

# Getting Connected

At the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

December 2011

*These events and opportunities are open to all. Interested but need to learn? We'll teach you!*

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## WORSHIP

- Sunday Services.** Two services, 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. The worship theme for December is *Wonder*. The Children's Religious Education program is at 9:15. Childcare is available from 9 AM–12:15 PM. Special winter holiday service information below.
- Meditation with Aaron,** every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:30 to 9 AM in the Sanctuary.
- Community Social Time** is between our Sunday services, 10:15-11:00 AM. Stay after the 9:15 service – come before the 11:00 service.
- Chancel Choir.** Love to sing? Join our non-audition choir that sings 2 times a month at both services. Rehearsal, Thursdays 7-9 PM. Ken Ryals, [music@ussb.org](mailto:music@ussb.org), 965-4583 x240.
- Women's Chorale.** Enjoy singing with a group of dedicated women? Join our non-audition women's chorale that sings once a month at both services. Rehearsals are the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 10am-12 noon. Ken Ryals, [music@ussb.org](mailto:music@ussb.org), 965-4583 x240.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Alliance Holiday Meeting,** Friday, December 2, 2 PM Parish Hall. The Westmont college music department string quartet will play for us. All welcome.
- Elf Movie Night & Chili Dinner:** Friday, December 2, 6 PM, Parish Hall with Alan (Buddy the Elf) Edmundson. Must purchase ticket \$10 for adults, children under 12 free, 965-4583 or [assistant@ussb.org](mailto:assistant@ussb.org).
- Santa Barbara Children's Choir Performance,** Wednesday, December 7, 7 PM, Sanctuary. The theme is "Peace, Love and Joy" and will include many holiday favorites, sung both as solos and in chorus. Ticket donation \$5 at the door.
- Multigenerational Holiday Craft Party,** Sunday, December 11, 9:15 AM Parish Hall. A well-loved USSB tradition for all ages. We will be decorating our Holiday Tree too!
- Holiday Radio Play,** December 9, 10, 11. Friday & Saturday at 7 PM; Sunday at 2:30 PM. Child-friendly performances of the holiday classic, A Christmas Carol, staged as a radio drama. Tickets: \$15 adults; \$5 children under 12.
- Santa Barbara Master Chorale Holiday Concert,** Sunday, December 11, 7 PM. Enjoy Christmas musical favorites in the USSB Sanctuary, followed by a party in Parish Hall. \$20 general, \$10 children.
- Winter Celebration** Sunday, December 18. The Multigenerational Christmas Pageant, 9:15AM service, features our children. The 11 AM solstice service lead by Rev. Aaron McEmrys titled In Winter's Grasp will explore some of the harrowing blessings of spiritual winter even as we await the coming Spring. Plan to attend both services, enjoy yummy food offered by the YRUU youth (proceeds benefit their mission trip) and attend Aaron's book signing at Community hour.
- A Special Service: "Standing Outside the Season",** Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 PM, starting in the Sanctuary and ending in the Labyrinth. An alternative worship service for everyone who needs a place to find peace with some of the hard edges of the holiday season, a place for grief amidst joy. Come and light a candle in the darkness with us.
- Christmas Eve Services,** Saturday, December 24. Three distinct services: 5PM: Bluegrass Family Christmas; 7 PM: Lessons and Carols; 9 PM: Celtic Christmas featuring Celtic harpist Patrick Ball.
- Christmas Day Service,** Sunday, December 25, 10 AM. "First Thing Christmas Morning" please join us for a very special come-as-you-are Christmas morning of spirit, story and song. Bunny slippers and bathrobes welcome!!

## JUST FOR FUN

**Cheers:** Relax with friends at El Paseo's happy hour, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, December 19, 4:30-6pm, for Dutch treat half-price drinks and appetizers. Look for Sally and Mark Hamilton 962-1402, [mhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:mhamilton@gmail.com).

