

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY
The work of the church is to create loving community,
inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service.

Report to the Board of Trustees
Coordinating Team
November, 2007

These darker days of November seem like a great time to think about gratitude. Rev. Galen Guengerich, UU minister from [All Souls Church](#) in New York suggests [gratitude as the defining discipline](#) of Unitarian Universalism. And well known complementary medicine proponent [Dr. Andrew Weil](#) says in his November newsletter that “keeping a daily “gratitude” journal for just two to three weeks has been shown to increase energy, enthusiasm, and attentiveness”.

With that in mind, the Coordinating Team is grateful to provide this very short report for November, followed by our in depth look at the “End Statement” around “Service”. Because so many of our service activities are focused outside of the UUCB community, we are experimenting with “hyperlinks” in this report to provide additional information about the topic.

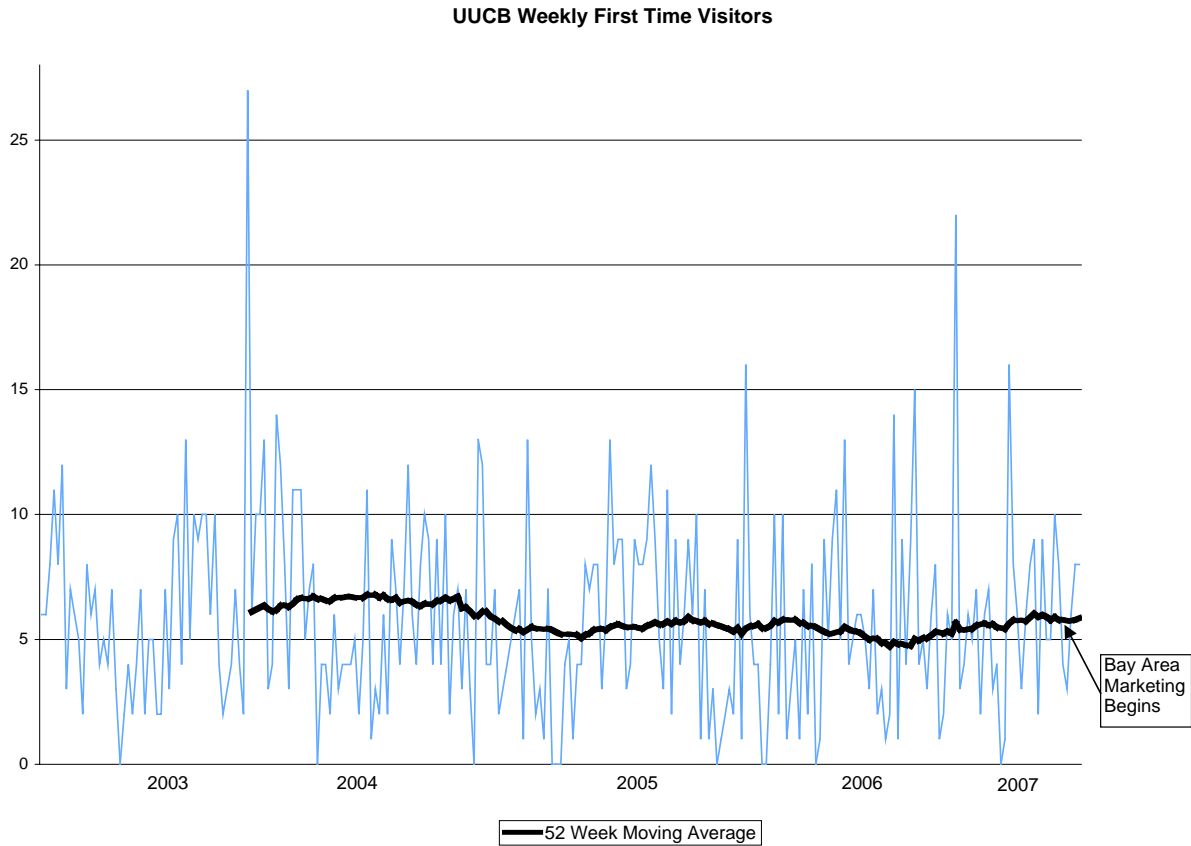
Note: this report is best read online, where you can take advantage of the hyperlinks [which appear underlined and in blue if you are online] to get further information. You will need to be connected to the Internet when you click on the blue-colored link.

