



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

June 1, 2021

From the Pastor

God is Watching

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd's life was snuffed out under the knees of police officers. Minneapolis erupted in the wake of the cellphone footage. Protests and anguish spilled over into the streets across the nation and world. We wish this was isolated incident. But as each subsequent incident happened, long simmering rage became our collective liturgy.



As we look back on the past year, I find myself wondering what we have learned. Here are some things:

- **Black Lives Matter.** So do lives of our BIPOC and AAPI friends.
- **Systemic racism is real.** It is enmeshed in our lives. How we respond to this awakening is important.

- **Words matter.** Our words can calm or enflame a volatile situation.
- **For every incident that is recorded and broadcast, there are many more that happen in the shadows.**
- **Trauma has memory.** Seeing a video or hearing an insult can trigger a fight or flight response.
- **There is a tremendous well of generosity in our city and world.** Just look at the people who provided food, water, clothing, brooms and shovels in the aftermath of the uprisings.
- **There is a need for a new narrative of hope and resilience** to pervade our community. Or is it an old narrative that we need to remember or translate for a new generation?
- **We need our faith communities to help ground us** in the eternal stories of hope and liberation.
- **There are good people within law enforcement.** There is also a culture that has tolerated and even encouraged racial profiling, and unequal enforcement of law.

Continued on page 2

Pastor – continued

- **The land on which our church sits is land that ought to belong to the Dakota people,** but for broken treaties by our ancestors. How we are stewards of this corner of 13th and University (and its history) ought to inform our collective lives.
- **Calm should not be confused with peace.**
- **Justice should not be confused with accountability.**
- **There is a huge well of wisdom and bravery that is looking to be tapped.**

As Mordecai said to Esther, “Perhaps you have been given royal standing for such a time as this.” Maybe we are the ones for whom God has been waiting.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Page 1 photo of tulips in the UBC garden by Jim Ross

2020-21 UBC Worship Theme:
“Repairing the Breach/ Restoring the Streets”
Isaiah 58:12

			<i>Worship Leader</i>
June 6	“Well Done”	Matthew 25:14-30	Gayla Marty
June 13	“Worship and Work”	Mark 2:23-3:6	Jean Lubke
June 20	“Seeds”	Mark 4:26-34	John Medeiros
June 27	“God of Rainbow”	Revelation 4:1-11	Harriet Johnson



UBC’s annual meeting will be held virtually on June 13. The annual report was sent out electronically on May 30. We will have some hard copies available, if you would like one mailed to you.

We will meet as usual at 9 am for Joys and Concerns via Zoom, 10 am for worship on the church lawn, and the annual meeting will follow at 11:30 am using the same link as Joys and Concerns.

We'll hear reports and vote on the budget, the slate of officers put together by the talent team and then reconvene as the UBC Foundation to vote on the annual payout from our endowed funds.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility. The UBC Council believes that this is the most efficient and safest way for us to hold our annual meeting.

In July and August we are going to pull sermon topics out of a grab bag. If you have suggestions, please send them to pastor@ubcmn.org. Doug will make sure that the topics get put in the grab bag. Of course, if you come to an in-person outdoor church service you can submit your suggestion(s) in the grab bag. This year, we will be selecting topics two weeks before, giving us a bit more time to come up with content for the services.

Calendar for June 2021

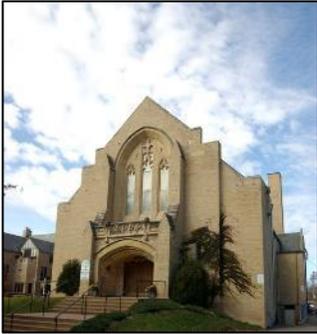
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7 pm Memoir Group	6 pm Choir 7:15 pm Bells	10 am Garden Team 6:30 pm Caregivers Support Group		9 am Bible Study
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship 11 am Tai bday party			6:15 pm Bells	10 am Garden Team		1 pm Book Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting		7 pm Memoir Group	6:15 pm Bells	10 am Garden Team		9 am Bible Study
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship 11:15 am Council	7 pm Knitting Group		6:15 pm Bells	10 am Garden Team	<i>Newsletter deadline</i>	
27	28	29	30			
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship		7 pm Memoir Group	6:15 pm Bells			

