

October 2022
Theme: Courage

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Berkeley Vol. 81 #10

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

From the Ministerial Search Committee

Thank you for participating in our [congregational survey](#), now **extended to Oct 2**. To date 75 congregants have responded, but we are aiming for 150 and hope to hear from as many of you as possible.

Survey responses so far have helped us create meaningful questions for this month's **focus groups and cottage meetings**. These are small group conversations, facilitated by search committee members. Focus groups target specific groups within the congregation, while cottage meetings include congregants from various interest areas. The conversations will explore the same three core questions, providing opportunities to share, listen, and build on what others say with regard to our hopes for a future ministry. Please check the Week Ahead for a link to the calendar and signups.

We hope that everyone will plan to attend the [Beyond Categorical Thinking \(BCT\) workshop](#) Saturday, November 5, 9 am-12 noon! Please RSVP if you can so we can plan refreshments. Childcare is available (with pizza provided!) for families who RSVP. This program is an important tool for congregations to become aware of biases, both conscious and unconscious, around identities our potential minister may hold, including gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disability, mental health, class, age, size, etc. Sponsored by the ministerial search committee and presented by Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Transitions Office, the workshop is adapted to address the concerns of the congregation.

The [UUCB Search Webpage](#) is now live. Here you will find just about everything you may want to know about our search committee and process, including photos, bios, our covenant, search FAQs, and links to UUA resources. Enjoy!

As always, we look forward to hearing from you at msc@uucb.org with any questions. Also, look for our yellow nametag ribbons on Sundays!

Blessings,
Ariel, Deborah, Don, Greg, Ladie, Lorraine, Sandy, and Suzette



October Services

Sundays 11 am

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

October 2

Courage Isn't the Opposite of
Fear

October 9

Topic TBD

October 16

On Conflict and Relationship

October 23

Holding Ourselves and One
Another

October 30

Superheroes

Coffee Hour

Sundays at Noon

In person on the Terrace

Sunday Programming

Personal Theology

Sundays at 9:15 am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99027634430>

Oct. 9 – Swami Vivekananda and C.G. Jung: Yoga in the West.

Steven Herrmann, Ph.D., MFT. One of our favorite speakers, Steven Herrmann, a Jungian analyst and yoga practitioner, returns to discuss his new book, listed above. He will discuss the influence of Swami Vivekananda on William James as well as C.G. Jung.

Oct. 23 – Bernard Loomer/Process Theology. Rev. Dr. David G. Sammons, minister emeritus of the Mt. Diablo UU church in Walnut Creek and former faculty member at Starr King School for the Ministry, will discuss Rev. Bernard Loomer and his work. Loomer founded the Personal Theology program at UUCB.

Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 10 am

The choir is open to all children and youth, ages 5 ½ and up. Prior musical experience is not required. We rehearse in the Meditation Room (below the Sanctuary) or on Zoom. We help lead the Sunday worship service once or twice per month. Occasionally we participate in other music events. We'd love to have you join us!

Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom

Please check the Church calendar or The Week Ahead for Zoom link and topic.

Good Neighbor in October

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic coalition of congregations from varied faiths working together as a diverse and inclusive coalition dedicated to helping those of our community in need to transition to self-sufficiency. <https://gripcares.org/>

Special Events

Oct. 2 @ 9:30 am

Parents Discussion Group. Open to people at any stage of parenting or grandparenting.

Oct. 2 @ 1 pm

LFDMC will honor Filipino-American History Month

Oct. 7 @ 7 pm

[Bringing Nature Home to California](#) program with Kay Charter

Oct. 8 @ 7 pm

Bryan Baker & Friends Concert and Fundraiser. Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3R3DWSs>

Oct. 9 @ 8:30 am - 11 am

Kensington Fire Protection District Welcome Pancake Breakfast. \$8

Oct. 16 @ 12:30 pm

Freestone Townhall/Q&A. In person.

Oct. 17 @ 7 pm

Freestone Townhall/Q&A. Hybrid.

Oct. 23 @ 12:30 pm

Freestone Special Congregational Meeting. Hybrid.

