

---

August 2025

---

## Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Berkeley Vol. 84 #8

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

---

### From the Operations Director

---

The past six months have brought exciting changes to our staff structure at UUCB. As we settle into new roles and build a stronger foundation for our shared work, we want to share a bit about what's new.

Earlier this year, we created a new position: **Operations Director**—a role I was honored to step into in April. We also added a **part-time Administrative Assistant**, combining responsibilities from the former Office Administrator role with communications support. We're thrilled to welcome **Eliza Cantwell** to this position. In addition, we've hired **Rainier Salvador** as our new **Facilities Assistant**. Both of these roles are now 20 hours per week.

**Family Ministry** has evolved into **Congregational Life**, led by **Rev. Kathryn Jay**. **Charis Domador** now serves as our **Membership and Engagement Manager**, with expanded responsibilities that include volunteer coordination and program support.

In aligning with the UUA's fair compensation guidelines, we adjusted some staff hours. As a result, our overall staffing is now equivalent to **one full-time position fewer** than in the past.

We've posted a new [organization chart](#) on our website. A more detailed "who to contact" guide is coming soon. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing patience as we grow into this structure.

With fewer staff hours, responses may take longer, and **no facilities staff will be present on Sundays**. We deeply appreciate your help with setup, tidying shared spaces, and continuing to live our mission together.

In service,  
**Janae**



---

### August Services

Sundays 11 am

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

#### August 3

Rabbi Zvika Krieger

#### August 10

Rev. Marcus returns

#### August 17

Blessing of Backpacks and  
Three Sisters Garden

#### August 24

Water Communion

#### August 31

Rev. Kevin Mann

### Coffee & Community

Starts at 10:30 am in the  
Atrium

**In person** in the Social Hall

## Sunday Programming

### Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Returns August 17. Sundays at 10 am

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

---

### Religious Education

Sundays at 11:15 am (during service)  
Please email Rev. Kathryn Jay for more information:  
[kathryn@uucb.org](mailto:kathryn@uucb.org).

---

### Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is in person, no zoom)

**Aug. 3** – Topic Selection for next month and Short Topic Discussion. Ray Westergard.

**Aug. 10** – “Gambling: Are We All Losers?” Dennis Monthei

**Aug. 17 (In Person)** – “Vera Rubin and Her Telescope” Harold Ogren

**Aug. 24** – “Deep Rest and Emotional Agility” Kathy Rai and Paul Ulbrich

**Aug. 31** – “Neoliberalism and Populism” Marcia Bates

---

### Congregation Lunches

Volunteers provide a light lunch every Sunday following the service. You can help with food prep or cleanup! If possible, please sign up in advance on [this spreadsheet](#).

## Special Events

---

**Aug. 3 @ 12:30 pm**  
**Restorative Practices**

**Conversation.** How to bring restorative practices more intentionally into our Church community. **Fireside Room**

**Aug. 4-8**  
Chalice Camp

**Aug. 9 @ 1 pm Fireside Room**  
Immigration Solidarity “Know Your Rights and Court Watch, Accompaniment” Training.

**Aug. 17**  
**12:15 pm** Three Sisters Garden Blessing & Potluck Luncheon  
**12:30 pm** Newcomer Q&A

**Aug. 24 @ 12:30 pm**  
Pathway to Connection: Covenant.

**Aug. 31 @ 4 pm**  
Duke Ellington concert with Erik Jekabson and Katie Lipka.

### August Good Neighbor

**Berkeley Public Schools Fund**  
[berkeleypublicschoolsfund.org](http://berkeleypublicschoolsfund.org)

**Mission:** To champion equitable public education for students, families, and our community. Through grants, volunteers, and STEM programs, we center equity for the benefit of our students and the entire community.

## Weekly Events [uucb.org/weekahead](http://uucb.org/weekahead)

### Mondays

9 am Write For Your Life

9 am Women's Meditation Group

### Tuesdays

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

12:15 pm Applied UU Buddhist Sangha

### Wednesdays

10 am Walk & Talk Group

10:30 am Aging with Grace

### Thursdays

5 pm Javanese Gamelan

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Fridays

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

---

## Monthly Events & Meetings

### Sunday (1=1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, etc.)

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

1 pm Working to Overcome White Supremacy (2)

1 pm Immigrant Support Group (1)

### Monday

11 am Textile & Art (2)

5 pm Climate Justice Committee (4)

### Tuesday

10:15 Prep/Serve Lunch GRIP (4)

7 pm World Peace Committee (3)

### Wednesday

7:15 pm Board of Trustees (1)

