



# Beacon on the Hill

*The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Vol. 78 #4 April 2019*

## From the Co-Ministers

Dear UUCB members and friends,

This month in worship we will be exploring the theme of “wholeness.” I know some people who have described feeling a sense of wholeness when they met the person they later married, after a significant milestone in their work, or when they welcomed their children into the world. Close friends can contribute to our lives feeling whole, and I’ve heard many of you talk about how this congregation has helped you grow more fully into wholeness.

However, anyone who has ever lost a loved one, gotten divorced, or been disappointed by friends or a community can attest to just how fragile this kind of wholeness can be. As our lives move forward, we welcome new friends and loved ones into our lives all while we must say goodbye to others as they move away and die.

Dominant culture in our country encourages us to construct the “perfect” lifestyle, to achieve a sense of purpose, beauty, and contentment simultaneously in all corners of our lives. But despite how wonderful others’ lives may appear on Instagram or Facebook, just about everyone has some part of their lives that isn’t quite up to snuff.

Alternatively, Quaker writer and activist Parker Palmer writes, “Wholeness does not mean perfection: it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.” In other words, what if the quest for wholeness is really about bringing together all of the parts of ourselves and our lives? What if wholeness happens when we integrate who we are in all of the different roles and spaces we occupy in our lives?

There are several opportunities here at church this month to integrate the various experiences of life, and to experience wholeness together in community. In addition to our regular 11 am worship services on April 7 and 14, we have several special holiday gatherings this month. On Good Friday, April 19, we will gather in the Fireside Room to mark the death of Jesus and the many who have been put to death in our own time for their refusal to keep silent about injustice. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the triumph of love and life over death in services at 9:30 and 11 am. And on Thursday, April 25, our Jewish members will host UUCB’s beloved annual Passover Seder dinner, where we celebrate the enduring spirit of freedom.

Whatever religious traditions you claim as your own, however you celebrate this time of year, may you and yours grow into a deeper wholeness this Spring season.

Blessings,

Kristin and Christian

Co-Ministers

## Good Neighbor for April (sharing our offerings):

**Hip Hop for Change** uses grassroots activism to educate people about socio-economic injustices and advocates solutions through hip hop culture. Your offerings will help them serve and enrich marginalized and historically oppressed communities.

## Worship Services in April

Sanctuary, 11 am on Sundays

Theme for April: **Wholeness**

**Sunday, April 7 – The Golden Key**, Derrick Mustelier preaching; Cami Fuller, Worship Associate. In his seminal 19th-century children's story, "The Golden Key," George MacDonald tells of a key that unlocks a door to the imagination. This is no mere indulgence. Imagination and stories are at the very core of who we are. What do the stories we tell say about who we are and who we want to be? What does it mean to think of imagination as a radical act and a spiritual practice? How can we harness the power of imagination to move ourselves and our world toward wholeness?

**Sunday, April 14 – The Open Door**, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt preaching; Lee Maranto, Worship Associate. One could say a whole oak tree is inside every acorn and that every acorn is destined to become an oak tree. Is the tiny acorn whole or the big oak tree? This week in worship we will consider what wholeness looks and feels like.

**Friday, April 19 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service**, led by Rev. Kristin Schmidt. As Martin Luther King Jr. often said, we can't get to the triumph of Easter except through the pain and loss of Good Friday. Join us in the Fireside Room for a tender service of song, word, and silence as we remember the crucifixion of Jesus and those put to death in our own time for their refusal to keep silent about injustice. A simple Universalist communion will be served.

**Sunday, April 21 – 9:30 Easter Sunday Family Service**, Rev. Christian Schmidt preaching; Melissa Rosales, Worship Associate. Join us on Easter Sunday for a shorter service celebrating the power of life and love over death and hate. This is a service for all ages, but nursery care will be available for babies and young children. Everyone is invited to join us after the service for brunch and the Easter Egg Hunt!

**Sunday, April 21 – 11:00 Easter Sunday**, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt preaching; Jim Gasperini, Worship Associate. Join us this Easter Sunday as we celebrate in story, song, and sermon the power of life and love over death and hate.

**Sunday, April 28 – There is a Crack in Everything**, Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preaching, Jeanne Foster, Worship Associate. Parker Palmer writes "Wholeness does not mean perfection: it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life." This Sunday we will consider how we might live into a deeper wholeness by accepting all parts of ourselves.