Please note – the following reoccurring meetings are on hiatus for the summer:

- Forums
- Spanish classes
- Anti-racism film group
- Guided meditation
- Choir meets June 2, and off until Aug. 25

Everyone in the **Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice** cohort (this includes UBC) will be asked to complete an online survey in this fall. Here is a [link](#) to sign up to receive digital communications from the Alliance of Baptists, which is how the survey will be distributed. The more people who complete the form, the more data we will collect, and the data we collect will be more accurate and representative of your congregation — as well as of the Alliance of Baptists! Please complete the form so the survey will land in your inbox. **Thank you!**

What's Going On



Sunday Mornings

9 am – Joys & Concerns via Zoom

10 am – Worship (on the church lawn, weather dependent)

We will continue to have prerecorded services available, too. We will also continue to meet on Zoom before and after the 10 am worship hour. At 10 am, we will close out the Zoom meeting. **You can watch the recorded service by clicking on the link you'll find at <http://www.ubcmn.org>.** If we cannot meet outdoors at 10 am due to inclement weather, Pastor Doug will send an email at 8 am.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>

Memoir Writing Group – June 1, 15 & 29 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

All are welcome! Come share your stories, and listen and give feedback to others. Feel free to write about anything you'd like. Here are some new ideas for prompts: turquoise, bread, sports. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 810 6944 9838 passcode: 244380

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069449838?pwd=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYIFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>



Choir Practice – Wed., June 2 at 6 pm in person. After June 2, the choir will take a break and will come back to rehearsals on Aug. 25.

Bells Practice – Wed., June 2 at 7:15 pm and subsequent Wed. at 6:15 pm in the church sanctuary.



Garden Team – Thursdays at 10 am

Come help beautify our church gardens! We have tools and gloves available, and will mostly work on weeding, pruning and watering. Park in the Mormon lot or behind the church. Feel free to join us whenever you're available! If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com.

More of What's Going On



Caregivers Support Group – June 3 (1st Thurs.) at 6:30 pm on the church lawn (or in the lounge if bad weather.) UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have questions, please contact Jean Lubke at lubk0001@umn.edu.

Bible Study – June 5 & 19 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am.

The Bible Study Group will continue reading the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 3 and 4. This letter has been important in the life and worship of UBC. The Affirmation most often spoken during Sunday worship is based on Galatians 3:26-28. New and occasional members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at DianeEhr@q.com.



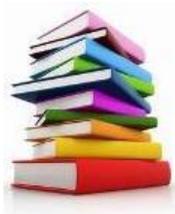
ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 886 6992 0103 passcode: 613038
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88669920103?pwd=dnozWEYzQUh1RU5HUTFWcVd3ZFY1Zz09>



Celebration of Tai Shigaki's 100th Birthday – Sun. June 6 during and after the church service on the lawn. Join Tai and her friends and family to celebrate her birthday with cake after the church service. Cards are welcome!

Meals on Wheels – Mon-Thurs, June 7-10 over the lunch hour

We are back to our schedule of delivering meals on Mon-Thurs. of the first full week of the month. Typically, a volunteer signs up for one day of the week and picks up/ delivers 7-8 meals to homes or apartments in the SE Mpls area over about 2 hours. If you are interested in being a volunteer or want to know more, please contact Marie LaFrance at 763-220-8909 or marielafrence46@gmail.com.