7 pm Social Justice Council (2)

7 pm Program Council (3)

### Thursday

10 am Thank You Circle (3)

### Friday

11 am Textile & Art (4)

### Saturday

9 am Work Party (3)

1 pm POCC People of Color Caucus (3)

2 pm Death Café (quarterly)

4 pm Parents' Night Out (3)

6:30 pm Youth Social Event (3)

## Announcements

### Board Listening Presence

Helen Toy [helen\\_toy@yahoo.com](mailto:helen_toy@yahoo.com)

---

### Third Annual Labor Day Weekend Upscale Rummage Sale

Saturday, August 30, 11 am–3 pm, with  
leftover merchandise on Sunday.

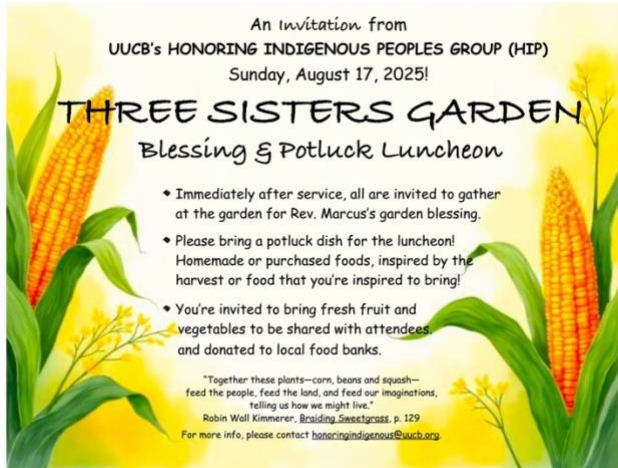
Do you have high-end clothing, accessories, or  
décor items you would like to pass on to  
someone new? Please set them aside to bring  
to the Social Hall stage between Sunday,  
August 24, and Friday, August 29.

A few fairly current books would be welcome,  
but not more than a dozen per donor. No  
furniture, please. All items should be in very  
good to “like new” condition. Contact:  
AnnHarlow [annharlow77@gmail.com](mailto:annharlow77@gmail.com), 510-  
559-3616. Please email or call me to give me  
some idea of what you'd like to donate, and  
also if you can spare a few hours to help set  
up, staff, or clean up after the sale (including  
Monday or Tuesday, Sept. 1 or 2).

### From the Kitchen Team

We recently announced that on the last  
Sunday of each month the lunch would be a  
potluck. But August will be an exception. The  
Honoring Indigenous Peoples harvest potluck  
will be on August 16th. On August 31st there  
will still be the remains of the rummage sale  
in the Social Hall, so we will just provide  
sandwiches to walk around with or take out to  
the Terrace.

## Three Sisters Garden Blessing & Potluck Luncheon



- Immediately after service, all are invited to gather at the garden for Rev. Marcus's Garden blessing.
- Please bring a potluck dish for the luncheon! Homemade or purchased foods, inspired by the harvest or food that you're inspired to bring!
- You're invited to bring fresh fruit and vegetables to be shared with attendees and donated to local food banks.

"Together these plants—corn, beans and squash—feed the people, feed the land, and feed our imaginations, telling us how we might live."

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, p. 129.

As with all HIP-sponsored events and actions, this celebration honors and respects Indigenous communities, culture & traditions. For more info, please contact HIP, [honoringindigenous@uucb.org](mailto:honoringindigenous@uucb.org)

## Renewing the Atrium Update

As part of its planning for renewing the Atrium space, the Aesthetics Committee invites input from the congregation.

Please be observant the next time you enter the Atrium and reflect on a few questions: How would you describe the space? Imagine you are a newcomer—what is your first impression of the space? What feels welcoming to you in the Atrium? What values do you want to see represented in the Atrium?

The Atrium has been cleared temporarily so that we can have the opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty of the space and to envision its future.

A survey will be conducted to help us discern what is most important to you.

We will set up a table on Sunday mornings in August with paper copies of the survey and we will also have it available online.

Thanks for your patience as we work through this process.

Cynthia Asprodites for the Aesthetics Committee

---

## From the Board of Trustees

For a videorecording of a previous Board of Trustees meeting, please contact [secretary@uucb.org](mailto:secretary@uucb.org) for a link.

### Discovering Treasures: A Journey Through UUCB's Website

UUCB is in constant motion. There is great beauty in this ability to change, to recognize and respond to newly-revealed needs within our church and wider communities and the world in which we are nested. Beauty, as we know, doesn't come easily, though. Rather, it emerges from our proceeding, together, with courage, hope and love through thorny patches before arriving at new understandings and ways of doing and being in community.