Bay Area Marketing Update

Since the Bay Area campaign started, there have been nearly 6000 visits to the [uuba.org](#) website, where most of the ads direct people. Ninety percent of these visits are “unique”, that is, they represent about 5400 different people, so the ad campaign has clearly prompted interest. In 8 weeks the 17 participating congregations have counted 130 visitors who have said they came specifically because of the advertising, with another 45 who came because of a newspaper article or “other website”. This is likely low, as not all visitors register or indicate what brought them, but it is still about 25% of the total first time visitors since the campaign and has not subsided, even though the campaign is winding down.

The UUCB website is also showing interest from the campaign – though we do not have reports from September, October shows 106 referrals from [uuba.org](#), which means someone clicked on the UUCB link on that website, and were taken to the UUCB website, and 96 from [uua.org](#). These over 200 unique visitors have resulted in only 6 people (12% of our visitors since mid September) identifying themselves as coming because of the advertising – significantly lower that average for the Bay Area. We are continuing to monitor this and working with the

marketing team to better understand what is happening, but at this point our visitor trend is about the same as last year.



Canvass Update

After a very successful 2006 canvass, Susan Lankford and Jane Middleton have agreed to chair a second year with the theme “Nurture your spirit, help heal the world”, the tag line for the national campaign. Look for another well run campaign, with some surprises in store!

Rental Update

We are meeting next week with a school that is very interested in renting the space currently occupied by Montessori – this will be their third visit to the property.

SPECIAL REPORT TO THE UUCB BOARD

ON SERVICE – November 2007

End Statement on Service: UUCB is a community where people of all ages are encouraged to participate actively in ministry, service, and outreach, and to work for peace and social justice in the world.

This special report on Service is organized in two sections: the first covers the service priorities chosen by the congregation, and the second the results for objectives that have been set by the Coordinating Team. There is a significant amount of information in the Annual Report, as most of our Social Justice activities are carried out by the committees of this church, and we have chosen to not repeat all that information here. Readers are encouraged to read the section on Social Justice, pages 50-56 in the 2006-2007 Annual Report, which gives a more complete view of last year's committee activities. We also apologize for the good work of the members we have missed describing, so please consider this representative though not a complete report of a church of 500!

Note: links in blue can be clicked to give the reader more information if the report is read online and the reader is also connected to the Internet.

I. Congregational Priorities

Service priorities selected through the "dot voting" process for 2007-2008 include:

- becoming a "green" sanctuary
- implementing fair compensation for staff
- signing a covenant of collaboration with the UU Legislative Ministry of California.

We are well on our way to becoming a Green Sanctuary. This is a formal program created by the [UU Ministry for Earth](#).

We have also made significant progress on fair compensation, though we do not yet have a recommendation from the Board on what the targets should be. All staff other than the ministers are at least at minimum UUA guidelines, with all but our lowest paid custodians and a relatively new employee above mid-point. All three ministers are still below UUA minimums.

Signing a covenant of collaboration with the [UU Legislative Ministry of California](#)

is ably led by Lee Lawrence, who is identifying people within the congregation to be contacts points for the UULMCA in four areas: health care, marriage equality, water/global warming, and reclaiming democracy. Lee anticipates bringing the covenant to UUCB through the Coordinating Team either this month (November) or next.

II. Service Objectives

The following section includes “nested ends” established by the Board of Trustees, objectives established by the Coordinating Team (with input from various committees), and the results this year for each objective:

***Nested ends are numbered and in bold**

**Current year objectives from the draft strategic plan are in italics*

*Results are in regular type

- 1. Members share the principles and values of Unitarian Universalism through their participation in social action and community service activities.**
- 2. UUCB supported committees and groups consistently participate in and provide leadership for local and global social action and community service.**

Increase participation in, and celebration of, our current service activities.

The “Bring Your Weight in Food” Drive in November 2006 raised over 6000 lbs of food and over \$7000, an increase over the previous year’s record-setting 5000 pounds of food and \$5000. People of all ages contributed and helped deliver the food to the Pantry.

Four members of our congregation attended a forum convened by front line providers-- social workers, doctors, teachers... regarding the violence in North Richmond at Bright Morning Star Church at Truman and Silver in North Richmond.