UBC Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – June 12 (2nd Sat.) at 1 pm. The book this month is *How to Forget: A Daughter's Memoir* by Kate Mulgrew. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 815 2376 4072 password 525996
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82720573517?pwd=VHM4M0paV0IEKzVzQjZuZkI3aVluUT09> -

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – June 21 (3rd Mon.) at 7 pm at the home of Jean Lubke. We will sit outdoors if the weather is nice, or indoors if not. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

NOTE: This is a change in schedule from the second Monday to the third Monday of the month going forward.



Letter from our sister church in León, Nicaragua

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Douglas
University Baptist Church:

The joy of the Lord be in the heart of all of you in these days and in the coming days.

I address you on behalf of the Second Church, we would like first of all to know, how have you been? Are you already coming together after more than a year of the pandemic? We are well, thanks to God, gathering only on Sundays and some other days for special activities scheduled, always taking care of our health.

Our school is active. We are thankful that our students are healthy. We continue to follow prevention measures and parents are committed to educating the children.

We want to share our news with you. With the arrival of Pastor Miguel, our church is striving for evangelization, bringing more souls to the kingdom of God. We are in the process of formalizing a Christian mission of the Second Church outside the city of León. A married couple has been appointed to lead this mission. It is located in the city of León and has its own space, but the church is still to be built.



Also, we have a vision, a dream. We are searching for financial resources to purchase a large space that has a 200 square meter building, built as a sanctuary. This church is for sale because the pastors are sick. It is a beautiful place about 4 kilometers from the city of León, and has many families in its surroundings. We are sharing this dream with you so that if you know any organization or ministry that is passionate about supporting this type of Christian mission, please let us know.

We ask you to lead us in your prayers for these dreams. We are excited about this new direction and believe God to be helping in everything. A hug from all the brothers.

Lesbia Escoto

Translation from Spanish by Anielka Montiel

Some 2nd graders from Colegio Bautista
in León and Isabel de la Cruz.

Summer Worship Plans

For June and July, we will:

- **Continue to create pre-recorded services** that will be found at links on our website (www.ubcmn.org)
- **Hold services outdoors, weather dependent.** Physically distanced seating of household pods will continue during outdoor worship. Once the service begins and people are seated, the worship leader will announce that people can lower or remove their masks as they stay seated. When sharing joys and concerns and when singing, they will put them back in place. At the end of the service, the worship leader will announce that masks should be put back in place, and stay in place while visiting/in the yard after the service. Physical distancing is required when unmasked. These services will not be live-streamed or recorded.
- **Continue to have a Zoom Joys and Concerns beginning at 9 am**
- **Not hold Zoom Coffee Time after the service or forums, which is our normal summer practice.**
- **Not have any in-person service if the weather does not permit.** Pastor Doug will make the decision by 8 am Sunday via email to cancel the in-person service.

We will not have joint services with First Congregational Church this summer as in years past.

As we come back together, we will be making a few changes to our former worship traditions:

- **Communion** will be set up on multiple tables to keep elements separate and avoid crowds around a single communion table. We will use plastic disposable cups and cut pieces of bread separated on multiple plates. We individually will bring the elements back to our seats, wait for all to receive them, and then partake together.
- We may include the blessing and response of “Peace Be With You” and “And Also with you” in the service, but **we will not leave our seats or have physical contact with each other** (no shaking hands, hugs, etc.)
- **Offering** will not take place during the service. **Look for a box** at the usher’s table - and remember you can donate to UBC online now.

Hopefully, in August, we will begin to celebrate together in the sanctuary - pandemic permitting. We are investigating equipment that would allow us to live stream services from the sanctuary and incorporate some pre-recorded pieces (ex. Spanish scripture readings from Nicaragua) in the live service.

We are looking for people who are willing to help with some of the technology (sound, camera, etc.) on a rotating basis. If you are interested, please contact me.

Jean Lubke, Worship Chair

All About Tai Shigaki in Honor of her 100th Birthday

(as told to Howard Johnson)



Photo of Tai from the Denison University Magazine.