Oct. 28 @ 7 pm

Judy Fjell Concert. UUCB is the grand finale to her Northern California tour!

Oct. 29 @ 7 pm

SongFest. Concert and Fundraiser with UUCB singers.

Announcements

Board Listening Presence

Bill Brown: call/text (831) 261-1522 or email bill@thepinolehouse.com

Bryan Baker & Friends

Our brilliant Director of Music, Dr. Bryan Baker, is back again with Bryan Baker & Friends, a masterful concert and fundraiser for 2022! This year's concert features baritone opera singer Bradley Kynard, flautist Leslie Chin, and our very own Bryan Baker on the piano. Oct. 8 @ 7 pm.



BRYAN BAKER & FRIENDS

Bradley Kynard, baritone
Leslie Chin, flute
Bryan Baker, piano

Saturday, October 8, 2022 7:00pm
UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd Kensington, CA

\$20. \$10 for those under 25
No one turned away for lack of funds

Tickets at the door or in advance
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bryan-baker-friends-tickets-419270949697>

Mozart
Sonata in F major K. 323
Bolling
Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano
Piano music by
Debussy, Grieg,
Florence Price

Kensington Fire Protection District

Welcome Pancake Breakfast

Oct. 9 @ 8:30 am



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Church of Berkeley

KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WELCOME PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUN OCT 9TH 8:00AM - 11:00AM
1 LAWSON ROAD KENSINGTON

All residents are invited to attend the Kensington Fire Protection District Welcome Pancake Breakfast. Meet our firefighters, our new Fire Chief and receive Emergency Preparedness Information.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$8/Person- Children under 5 eat FREE!

FOR TICKETS, SCAN THIS QR CODE OR VISIT THE FOLLOWING:
WWW.KENSINGTONFIRE.ORG/BREAKFAST

Freestone

We have embarked on a thoughtful conversation and exploration for determining the future of UUCB's Freestone retreat property. This month, we have several opportunities for engagement listed under Special Events. **The final vote for will take place during a special congregational meeting on Oct. 23 at 12:30 pm.** Please review the documents here: <https://bit.ly/3LBS3O6>, in particular the Table of Contents with recommendations on which to read first.

Judy Fjell & Friends

Oct. 28 @ 7 pm

The Grand Finale of her Northern California tour, UUCB is excited to present one-of-a-kind Singer-Songwriter Judy Fjell!



SINGER-SONGWRITER
JUDY FJELL

"Judy Fjell is full of energy, full of joy. Not only does she make you want to sing, she makes you want to live!"
Barbara & Bill Hamilton-Holby, Unitarian Universalist Ministers

Our Whole Lives (OWL) K-1 Series Starts This Month

A comprehensive sexuality program age appropriate for kindergartners through 1st graders. This series of 8 sessions needs to be pre-registered for and the Parent/Child Orientation must be attended. A parent meeting will be held concurrently for the parents of children enrolled to explore their own journey.

Opening Task Force (OTF)

357 & 1,300

We so want to be done with Covid, but Covid is not done with us. Latest data from the CDC showed that 357 individuals were dying nationally every day. To put that into perspective, that is equivalent to an airplane crash every day. Last week, in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, there were over 1,300 Covid cases. The number does not count the unreported cases of persons who tested positive at home and did not report the test result.

Protocol Update

This is the reality that the OTF considers every time we meet. Although we continue to relax some protocols in a meaningful and safe manner, Covid remains with us and necessitates maintenance of key protocols to ensure we all stay safe and care well for our vulnerable members, so our church continues to be accessible for them. Thus masking, a proven intervention, continues for any activity in church buildings. We will continue check in for participation in a church activity in the building and keep coffee on the Terrace and food consumption outdoors.

Covid Booster

For those who can access Covid vaccines, we all are strongly encouraged to get the latest booster as soon as possible. In addition, there is great concern about the upcoming flu season. Epidemiologists are expressing concerns that this flu season may be worse than previous years – “There is thought we may be facing a more severe flu season because we didn’t have as much flu last year,” says Clare Rock, an infectious diseases physician and hospital epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “That means some of the natural immunity that would be in the population is not going to be in the population now. We may have more vulnerable people.” Experts have advised that you can get your booster and flu shot at the same time.