Over 200 stockings were decorated last December with inmates at the Pinole women’s detention facility with Dorothy Herzberg and Friends Outside.

The UU Young Adult Network and Tuesday evening Chalice Circle, ably led by Markate Daly, sponsored a blood drive in June, collecting enough to help save the lives of 120 people.

Good Neighbor donations of nearly \$25,000 went to local agencies and organizations.

UUCB members continued to help GRIP by preparing and serving dinners in the new [GRIP Community Shelter](#) (which has housed 68 people) with the Souper

Center (which feeds 200 people per day) every month. In response to a scheduled close of the Winter Shelter on October 8, UUCB people (including our co-ministers) participated in a “Harmony Walk for Hunger” that helped raise funds to match a \$50,000 grant that kept the center open.

The [UU Service Committee](#) continues the snack table, which contributed over \$3000 to UUCB and other organizations.

In its sixth year, the Summer Forum again featured an outstanding lineup, including speakers on the environment, animal rights, conditions at San Quentin, the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, and 8 Peace Corps volunteer veterans from UUCB.

Social justice is being brought more fully into our intergenerational work through the children’s collaborative play that started this fall, after religious education classes and in parallel with the 11:00 service: David Seaborg came and spoke with his creatures sponsored by the World Peace and Green committees on Sept. 23. Lee Lawrence led a session on the top concerns of the UU Legislative Ministry on Oct. 7, including a voting activity. They planted herbs and talked about water and environmental issues. Anne Greenwood and Belu, our Transylvanian scholar, talked about our Partner Church and the fundraising lunch - the kids helped set the tables and sell raffle tickets on Oct.21.

The next step with the Peace Committee and our youth group will be a tree planting project (locally and in Haiti as the selected international location) which will also be part of the UN Billion Tree Planting project and local environmental initiatives.

Thirteen UUCB members currently participate in the [The Read Aloud Volunteer Program](#), which recruits and places adult volunteers into inner-city public elementary schools to read aloud one on one to children. UUCB member Judy Sam is the program director.

We would again like to direct you to pages 50-56 of the 2005-2006 Annual Report for a much fuller account of the committee activities in this area. We intend to survey member’s overall participation in social justice and transformation activities as part of the strategic plan that is currently in discussion. We also intend to Increase the number of love and justice activities in identified communities for 07/08: LGBT, racially and religiously diverse, and growing suburbs to the north.

3. UUCB’s community ministries reach out to the community.

[Rev. Catherine Cox Burneo’s](#) outreach focus of the outreach is spiritual development in community. She just completed an intensive one year program of

study, the Committed Non-Violent Communication Practitioners Program, through [BayNVC](#) in Oakland and leads many workshops and events as part of her private practice, including leading a two day ministers' retreat for the South East UUMA Chapter in Atlanta.

In addition to her participation in the amicus brief press conference, Rev. Jane Ramsey's community outreach includes weddings and memorial services for the unchurched, and conducting the Animal Blessing for the Kensington Farmer's Market.

4. Members participate in the wider denominational community.

Stephanie Ann Blythe is serving on the Bay Area Advisory Board for the [Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry](#) at Pacific School of Religion. CLGS's mission is to advance the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and to transform faith communities and the wider society by taking a leading role in shaping a new public discourse on religion and sexuality through education, research, community building and advocacy. She brings the UU and transgender community viewpoints to the board.

UUCB members, led by Stephanie Ann, led a successful effort at General Assembly (GA) in Portland this past summer to pass an Action of Immediate Witness in support of a transgender inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. When the House of Representatives removed gender identity from the ENDA bill Stephanie Ann communicated with Bill Sinkford asking that the UUA support only a transgender inclusive ENDA and not support an ENDA without it, in accordance with the AIW.

Our co-ministers Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway were chosen to give the sermon for the [Service of the Living Tradition at GA in Portland](#), which is a very special service that recognizes ministers at various milestones. In addition, Barbara preached the sermon and Bill gave the charge to the congregation at the ordination of Telos Whitfeld in New Hampshire and Vermont, at Meghan Conrad's installation in Grass Valley, CA, and the ordination of Lisa Sargent at the Mount Diablo congregation.

