We have developed a brochure that offers guidance in choosing memorial trees. We work with the facilities management in placement of such trees. We are delighted that Lindsay Mugglestone's design for a safer and more user-friendly Patio has been accepted as part of a Capital Campaign project.

We thank Phil Maynard and his son Rota for their yearly eradication of scotch broom growing on UUCB property.

If you enjoy gardening or are inspired to pull weeds, please join us. Members are: Katherine Gavzy, Phil Maynard, Francine Mohn, Bob Moore, Lindsay Mugglestone, Don Wollwage, Lynne Cahoon, chair.

Stewardship Team

Contact: Anne Greenwood

Members: Anne Greenwood, Convener, Ann Harlow, Lisa Maynard, Salene Schaffer, Beth Pollard, Robert Moore, Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway.

Our main purpose is to support the congregation in giving generously to fulfill the mission of the congregation: "to create loving community, inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy and service." This relates to the Global End stating: "Congregants experience a shared richness of love and spiritual growth, inspiring greater generosity of time, talent, and treasure."

The Stewardship team is primarily focused on the Annual budget drive, starting in the fall for the coming fiscal year. Thus, we are working with two budget years at once.

This year the team worked to fulfill the current budget goal of \$510,000 for the fiscal year 2013-2014 (ending June 30, 2014) with an Annual Budget Drive called "Stepping Up, Stepping Forward." We have 285 pledging households, totaling \$469,684. The Treasurer, and we ourselves, project we will fall well short of the ambitious goal.

In October, 2013 we started working on the Pledge Drive for FY2014-2015. The theme is "Gearing Up for the Greater Good." It continues the use of our 'gears' logo with the addition of many hearts. This year we are able to take EFT pledges and recurring contributions on line. Many of our contacts have been made through email.

I wish to acknowledge the wonderful contributions each member of our team. Salene Schaffer created our graphic designs for the logo, poster, and thank you notes. Bob Moore contributed a beautiful certificate for major donors, to which Salene added a lovely chalice to the copy. Ann Harlow has written the persuasive and effective letters for our mailings. Lisa Maynard continues her excellent work with note taking, event planning and execution, and mail merge efforts. Beth Pollard has emceed events, made many contacts with donors (as have all the team members) and Bill has anchored us all in the spiritual dimensions of giving, while offering practical advice and knowledge. This is a true team, for which I, and the congregation, can be very grateful.

Our kickoff event was a Celebration Sunday on March 2, 2014. Preceding the event, we held a celebration for major donors and those who made significant increases to their operating pledge. We encouraged lead gifts at this event. We are working with a proposed budget goal of \$460,000 this year. We have lost some high pledgers due to death, moves out of the area, and the retirement of our Ministers, who were among our highest pledgers for many years.

On March 15, 2014 most members of the Team attended a Pacific Central District Sparks for Growth Workshop on Stewardship led by Rev. Vail Weller from the UUA. Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway gave the opening homily. It was an energizing event and we were introduced to new ideas and practices, which we hope to utilize as we go forward into the transition years before we call new permanent Ministerial leadership.

The Team is seeking your ideas, talent, and assistance as we go forward with this vital mission.

Ushers: 11am Services

Contact: Maryann Simpson

What do head ushers do? Just before the service begins, we greet you at the sanctuary doors and also clang that bell a couple of times. We try to facilitate the movement of people into and out of the sanctuary during the service. We count the number of people in the sanctuary and report that count to the office coordinator and board president. We also coordinate the offering collection and make sure it gets into the safe after the service. Thank you to all the people who helped with the head ushering during the past year: Stephanie Ann Blythe, Christina Creveling, Selene Fabiano, Walter Gorski, Kathryn Jay, Beth Jerde, Larry Nagel, Ralph Nelson, David Thomas, Karen and Thomas Tripp, John Tucker, Ray Westergard, Page Tompkins, Jay Bunker, Maryann Simpson and Linda Zittel. Hope everyone has been included -- apologies to anyone omitted. Contact person: Maryann Simpson, maryann.simpson@rbc.com