## Personal Theology

Sundays, 9:30–10:45 am, Fireside Room

**April 7: Dr. W. Frederick Shaw** is a UUCB member and the CEO and founder of Developing Indigenous Resources, which empowers people living in slums of developing countries to provide their own health and human services. *"Help Yourself & International Development."*

**April 14: Stephen Miller, LCSW**, is a Therapist in the Psychiatry Department at Kaiser for 24 years, currently teaching Anxiety, Anger and Sleep classes at Kaiser In Solano County. *Serenity Now.*

**April 28: Lois Snipes Atkinson**, is a retired social service worker and teacher, student of eclecticism, and UUCB member. *Religious, Not Spiritual.*

## Humanist Connections

Sundays, 12:30 pm, check kiosk for location

*Format: A 10- to 15-minute presentation followed by moderated, timed discussion and a potluck at 2 pm (bring a dish to share or donate \$5). All are welcome!*

April 7: Rev. Cope (UUCB minister 1946–1968) – Ray Nelson

April 14: Open Discussion, 10 min topics – Lee Lawrence

April 21: Iceland – Sherry Fuzesy

April 28: The MeToo Movement – Sandy Nixon

Humanist Connections explores human flourishing and the transcendent in the absence of the supernatural. Our discussion topics include issues relating to morality and ethics, human development, evolution, the nature of the universe, love, the capacities of the brain, the role of art and poetry in our culture, 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.

## Special Events in April

**Fri. April 5, 5 pm – David Campt Book Talk & Signing, Anti-Racism Allyship as Part of Your Spiritual Journey.** David is considered a national expert in the areas of inclusion and equity, stakeholder engagement, and conflict resolution and dialogue. In addition to speaking on these topics to live audiences, he also has had numerous appearances on national media outlets as well as local television, radio, and print media all across the United States. David will speak at 7 pm. Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by UUCB Social Justice Council and Together We Will–Albany Berkeley.

**Sat. April 6, 7:30 pm – Bryan Baker & Friends – Concert & Fundraiser – From the Pathétique to Over the Rainbow.** Please join Michèle Voillequè, Meghan Dibble, Paul Robles, Phil Buonadonna, and Bryan for an evening of romantic piano music and beautiful songs. Music by Beethoven, Debussy, Schubert, Puccini, Chopin, and Harold Arlen.

**Sat. April 13, 8:30 am–noon – Work Party** to spruce up our buildings and grounds. Sign up in advance if possible and come at 8:30 for breakfast or later to start work. Bring gardening tools if you'd like to help with the gardens.

**Sun. April 21 – Easter Festivities 9:45 am – 1:00 pm** Social Hall, Terrace, Kitchen, Lawn/Play-yard

- Brunch 9:45-11:30 am, Social Hall & Kitchen
- Egg Hunt 10:30-11:00 am, Terrace & Hill – Easter Sunday Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza!
- Activity Fair 10:45 am-1:00 pm, Field (Lawn/Play-yard) – Easter Sunday Activity Fair for Youth and the Young at Heart

**Thurs. April 25, 5:30–8 pm – Passover Seder.** Includes catered main dishes and matzoh ball soup. We're doing potluck side dishes and dessert. Bring what you'd like to share. \$25 per adult, kids 12 and under free. Advance tickets are available on EventBrite. Contact: Marin Fischer (510) 848-2995, [marinfischer@att.net](mailto:marinfischer@att.net).

# Family Ministry

Alice Lemieux

Welcome April and spring, a time of rebirth and renewal. Rains have left the ground wet and fertile and greenery is thriving. How has winter left you? How are you springing forth from the dark? In Family Ministry, a new team, the REnew, REvise, REfresh (R3) team, is springing forth to rethink our work.

In the past, Family Ministry embraced the role of educator. We take our children into Religious Education (RE) classes in which they are told stories around our seven principles from many of our sources of faith. However, across religions, researchers have seen that these RE-raised children do not tend to go to church as adults. Services are too different from classes and they feel disconnected from their congregations. They become what survey-ists call “nones.”

However, if we embrace research findings, and our own instincts, which say parents are the primary spiritual educators, why rely so heavily on volunteer-intensive RE? This is often because many Unitarian Universalists are coming from other religions with no idea of how to raise a young UU themselves. But what if we turned our former model on its head? What if we started supporting parents more? What if we gave them tools to show their children what they believe on a daily basis?

