



# Beacon On The Hill

*The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley*

*Vol. 74, #7, July 2015*

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

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## From Our Interim Minister

Rev. Greg Ward

Dear Friends,

Ministers are interesting people. In their better moments – which we hope are often – they are motivating. Even inspiring. Some – the better ones, I think – lead by example. They can be comforting. At least, thoughtful. Wise, hopefully. Or, at least, they have experience about how to get along with each other. And when the world is ‘acting out,’ they help us get along with that, too. In their better moments.

But they also tend to be a little audacious. They keep showing up. Giving opinions. Getting right into the thick of things. Someone recently shared with me an adage that I think fits: ‘they tend to take their piece from the middle.’ And that’s not always easy for those who are ‘middle people’. Or for those who aren’t and would like to be.

Ministers are hard to figure out sometimes. They are frustratingly un-miraculous when a miracle would be very handy. And beyond everything we pray they’ll be and everything they really are – despite our prayers – they really are rather ordinary. No great powers. Very limited holiness. Simply human. It’s hard to figure out what’s so special about them that keeps calling them to be in the heart of things.

If it’s any consolation, it’s hard being a minister, too. It’s tough to know what to be true to when truth itself is being questioned so voraciously. It’s hard having no great powers. No Jedi mind tricks up our sleeve. And very limited holiness. Working without benefit of miracles is hard – especially given the number of moments people turn to us hoping to see one.

But most ministers do have one thing. That thing we rely on when all other things seem lost. That “In case of emergency, break glass” secret. It’s actually a list. And because I’m away until August 15, it’s important that the list gets to you. So here it is:

- Love people. Even when others don’t.
- Love yourself. Even when others don’t.
- Love the world. Even when others don’t.
- Believe there is a way for love to bring everything together. Even when others don’t.
- Don’t always rely on love to do everything.
- Work hard.
- Keep showing up.
- Keep moving to the middle – to the heart of things. And if you find someone on the way who has fallen, pick them up.
- Be mindful that it is a privilege to do the work of love.
- Get out of the way sometimes, so that others can have that privilege.

There are some other things just for UUCB while I’m away.

- Stay together.
- Trust your leadership. Better yet, join them.
- Appreciate your Worship Associates. They are brilliant. Really.
- If you are in need of pastoral care, call Rev. Jane Ramsey (510-499-5204) or send an email to [caringcircle@uucb.org](mailto:caringcircle@uucb.org). Someone will respond quickly and connect you with the help you need.

I will see you when I return.

To the Glory of Life.

## Sunday Worship in July

**September—May Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; Summer Worship at 11:00 a.m., May 17 - August 30**  
**July's Theme: "Reverie"**

July 5: **The Search for Interdependence or the Interdependence of the Search:** We Unitarian Universalists are an independent bunch. And as we begin our search process for a new settled minister, we will be looking for someone who will not only answer our personal needs and wishes but more importantly fit our needs and desires as a church community now and in the future. Who are we? Who do we want to be? And who will help us get there? - Kay Fairwell, Chair of the UUCB Ministerial Search Committee

July 12: **Forgive and ... Remember** - Forgiveness is just one piece of how we can move into accountable, strong, and worthwhile relationships as a community. Forgiveness is a very important concept that really starts in the heart, but is easily complicated by grief, fear, anger, revenge, and one's sense of justice. The old adage to "forgive and forget" might discourage us from forming the most authentic and lasting relationships we need in community. – Rev. Sonya Sukalski

July 19: **Wade in the Water, Children** - Confronting our own racism isn't easy. For me it has been a lifetime of learning. I grew up in an inter-racial family, the daughter of two Universalist Ministers who taught me the basics of empathy, respect, and tender action. But this is a long and difficult journey. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain ... Then the next teaching moment comes and I wade back in. – Rev. Carolyn Colbert

July 26: **Bring Your Own God: The Spirituality of Woody Guthrie** - Based on his recent book by the same name, Rev. Edington will talk about Woody Guthrie and a part of his life that few others have explored: his spirituality. He will share insights of Woody as a self-taught Unitarian and how he used his music to describe the great glories and sorrows of life.