Ushers: 9am Services

Head Usher: Stephanie Ann Blythe

Ushers: John Tucker, Larry High, Ralph Nelson, Mitch Sukalski, Sheila Fischer, Kay Fairwell, and others as needed

Activities & Programs

Altar Flower Committee

Contacts: Francine Mohn, Judy Sam

For many years, the church flower committee has been decorating the altar each week for Sunday services. Members love working with flowers and other objects to distinguish the altar throughout the year. We are all volunteers who enjoy this kind of service to the church and we try to work collaboratively. Floral decorations or other materials pertaining to the sermon topic for that Sunday are used.

Participants for the last year included Cindi Clymer, Francine Mohn, Judy Sam, and Nan Yarbrough, with Cindi as coordinator. More recently, Jean Hyams and Hoa Voscott have joined us.

If you are interested in helping with this activity, please contact Francine Mohn or Judy Sam. We always welcome people willing to act as substitutes as well as regular participants.

Applied UU Buddhism

Leader: Lynnette Delgado

The Mission Statement for the Applied UU Buddhism Sangha group is as follows
The AUUB Sangha is much like an ongoing long term Chalice Circle whose members gather to be supportive of each other's spiritual growth. We read writings on Buddhism and discuss their relevance to our lives. We seek to apply Buddhist and UU values in our choices and interactions. We strive to become ever more mindful and compassionate.

Description and Schedule of the AUUB Sangha

We have been meeting weekly for two hours on Tuesdays since 2005,, except during the summer and holidays. We begin meetings with a fifteen minute meditation. Then each member lights a candle and checks in. We reflect on our weekly homework reading, calling attention to

passages especially meaningful or problematic for us, and we discuss the relevance of our reading to our lives. Also, we may comment on the relevance of other Buddhist and UU teachings to our experiences and choices. We aim to allow time for all who wish to share their relevant insights or dilemmas. Though we may give supportive feedback, we have agreed not to give unsolicited advice. The group is limited to 13 participants. The Sangha is a group fostering of spiritual growth and mindful, compassionate friendship.. Participants are encouraged to meditate daily.

Blended Voices

Contact: Donna Davis

The group's mission statement is to deepen the connections within the congregation by sharing work and play in the practice of play-reading. On the first Sunday of every month we have gathered for a pot-luck dinner and a chance to be both actors and audience. Participants have included Roberta Shaw, Jane Lundin, Jo Maxon, Roger Thompson, Harold James, Ellen Fisher, Jean Lipton, Allen Fisher, Zoe Hargrave, Donna Lerew, John Cahoon, Lynn Hammond, Aileen Hohmann, Lynne Cahoon, Anne Chapman, Margaret Gudmundsson, Elly Armer, Frederick Shaw, Lois Atkinson, Karin Werner, David Milgrome, Fray Sorensen, Ann Harlow, Ann Riley, Terry Stokes, Jeanne Griffith, Claire Baker, Louise Sindler, Charley Sindler, Mary Muehlbach.

Blue Mountain Center of Meditation

Contact: Lois Schneider

The mission of the Blue Mountain Center of Meditation satsang is to support the daily practice of passage meditation as instructed by the late Eknath Easwaran who taught meditation and supportive disciplines such as reading the mystics and spiritual fellowship. Easwaran lived and taught here in the Bay Area for close to four decades.

Meeting Times: First and Third Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

Caring Circle

Contact: Lynnette Delgado

The Caring Circle's mission is to coordinate assistance for members in need. The Circle is a small group which provides limited support for church members in the ways listed below:

Send Supercards with good wishes from the church community. Supercards are written with colorful markers on large sheets of easel paper. Many members write on and sign these with brief messages appropriate to the occasion.

Send cards or phone members who are not able to come to church.

Prepare and deliver food to a family with a new baby or a person dealing with illness or grief.

Prepare a casserole, label with ingredients listed and place in church freezer for a Caring Circle rep to arrange for delivery.