Parents might feel affirmed in their beliefs. Children could see that faith, spirituality, and the call to social justice is woven into all aspects of life. Both children and adults might be invited into deeper faith formation. This is R3’s objective.

R3 is hard at work learning and examining the various ways family worship and ministry is expressed all over the nation and in many different denominations. We are forming a list of possible ideas to support the whole family such as: offering more “celebration chapels,” creating a “playground” in the sanctuary, and supporting families/parents directly, among others. I think we all agree that age-segregated learning still has its place – i.e. OWL and Coming of Age programs. However, we are endeavoring to think outside the box and bring a new vibrancy to our family programs.

On May 4th, R3 will gather for a final retreat to create a proposal for the Family Ministry Committee who will then explore those ideas and ask for feedback from the community. I encourage you to look to how your own faith formation springs forth – it is this process we pass on to our children. No matter your parental status, our children see and learn from you; from the gentleman who sings passionately in the next pew, to the woman who needs an assistant and a hearing device, to the many members that welcome them in the atrium. Our children are forming their faith now, alongside us. You, especially the parents, but really everyone, act as spiritual role models for our children. How can we help you further your faith formation so that you may be of service to our children in this community? How can we embrace our larger UUCB family?

With Joy,

Alice Lemieux

Family Ministry Co-chair

## Coordinating Team Notes

Deborah Schmidt, Coordinating Team Convener

The Coordinating Team has been preoccupied with creating the 2019-2020 budget. The budget process began with the daunting challenge of keeping a balanced or surplus budget while restoring the administrative position vacated when Mary Ellen Morgan retired. The board's Staffing Task Force has developed a job description for the position of Executive Director, which will be instrumental in restoring and maintaining organizational health and balance.

The CT has been joined in the budget creation process by our president, Maryann Simpson, our treasurer, Mary Muehlbach, and the Committee for Financial Oversight co-chair, Anne Greenwood. Program staff and volunteers, especially for Music and Family Ministry, have also been consulted, so that necessary cuts could be made as painlessly as possible. I have been so impressed by the big hearts, creativity, flexibility and financial savvy brought to the table by everyone involved.

Our current draft budget, while absorbing painful and unavoidable program cuts, includes a 3/4 time executive director, as well as a half-time outreach coordinator, a position that will give a huge, positive boost to membership inreach and outreach. The board has begun to review the draft budget and make recommendations.

As soon as the board approves the budget, it will be published, and at that point we welcome your questions and feedback. In preparation for the vote on the budget at our May 19th congregational meeting, we will be offering two info sessions, April 28th and May 5th, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We hope you can join us!

*The Coordinating Team meets on first and third Thursdays from 10 am to 12 noon. If you're interested in attending, please contact the CT Convener to verify meeting time and place. Questions for the CT? Email CT@uucb.org.*

## Endowment Committee

### GREETINGS AND GOOD NEWS FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE!

As announced in February, our Congregation will be receiving approximately \$133,000 in two installments (one at the end of 2019, and one sometime in 2020) resulting from a unique program called Wake Now Our Vision (WNOV) created by the Shelter Rock UU congregation, in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

The UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York, which has a huge endowment and philanthropy program, created a \$2,000,000 fund and offered to match up to 10% of what a member pledged, with a cap of \$100,000 gift per member, to those UUs who went on record as planning a legacy gift to one of several UU organizations: to the UUA, the Starr King School, or one's home UU congregation.

The Endowment Committee extends our deepest thanks to members of our UUCB Congregation who, together, responded by making bequest plans estimated to total more than \$2,500,000 to UUCB!

### Gifts and Bequests:

In 2018-2019, UUCB received generous gifts from several sources in addition to the Shelter Rock commitment. As of this writing, the church has benefitted from \$20,000 from the Mark Woodbury Estate,

\$5,000 from the Eldon Wolf Estate, and \$20,000 from Grace Ulp (who is still alive and well!). All of these gifts, by policy, went into the General Fund.

### **Maybeck Society:**

Those of us who love UUCB support it in many ways. One way, of course, is our gift of time and commitment to one another in pursuit of the mission of the church. But another important way is to leave a gift to the UUCB Endowment Fund, ensuring that this place of peace and hope will remain for generations.

The Maybeck Legacy Society honors Bernard Maybeck's memory, and those who have declared intent to leave a Legacy Gift to UUCB. Renowned architect Bernard Maybeck, a member of this church, provided the land upon which UUCB now rests. All are welcome to join the Maybeck Society!