*Rev. Stephen Edington - In June of 2012 I concluded a 24 year ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, New Hampshire. This was followed by a one year Interim Ministry with the UU Church of Manchester, NH. I am currently serving a two year Interim Ministry with the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT which will conclude in July of 2015. These are three of the latest moves of my journey in ministry of over 40 years.*

*I'm enjoying the move from settled to interim ministry (and/or to a more short term kind of ministry). I'm finding that while certain kinds of transitional skills are called for in an interim, or in a more short-term, setting many of the attributes of the professional ministry remain basic: Worship leadership/sermon preparation and delivery, matters of administration and governance, staff supervision, pastoral care, and representing our UU values and principles in the wider community in which the congregation is located.*

## Summer Forum

July 5: Mac Lingo on "Meeting with a Killer," a video from Restorative Justice Online

July 12: Ashby Village, "Volunteer Project to Help Seniors Stay in their Homes"

July 19: Dr. Frederick Shaw, "Working with Women in Chandigarh, India"

July 26: Rhonda Servin, UUCB member. "Women in Art: a Presentation of Sculpture"

## July Work Party

If you care about the appearance, order, and cleanliness of our church and grounds, please come to the July Work Party. Committees can clean and clear their storage spaces. Gardeners can pull weeds, and check the health of our plants. We will not be doing any major projects until after the Patio and Roof projects are completed. Hopefully this will happen in the next few months. We will be making a list of the issues concerning the building and grounds that you think most important. Come join us for the time you can spare. All are welcome, and if you come at 8:30 a.m., you get breakfast.

**Work Party: Saturday, July 18, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Breakfast and light lunch provided.

If you have questions, please email Lynne Cahoon at [jlcahoon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlcahoon@sbcglobal.net) or call (510) 526-5638.

## Ministerial Search Committee Report

Stephanie Ann Blythe

Your Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has been busy getting ready for its mission. We have had two face-to-face meetings to get going and to plan for our retreat with Ministerial Settlement Representative Bob Meiss. Getting an on-line calendar set up was a little bit of challenge, and we had to create some email protocols so that we know what business can be handled by email and what needs a meeting or teleconference.

We will have completed our retreat by the time you read this. There are many things we will do to come together as a team. There will be a lot of self-assessment of our strengths, abilities, and interests to find which roles on the team are the best fit for each of us. Most importantly we will select our chairperson.

**NEWSFLASH: Kay Fairwell is the chair!** Others will start working on our Congregational Record, the secretary will keep track of everything, and the treasurer will manage expenses and will begin work with the negotiating team to develop a salary and housing proposal. We will also have a reference checker, a survey taker, and a scheduler.

One thing frequently repeated in the materials we have received is the difference between confidentiality and secrecy. We are not acting in secret. We have an obligation to be transparent in what we are doing and keeping the congregation informed. We also have an obligation to maintain confidentiality when it comes to the identity of any ministers with whom we have any contact. From casual "Lookie Lou's" to serious candidates, we will reveal one name, and one name only. That will be the candidate that we present to the congregation next April or May. In the meantime, please don't ask, because we won't tell!

We have a lot to do. We will be talking with you frequently and asking you to complete some surveys; all to define who we are, where we want to go, and whom we want to lead us. We will keep you informed of our progress through the Beacon, Weekly Announcements, email, snail mail, and occasionally from the pulpit (like the sermon this July 5!). We have a Ministerial Search basket in the church office, and our public email address is [searchcommittee@uucb.org](mailto:searchcommittee@uucb.org).

*Ministerial Search Committee: Cynthia Asprodites, Stephanie Ann Blythe, Kay Fairwell, Kathy Guarneri, Susan Lankford, Beth Pollard, and Warren Zittel*

## President's Corner

Deborah Schmidt

*Everywhere I look, I see angels.*

I write on the verge of my first General Assembly. By the time you read this, I will have returned. This trip would not have been possible without the generous support of a donor or donors unknown. When I asked the messenger (our own Oracle) whom to thank, she answered that they wished to remain anonymous, and that I might see any face in the congregation as one of my angels.