Shop for groceries for a person recovering from illness or with a new baby.

Visit a homebound member.

Provide occasional respite support for a busy parent or primary caregiver so that person can have a break or keep an appointment

Occasionally drive a member to a UUCB service or event.

Occasionally drive and accompany a member to a medical appointment.

Make available printed sermons and videotapes of services.

Encourage members to send cards or reach out with meaningful gestures to members listed on a holiday poster at Valentine and Christmas times.

Membership List 2013-2014

Lynne Cahoon, Barbara Cullinane, Lynnette Delgado (chair), Kay Fairwell, Margaret Gudmundson, Barbara Hamilton Holway, Judy Sam and Marion Thompson.

Meeting Time and Place

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:45-11:45 pm in the Ministers' office.

Chalice Circles

Contacts: Lisa Maynard, Kay Fairwell

We continue to hear from Chalice Circle participants that their Circle experience helps them to feel personally connected to others, and to expand their spiritual horizons. Participants often mention the importance of the small group setting in their search for the connections of community at UUCB. The practices of sharing personal stories and deep listening to others' stories, within the covenanted container of the Chalice Circle format, strengthen these connections and help participants to feel valued and supported. The Chalice Circle topics inspire conscious exploration and formulation of our own thoughts, beliefs and values. Circle participants also extend their interaction into a different setting as they have fun working together on service projects that benefit others.

The 2012-13 Chalice Circle season ended with a celebration for Circle participants on June 7, 2013. During that season, six Chalice Circles met from October 2012 through May 2013, with some variation due to individual circumstances. Some Circles extended their meetings past May, and one new Circle also met for a brief summer 2013 season. Chalice Circles were on hiatus during the fall of 2013, as the co-coordinators put their time and efforts into the Taking Care of Our House Capital Campaign. In early 2014, four new Chalice Circles began an abbreviated Chalice Circle season, which in some cases will extend into the summer.

The main issue confronting the Chalice Circle program is the difficulty of finding facilitators. During this season and the previous one, we have been unable to find space in a Chalice Circle for everyone who was interested in participating, simply because we had so few facilitators. Ministerial support of the Chalice Circle program will change when Bill Hamilton-Holway retires in June, but we hope to continue the program, and to encourage new facilitators, in order to offer a good variety Chalice Circles during the 2014-15 season (beginning in fall 2014).

Channing Club

Contact: Marin Fischer

The Channing Clubs were formed at many UU churches over fifty years ago. The idea was for young adults to gather regularly to foster intellectual discussion and exchange ideas and probably to encourage the members to become and remain active in the church.

The Channing Club meets at UUCB every fourth Sunday evening and has returned to its roots at the church after years in exile meeting in people's homes. There are still other active Channing Clubs across the U.S. This group is one of the ways that the church can continue to challenge and respect intellectual growth and the respect and acceptance of one another in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Regular attendees: Marin Fischer, Hope Carroll, Lee Lawrence, Len Talmy, Nick Rhodes, Kevin Langdon, Gwynn (Nancy) O'Neal, Tom Lynch, Dave Bilik, Kitty Crowe.

Chaplains

Contact: Rev. Jane Ramsey

A group of ordained ministers volunteer to be chaplains after each 11am service (10 am in the summer). This group may include seminarians only if they have completed CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) training. Rev. Jane Ramsey schedules the chaplains and provides support.

The purpose of the work of these chaplains is to provide a "listening presence" for those who feel troubled and feel the need to talk in a safe environment. At the end of each service the chaplain for that week will come to the front of the sanctuary next to the "Memory Book" and votive candles. Here a person may light a candle, write about their concern in the Memory Book and/or speak with a chaplain. The chaplain is able to refer to mental health professionals, community service organizations, and/or, with permission, to the parish minister/s.