Together Bill and Barbara offered the charge to the congregation at the installation of the Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig in Stockton and preached the sermon at the installation of Rev. Kathleen Owens at First UU San Diego.

Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway and Rev. Chris Holton Jablonski were selected to create some of the new UUA ["Tapestry of Faith"](#) online curriculum. Barbara's ["Spirit of Life"](#), is currently in beta test and provides full downloads of materials for 9 workshops designed to deepen spiritual awareness and connections. Chris helped create an eight session class that explores Miracles and is designed for 3rd and 4th graders or for Intergenerational groups.

Co-ministers Bill and Barbara and Revs. Jane Ramsey, Lisa Sargent, Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar, and seminarian Sonja Sukalski participated in the Marriage Equality Press Conference and Worship Rally in San Francisco with interfaith religious clergy.

Anne Greenwood is a networker for the UU Partner Church Council, supporting 5 UU churches and their international partners. She also serves on the Board of [Project Harvest Hope](#) and on the Balazs scholar task force, bringing Transylvanian Unitarian ministers for a year of study at Starr King.

Linda Laskowski currently facilitates the Regional Marketing gUUerillas (RMg), which is a Bay Area wide group that looks for low cost ways to publicize our faith. The RMg placed over 25 ads (both print and electronic) to supplement the Bay Area Marketing campaign, and got excellent publicity around the campaign in over 6 local newspapers. Lee Lawrence is also a strong contributing member of the gUUerillas, and Steve Caramia used his graphic design talents to adapt the marketing materials for the RMg placements.

Linda also serves our district as UUA Trustee from the Pacific Central District. Look for her [blog on UUA issues](#).

Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway did a GA workshop on *Spirit moving Within Families Among Families and Beyond*, Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo on *Creating a Covenant of Right Relations*, and Linda Laskowski on [Congregations Count](#). Rev. Cat also did one for Ministry Days prior to GA. Barbara presented a family Evensong at the Liberal Religious Educators Association.

Lee Lawrence remains on the boards of the UU Legislative Ministry California Action Network and the UU Legislative Ministry California. Though member Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek left her UULMCA board position in June to pursue her internship in Harrisburg, PA, she is using her experience well as her congregation is taking the lead in forming the [UU Pennsylvania Advocacy Network](#). We are everywhere!

5. We develop strong relationships with neighboring churches.

Lee Lawrence and Rev. Jeffrey Lambkin, representing UUCB, attended the Greater Richmond interfaith meeting on immigration and congregations.

Co-ministers Bill and Barbara have had regular meetings with the San Francisco and Oakland ministers and all three of our ministers participate in the Pacific Central District UU Ministers Association (UUMA) and are part of the collegial study group "Sparks for Growth". Bill and Barbara serve as Continuing Education representatives on the PCD UU Ministers Association Executive Committee and participate in the UUMA Clergy Couples Associations. They

arranged for the Larry Peers Workshop for colleagues and for the PCD Growth Day, and for Peter Morales to present to PCD religious professionals: administrators, ministers, directors of religious education. Barbara serves on the PCD Nominating Committee.

Linda Laskowski gave the Association Sunday sermon at Mt. Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek.

6. UUCB has strong ties to its partner church in Transylvania.

The [Transylvania Partner Church](#) Committee has raised money for matching funds toward a milk cooling tank in our partner church village to meet standards imposed by the European Union upon Romania's accession to the EU. This is important for the economic viability of the village and sustaining the Unitarian way of life in Transylvania. We also raised funds to assist our partner church in eradicating an infestation of "weeping mushroom" fungus in the church. The latest fund raising effort, "Food for Thought", is part of a nationwide drive to support the building of a cafeteria and dining room in the Unitarian school and seminary in Koloszar, Transylvania. Ongoing programs fund scholarships for village students to attend secondary school.

7. UUCB values social justice in its own operations.

Please see the information on fair compensation in the beginning of this report.

We continue to value the efforts of everyone in this community who has contributed so much to insuring that

UUCB is a community where people of all ages are encouraged to participate actively in ministry, service, and outreach, and to work for peace and social justice in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Coordinating Team

*Christopher Craethnenn
Barbara Hamilton-Holway
Bill Hamilton-Holway
Linda Laskowski
Tim Weitzel*