Your lay delegates this year were Stephanie Ann Blythe, Kay Fairwell, Jean Gleason, Linda Laskowski, Jane Lundin, Larry Nagel, Logan Stump-Vernon, and myself. Alternates were Anne Greenwood and John Tucker. Also attending were Lonnie Moseley and Gail Simpson.

I want you to know who we are, because we have strategized to absorb as much as possible from GA and to share all the good stuff with you.

This brings up a larger issue: how do individual churches relate to their denomination? As you might predict for people with our history of individualism and anti-authoritarianism, this is a conflicted question. Some of us are suspicious of the UUA's centralized authority. Yet during this time of transition we have been especially aware of the tremendous resources our denomination offers.

We once had a Denominational Affairs Committee. I believe it is time to reestablish this body, so that we can be intentional in our relationship to the UUA, taking full advantage of resources, connections, and conjoined

strength. It would be fantastic to have a fully participatory process for delegate selection and to budget to support delegates who normally would not be able to attend. Such as your president.

*It is a beautiful way to live, seeing angels everywhere I turn, always alive to the promise of goodness and generosity that exist within every one of us.*

## Coordinating Team Notes

Jane Middleton

An Amazing Month!

**Confronting Racism:** The June 3 workshop sponsored by the Social Justice Council was phenomenally successful — 95 people came — and probably a third of them were not UUCB'ers! Attendance at the Second Wednesday Potluck has been strong, and this month the Council elected officers: Chair, “Kelly” Kelly; Vice-chair, Jane Eisenstark; and Scribe, Beth Jerde.

**New Calendaring Process:** At the June 6 Calendaring Summit, about 40 representatives of UUCB's many committees began laying out the church calendar for next year. Thanks to the Program Council Development Team, we tried a new approach to calendaring—good vibes and much collaboration. The Development Team has done an amazing job of setting the foundation for the Program Council and will begin working themselves out of existence as soon as the CT names a Convener for the Council. The Council will have its official kick-off on Saturday, September 19. Watch for it!

**New Strategic Communications Team:** Six members responded to the CT's plea for help with communications as we say goodbye to our Communications Administrator, Lisa Harrington. The members of the new Strategic Communications Design Team are: Michael DeWitt, Jim Gasperini, David Lingenfelter, and Mitch Sukalski. Rev. Greg Ward and CT member Jane Middleton. The team's first order of business will be to keep current communications in place without interruption. If you have computer or communication skills you think might be a good fit, please contact David Lingenfelter (davidlingenfelter1@comcast.net).

**Communication Changes:** Lisa Harrington's departure will mean changes in the way we gather content for publication. Much of what Lisa has been doing will now be done by volunteers – so please submit your content to announcements@uucb.org or beacon@uucb.org as early as possible. As of this writing, we haven't hammered everything out, but one change we will be making: the deadline for the Beacon will now be the 15th of the month. We will keep you posted. If you have questions, please contact Jane Middleton (jane@janemiddleton.com).

*The CT: Anne Greenwood, Beth Pollard, Ellen Fisher, Jane Middleton, Mary Ellen Morgan, and Rev. Greg Ward.*

### Treasurer @ UUCB

Linda Laskowski, Treasurer

A bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Jane Lucken raises our projected surplus to \$15,000 for the year. Though pledges continue to underrun for this year (a projected deficit of \$22,000), strong performance continues in community rentals and various program revenues. A big thanks to our staff members Lissa Marda, Lisa, Don, Yao, and Franklin who made the \$20,000 over annual budget possible (with a month to go!), and to Barbara Rockhold and Lonnie Moseley for the nearly \$5000 overrun in revenues for Personal Theology and Wisdom Pathways classes and seminars.

The value of the UUCB Operating Endowment is \$1,487,190 as of April 30. The Endowment committee approved three projects as meeting the criteria for funding from up to 1.5% of the endowment that is available when there are three years of strong market performance. These include \$9798 for additional training and consulting for Fellowship One, \$1000 for consulting for Membership Outreach, and \$4000 for a Youth Ministry. These will be considered by the Board on June 18.