And while we're forever in the flow of change, I'm taking a few minutes and a few words here to stop and highlight one exciting place/point of arrival—**clarification!** (Please do stay with me—this is actually way more exciting than that dry word might suggest.)

I'm speaking of **clarification** of the workings of and the doings at the church. And you'll find many of them right on the UUCB website! Thanks to the hard work and discernment of many, including Operations Director Janae Heard, Membership and Engagement Manager Charis Domador and staff, Rev. Marcus, Rev. Kathryn, Interim Executive Director Sharon Dolan, and the Staffing Task Force (Beth Pollard, Carolyn James, Marta Tobey, Suzette Anderson-Duggan and Tom Tripp), and big thanks go out to the Communications Team and all who manage and update the website.

Here's where that journey through the website could take you. If you want to be clear on or know more about...

- UUCB's new organizational chart, which lists some new job titles and duties and the names of staff who may be new to you: Go to [this page](#).
- How UUCB works financially? Like how much money it takes to run the church? Or that there are five sources of revenue? Just [click here](#).
- How Things Work at UUCB? Check it out [here](#). (Scroll halfway down to find the pdf.) This is where you can access info like
  - what's in the Governance Manual—[here](#) or what happened at Board meetings from 2015 to the present [here](#)
  - how to learn more about, participate in, or volunteer for UUCB groups (there are about 50)—[click on this](#) to know who to contact. Opportunities abound!

So, please do take that UUCB website journey—where there are so many treasures to uncover!

But wait—one more to note—Membership Co-Chair Victoria Bowen sends this along—Year-to-date, July 1, 2024–June 11, 2025, we signed 27 new members. By the way, many, many are so engaged in church work you would be shocked they are new—that is a testament to the congregation's vitality.

In loving community,  
Helen Tinsley-Jones,  
UUCB Board of Trustees

## UUCB Volunteers Make a Difference at G.R.I.P. Souper Center

UUCB continues to support the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (G.R.I.P.) and the valuable programs it offers the community. One way we contribute to G.R.I.P.'s clients' health and wellbeing is through the 4th Tuesday monthly volunteer day at the G.R.I.P. Souper Center kitchen. As the 2024-25 fiscal year comes to a close, we want to thank our UUCB team of volunteers for preparing and serving over 100 fresh sandwiches each month. These efforts provided **over 1200 sandwiches** to the G.R.I.P. Souper Center's clients over the year! In addition, UUCB volunteers served up a hot, healthy meal each visit, offering a nutritious lunch and a friendly smile to families in the on-site residential program and clients in the community outreach program. UUCB sponsors the cost of sandwiches, fruit and the occasional treat to round out the meal. For more information on the programs and services offered at G.R.I.P., please visit [gripcares.org](http://gripcares.org).

If you are interested in participating on an upcoming 4th Tuesday volunteer day, please email [gillian.smith@yahoo.com](mailto:gillian.smith@yahoo.com) to sign up to make sandwiches or serve a hot lunch, or do both!

1. From 10:15 to 11 am we assemble turkey & cheese sandwiches (we make over 100 sandwiches in about 45 minutes!)
2. From 11:15 to 12:45 pm we serve a pre-made hot lunch (soup, sandwich, fruit and dessert) to G.R.I.P.'s clients

We are immensely pleased to recognize the volunteers who made the 4th Tuesday project possible in 2024-25:

- Jim Acock
- Joan Bardez
- Ahna Girshick and Samaya
- Bob Hall
- Mady Hall
- Beth Jerde
- Gerry Keenan
- Dan Lee
- Ladie Malek
- Susan Mashiyama
- Denny Parker
- Jane Ramsey
- Sandy Portillo-Robins
- Janet Robinson
- David Rosales
- Melissa Rosales
- Owen Rosales
- Gillian Smith
- Haley Smith
- Andrew Swan
- Ray Westergard

---

## Partner Church

For the past few years, we have been telling you about a restructuring and a re-visioning of the Partner Church movement into a larger global partnership. Now it's all starting to fall into place. The U/U Global Network Founding Document is rather lengthy, so this month we will provide you with the vision:

### Our Vision – A U/U Global Network

The U/U Global Network is a collaborative space for Unitarian, Unitarian Universalist, and Free Christian congregations, organizations, national bodies, and individuals from around the globe. It is a platform for collaborative engagement: a space where individuals and communities can come together to share ideas,



co-create projects, share resources, organize events, and support one another in living out their faith.