Currently the following ministers have volunteered to be on the list of chaplains: Rev. Jane Ramsey, Rev. Sonya Sukalski, Rev. Carolyn Knowles, Rev. Theresa Hardy, Rev. Craig Scott, and Rev. Fran Moulton. All but one are ordained UU ministers; the one exception is an ordained interfaith minister and all have undergone ministerial pastoral counseling training. We provide a service that applies to all ages, that supports UUCB members in helping those in need to know this church community cares and is willing to listen, to know that they are loved.

Coordinating Team Report

Primary contact: Beth Pollard

The Coordinating Team (CT) has undergone some major changes in membership during this church year. Current members are Beth Pollard, Anne Greenwood, Mary Ellen Morgan, Jane Middleton, Ellen Fisher and Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway. Our monthly meeting times have changed to first and third Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

In July, 2013 Anne's term as Treasurer ended, but she remained on the CT. Business Administrator Mary Ellen Morgan now attends all meetings, providing the financial reporting and other administrative tasks dealing with contracts with our schools, personnel matters, financial accounting, and other business matters. Current Treasurer, Linda Laskowski only attends meetings as needed (primarily concerning budget preparation) or reporting on other issues, such as the Land Use Task Force progress.

We lost Margaret Gudmundsson in September, 2013, as her health issues overcame her. She is still sorely missed for her wise words, work with church committees and task forces and report writing.

Jane Middleton began to attend meetings, transitioning from her role as Vice President of the Board of Trustees. She resigned with one year left on her term, and was officially appointed to the CT as of February, 2014. Cynthia Asprodites also ended her lengthy service with us in February 2014 when her wife, Mary Ann Simpson, was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Kay Fairwell stepped in for a few months, joining ongoing members Anne Greenwood, Beth Pollard, Mary Ellen Morgan, our Business Administrator and Bill Hamilton-Holway. Finally, Ellen Fisher has been formally appointed, and began her service in March, 2014.

As of June 1, 2014 we will lose Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway as he and Barbara retire from active ministry. We are in the midst of learning newly how to work together to achieve the new End Statements that were adopted by the Board. In this time of transition we endeavor to be as open and as effective as possible in overseeing the operations of the church, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Staff.

Gamelan

Contact: Daniel Schmidt

The gamelan musical ensemble furnishes a musical environment for everyone, regardless of age, prior training or experience. There is a collective nature within the group. All members support each other and new people are immediately enfolded into the ensemble's warmth and good nature. Humor abounds. The environment allows all to engage music in a comfortable way.

The group furnished music for various worship services and had numerous musical performances around the Bay Area.

Members include: Tom Tripp, Joanne Orengo, David MacFarland, James Stickney, Abby Massarano, Karina, Kelsey Whiteside, Jim Millstead, Katie Harrell, and Larry Nagel.

GenerationUU

Contacts: Paul Hudson, Sheila Fischer, Ben Keeler

Mission Statement: Generation UU is a group for friends, visitors and members of UUCB, who are of age between the Young Adult Group, and the Baby Boomer Generation. Currently, our roster is made up of mainly adults in their 30's & 40's, along with their family members. We strive to build community through shared social activities, and encourage our members to recommend and/or lead activities that they think would be good to do together, in community.

The group has grown from it's inception a year ago to include over 100 members. These members include friends, visitors and members of UUCB, and is inclusive of the larger UU community here in the Bay Area! The Generation UU Group is primarily a means for getting UU's of a certain age group connected to one another. There is currently no specific team that serves the group, rather, events are led by individuals from within the group, and include many different members of the group.

Humanist Connections 2013-2014

Contact: Lee Lawrence

Humanist Connections explores human flourishing and the transcendent in the absence of the supernatural. Our Sunday discussion topics include issues relating to morality and ethics, human development, evolution, the nature of the universe, love, the capacities of the brain, neuroscience, free will, the latest scientific research and discoveries, and other topics of interest. We include humanists, agnostics, devout atheists, freethinkers, religious naturalists, interested theists, everyone. All are welcome. We are wheelchair accessible.