### Building Project Management Team

Larry Nagel

The Terrace renovation project has cleared the County permit process and we now have a construction schedule. Invitations to bid were issued on June 17, bids are due on July 15, construction begins on August 31, and the Terrace project will be completed by December 3.

Work continues on the permit process for the tree removal process. While we are removing a large number of trees, we are not “clear cutting” the UUCB campus. After the Monterey pine and eucalyptus trees are removed, there will still be many oak trees as well as the remaining redwoods, fir, and cedar trees that are healthy. In a recent peer review of our arborist's report, it was determined that our plan to remove the Monterey pines was a wise and justified approach to managing our urban forest. The recent failure of a Monterey pine branch that caused damage to a neighbor's vehicle underscores the need for

this project. Our goal is to cause as little environmental harm as possible and leave the campus with a healthier and safer urban forest for the decades to come.

Our efforts to replace our aging roof are complicated by the vast choice of roofing systems and the fact that solar panels have to be removed before the roof goes on. We already have proposals from several roofing contractors, and we will continue to meet with contractors and, with the aid of our architect, will select the best option. With the prediction of an early and heavy El Nino season, it is imperative that the roof replacement be completed by mid-September. We also have contacted Schoenstein and Company to arrange for protection and retuning of our magnificent organ as part of this project.

*UUCB Building Project Management Team: John Cahoon, Larry Nagel, and David Rockhold*

## Faith in Our Future

Paul Hudson and Lonnie Moseley, Membership Co-Chairs

### Our UU Youth “School” the Adults

It was thrilling to be at the Sunday service that was dedicated to the Coming of Age program for our Youth. Unitarian Universalism invites, encourages and celebrates the seeker whose spirituality is unbounded and who draws from science, nature, personal experience, and many religious text.

We tell our youth that they can bring their whole selves to church: their full identities, questioning minds, and their expansive hearts. And then they do.

Listening to these exquisite young people tell their truth was breathtaking. They talked of their experiences as UUs; their experiences of God and what they envision for themselves going into the future.

What was breathtaking? That all the youth had a different way of seeing and approaching the sacred in their lives. That our UU faith asked that they go deep within to find their truths—and they did.

It is our youth that will be taking over the stewardship of UUCB as members in the years to come. They will then guide and mentor the next generation’s youth to continue the work of this wonderful faith that respects the worth and dignity of all persons.

The week before the Coming of Age service, one of our youth, Billy Augustine, talked for two minutes of his personal journey and his words have stayed with me and other members. Billy’s words are shared below.

“When I started Coming of Age I thought it was going to be like a birthday party, a party that I wasn’t too excited about. And the day after I officially came of age everyone would ask me “do you feel different?” “Are you enlightened?” “How have you changed?” I thought I would just shrug and say “I woke up the same person I was yesterday”. I thought wrong. And while I haven’t had an awakening, I do feel that I am not the 100% same person I was at the beginning of Coming of Age.

Over the past few months my parents have been trying to help me learn how to be more of an adult on my own. They have given me more freedom. With having more freedom I have more chances to do what I want, but I also have a lot more chances to stumble or fall. Coming of Age has helped me in that it has allowed me to fall. It has also permitted me to get back up on my own. This I feel is an amazing gift because when I pick myself up from falling is when I feel closest to being enlightened and changed and different.” -- *Billy Augustine*

*Augustine*

In faith,

Paul and Lonnie

## Membership Consultant Welcome!

Rev. Jeremiah Kalendae

It is an honor to serve with all of you in spreading the good news of our liberal faith! My service in this community will focus on professional consultation around growing membership and hospitality ministry. I will continue to serve full-time in my work as the Director of Admissions and Recruitment at Starr King School for the Ministry, and as a spiritual leader in two other multi-religious communities.

I grew up at West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, Ohio, interned at All Souls Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, completed a clinical residency at the Cleveland Clinic, was awarded the Killam Fellowship at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry, and served the San Francisco community for years before returning to work in theological education. In addition, I am trained as an advanced practice social worker and have completed significant doctoral studies in eastern philosophy. As a



practitioner of Islamic Sufism, Sanātana Dharma, and indigenous Indian religion, these lineages inform my organic multi-religious spirituality.