The strength of the network comes from centering relationships, grounded in shared values and mutual respect. We are committed to decolonizing our practices, affirming diverse theologies and cultural expressions, and nurturing a global ethic of accountability and generosity. Our work is facilitating and connecting, rather than directing; the U/U Global Network will grow and change according to the needs of the U/U communities around the world who wish to connect, learn, and share globally.

We aim to foster deep, sustainable relationships that can in-turn create opportunities for engagement, mentorship, and mutual support. We seek to understand the needs and opportunities that exist within our global faith community, to celebrate the diverse expressions of liberal religion worldwide, and to offer meaningful direction for building community.

In the coming months we will delve deeper into this new way. Here is a link to the full document as well as a link to a video of a panel discussion by some of the principal players. The video is quite compelling, to the point of American UUs being described as neo-colonialists. There's a lot to unpack there. [U/U Global Network Founding Document June 2025 - Google Docs](#)

The good news is that this new vision doesn't change our century-old partnership with Homorodújfalú. Yes, we do have to change some of our thinking, but our bonds are still strong. We welcome your feedback and your interest in visiting our partners. Look for us on Sundays, or contact Stephanie Ann

Blythe at [steph62850@yahoo.com](mailto:steph62850@yahoo.com) or Anne Greenwood at [annegt1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annegt1@sbcglobal.net).

---

## Freestone Oversight Committee

The Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC) is comprised of Beth Pollard (Board Rep and Co-chair), Tom Tripp (Co-chair), David Wemmer (Freestone Committee Rep), Bob Moore (Freestone Committee Rep), Susan Lankford, and Larry Nagel. The FOC has the following items to report on from May-June 2025.

- At the April 27, 2025 Congregational meeting, a motion was passed which extends each of the milestone dates in the March 26, 2023 Resolution for ten months. The Freestone Committee will continue efforts to find water on Freestone lots 1 and 2, raise the \$250,000 required for the first milestone of September 30, 2025, and fulfill the other milestones. In the event that the Board of Trustees determines that any of the extended milestones are not met, the Board is authorized and directed to initiate the sale of the entire Freestone property.
- The next step was to drill the second well. This was scheduled for May 5 -7, but the ground was still too moist and soft. The drilling of the second well finally was scheduled for May 27, 2025. Freestone Committee members Bob Moore and Michael DeWitt and Freestone Oversight Committee member Larry Nagel were there to witness the drilling operation. The well was drilled to a depth of 280 feet and unfortunately came up dry.
- The Freestone Committee is considering future steps at this time, including drilling a third well.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at [FOC@UUCB.org](mailto:FOC@UUCB.org).

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Covenant of Right Relations

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

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

**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 is compiled and edited by Charis Domador.)

**WEBSITE:** [uucb.org](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](mailto:connections@uucb.org). You can also find both newsletters at the website under "News."

### **UUCB general discussion list:**

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

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

### **Board of Trustees**

Kay Fairwell, President  
Pier Sun Ho, Vice-President  
Selene Fabiano, Secretary  
Lisa Maynard, Treasurer  
Michael DeWitt  
Kristen Jensen  
Beth Jerde  
Carla McCasland  
David Rosales  
Helen Tinsley-Jones  
Helen Toy

### **Program Council**

Marta Tobey (Convener)  
Carisa Orwig (Family Ministry)  
Victoria Bowen (Membership)  
Tom Tripp (Buildings & Grounds)  
Cynthia Greenleaf (Social Justice)  
Barbara Cullinane (Pastoral Care)  
Marin Fischer, Virginia Frederick, June Sheffield (Music)  
Jim Gasperini (Communications)  
Ann Harlow (Fundraising and Hospitality)  
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)  
Lenore Ralston (Chalice Circles and Finance)  
Kay Fairwell + David Rosales (Board Liaisons)

### **Staff** (partial list)

Minister: Rev. Marcus Liefert  
[revmarcus@uucb.org](mailto:revmarcus@uucb.org) 510-525-0302 ext. 303  
Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Dr. Kathryn Jay  
[kathryn@uucb.org](mailto:kathryn@uucb.org) 510-525-0302 ext. 307  
Operations Director: Janae Heard  
[janae@uucb.org](mailto:janae@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 306  
Membership and Engagement Mgr.: Charis Domador  
[connections@uucb.org](mailto:connections@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 304  
Facilities Manager: Peter Barnholdt  
[peter@uucb.org](mailto:peter@uucb.org), 510-525-0302 ext. 308