Hybrid Meetings

Lastly, staff has made significant progress on support for hybrid meetings in the Fireside and Safir Rooms. Scheduling meetings in those rooms on the church calendar enables staff to engage with the meeting organizer on how easily one can arrange a hybrid meeting. If any questions or comments, contact the OTF at planning@uucb.org.

From the Board of Trustees

Beth Pollard, President

Living our Covenant of Right Relations – openly, with curiosity for information and compassion for differently-held perspectives – is one aspect of why and how I appreciate UUCB. And now, as a congregation we are experiencing an extraordinary chance as a whole to model our living our covenant while deciding a path forward for our long-held Freestone Retreat property. One of my hopes is to emerge from our deliberation process with bonds that are tighter rather than frayed – increasing the strength and resiliency of our community fabric.

Guided by Rev. Michelle as a key part of her interim ministry, the Board of Trustees and Freestone Committee adopted her six-month+ process leading up to congregants vote on October 23 to set a course for the future of the Freestone property. Congregants have been engaged in visits, viewing information, sharing in a historical timeline and small group sessions – leading up to brainstorming and considering options.

We have asked that you get involved in learning and engaging, suspending any long-held opinions in favor of listening anew to ideas and concerns, studying current-day opportunities and limitations, accepting that certainty is elusive, and discerning what you think is best to serve our mission.

This isn’t quick or easy. It IS asking a lot of you, of us. And not just time, but also involving both thinking AND feeling. Thinking – considering UUCB financial, operational, and other business responsibilities and consequences when analyzing and evaluating property ownership and use. Feeling – considering UUCB aspirations, spiritual growth, and emotional connection and relationships.

I was personally inspired by our conversations among members with varying insights and perspectives to Rev. Michelle’s thought-provoking questions in our September 17 “world café” style brainstorming. What a chance to learn, explore and expand understanding!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I encourage you to be part of Freestone conversations – such as on Saturday October 1 or informally with one another. Let’s bolster our connections as we engage and discern with one another, heading into our planned congregational meeting and vote on October 23 about Freestone’s future.

Board of Trustees September 2022 Actions

1. **Freestone:** Discussed process and information for congregational discussion and deliberation on the future of the Freestone retreat property, including presentation by Freestone Committee and question & answer period. Congregants strongly urged to view materials via this link <https://bit.ly/3LBS3O6> and the front page of uucb.org website, and participate in brainstorming and deliberations sessions.
2. **Account signatories:** Authorized signatories on Ministerial Search Committee bank account and all direct investment accounts.
3. **Housing Allowance:** Approved Rev. Michelle housing allowance designation for IRS purposes.
4. **Capital Projects:** Received long-range capital and deferred maintenance needs summary, totaling \$1.9 million.

If you would like to view a videorecording of a previous Board of Trustees meeting, please contact secretary@uucb.org for a link

The Partner Church



We've been reporting on the process to re-envision the global Unitarian Universalist community. The Leadership and Design Team of International U/U Collaboration has issued this report on their activities:

When a flying trapeze artist leaves one bar for another it is a moment of great excitement and anxiety for those who are watching their act. On the one hand they hope that the gap between A and B will be successfully and gracefully navigated. On the other hand, they are afraid that artists may not grab hold of the next bar successfully.

Similarly, we can imagine that those dedicated to the work of the former International Council of Unitarian Universalists (ICUU) and Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) are also both anxiously and excitedly waiting for the newly formed Leadership & Design Team to give direction in this new phase of cooperation within our global Unitarian, Universalist, and Free Church community.

During our initial conversations the Leadership & Design team concluded that a new metaphor is needed. Therefore, we would like to suggest that we take a leaf from the book of the beautiful world of honeybees to imagine the future cooperation in our community. In a honeybee community thousands of bees cooperate in nest building, food collection, and brood rearing. At the same time honeybees are responsible for cross pollination between the dazzling variety of plants that occurs in nature.