I am a public intellectual, artist, and revolutionary activist for social change as it relates to ecological sustainability, anti-racism, indigenous rights/decolonization, women's rights, LGBTIQ equality, refugee/asylee support, HIV/AIDS advocacy, ability and mental illness awareness, animal rights/veganism, and poverty and global inequality. I was recently asked to testify before Berkeley City Council regarding proposed anti-homelessness legislation, and I've played a role in local #blacklivesmatter protests. I look forward to what the future holds in our creative work together!

## Family Ministry Reflections

Kathryn Hack, Family Ministry Assistant

Summer time in Family Ministry is still abuzz with children's voices, laughter, and life-enriching curriculum. Our eight week [Gather the Spirit](#) (is a timely study about stewardship of our resources, water in particular. Even our toddlers, are still able to enjoy a story time in addition to all the glorious free play in Skytown every Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m. It pleases us tremendously to invest year-round in the children of UUCB. A huge thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who continue to make that happen.

Summer time is also when we look ahead for ways to improve how we run our program. We evaluate the best ways to communicate and meet the needs of families come September. Everything from future curriculum and streamlining volunteer scheduling gets our attention this month. And I get to see firsthand, how much time and energy Merrin Clough spends to make this program inspiring, safe, and engaging for every student, parent, and volunteer with whom we interact. I am sure we all know it, but I like repeating it ... We are lucky she has chosen to share her beautiful gifts with us.

I leave you with one exciting sneak peek for next fall ...

UUCB is offering an incredible opportunity for learning and growth this fall. Adolescents between 7th and 9th grade are invited to attend the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program beginning this October. OWL is a values-based lifespan sexuality education program that encompasses knowledge and skill for our youth to lead sexually healthy and responsible lives.

Updates regarding dates and times coming soon!

Please contact Merrin Clough, Director of Family Ministry, at 510-525-0302, ext. 307, with any questions.

Happy Summer People!

### *More in Family Ministry*

Story Time for All Ages during the 11:00 a.m. worship services throughout the summer.

11:15 a.m. "Gather the Spirit" is an eight-session, multigenerational program that teaches stewardship with a focus on water. We will explore stewardship with a focus on water. Through a lens both scientific and religious, using activities a wide range of ages can do together, we will consider the importance of water, the inequity of access to clean water, and actions we can take as Unitarian Universalist stewards. As young Californians growing up in a major drought, we will explore these issues locally and globally. Deepening our awe and appreciation of this precious resource, and seeing that caring for the interdependent web of life is not just critical, but possible for people of all ages.

Would your middle or high schooler like to be a Youth Assistant for our summer classes? Youth who choose to volunteer will get to interact with our younger students and our adult teachers in a really meaningful way. Click here to sign up ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VbkmO\\_oBSaHdXLBVSG7OV8yx\\_vqgrjVXVZI5VNEHnDs/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VbkmO_oBSaHdXLBVSG7OV8yx_vqgrjVXVZI5VNEHnDs/viewform)), or arrive early at 10:45 a.m. any Sunday this summer and meet with class teachers in the Family Ministry office.

## Standing on the Side of Love at UUCB!

**Cease Fire Walks** with CCISCO: Occur every Friday evening somewhere in Richmond, usually starting out at one of the member churches. For more information, please contact Rev. Craig Scott at [revcraigpsr@att.net](mailto:revcraigpsr@att.net).

**Interfaith Immigration Prayer Vigil** – First Saturday of the month. Next vigil: **July 4**, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the West County Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond, CA 94806.

**Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's Souper Center.** Prepare and/or serve the meal on fourth Tuesdays, **July 28**. Contact Ray Westergard at [raywest2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raywest2@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

## Social Justice Council Report

Nancy "Kelly" Kelly

At the June Social Justice Council (SJC) potluck, we elected a chair, Kelly, a scribe, Jane Eisenstark, and a treasurer, Ray Westergard. Dorothy Hertzberg highlighted the Social Action Summer Forum Series. Susan Mashiyama graced our potluck with her lovely harp melodies. Norie Clarke took charge of the Sunday SJ Table and is seeking volunteers to staff it. Beth Jerde is coordinating the Good Neighbor donations. We decided to combine our next SJC potluck with organizing the

Confronting Racism Task Force and working groups.