Our endowment funds are invested through the Unitarian Universalist Association in socially responsible investments. Earnings from this investment can be spent to support UUCB's mission, while the principal is typically preserved to provide, over time, a large and secure income for the church. Roughly 80% of our current Total Endowment accumulation has been given since the year 2000, and given the recent pledges reflecting legacy gift intentions, there is no reason to think this level of generosity will subside! Such giving will strengthen the future of Unitarian Universalism and our fellowship by supporting our institutions and congregation, bringing people together as we work towards building a world imbued with more love and justice.

This past fall, partly as a result of the Wake Now Our Vision Campaign, we saw Maybeck Society membership grow by close to 40%.

If you would like to join the Maybeck Society, please be in touch with any member of the Endowment Committee and we will help you! (Grace Ulp, Ira Nelken, Susan Singh, or Lenore Ralston). With the declarations of intent to give a legacy gift you become a member, and on your passing your memory will live on and so will this congregation!

### **MAYBECK SOCIETY**

\* indicates Wake Now Our Vision donor

- |   |                                 |                               |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Anonymous*                            | • Walter Gorski                 | • Jane Middleton              |
| • Cynthia Asprodites & Maryann Simpson* | • Anne Greenwood & John Tucker* | • Ira Nelken & Nan Yarborough |
| • Claire Baker*                         | • Jeanne Griffith               | • Beth Pollard*               |
| • Horst Bansner                         | • Jay Hanks                     | • Lenore Ralston*             |
| • Stephanie Ann Blythe*                 | • Ann Harlow                    | • Dave Roberts & Gail Simpson |
| • Victoria Bowen                        | • Jean Hyams & Cindy Maxim      | • Dick Sherman*               |
| • Patricia Brucker                      | • Paul & Teri Hudson*           | • Grace Ulp                   |
| • Barbara & Parick Cullinane*           | • Marilyn Joyce                 | • Betty Webster               |
| • Al Delgado & Aileen Hohmann           | • Linda Laskowski*              | • Ray Westergard*             |
| • Abbot Foote                           | • Lee Lawrence                  | • Joanne Wile*                |
| • Kay Fairwell*                         | • Jane Lundin*                  | • Linda & Warren Zittel       |
| • Jim Gasperini*                        | • Jo Maxon*                     |                               |
|   | • Lisa and Phil Maynard*        |                               |

## Stewardship: *More* Challenging Times

### Sanctuary – Sustenance – Service

Could our times become even more challenging? Sadly, yes! Pledges are more important than ever. By now you probably know that our heating systems for the sanctuary and the social hall have failed. They have served us well for decades and now they need to be replaced. Your generosity, especially from members who have or can increase their pledge, will significantly help the church manage this latest challenge. UUCB needs us all to do our part.

As we write this column, we have only received pledges from about 50% of our pledge units. Our hope is that Celebration Sunday will see a dramatic increase in that percentage. Our Visionary Givers have offered funds to match new or increased pledges.

By the time you read this column in the April Beacon, if you have not yet pledged, we hope you will translate your value for UUCB into a pledge to protect and enhance that value for yourself, your loved ones and the larger community. We all want UUCB to be able to provide:

- **Sanctuary** from a world seemingly so out of sync with our UU principles, especially respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. A place where we find solace, comfort and the energy for renewal of our humanity, our joy in the world.
- **Sustenance** for the times we are in stress, in need of spiritual support, a kind word, a helping hand.
- **Service** when we respond to our sixth UU principle to use our energy and talents to make UUCB and other communities places of peace, liberty, and justice.

There is nothing free at UUCB.

Everything has a cost in staff time, facility maintenance, and utilities. Pledges to UUCB – our gratitude commitments – account for around 50% of the annual budget. With an annual budget of around \$1 million, consider the following cost per time period to operate UUCB:

- \$2,700 per day
- \$19,000 per week or
- \$83,000 per month

With our generosity, we can help ensure the future of our congregation as a sustainable, powerful and responsible spiritual force in our lives, the lives of those in our surrounding communities and beyond our congregation.

*Your Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance for sharing your thoughts and for your support of our Beacon on the Hill. Lynne Cahoon, Co-Chair, Patrick Cullinane, Co-Chair, Mac Lingo, Jo Maxon, Bob Moore, Ira Nelken, Rev. Christian Schmidt, and Helen Toy.*

PLEASE, if you have yet declared your gratitude for UUCB by submitting your pledge from, do so soon. The Board of Trustees, the Coordinating Team and the Committee on Financial Oversight need to know how much we have pledged to support UUCB next year in order to finalize next year's budget proposal.