We see the community of the honeybee as a call for a new form of cooperation between Unitarian, Universalist, and Free Churches all over the world. We would like to invite you to become a participant rather than a spectator in this process. In this way we can together forge a new kind of cooperation and participation amongst ourselves that will bring new vitality to all involved.

Find more information at: <https://sites.google.com/uua.org/intl-uu-collaboration/updates-events/a-message-from-the-team-july-2022>

It says we are invited to become participants rather than spectators in the process. Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net will want to hear your thoughts on this bold venture.

Music Matters

Our first concert of the year arrives on October 8, Saturday evening, with Bryan Baker & Friends, when I'm joined by longtime musical collaborators baritone Bradley Kaynard, flautist Leslie Chin, and drummer Tim Dent for a delightful mix by Debussy, Ginatsera, Mozart, Claude Bolling, and others. Please check out the flier toward the front of the Beacon, or check our website for more information.

Then at the end of the month and second version of BB&F, this one all about songs and singers. An amazing lineup of singers join together for SongFest on Saturday, October 29 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Featuring the wonderful voices and musical inspiration of Meghan Dibble, Phil Buonadonna, Marcelle Dronkers, Rod Lowe, Katie Lipka, Paul Robles, Michèle Voillequé, and Barry Zuckerman in a musical bouquet of songs. What could be richer than the red roses of romantic art song, or the bold begonias of Broadway duets, or the striped geraniums of jazz? Join us for a wonderful and varied evening of song and help raise a little money for UUCB's general fund.

Luminescence, our choir of adults, joins to sing on Thursday nights at 7:15 in the Sanctuary. New singers are most welcome! You don't need choral experience, nor do you need to read music - though both help in learning the new music. The choir folk are a wonderfully welcoming and supportive group, so feel free to come give it a try any Thursday evening you feel like dropping by for a bit of song. You can contact Bryan Baker (bryan.baker@uucb.org) or ask anyone in the choir for more information. The Youth and Children's Choir, directed by Katie Lipka, meets Sunday morning at 10 am in the Meditation Room. If you're interested, please check with Bryan or Katie.

Yours in harmony,
Bryan

Dr. Bryan Baker, Director of Music

Social Justice

Greater Richmond Interfaith Project

GRIP recently announced Ralph Payton as the program's new permanent Executive Director. Payton began his position in August. If you want to help feed hungry and homeless people in Richmond for our regular fourth Tuesday GRIP lunch, please let Ray Westergard know by 10/18 at raywest2@sbcglobal.net. You can help make sandwiches from 10:30 to about 11 am, or serve the food from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm.

Climate Justice Committee (CJC)

The Climate Justice Committee is always looking for opportunities to work with the congregation to make all we do here and in our communities sustainable and supporting all life.

We're working to reduce our UUCB carbon footprint and inform members about how they can reduce theirs. We're advocating for climate and environmental justice and laying a foundation for UUCB to earn Green Sanctuary status.

Please help reduce our congregation's footprint and comply with California law by sorting waste at church among recyclables, compost, and landfill. Bins are labeled with instructions so everyone can understand which items go where. Note: These instructions may vary from your city's instructions. Food waste in landfill emits methane, the super warming pollutant, so responsibly disposing of this waste is critical.

Ongoing advocacy on climate and environmental justice is essential to a future with a safe climate and environment for all. We're recruiting folks to use the Climate Action Now (CAN) app, an easy way to speak truth to power. To get the free app: 1) Go to your app store; 2) Go to climateactionnow.com; or 3) Stop by the Social Justice Council table for more information. Add our UUCB group code (#310) to your account, and we can grow our collective actions. We may even join in friendly competition with other UUs! In the app, go to "Settings," then "Invitation Code," and put in #310.

Please contact Sheila Tarbet (starbet99@gmail.com) to join our meetings the fourth Tuesday of the month from 5-6:30pm. Sheila will also put you in touch with help on recycling and composting (Lucinda Young) and using the CAN app (Deb Lloyd).

Youth Spirit Artworks

Youth Spirit Artworks is powering ahead on the next phase of its “Hundred Homes for a Hundred Youth” project. Work has started on Tiny House Village 2, which will rise on the parking lot of Tiny House Village 1. Several tiny houses have been built and work has begun on the Community Center building. YSA recently completed its Jobs and Skills Training summer semester. It was the recipient of our September Good Neighbor offering.