We invite everyone to join us for the next monthly:

SJC POTLUCK - Wed., July 15, 6:00 p.m., Fireside Room

At that time, we will be forming working groups for our Confronting Racism Project. Evaluations from the June 3rd workshop showed interest in organizing a film series, book study, direct action and engagement with community issues through CCISCO and other congregations and organizations in Contra Costa County. We plan to form working groups in these areas to move our project ahead. All are welcome to come and participate.

## CCISCO Report

Lee Lawrence

### Rally for Community Justice in Richmond

On June 4th, about 10 members of UUCB attended the major rally in Richmond organized by CCISCO and coalition allies to support a strong Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with UC Berkeley regarding the new Berkeley Global Campus they are planning for the Richmond Field Station. Supporting CCISCO's call for a housing fund, educational programs, local hire jobs, and job training, several members of the Richmond City Council spoke including Vice Chair Jael Myrick, Galye McLaughlin, Jovanka Beckles, and Edwardo Martinez. The rally was chaired by Melvin Willis of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) and attended by approximately 300 people. UUCB's own Rev. Craig Scott joined 14 other CCISCO clergy members on the steps of Richmond City Hall. Rev. Alvin Bernstine of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond spoke, including stanzas from the great Unitarian poet James Russell Lowell's *The Present Crisis* which we all know: "Once to every soul and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side; some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight, and the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light." Come join us in meetings of the Working Group on the Berkeley Global Campus every fourth Thursday at the [Richmond Field Station](#) (1301 S 46th St, Richmond 94804) at 6:00 p.m.

### CCISCO County-wide Meeting at Mt. Diablo UU Church

Nancy "Kelly" Kelly and Lee Lawrence joined about 20 members of CCISCO at a countywide meeting last Saturday, hosted by our Unitarian Universalists in Central County. Attendees included many from Richmond and Antioch. Our workshop focused on the source of our power in ourselves, our relationships, and in our communities. We focused particularly on our own personal experiences with oppression, and our struggles in overcoming oppression. It was a powerful, and empowering experience, and we hope all UUCB members will have a chance to participate in similar experiences. CCISCO staff also outlined issues we will be focusing on in the future:

1. End Mass Incarceration: CCISCO will be opposing the Contra Costa County Sheriff's plan to build 400 new jail cells. Also we will be supporting AB 953, a bill that would make local police submit statistics about stops, searches, etc., and would illuminate racial profiling to the Attorney General on a quarterly basis. The ACLU also strongly supports this bill.
2. End Mass Divestment in Local Communities: We will support the Make It Fair initiative on the 2016 ballot, Constitutional Amendment 5, which would alter Prop 13's approach to commercial property taxes, which are currently evaded by not technically changing ownership. Residential taxes would remain as they are. The change will create \$11 billion more per year for local schools, road maintenance, and local government.
3. End Mass Deportation: We will continue to support DACA and DAPA programs, and we support SB 4, Healthcare for All, (Lara-D) which would create a state insurance exchange for undocumented residents in California, enabling them to purchase affordable health insurance.

## Confronting Racism Project

Jane Eisenstark

UUCB's Social Justice Council is proud of its first event - the Confronting Racism Workshop held June 3rd. 96 people attended! Reverends Ben McBride and Donnell Jones facilitated interactive exercises through which participants were able to speak about their personal racial biases and systemic racism. From attendees' evaluations: "Made it really - tactile - observable." "Made me more aware of them." "I looked deeper." "I've had a lot of experience in education in this. It comes better from a Black reverend who knows love." "I was already aware, [of personal biases] but the workshop heightened what was there: the internalized feelings of being 'less than' in America."

Evaluations also informed the organizers that the workshop was missing the "female voice," was missing youth and more people of color, and that too much was packed into two hours (and we did run over).

The purpose of the workshop was not just to build on self-awareness of one's own biases and systemic racism, but to energize people and set a foundation for the work the Confronting Racism Project will do in the fall and into next year. Forty attendees want to actively participate either in creating the next dialogs or actions, inform and invite others to participate, or lead or



participate in a book group or film series. Organizers are thrilled to have this support in moving the confronting racism agenda forward!