## Social Justice

**Good Neighbor Report:** UUCB raised \$1,782.85 for the Berkeley Food Pantry in January.

**2019-2020 UUCB Sponsored Projects:** March 31 is the deadline to submit applications for next Church year's sponsored projects. Once submitted, the applications will be reviewed by the April meeting of the Social Justice Council and, after a brief presentation from each proposed project, voted on during the May 12 Social Justice meeting for submission the following week to the Congregational meeting. The Stopping Child Trafficking project was approved last year for a two-year period. All others, existing and new, must resubmit an application and be voted on for recommendation and approval.

**Report back on the Soul Line Dance Party:** Ninety people attended this very joyous and energetic event. It started with a fabulous potluck dinner, enhanced with pulled pork by our chef-in-residence Bill Brown. Then soul line dancing facilitated by Ifasina TL Clear, body positive coach. Folks began seated in chairs, then moved to standing if they preferred, bringing in their energy! After Ifasina concluded her exquisite engagement, DJ Stacy took over and worked the free form dance. There was lots of fun, lots of movement, lots of joy!

**Literature, Film & Drama Contingent:** On March 3rd, Nan Yarbrough led a rich discussion of Professor Deborah Lipstadt's memoir, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*. Whether we read the book or watched the movie, *Denial*, the case led us to a discussion of the rising tide of antisemitism in this country and around the world. Julie Ann Winkelstein reported on the exhibit continuing through June at the Richmond Museum of History: "Pioneers to the Present: Jews of Richmond and Contra Costa County"; and Christina Creveling prepared us for next month's discussion of Rev. Thandeka's book: *Learning to Be White: Money, Race & God in America*. (Two copies of the out-of-print book will be available on the book table next Sunday; and two books are available at the Graduate Theological Union Library.) All are welcome to join us on April 7th.

**WOWS – Whites Opposing White Supremacy** – is a group of white-identified people at UUCB that discusses race issues and the implications of being white in this society. We work to actively oppose white supremacy culture within ourselves and our congregation, in order to become more effective anti-racist allies and accomplices. WOWS is part of the Taking Stock project, which was proposed by an African-American member of the Social Justice Council as a way to make UUCB more welcoming to people of color. Taking Stock also includes the People of Color Caucus (POCC), which meets separately. Taking Stock is part of UUCB's Confronting Oppression project.

WOWS meets as a group of white-identified people to allow for conversations that might be less productive in a mixed group. The work of white United-Statesians is different from that of people of color in this society (and world) that values "whiteness" over other racial identities. Meeting separately from the POCC allows WOWS attendees to process thoughts and feelings, assumptions and attitudes, that may seem "politically incorrect" or are just hard to share. When white people discuss race in a separate group, it can also save people of color from some of the pain, frustration, exasperation, anger, and other feelings involved in waiting for white people to "get it."

The ultimate goal of meeting in separate groups is to enhance our ability to be in community with each other. To this end, WOWS and the POCC also plan to meet together periodically. We had our first joint meeting on Sunday, 3/10/19 – a wonderful feast and a sweet chance to get to know each other better.

WOWS meets once a month (we have a lot of work to do!) on the fourth Sunday, from 12:30-2:30. Meetings for the rest of the fiscal year are scheduled for 4/28, 5/26, and 6/23.

For more information about WOWS, please contact Jane Eisenstark ([maw.jane@gmail.com](mailto:maw.jane@gmail.com), 617-759-4320) or Julie Rogers ([jlundyr@gmail.com](mailto:jlundyr@gmail.com), 510-520-8230). For information about the POCC, please contact Helen Tinsley-Jones ([htinsleyjones@yahoo.com](mailto:htinsleyjones@yahoo.com), 510-334-1633), Camille Parker ([camilleparker@comcast.net](mailto:camilleparker@comcast.net), 510-778-8971), or Lonnie Moseley ([lonniemoseley@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniemoseley@hotmail.com), 510-655-1444).



## Music Matters

Bryan Baker, Director of Music

With music from Harold Arlen to Leonard Cohen, and songs based on *Alice in Wonderland* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, April is full of musical variety at UUCB. We begin with Willie Wonka's "pure imagination" and end with Leonard Cohen's Anthem: "there's a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." In between the brass resound for Easter, and we meditate on wholeness.