–Jim Acock (jimacock@gmail.com)

Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent

Everyone is welcome to join us on October 2 at 1 pm to celebrate Filipino-American History Month with Evelie Delfino Sales Posch. A UUCB member, Evelie will take us on a delightful experience of history, music, and spirituality! Evelie sings with our Luminescence Choir and is active in the People of Color Caucus (POCC), Honoring Indigenous Peoples (HIP), and she was one of this year’s UUA Delegates. Evelie has offered us her beautiful music during worship services and various events at UUCB. We are looking forward to a wonderful presentation!

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84257017624>.

October is also the month when we celebrate Disability Awareness Month. You may also glean information about disability awareness by viewing the wonderful documentary, Crip Camp:

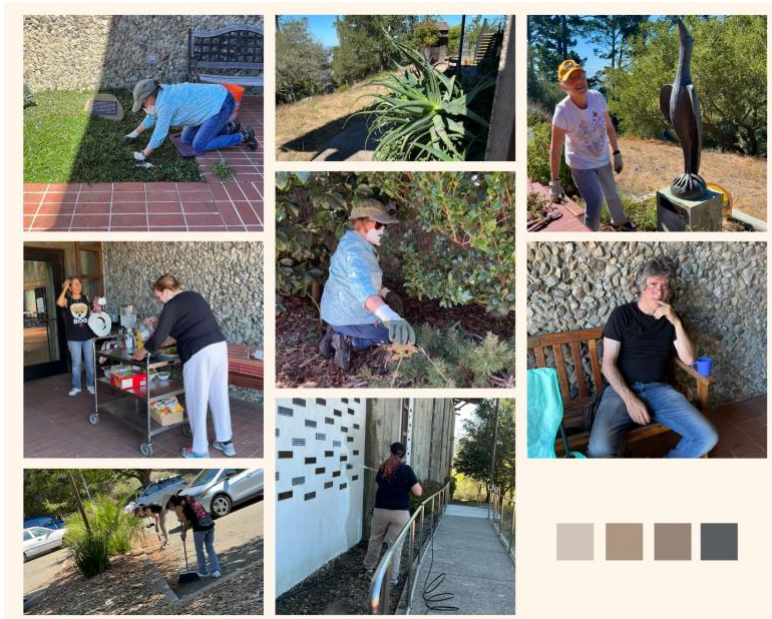
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4>. And here is an audio description:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kffi5J61N0c>.

–Camille Parker (camilleparker@comcast.net)

Work Hard, Party Hard

On Saturday, September 3, a group of people got up before the temperature went up to give nature a hand at the UUCB campus. We weeded and raked around the parking strips and patio. A few brave souls pruned an agave plant and replanted the cuttings in another spot. While all this was going on we could hear the hum of the electric weed whacker cutting down dry grass, creating a fire-safe zone. Here’s a few of our hard-working crew. Dance music was playing, and a lunch was served. It was a Labor Day labor of love.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

Love guides this church.

The quest for truth and justice is its common purpose.

To give thanks, listen deeply, speak with care, honor our differences, and seek and grant forgiveness –

These things we covenant with one another.

MEMBERSHIP in this Unitarian Universalist congregation is open to all who see this church as their religious home and the principles for which the church stands as their own. People who wish to join participate in an “introduction to membership” session, sign the membership book, and commit to supporting this church through participation and financially. To become a member, please contact membership@uucb.org.

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

WEBSITE: <http://uucb.org>

PHONE: 510-525-0302

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter or “The Week Ahead at UUCB,” email connections@uucb.org. You can also find both newsletters at the uucb.org website under “News.”

UUCB general discussion list:

http://groups.google.com/group/uucb_discuss/about

Email list for families: Email family.ministry@uucb.org

Our Board of Trustees Widening the Circle Vision Statement:

We, the trustees of UUCB commit ourselves to championing racial justice, embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia and religious oppression, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) in everything we do.

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