## Good Neighbor – July / August

Beth Jerde

For the months of JULY and AUGUST 2015, the Social Justice Council voted on June 10th to support Ujima Family Recovery Services as their Good Neighbor recipient: <http://www.ujimafamily.org/>

Ujima Family Recovery Services is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping families recover from alcoholism, drug addiction and behavioral health problems. Since 1986, Ujima has made a significant contribution towards stopping substance abuse and empowering mothers and fathers to develop life skills to lead healthy, productive lives.

Ujima Family Recovery Services mission is to empower families to overcome alcohol and drug addiction and maintain recovery.

The Multicultural Institute received \$1300.00 from UUCB as the May recipient.

## Partner Church News

Stephanie Ann Blythe, Partner Church Committe



Thanks to your generosity we were able to meet our semi-annual goal for the Village Education Fund to support the scholars of Homoródújfalu. In June we sent \$2,400 dollars to aid 12 students from the village. It took a combination of individual donations, a share of a Sunday offering, selling some pieces of Transylvanian embroidery, and all of you buying lots of goulash to make it all possible. Have you ever had Mary Pugh do pet sitting for you? If so, you have a made a donation to the Village Education Fund!

The Partner Church Committee will take the month of July off, but we'll be back in August to plan more fundraising for the coming church year and see if we can get a pilgrimage to Transylvania next year off the ground. Getting some young people to go would be a challenge for us. An even bigger challenge would be to bring people from Homoródújfalu to Berkeley. Wouldn't that be a blast? Your ideas and participation are

always welcome. With Stephanie Ann busy with the ministerial search committee, you could step in and step up. Any takers? Want to learn more about travel to Transylvania and the work of the Partner Church Committee? Contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at [steph62850@yahoo.com](mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com) or Anne Greenwood at [annegt1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net). We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome!

## Freestone Dispatch

Norie Clark

Times are a-changing for UUCB's beloved Sonoma County retreat. The "FreeDome" is about to come into some money. We are in negotiation to sell off the remaining two surplus parcels, originally sectioned off from the dome's 11-plus acre site, to sell for income to maintain the retreat. The dome can now get a substantive facelift to insure a safe and comfortable place for us to retreat and reflect.

A failing barbeque deck has been stripped to the bones, opening a vista of reflection on design, and most importantly: What will help attract our members and other UUs to this spiritual place of renewal? What do we need to provide for a large gathering, around a barbeque, sharing food, thanks-giving and song?

This is a time of great opportunity for our retreat, a place unique within our denomination—a place where individuals and families, as well as church groups, can go to get away, slow down, and reflect. Such spots are becoming rarer and rarer along the California coast as communities spread and encroach. The retreat may not be ours in thirty years, but its value to these outside forces will be even greater though its meaning for us be diminished. It would be a shame if we let it go because we could not recommit to coming together to provide monthly administration and hands-on maintenance to care for the "FreeDome." Using a little of the marvelous creativity that abounds in our congregation, let's reach out to neighboring UU churches to promote access and community building in the joy of sharing our special resource.

Summer weekends are still available at the dome. Visit <http://uucb.org/freestone-retreat.html> to view available dates, then download the reservation form. Send your completed form to [freestone@uucb.org](mailto:freestone@uucb.org), and enjoy this comfortable retreat with family and friends while the rates are still low! Summertime, and the livin' is easy at Freestone!

Norie Clarke, (510) 527-4504, [norieclarke@mac.com](mailto:norieclarke@mac.com)

## Tree of Life



We send our congratulatory messages, gratitude, and our healing thoughts and prayers to members of our community facing life's successes and life's challenges. As the Beacon goes to press:

We bid a fond and sad farewell to **Lisa Harrington**, our Communications Administrator, who has served us lovingly and gently for eight years. We will miss you and wish you all the best. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Farewell also to **Ben Keeler** and **Jenni McLean** as they leave us for a new life in the South, to be near Ben's mother. And to **David and Claire Thomas** who are moving to Washington, D.C. We also wish safe travels to **Pat Malarkey**, who is leaving the Bay Area to move home to Virginia.