On April 6th, you have a chance to listen to some wonderful music and support the church at the same time. All proceeds from the fundraiser "Bryan Baker and Friends" go to the church's general fund. It is an evening of piano music and songs, both intimate and dramatic.

Beethoven shook the musical world with his Pathétique Sonata, so full of intense emotion and groundbreaking musical structure. Chopin told stories on the piano in his beautiful Third Ballad. "Chant Hindou" is among the French songs, rare and romantic, that baritone Phil Buonadonna sings, and tenor Paul Robles offers passionate opera arias by Puccini. Meghan Dibble and French horn player Suzanne Chasalow join in Schubert's remarkable song of farewell "Auf dem Strom," and Michèle Voillequé sings of a "Sleepin' Bee" in delightful songs by Harold Arlen.

I hope you can join us on Saturday night, April 6, at 7:30 in the Atrium.

Yours in harmony,

Bryan

## Community Ministers

Rev Jane Ramsey, UUCB Affiliated Community Minister

How old are you?

I recently read an essay by David. O. Rankin entitled "Perception" in our Aging with Grace Group. In this essay he writes, "I am 27 years old ... I have always been 27 years old." He speaks of being a child and being treated as a child when, in fact, he knew he was 27 years old. "I will always be 27 years old. If people say I am 30 years old and 45 years old, and 63 years old, I know they are wrong. I am a tall, slim, 27 year old man with dark brown hair ... I will never be middle aged or a senior citizen.... I know what I am."

How old am I ? You may well ask. I think about 35. Married with two beautiful daughters and just beginning my nursing career. Feeling smarter, prettier and happier than at any previous age. Yup, I think I will take 35-40. Because I know who I am, and how old I am, whatever you may think. How old is the person in you? I am very glad to be the age I am and don't regret the wrinkles and other imperfections – but that is the outside – inside I am about 35.

How old are you?

## Partner Church Committee

Stephanie Ann Blythe

Coming up on Saturday, April 6, at 2:30 pm is the Spring Transylvanian Tea at Starr King School for the Ministry. A fundraiser for the Balázs Scholars Program, the tea features a conversation between this year's scholar, Rev. Lehel Molnar, and Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson. Lehel is the archivist of the Hungarian Unitarian Church and Jay is a historian of Unitarianism with a focus on the Polish Brethren. It should be a stimulating conversation between two scholars chronicling two religious movements that arose close to each other in time and geography. Anne Greenwood will be serving tea from her grandmother's silver tea set. Come on out to enjoy the company plus tea and sweet treats. There is a \$25 donation. You can RSVP to the host Arliss Ungar at [balazs@ungar.us](mailto:balazs@ungar.us)

Our friend Jay Roller, who manages the Balazs Scholar's busy travel schedule, has passed along a YouTube video by some English travelers to Transylvania. They visited the mountains to the east of our partner village and captured rural life that is very similar to Homoródújfalú. The lucerne (alfalfa) harvested for the dairy cattle looks good enough to make a salad! You can view the video at <https://youtu.be/SoLCD3rP9DM>

There's much more to our Transylvania Partner Church activities. Yeah, we need to set up our display on Sunday with fantastic, eye popping graphics to grab your attention, but in the meantime you can grab Stephanie Ann Blythe at [steph62850@yahoo.com](mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com) or Anne Greenwood at [annegt1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net).

## Buildings and Grounds Committee

Larry Nagel

We had a very successful work party on Saturday, March 2. Lynne Cahoon and I were hoping for at least six volunteers and we were thrilled to have 14 volunteers of all ages! A special thanks to Lynne Cahoon, who was in charge of the event and who fixed breakfast for the early birds. There will be another work party on Saturday, April 13 to prepare for Easter. Hopefully, the sun will be shining and we can attend to overdue gardening activities. Mark your calendars!

As most of you probably have noticed, we have had a major failure with our heating systems. All three main furnaces are now inoperable, and we are operating on portable units. I am convening a Task Force to prepare bids for replacing the furnaces, and hopefully by the time you read this article the heat will be back on.

We are pleased to announce that Alisa Gould Sugden has taken on the additional staff responsibility of overseeing facilities maintenance and now has the title of Office Administrator & Facilities Coordinator. Alisa also oversees Warren Smith, whose title now is Maintenance Coordinator and Sunday Verger, and Yao Rao, whose title remains Custodian. Thanks to Alisa for stepping up to these new responsibilities!

