

"WE SEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN A WELCOMING AND CARING COMMUNITY"

KALEIDOSCOPE

July 5-18, 2008

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

Joy Atkinson, *Interim Minister*

Words of Joy Interim Minister's Farewell Column

*I wish to begin my summer well; to do something in it worthy of it
and me; to transcend my daily routine...to have my immortality
now...in the quality of my daily life!* HENRY DAVID THOREAU

The time has come for me to say "goodbye" to all of you. My last day in the pulpit will be June 29th, my last day in the office is July 2nd, and I will be leaving this beautiful area a few days after that. I will miss seeing the beautiful craggy mountains from my living room window, and the lovely blue ocean that is just minutes from anywhere in Santa Barbara. I will miss coming to the wonderful, and now changing, building and grounds that house the many and varied activities that take place here at USSB. Most of all, I will miss you—this warm and welcoming congregation!

We have accomplished much in this past interim year. Looking back on it all—the services, the many committee meetings, interim developmental tasks, building project events, leadership transitions, pastoral ministry, social justice efforts, seminars, special ceremonies, the look back at where USSB has come from historically at the beginning of the year and the look ahead at the end—I realize how thoroughly I have enjoyed being a part of the life of this fine congregation.

One thing that is necessary for a departing minister to do, is to say a clear and complete "goodbye." For twenty-five years before I became an interim minister six years ago, I was a settled minister, and though settled ministers must also at some point bid "farewell" to the congregations they serve, they don't usually start out knowing when the eventual "good-byes" will be uttered. We interims know from the outset that "hello" will be all-too-quickly

followed by "goodbye." But despite the fact that we are "temps," we come to feel connected to the congregations we serve, as a minister, interim or otherwise, naturally does with a congregation. I have felt a deep connection to you during this past year. But now, I must sever that connection, and make way for your new minister, Aaron McEmrys, who will form that special bond with you. It is a bittersweet task, and not an easy one. But I know that I will carry you in my heart to the next congregation I serve.

My next position at the Mission Peak UU congregation in Fremont, California, begins a few weeks after I leave here. I am planning on a restful, rejuvenating summer in between, and then another very busy year as an interim minister—this time with a smaller and much newer congregation that is growing, in a bustling, diverse, crowded and ever-expanding urban environment—quite a different situation! Nevertheless, I have found that UUs are UUs wherever we are, and I know that I will receive a warm welcome and support from the Fremont UUs, as I have this year from all of you. It has been a good and fruitful, albeit a short, run—more like a sprint. Thank you for all your great support of the work of your interim minister, and your good work on behalf of the Unitarian Society.

May your summer be restful, and your future bright!

Warmly, and very fondly, Joy

Sunday Morning 10:30

July 6

Who Are My People?

It is said that friends are the family we choose. We also choose the people we admire, people who inspire and inform us. Sometimes we meet someone and instantly feel a kinship with them. How does this happen? Why do we choose to identify with and participate in one community over another? And is being loving and open to all an unachievable aspiration? Is it even desirable? Join us as we explore the power inherent in our personal associations and UU fellowship.

Service Hosts: Ken Saxon and Peter Hale

July 13

Peace Out

We face extraordinary challenges in every area of life on earth as we move toward an uncertain future. However, one thing is quite certain, peace among the peoples of the earth is a prerequisite to meeting these challenges successfully. It is also said that peace in the world must first begin with us. In this service we will explore this theme and hear how some of us wrestle with dragons to find peace in our lives.

Service Hosts: Detty Peikert and Jody Thomas

Melitta's Musings

Melitta L. Haslund, Consulting Minister for Religious Education

"In a place like California, you can not possibly work for rights if you don't work for gay rights. You either believe in the rights of everyone or you are in the wrong business."