Tell us about your birth and early childhood

+ I was born in Gardena, California on June 10, 1921 to immigrant parents from Japan. I had two sisters and one brother of which I was the youngest and one sister deceased at an early age. I grew up in that community attending Sunday school and church in the Baptist church.

What path did your life take following high school?

+ I enrolled in college in Redland, California for a short period and then attended Los Angeles Community College. After the war broke out with Japan, I was moved to a Relocation Camp in the desert. My parents moved to Salt Lake City, Utah and my sister and brother-in-law were moved to Arkansas. After three months in the Relocation Camp, I received a scholarship from the American Baptist Convention to attend Denison University in Granville, Ohio where I majored in physical education. *Read more about Tai's experiences in the Relocation camp in this [article](#).*

Was that the end of your formal education?

+ Well, no. I had planned to become a phys. ed. teacher, but I became more involved with the church and soon discovered that God had other plans for me. I moved to Massachusetts and enrolled at the Andover Newton Seminary where I completed the

requirements for the Masters of Arts degree in Religious Education.

Where was your first employment?

+ My first job was in a church in Honolulu, Hawaii where I was in charge of the church for summer while the minister took a much-needed vacation.

So, complete your work history forward to your retirement.

+ For my next employment, I received an internship at Calvary Baptist Church in Minneapolis where I worked at a community center in North Minneapolis. Fortunately, my sister and brother-in-law had settled here after the war and provided a reuniting of my family.

I moved on from there to become the Director of the University YWCA where I worked with students at the U of M for a few years while also studying for the Masters of Arts degree in Social Work.

Upon the completion of the Social Work degree, I landed a job with the Minnesota Department of Corrections where I became the Assistant Director of the Women's Prison at Shakopee. I later became Director of Training for all Minnesota Department of Corrections employees. Finally, I retired from the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources for the Department of Corrections.

How and when did you find UBC?

+ When I began working at Calvary Baptist, I was living with my sister in St Paul. Taking the bus became too inconvenient for me, so I moved to Prospect Park where I became roommates with Harriet Johnson who worked at UBC. At the invitation from Harriet, I started attending UBC and became a member in 1957. I sang in the choir for many years and helped with numerous other functions throughout the years. I also became a
Continued on page 9

Tai – continued

delegate to several American Baptist Boards and have traveled all over the world on specific assignments.

What do you like most about UBC?

+ I have really appreciated the superb leadership that has always been present at this Church.

What surprises do you embrace?

+ Well, I guess that one of the biggest surprises occurred in September of 2007 when at age 86 I experienced my very first marriage to a widower, Spencer Parsons, whom I had known in both college and seminary. I moved to be with him in Worchester, Massachusetts. I remained there until 2013 when my husband passed away. I then returned to Minnesota and to 1666 Coffman in Falcon Heights. *Read more about Tai and Spencer in this [article](#).*

Is there anything else that we would be surprised to learn about?

+ I think that most people would be surprised to learn that I know very little about Japanese culture. I was not raised in those surroundings at all.



So, now the proverbial question—what do you attribute to living such a long life?

+ Well, I am the last family member of my generation. I constantly ask, why am I still living? I guess I eat right, try to live right, keep healthy hours and socialize with the right kind of people.

How is your health?

+ Earlier this year, I saw my doctor for my annual physical exam. It turned out to be a social visit as we spent the time talking about old times because I have no health problems or concerns. I am taking no pills and have no diagnosis.

What do you eat for breakfast? Cold cereal mostly.

What is your favorite type of music?

+ Church music and I love “Blest Be The Tie that Binds.”

Indeed and blest be the Tai that binds!!!!

Please join us on June 6 for birthday cake after the service on the church lawn!