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Outreach Offerings:** Our Christmas Eve service collections will be split between KIVA, micro lending and the Freedom Warming Centers. Contact Rev. Julia Hamilton. See [www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org) and Kaleidoscope.

**Donations for the Food Bank:** We are accepting donations of non-perishable foods through December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PASTORAL CARE

**USSB Care Team:** Nurturing a spirit of connection and support in times of need. [USSBcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:USSBcareteam@gmail.com) or call the Care Team hotline: 805-265-3681. Messages are confidential.

**Principled Recovery:** A UU-based addiction recovery group. Contact Julie Sullwold: [jules1950@gmail.com](mailto:jules1950@gmail.com)

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education 965-4583 x229 [lifespan@ussb.org](mailto:lifespan@ussb.org)*

**Children's RE Classes** Sundays at 9:15 service. For information contact Tracey: [re@ussb.org](mailto:re@ussb.org).

**YRUU our High School Youth group** Sundays at 4 PM in Blake Lounge. Contact Elizabeth at [YRUU@ussb.org](mailto:YRUU@ussb.org)

**Parents' Day Out**, Saturday, December 10, 10 AM – 2 PM: \$10/first child, \$5/additional children. Swing by Starr King, drop off the kids then head out for some pre-holiday kid free time. Make reservation with Tracey, [re@ussb.org](mailto:re@ussb.org).

**Prayer Workshop**, December 12, 7 PM, LaPaz Lounge. Drop ins welcome. All forms of prayer are explored and honored. Diana Cecala, [dcecala@earthlink.com](mailto:dcecala@earthlink.com).

**Pageant Rehearsal**, required for participation, Saturday, December 17, 9-11 AM. In the Sanctuary.

## MEMBERSHIP & AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS

**Meditation with Aaron**, every Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

**Game Night**, Friday, December 2, 6:30-9:30, Jefferson Hall. (Free Child Care w/ 10-day advance notice).

**Getting Acquainted**, December 4, 1-2:30 PM, Jefferson Hall.

**Esperanto Circle**, Saturday, December 10, 2:00 PM, LaPaz Lounge. Dorothy Holland, 687-5241.

**UU Guest Orientation** December 11 at 10:30 AM, Reception Office Join USSB Membership Committee members for conversation about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism.

**The Women's Group**. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 7 PM, LaPaz Lounge. All women are invited. Kathy Eastman, [eastmankathy@yahoo.com](mailto:eastmankathy@yahoo.com), 682-1950. No meeting on Christmas.

**Early Morning Exercise**. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 6-7:30 AM, & Saturdays 7-8:30 AM, Parish Hall. Free to USSB members.

**Yoga Classes with Lark**. Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 PM, in Jefferson Hall. Appropriate for all ages and levels of experience. \$50/ month; \$10 drop-in.

**Wednesday Book Discussion**. Wednesday evenings, 7 PM, Classroom B. Discuss short stories or essays weekly & three or four novels a year with periodic potlucks. Gene Waller, 968-7955.

**Toastmasters Club #5**. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 AM, Parish Hall. Polish your public speaking and leadership skills, all welcome. Bart Woolery, 682 5814. No meetings December 20 or 27.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

**Office Volunteer**. Help with phones, mailings and special projects once a week or on an "as needed". Carol at [assistant@ussb.org](mailto:assistant@ussb.org) or 965-4583 x224.

**Sunday Morning Greeters**. Smile and say hello to members and visitors on an as-needed basis.

**Flower Committee**. Discover creativity and calm as you arrange flowers for Sunday services. Donnis Galvan, [donniscalvan@gmail.com](mailto:donniscalvan@gmail.com), 453-6374.

☐ **Ushers.** Pass out programs and collect money once a month during Sunday worship services. Fun and easy!  
Carol, [assistant@ussb.org](mailto:assistant@ussb.org), 965-4583 x224. Training provided – join our team - we need more ushers!