*If any of these projects fits your interests and your skills, we would love to have you on our team. Please contact Larry Nagel at (510) 558-0842 or [lwn@att.net](mailto:lwn@att.net). Or, just drop in at the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, which is the first Thursday of every month at 4 pm in the Fireside Room.*

## Freestone Committee

Don Klose

The Freestone Committee is calling out for new members who can bring new energy, ideas, and inspiration. So if you wish to become acquainted, or re-acquainted, with the Freestone Retreat and its rich UUCB heritage, please join us.

When spring arrives, as surely it must, the committee will resume its monthly outings to our serene Sonoma County getaway to take up home-repair projects that await. The grass will be getting tall and golden and call for mowing. The deck will want to be washed and stained, and a few boards replaced. A few minor painting and carpentry projects will not tax our amateur skills. We may take a quick break to visit the nearby Freestone bakery for sticky buns, or get fresh crab and clam chowder at Bodega Bay. And there will be time for conversation, and quiet reflection, to stretch our imaginations for how to restore the Retreat to its full promise in the religious life of the church.

So if you are interested, or just curious, please find us at church on a Sunday. We will welcome you with open arms.

*Freestone Committee members— Alan Davis, Michael DeWitt, Ann Harlow, Joe Jackson, Don Klose, Bob Moore, Ann Riley, Terry Stokes, and David Wemmer.*





## Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

1 Lawson Road

Kensington, CA 94707-1015

### Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

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

**MEMBERSHIP** in this Unitarian Universalist congregation is open to all who see this church as their religious home and the principles for which the church stands as their own. People who wish to join participate in a “pathways to membership” session, sign the membership book, and commit to supporting this church through participation and financially. To become a member, please contact our Membership Co-Chairs, Lonnie Moseley or Paul Hudson ([membership@uucb.org](mailto:membership@uucb.org)), or speak with one of the co-ministers.

**NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS:** Submit announcements and articles by email to [beacon@uucb.org](mailto:beacon@uucb.org). Due to limited space, we do not publish announcements for events occurring outside the church community. **The deadline for submissions** is the 15th of the month. **Questions?** Please email [beacon@uucb.org](mailto:beacon@uucb.org). (Beacon editor is Ann Harlow.)

**WEB SITE:** <http://uucb.org>

#### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

**To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter** or “The Week Ahead at UUCB,” email [administrator@uucb.org](mailto:administrator@uucb.org). You can also find both newsletters at the [uucb.org](http://uucb.org) website under “News.”

#### UUCB general discussion list:

[http://groups.google.com/group/uucb\\_discuss/about](http://groups.google.com/group/uucb_discuss/about)

**Email list for families:** Email [family.ministry@uucb.org](mailto:family.ministry@uucb.org)

### Board of Trustees

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### Coordinating Team

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Hilary Lorraine (Program Council liaison)  
David Roberts (Co-Chair, Committee on Financial Oversight)  
Rev. Christian Schmidt  
Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

### Program Council

Gail Simpson (Convener and Music/Arts)  
Suzette Anderson-Duggan and Alice Lemieux (Family Ministry)  
Victoria Bowen (Membership)  
Jim Gasperini and Melissa Rosales (Worship)  
Ann Harlow (Communications)  
Beth Jerde (Social Justice)  
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)  
Larry Nagel (Buildings and Grounds)

### Staff (partial list)

Co-Ministers: Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt (510-592-8738, [revkristin@uucb.org](mailto:revkristin@uucb.org)) and Rev. Christian Schmidt (510-592-8738, [revchristian@uucb.org](mailto:revchristian@uucb.org))  
Acting Director of Family Ministry: Zackrie Vinczen (ext. 307, [family.ministry@uucb.org](mailto:family.ministry@uucb.org))  
Director of Music: Bryan Baker (ext. 309, [bryan.baker@uucb.org](mailto:bryan.baker@uucb.org))  
Rental Manager & Scheduling Coordinator: Lissa Roos Parker (ext. 312, [lissamarda@uucb.org](mailto:lissamarda@uucb.org))  
Office Administrator & Facilities Coordinator: Alisa Gould Sugden (ext. 306, [administrator@uucb.org](mailto:administrator@uucb.org))  
Maintenance Coordinator & Sunday Verger: Warren Smith (ext. 308, [facilities@uucb.org](mailto:facilities@uucb.org))