June Birthdays

- 4 Melissa Mavity
- 6 Dylan Ross
- 7 Chang Kiu Lee
- 10 Tai Shigaki
- 11 Curt Naumann
- 14 Hal Gold, Shirley Roy, Deborah Shaw
- 17 Laura Shaw-Wright
- 19 Kevin Branting
- 22 Randy DeMent, Vicki Wilson
- 23 Rebecca Lee, Liz Weinfurter

June Anniversaries

- 2 John Medeiros & John Rossakis
- 5 Diane & Alan Ehr
- 9 Anne & Roger Johnson
- 11 Carrie & Jonathan Lubke
- 15 Shirley & Mel Roy
- 21 Sara & Matt Lovat
- 23 Luisa Garmers & Will Murphy

President's Column

THRIVING for Racial Justice

I am writing this on the anniversary of the day George Floyd died under the knee of Derek Chauvin. It is a day of mourning and rage, but it is also a day of hope. Hope for deep, sustained racial reckoning kindled by a renewed commitment to racial justice.



participants discussed questions about mission, messages, money, ministry, and mentors viewed in terms of our current understanding of key realities of racial justice. We took a different perspective for each discussion—the broader world, church practices, and church priorities.

A concrete source of hope for the UBC community comes from our participation in the 5-year THRIVE project, more specifically *Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice*, a project of the Alliance of Baptists in partnership with the Lilly Endowment and Sociologists of Race and Religion. UBC is one of 27 participating churches spanning 19 states and two Canadian provinces.

On Saturday, May 22, Pastor Doug and I attended a 5-hour introductory gathering for clergy and lay representatives from the THRIVE churches. To prepare, participants watched a compelling [interview by Alliance President Michael-Ray Mathews of Robert Jones](#), author of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*. We also read an essay entitled [The invention of whiteness: the long history of a dangerous idea](#), by Robert P. Baird. These powerful, provocative messages set the stage for the important racial justice work that will take place throughout the 5-year THRIVE project. (I recommend both; hence, the links.)

The meeting provided a rich and exciting introduction to the THRIVE directors, cohort representatives, goals, and structure. After introductions and a large group exploration of the Alliance's new, and very moving, [Covenant and Mission](#), much of the time was spent on three small group discussions. In groups of about five,

The hours flew by and left us longing for more time to discuss the fascinating and challenging questions presented, as well as to get to know each other in more depth. We were assured that those opportunities will come, but patience is decidedly a virtue in this project and in the larger project toward racial justice. At several points, we were reminded that the larger project is a generations-long effort that requires faith and commitment. Amen!

Over the remaining months of 2021, UBCers will have opportunities to participate in the THRIVE project, including a day-long training in June for a few lay members of each cohort church, a church-wide anonymous survey in September, and sociologist-led interviews of five to seven UBC veterans in October and November. Widespread participation in the survey is critical to shed meaningful light on where we stand, as individuals and as a church body, in the journey toward racial justice.

Please signal your interest in participating and provide contact information using the brief form at this [link](#). If you would like help accessing or completing the survey, please contact Trista McGovern at info@ubcmn.org or 612-331-1768.

– Denise Roy

Special Offering for May and June Ministries for Refugees and Sanctuary

The special offerings for May and June will go toward ministries for refugees and sanctuary. We all know that the past 5 years have been a very challenging time for those seeking refuge or asylum in our country. While we hope that the election will lead to new policies, that has not yet been the case. Yet the number of people fleeing their homes because of war, ethnic cleansing, environmental disaster, and uncontrolled violent crime is at an all-time high. Sometimes our own government policies have led to the conditions that cause people to flee their country. We have used these offerings in the past to support organizations like Refugee Services at the Minnesota Council of Churches and our own sanctuary coalition. Please consider a gift to our May and June special offering to support our work to welcome the stranger

- Mindy Lee

Online Giving Available

You can now donate funds electronically via the UBC website. Here's how it works. First, go to ubcmn.org and scroll down to the middle of the page and click on "[Giving](#)" under "Quick Links." You will have several options for donations (pledge, Fellowship Fund, mission offering, etc.).