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for intellectual, moral, and emotional engagement, development, and exchange regarding topics key to Humanism and Unitarian Universalism. We seek to provide a spiritual home and place for exploration and growth for those engaged in a "deep and responsible search for truth and meaning." "The key to Unitarian Universalism is its respectful and reverential pluralism." (Rev. John Buehrens) Part of our mission is personal growth through engagement with diverse perspectives, and with cutting edge topics. We seek to foster continued intellectual challenge and growth, echoing Unitarian Universalism's 'minds on fire.'

According to the International Humanist and Ethical Union, "Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance that affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. Humanism stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities." Our group provides a forum for exploring these issues, and operates on democratic principles.

As Humanist Connections has grown in size, scope, and popularity, we have begun establishing a Humanist community, including a weekly potluck/wine salon, expeditions to plays and movies, and a Humanist Chalice Circle. We also have an email list that now has 135+ active members. Current attendance ranges between 25-36 people each week, although we have attracted up to 45.

This year we have explored many topics which we elect together at the beginning of each month. While the format of a moderated discussion is the core of our group, allowing all who wish to be able to participate, we have also instituted a Humanist Forum on Saturday afternoons for presentations which are much more similar to traditional lecture format, helpful when a topic involves extensive unfamiliar material. In June and July we also are planning play readings, "Bayard Rustin's Journey" and "Thoreau's Night in Jail."

This year has also been a year of significant loss for us. Realtor Peter Franklin passed away last summer, followed by microbiologist Monica Riley. In response to both these events we planned a memorial service and participated in them. We were further aggrieved by the loss of our philosopher poet, H.D. Moe, and later in the spring by the death of our very popular member, Akira Chiwaki. These events emphasized how connected with each other we have become, and the importance of our humanist community in our lives.

Everyone is welcome to come visit our discussions Sunday at 12:30 in the Safir Rm. We are exploring instituting child-care as an option from 12:30 to 2 pm.

Immigration Justice Working Group (IJWG)

Contact: Natalie DaSilva

Mission Statement:

- To educate ourselves, each other, and our congregation on current immigration issues in our community and beyond; including economic, political, and moral issues related to immigration.
- To raise congregational and public awareness, and bring congregational witness to bear on current immigration policies that tear families apart, cause the deaths of thousands, and undermine the safety of the communities the policies were designed to protect.
- To encourage the congregation to engage in efforts aimed at changing these policies and practices.
- To partner with local community groups and organizations that are also working toward immigration justice, and take action at the local, state and national level to bring about systemic change.

Our core members are: Rev. Craig Scott, Jean Gleason, Larry Nagel, Beth Jerde, Jane Middleton, and Helen Toy. Additionally, we have 60+ members of a Google group (uucb-immigration@googlegroups.com). This list is managed by Nathan DaSilva.

During 2013, the Immigration Justice Working Group continued to meet monthly, to discuss and plan ways to support and promote immigration justice in our community and beyond. Rev. Craig Scott deserves special mention as providing inspiring readings at our meetings. Members were involved in a number of significant activities, and throughout most of the year, a table was set up in the Social Hall with literature on immigration justice, and explaining the efforts of our group. A monthly column was written for the Beacon. A web page was created for the IJWG, thanks to Lisa Harrington. Notices of interest, and notices needing community response are regularly sent out on the Google group list.

Highlights from 2013 included the following:

In late January/early February, four members of the IJWG participated in a UU College of Social Justice Borderlinks trip to the U.S.-Mexico border region, learning firsthand about experiences of immigrants there.

Throughout 2013, members of the IJWG supported and attended the monthly Prayer Vigil for Those in Detention at the West County Detention Facility. UUCB led the March vigil on the theme of "Bearing Witness to the Suffering of Our Sisters and Brothers".

Immigration worship services were held on Sunday, April 13th under the guidance and direction of Family Minister Amy Moses-Lagos. The service incorporated dance, poetry, and music.

On May 20th, several members attended California Immigrant Day in Sacramento. Members of the IJWG met with staff of elected officials to promote legislation in support of undocumented immigrants, most notably the TRUST Act.