ALICE A. HUFFMAN, president, California NAACP

On the historic day of Tuesday, June 17th, Joy and I joined local religious leaders and stood in front of the Santa Barbara Court House to celebrate the right to legal marriage for gays and lesbians. We handed out roses and cheered as couples exited the Court House, license in hand! It was a jubilant, hope-filled time—the quintessential sort that is frozen in one's memory under the category of "the way things ought to be." I am sure that is also how I will feel on June 21st when I will sign a legal marriage license for Lauren and Allison Wyeth who have been married for 15 years.

In the midst of the merriment, my thoughts were drawn to the 15 year old, Lawrence King, who was killed this past winter in Ventura County by a classmate for his sexual preference and identification. My dream is that this Supreme Court ruling is a shining

beacon for growing acceptance and affirmation of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people; that we are finally learning how to live with respect for all people. It was too late for Lawrence, but let us hope intolerance is waning and love is on the rise!

This will be my last *Musings* for a while, as my family and I will be on vacation until July 21st. We will travel to Big Sur, Boston, Denmark, England and Chicago, visiting various family members. I will then take two weeks of Study Leave as I prepare for the coming year and will be on-call until August 15th if pastoral needs arise.

I have enjoyed this year and continue to feel honored to serve this congregation. I am glad to collaborate with our Ministerial Team, staff and the multitude of wonderful volunteers. I bid the Rev. Joy Atkinson and her dog Ralph farewell—and look forward to welcoming Rev. Aaron McEmrys and Eliza to our congregation.

Until August, *Melitta*

P.S. Please remember to save a bit of water from your summertime, as we will likely have our Ingathering Water Service in September.

Lifespan Religious Education News

We celebrate our graduating seniors: XXXXXXXX.

Congratulations and best wishes! We look forward to hearing about your next steps!

Summer Sundays: Building our Community and Our Future
All children and youth are invited to join us in Starr King on Sunday mornings. We ask that all parents and guardians of children and youth take them to Starr King at 10:30 AM, sign them in and retrieve them no later than Noon. Doughnuts will be served for all in Starr King. Because of the extensive construction, we will

only release the children and youth when their guardian or parent arrives to pick them up. We thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and youth safe.

Join the Summer Singers! Child care is offered at 9:45 AM with the hope parents will feel free to join in the singing! Come, sing in the Sanctuary with our new Adult Choir Director, Ken Ryals!

Adult Religious Education Council: We are grateful for the service of the Adult RE Council members: Don Bushnell, Lucinda Eileen, Karolyn Renard, Ken Saxon, Carol Quest and Chuck Wolfe. They are a dedicated bunch!

Fasten your seatbelt...

It's amazing how time flies by! It seemed like only yesterday that we were celebrating the retirements of Mahlon Balderston and Ken Collier, welcoming Joy Atkinson to Santa Barbara to start an interim ministry; getting our search committee formed for the long trek to find our next minister, discussing a search for a choir director, and last but not least, wondering how in the world we would ever raise the entire TWO MILLION DOLLARS in the first capital campaign in over forty years! Whew!

Well a year later we not only did it all: we traveled first class.

Joy joined our beloved community last July and from day one it seemed she had been here forever, never missing a beat with members, visitors, and leadership. Joy "joyfully" shared her experiences on worship, governance, celebration and organization with the congregation and has left a warmth that will be with us much longer than her stay.

The Search Committee conducted an outstanding search and successfully selected Rev. Aaron McEmrys as our sixth called parish minister since Rev. Berkeley Blake in 1930. We are already seeing the positive impact of Aaron's selection and anticipated arrival with increases in giving and attendance at worship.

Through the tireless efforts of John Warnock and the Music Committee, Ken Ryals accepted the position of choir director starting in this month. Ken brings vitality and joy to the music program and is convinced we can all find our singing voices.

Last but not least we conducted the first Capital Campaign since the 1960s and are but a whisker away from our \$2 million dollar goal. As of the last report, through our generosity we are within \$50,000 of the goal. Or stated another way if we traveled that distance by plane from Hawaii, we would be on our return approach to LAX and the fasten-your-seatbelt sign would be lit.