Click on one of them and indicate how much and often you want to give. Please choose the option to add a small amount to your gift to help reduce processing fees. You may want to set up an account with Vanco, our administrator, to keep track of your giving. If you have any questions, please see Denise Roy or Nancy Myers.

UBC Building Use Until Further Notice

Effective Monday, May 17, the UBC building will be open to all renters, staff, and visitors with the following guidelines:

- Groups may be no larger than 10 people in one space (including the sanctuary) without church permission.
- Social distancing of no less than 6 feet must take place.
- All people must wear masks in the common areas of the building (entryways, halls, bathrooms, kitchen, lounge, sanctuary, etc.). They must wear masks in their own spaces IF there is more than one person in the room.

Groups of fully vaccinated individuals may meet indoors without masks and without social distancing in the Lounge or Room 303, provided that windows must be open so as to provide cross-ventilation and members of such groups must sign a written acknowledgement they have been fully vaccinated and are free of COVID symptoms. Further details about the written acknowledgement will be posted on the UBC website. When eating indoors, even in groups of fully vaccinated individuals, all must maintain 6 feet physical distancing. Unvaccinated people must remain masked at all times in all spaces, except that individuals may be unmasked when alone in their own spaces.



Church in the out of doors

It takes a village! Many hands help put up the cantankerous tent.



Many folks opted to sit in the sun for warmth at the service on Mother's Day, May 9.

Photos by Jim Ross



Join the UBC Facebook Group and see more photos!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/82471051272/photos/>

Oldie but Goodie!!

(thanks to Jean Lubke for digging this out of the archives!)

Ode to Jean

by Tony Garmers

Presented Jan. 23, 1994 at the 143rd Annual Meeting, to Jean Lubke, outgoing UBC president (at the end of the first of her many terms)

Here's to our past Prez, our own "Jean the Lub,"
Who carried on her duties without one little flub,
From her thorough and professional chairing of church meetings,
We conclude that we're thankful we don't do floggings and beatings.
We try to come to conclusions based on logic and reason,
But with this group that could take the better part of a season
Without a firm hand on the helm and a course that's well set.
Jean's part of the voyage was smooth, and the way-points all met.
Her disposition through it all made it plain to be seen,
That our President most surely was not a "blue Jean."
She was persistent but patient, she had grace, wit and charm.
She was, dare we say it, a most consummate church marm.
And we say that of course with the words best sense taken.
Jean did all that she did and appeared not to be shaken
The least little bit by any comments or preaching;
And all for a wage far less even than for teaching.
And thanks to Jonathan and Michael for being good guys;
If only for leaving Jean alone they deserve praise to the skies.
So each of you remind them, and to their mommy most clever
Give a "personal hi Jean" to the cleanest church president ever.
Now with copious thanks and best wishes abundant,
(And we'll leave it at that so we're not too redundant),
We bid a fond fare-well to our ex-president.
We're grateful you're not going, but will still be resident.



Every Meal invites you to a **2021 Partner Appreciation Open House** to show appreciation of your role in helping fight child hunger in our communities.

When: Wednesday, June 9, 8am – 11 am

Where: *Every Meal* Warehouse, 2723 Patton Road, Roseville 55113

Please [RSVP](#) to Charlie Dornfeld at cdornfeld@everymeal.org or 612-276-2558.

** Your health and safety are a top priority during this event. We will follow social distancing protocols, require face masks, and include an outdoor option.*

**Building an Antiracist America—
A Conversation between Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and
NAZ President & CEO, Sondra Samuels**

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) is proud to welcome New York Times best-selling author of *How to Be an Antiracist* and *Stamped from the Beginning*, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, for a free, live-streamed event, on **Wednesday, June 9, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. CST.**

Click [HERE](#) to register.



Yellow tulips in the church garden.

Photo by Jim Ross

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Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Deadlines: 10th and 25th of the month.
Please send contributions to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
Starting in July, the newsletter will be published once a month, instead of twice, as it has been since April 2020.