Members also met with staff members of U.S. Senator Barbara Lee to applaud her support of comprehensive immigration reform, and to urge her to do all she can to further this campaign.

Two IJWG members participated in a "Farm Worker's Reality Tour" in July, a program sponsored by the non-profit, Human Agenda.

The IJWG collaborated with CCISCO on their Campaign 4 Citizenship. Several members attended Rep. George Miller's town hall meetings on immigration reform. One member also

journeyed to Bakersfield with CCISCO to highlight the need for immigration reform at a statewide rally there. Members participated in phone banking on several different occasions.

Continued support of DREAMers through volunteering at DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) workshops, and through a contribution to CLOUD, a DREAMer organization from proceeds from the UUCB Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Throughout 2013, the IJWG continued to educate the congregation on the TRUST Act, and made phone calls and wrote letters urging Gov. Brown to sign the legislation. It was signed into law in September.

Additional activities included:

A movie night at UUCB with the showing of the documentary, "Why We Come"

Participation in the CIVIC volunteer visitation program at the West County Detention Facility

A Social Justice Summer Forum facilitated by Rev. Craig Scott

Partnering with other interfaith groups on the issue of phone justice at the West County Detention Facility; and petitioning the Contra Costa County Sheriff to institute more just phone rates there

A summer RE class on immigration taught by Rev. Craig Scott and Natalie DaSilva

Participation by 11 UUCB congregants in the Fast for Families, supporting the fast in Washington, DC by undocumented immigrants, their families, and supporters, to demand an end to mass incarcerations and deportations of undocumented immigrants

In 2014, our activities are continuing. We are changing our meeting schedule to quarterly, and our activities will be centered on engaging in and responding to events and needs in the community.

In that spirit, in March the IJWG spearheaded an effort to collect donations from congregants for recycling workers who were fired as the result of an I-9 immigration audit and enforcement. Approximately \$900 was distributed to families in financial crisis. One of the fired workers spoke very movingly at the Sunday worship service on April 13th, telling her story and expressing her gratitude. She was joined by another fired couple and a union representative. Congregants welcomed them warmly after the service.

The IJWG led the March vigil at the West County Detention Facility on the theme of "Bearing Witness to Suffering, Bringing Hope". Very moving testimonials were offered by community members affiliated with CCISCO (Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organizing), to which UUCB now formerly belongs.

On April 4th, IJWG facilitator Natalie DaSilva took part in an act of civil disobedience, as part of a nationwide weekend of action to mark the tragic milestone to be reached in April of 2 million deportations under the Obama Administration. Twenty-three undocumented youth, and faith and labor leaders staged a sit-in in front of the immigration courts in San Francisco, blocking traffic. All were arrested, cited, and released.

Throughout 2013 and 2014, the IJWG has partnered with other groups who are bringing to light particularly troubling deportation cases, and have supported efforts – through petitions and phone calls to elected officials and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – to demand the release of individuals in detention. In 2013 public pressure was successful in winning the release of a nursing mother from detention. More recently, petitions have been signed and phone calls have been made demanding that the deportation cases of two men be re-opened so the men can be reunited with their families.

The Immigration Justice Working Group is one of the ways that congregants can fulfill the UU values of social and environmental justice, and community organizations experience UUCB as an active and dynamic partner in this work.

Mist Tree Moon Circle

Contact: Stephanie Ann Blythe

Mission Statement:

The Mist Tree Moon Circle adheres to the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism and to the vision statements of both affiliated congregations, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley and the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists. Our chief activities are ritual celebrations of the seventh UU principle respecting the interdependent web and the circle of life. This is an earth-centered and feminine-honoring group supporting direct experience of the wonder of transcending mystery and divine immanence which opens us to the spirit and forces that create and uphold life. (revised and adopted October, 2010)

We also seek to fulfill UUCB's End Statements by making the Mist Tree Moon Circle open to all ages and genders. We do adhere to UUCB's minimum age requirement for membership of 14 years of age. Along with Sunday worship, Personal Theology, and Humanist Connection we offer another means of experiencing and exploring the wisdom that all religions and spiritual traditions have to offer.