We celebrate with **Warren and Linda Zittel** who are celebrating their son Adam's graduation from college. Yay **Adam!** **Rev. Dr. Jeanne Foster's** new collection of poetry, *Goodbye Silver Sister*, has just been released from Northwestern University Press (April 2015, ISBN 978-0-8101-3128-6). The cover image is a painting by her father, Charles C. Foster. The book is available at the UUCB book table. Proceeds will go to the church. It was also being sold at the General Assembly bookstore this June in Portland and is available through amazon.com.

Happy Anniversary to **Lynne and John Cahoon** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June.

We send healing thoughts to **Ira Nelken** who is recovering from a broken hip and some complications. And to **Abbot Foote**, who is recovering at home from a successful heart surgery. We are also thinking of **Carol Hudson**, who now has a new knee!

*The Tree of Life celebrates and marks events in the life journey of our members. If you are interested in writing this column, please contact **Alisa Gould Sugden** at [administrator@uucb.org](mailto:administrator@uucb.org). Thank you.*

## Community of Caring

**Appreciation Circle** - The Appreciation Circle meets once a month, currently the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. Although the Circle is taking July and August off, the plan is to start again in September.

Kay Fairwell, who has led the Circle for the last few years, is stepping down due to her responsibilities on the Ministerial Search Committee. So the position is now open. This job does not require a lot of work, and it is quite rewarding. Usually four to seven people meet to write cards. What the leader of the circle does is:

1. Pay attention to who is doing what around the church.
2. Email the heads of various groups (e.g. Family Ministry, Music, Staff, Stewardship, etc.) to ask for names and contributions. (Some of the groups, such as Fundraising and Family Ministry often send this information without being asked.)
3. Make sure there are enough cards and stamps. (UUCB provides the stamps. Members usually donate cards.)
4. Prepare the agenda for each meeting. The agenda lists all those being appreciated each month, as well as a couple of questions tied to the theme of the month for checking in at the meeting.
5. Emailing meeting reminders to members of the Circle.

If you are interested in leading this group, please contact Alisa Gould Sugden ([administrator@uucb.org](mailto:administrator@uucb.org)) or, for more information, Kay Fairwell ([kayfairwell@att.net](mailto:kayfairwell@att.net)).

**Caring Circle** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (**July 21**) from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Safir Room. Would you like to help out with rides to and from church for members? Would you like to bring meals when a baby arrives in a family or someone returns home from the hospital? Please speak with Lynnette Delgado, Caring Circle Coordinator, for information about meetings ([caringcircle@uucb.org](mailto:caringcircle@uucb.org)). You may also ask Lynnette for the Caring Circle's resource material for in-home care, assistance, and support.

**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. To join this church, one participates in the Pathways to Membership class, signs the Membership Book, and supports this church through participation and a financial contribution. To become a member, please contact our Membership Co-Chairs Lonnie Moseley or Paul Hudson, or with one of the 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.

**Deadline is May 18 @ 5:00 p.m.** for the **June** issue.

**Questions?** Please email [beacon@uucb.org](mailto:beacon@uucb.org).

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

**Email Subscriptions:**

E-Announcements (weekly news): <http://uucb.org/this-week-at-uucb.html>

E-Beacon (monthly newsletter): <http://uucb.org/index.php/blogs-and-news/monthly-newsletter>

UUCB Discussion List:

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

***Welcome Visitors!***

Every Sunday morning in the Atrium, visitors are invited to talk with our Welcome Table staff before worship services and visit the Welcome Corner afterward.

Childcare is available on Sundays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Please verify schedule at <http://calendar.uucb.org>)

**Contact Information**

Office Hours

M-F, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sun, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Phone & Hours

(510) 525-0302; M-F, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;

Sun, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Fax: (510) 525-9631

Email & Web: [info@uucb.org](mailto:info@uucb.org) - <http://uucb.org>

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION** AC Transit Bus #7 which stops at the Berkeley and El Cerrito Del Norte BART stations. Call (510) 817-1717 or visit [www.actransit.org](http://www.actransit.org).