June 29th is the last Sunday of the church year and the last service of Joy's interim ministry. Soon Aaron will be traveling to Santa Barbara to begin his new ministry with us. What better way to wish Joy and Aaron *bon voyage* and safe travel to their new congregations than to announce that we have successfully completed our Capital Campaign. Fasten your seat belts for landing!!! We are so, so close!!!

Best wishes, GARY WELTERLIN, Board of Trustees President

and...News!

Social Justice Matters

The first section of today's (June 18) *Los Angeles Times*, the day after same-sex marriage became legal in California, has three full pages, plus the leader on the front page, of articles and pictures of joyful same-sex couples just married or about to marry. Way to go! —except that someone on NPR this morning said...“before they take it away from us.” On November's ballot there will be an initiative to write “man and woman” into the state constitution. If it passes (unlikely, we hope), let's see how it stands against the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

But progress doesn't stop with us. It was only in 1967—just two generations ago—that marriage between persons of different racial ancestry became legal throughout the country. What areas of inequality, now shrugged about if we think of them at all, will be hotly debated enough by, say, 2049, to force changes in the law?

Economic inequality, to take an age-old example (remember “The poor you always have with you”?), has just become acute in a new way as the price of gas has reached the point where some people will have to choose, if they aren't already, between driving beyond the minimum necessary and food beyond the minimum. What can be done about that?

Finally, I'll be in Florida when the next issue of this column is due and will try to send back a short report on social-justice-related events we've been able to attend at the General Assembly. Aaron McEmrys, our new Parish Minister will be there too, as well as Peter Hale and Donniss Galvan. Possibly a team report? **AUL NAY**

Our Construction Highlights

USSB staff is fully immersed in the construction project that is now underway. Visit our Building Project website at <http://ussbbuildingproject.blogspot.com/> for updates on the progress.

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue uninterrupted and our Parish Garden will remain fully available for our after service coffee hour. And, yes, the port-a-potty is now in place for your personal needs during construction.

Parish Hall will be “out of service,” yet our kitchen will remain in service, and our contractor will work with us to have safe, walkable areas...so you may watch the progress on the project.

Our staff offices have been moved! Ken Ralph, Facility Manager is now located in the front office (under the Parish Garden Tower); you will find Rev Joy Atkinson in Classroom 1 of the Jefferson Hall Building. Rev. Melitta Haslund, Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration, and Charla Bregante, RE Assistant, are located in Classroom 2 (the usual RE Office), and Carol Doose, Administrative Assistant our reception office and work room are all in La Paz Lounge.

These first few weeks of our project will be all about DEMOLITION. Already the library cabinets & floor, the minister office floor, all Parish Hall bathrooms and the music storage area have been demolished. By the time you read this, excavation of the Jefferson lawn area should be complete. And the parish workroom should be demolished.

Look for Ken Ralph after Sunday service or stop by his office during the week for further updates on the project progress.

Women's Group

Good feeling was abundant in Rev. Joy Atkinson's office as seventeen women gathered to share their visions and hopes for women's groups at USSB. This meeting was in response to the over fifty responses to the survey Joy helped the Program Council set out and include in an earlier *Kaleidoscope*. At this point we have no set direction for the summer but Jefferson Hall has been reserved for two Sunday evenings, July 13 and July 27, at 6:30 PM.

Some want to create and experience spirituality; some want book discussions and intellectual stimulation. Enough room is available in Jefferson for several groups. One of the suggestions is a book and DVD of *The Alphabet Versus the Goddess*.

Several women have responded to the request for facilitators. The program council, religious education and the board of trustees are funding the registration fees for a training seminar for small group ministry in North Carolina Aug 17-22. If you think you might be interested, contact our Director of Administration, Nancy Edmundson.

If you have suggestions or questions about the proposed women's groups this summer contact Carlene Van Pelt or **JOANNE NAY**.