Activities:

Summer Solstice celebration, June, 2013
Autumn Equinox celebration, September, 2013
Winter Solstice celebration, December, 2013

Participants: Stephanie Ann Blythe, Phoebe Sorgen, Carol Carlisle, Lois Atkinson, Anne Wardell, Helene Knox, Ray Nelson, Ann Harlow, Allyson Rickard, Nancy Feinberg (BFUU)

Personal Theology

Contacts: Chair: Barbara Rockhold;
Planning Committee: Barbara Rockhold, Martha Helming, Gloria Merrill, Kit Hewitt

The mission of the Personal Theology program is to offer opportunities for people to be introduced to new spiritual ideas, to gain wisdom from a variety of world religions and to discuss their beliefs about spiritual, ethical and theological issues. Through presentations by spiritual and theological leaders as well as church members, the program's goal is to inspire spiritual exploration, a search for truth and meaning and to encourage self-discovery. It aims to reflect UU values and offers attendees a venue for radical inquiry and free dialogue.

The weekly Sunday morning speaker series was founded in 1980 by process theologian Bernie Loomer. It has been operating continuously since then, with Martha Helming coordinating since 1990. Martha Helming turned over the Chairmanship to Barbara Rockhold in 2013. The program is funded by donations from attendees and is operated through donated time from the Personal Theology Committee, which consists of four members. It meets in the Fireside Room at UUCB approximately 37 Sundays a year at 10:00am for approximately 50 minutes.

Since April 2013, the Personal Theology Committee has concluded the Spring 2013 semester and planned and executed the Fall 2013-14 semester and the Spring 2014 semester. The

committee is currently about halfway through the planning phase for Fall 2014-15.

The committee has brought into the church many highly accomplished and informative speakers on numerous topics of theological and spiritual interest. While some of the speakers request a small honorarium, the program has been able to raise the money to accommodate those fees, plus an amount of money, which, once the speaker fees are paid, goes to the church.

The audience gets to experience a sense of connection during the question and comment period at the end of each speaker's session. This creates an opportunity for exploration and spiritual growth for those in attendance. And, due to the fact that some of our speakers are church members or are connected with UUCB in some way, it becomes a way for those members to share their time, talents and knowledge with the audience.

The program has a large number of regular attendees and has been an attraction to newcomers, many of whom have expressed that the program is an important part of their experience at UUCB. Several of our presenters have also spoken highly of the value of such a program. Since there is no other adult education program at UUCB on Sunday mornings, Personal Theology fills a much-needed function.

The overall goal and mission of the Personal Theology program is directly reflected in one of UUCB's new end statements: members can "experience and explore the wisdom that all religions have to offer and can express UU principles and values".

Simple Gifts Book Table

Contact: Kay Fairwell, Book Maven

Simple Gifts offers recycled and new books, greeting cards, some CDs, Standing on the Side of Love T-shirts, and other miscellaneous items. New material is selected on the basis of congregational interest, current church events, and availability. Items are purchased at a discount from Beacon Press and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Some donations of books are accepted.

In addition to being a fundraising operation for UUCB, Simple Gifts strives to be a welcoming space for both newcomers and old timers.

Simple Gifts is open most Sundays: between services and after the 11:00 a.m. service during the regular church year, and after the one 10:00 a.m. service during the summer.

Summer Forum

Contact: Dorothy Herzberg

For twelve years each summer from June to August, Summer Forum has provided stimulating and informative speakers on UU principles of social justice both in our community and around the world.

Speakers have included members of the Board of Education, Professors of International Relations, members of UUCB, and programs such as Read Aloud and Writers Coach Connection in the schools.

In 2013, speakers included Dr. Patrick O'Reilly on his work with persons on death row at San Quentin; Dr. Tony Bushman on his book, *Creating a Fulfilled Life*; and Dr. Liliane Koziol, Director

of Programs at International House at UC Berkeley and Deputy Honorary Consul of Madagascar for San Francisco.

In 2014, we will hear from Rev. Carrie Knowles on post-traumatic stress disorder, Dr. Anna Mittal, founder of the Oakland Institute; Professors Chris O'Sullivan and Stephen Zunes, and Dorothy Herzberg on her new book, *Me, Madam: Peace Corps Letters from Nigeria, 1961-1963*.

Members of the committee include Mac Lingo, Carrie Knowles, Barbara Rockhold, Dorothy Herzberg and Craig Scott.

Thursday Vespers and Programs

Coordinator: Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway

September – May, following Thursday Night Suppers, UUCB offers vespers, a 25 minute worship service at 7:00, followed by a 7:30 program.

Thank you to Elinor Armer and Carolyn Margrete for offering beautiful music and accompaniment for hymn singing at vespers.

Much appreciation to everyone involved in leading vespers and programs this year.

1st Thursday vespers, led by Director of Family Ministry Merrin Clough and Michèle Voillequé

1st Thursday program: Everyone Can Sing Well, We Just Need To Know How, led by Youth and Children's Choir Director and UUCB Cantor Michèle Voillequé

2nd Thursday vespers led by Community Minister The Rev. Sue Magidson

2nd Thursday program Nurture Your Spirit, led by Sue Magidson

3rd Thursday vespers Board Trustees offer from their own spiritual journeys, led by The Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway

3rd Thursday program: Everyone Can Sing Well, We Just Need To Know How, led by Michèle Voillequé

4th Thursday vespers led by Community Minister The Rev. Cat Cox

4th Thursday program Covenant-Based Conflict Resolution, led by Cat Cox

5th Thursday vespers have been led by Community Minister The Rev. Sonya Sukalski, Student Minister Zak Wear, and The Revs. Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway

This year's Blue Christmas vespers was offered by Community Ministers The Rev. Jane Ramsey and The Rev. Lisa Sargent.

Thanks to Don Wollwage and Lotez Franklin for all the set up and support for these gatherings.

Thanks to all who have participated, lit the chalice, led singing, offered a reading, a story, a talk, and/or a song and in many ways made these evening a rich part of our community life.

Walk & Talk Group

Contact: Ann Harlow

We are building loving community while support our physical and mental well being as we take

one-hour walks in the hills around UUCB or occasional other locations.

We meet every other Wednesday (weather permitting) at 10 a.m. at the church.

Members included Aria Cahir, Barbara Daniell, Ann Harlow, Martha Jackson, and Lisa Maynard.

Women's Meditation Group

Contact Facilitator: Kendra Smith

Seekers pursue their spiritual growth through an age-old practice called mindfulness meditation or *vipassana* (literally "seeing clearly into"). It is a way to self-knowledge that is the foundation of emotional intelligence, an of lovingkindness for oneself and for others. It is the practice taught at Spirit Rock Center, and in hospitals as part of stress reduction.

Although our sessions are mostly silent, strong, caring bonds develop. We meet on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30a.m. Donations of \$10 a month are suggested.

Write for Your Life Writing Group

Contact: Beth Glick-Rieman

The Write for Your Life group was started by Beth Glick-Rieman for the spiritual growth of human beings and the well being of the earth, including peace with justice through small groups. It meets on Monday mornings from 9-11 AM.

A second group meets on Monday afternoons from 2:00-3:45pm. In December 2013, Kit Hewitt took over leadership of this group.

Our writing is a form of meditation, inspired by a poem which is read at the beginning. A major block of time is dedicated to actual writing, after which we read what we have written (or pass if we wish) and receive the gifts of listening ears and responses without judgment or criticism. The aim is personal spiritual deepening and building of a supportive community where it is safe to be fully who we are.

Participants are free to come as they choose. Some are members of the church; others come from the community. All are welcome.