Summer Services, Just for You!

We on the Worship Committee are working to prepare services for six consecutive Sundays in July and early August that will maintain a quality Sunday worship experience over the summer.

At our Worship Committee meeting in April, we brainstormed with our (then) ministerial candidate Aaron McEmrys, about the newness and change that was in the air: a new minister, a new Choir Director, a new Children's Choir Director, and a transformed physical campus!

We all agreed that our summer worship was a wonderful opportunity to build community by creating opportunities for some of our fellow congregants to participate in worship by sharing their personal stories. Not only can those stories deepen our worship experience, but they will give us an opportunity to get to know one another other better.

We have chosen service themes that we hope will relate to all of us and how we live on a daily basis (“News you can use!”). And Aaron McEmrys has agreed to offer a short reflection for each of these summer services, so you will have the opportunity to hear his take on each of these themes.

One more thing. Sing with *Summer Singers* and our new Choir Director Ken Ryals. Simply arrive in the sanctuary at 9:45 AM to learn one or two pieces for the service that morning. This is a fun, no-pressure way to participate from the comfort of your usual seat!

In advance of the Aaron's mid-August arrival and when you are in town, please join us at our weekly 10:30 AM services. **KEN SAXON**

All in the Family

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate USSB members who were legally married last week: Percy Sales and Ross Beardsley on June 17 and Lauren and Allison Wyeth on June 21. We are “standing on the side of love.”

Calendar

Saturday, July 05, 2008

7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

Sunday, July 06, 2008

9:45 AM Summer Childcare, Starr King

9:45 AM Summer Singers, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM RE Summer Sundays, Starr King

Tuesday, July 08, 2008

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Jefferson Hall

8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Friday, July 11, 2008

7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, July 12, 2008

7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

Sunday, July 13, 2008

9:45 AM Summer Childcare, Starr King

9:45 AM Summer Singers, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM RE Summer Sundays, Starr King

Monday, July 14, 2008

7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Jefferson Hall

8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary

4:00 PM USSB Board of Trustees, Blake Lounge

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

5:00 PM USSB Membership Committee, Blake Lounge

Friday, July 18, 2008

7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

Summer Pastoral Care

This is a reminder that, as ministers and staff begin our staggered vacations and study leave time, that we remain available for pastoral care emergencies and needs. Should you find yourself in need of pastoral care assistance, please call the office, 965-4583. Appropriate referrals will be made to our Pastoral Care Network or on-call Minister.

USSB Photo Directory Update:

Our formal photo sessions were completed June 18. Did you miss out? We would still like to include your photo in our directory. Please send a digital photo to assistant@ussb.org before July 7 and we will include you in the directory. Please send the photo as JPEG, and we strongly suggest a head shot.

Summer Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 AM to 12 noon. Each summer we reduce our open office hours to allow staff to focus time on special projects and to manage vacation workloads! We welcome your phone calls and drop-in visits during the 9-12 hours, and ask that you plan accordingly. Staff does not reduce work hours, and phone and email messages continue to be checked throughout the afternoons.

Reminder



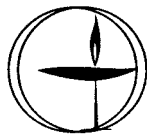
Power of Three

Please help close the gap. Every dollar of your contribution will be matched with two more dollars. The Power of Three is working and we are getting closer to our goal. We need all gifts large and small. Please respond to recent mailing and calls from campaign volunteers.

August 22 Rev. Aaron McEmry's first service
August 29 Labor Day Camp Out Skofield Park
September 7 Ingathering Ceremony

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Joy Atkinson, Interim Parish Minister

John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus

Melitta L. Haslund, Consulting Minister for Religious Education

Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration

Sunday Worship Service & Children's Program: 10:30 AM

Nursery & Children's Care: Sunday, 10:30 AM-NOON

Summer Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-NOON; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON

Next Newsletter Deadline

July 2 for material covering
July 19-August 1, 2008

E-mail: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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