

# KALEIDOSCOPE

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

August 2–15, 2008

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

## A Good Reason to Have July Board Meetings

While many of our members (including Debbie and me) were taking advantage of the summer vacation window, the new USSB Board of Trustees met on July 15th and ushered in our 131st year as a congregation. In the two plus hours we meet each month, we typically crunch through many items of business, doing the behind-the-scenes work to keep USSB humming. However, every once in a while items come on the agenda that make us reflect on why we are really here and what's important. In this meeting there were two especially important items I wanted to share with you: the passing of a board resolution to oppose the California Proposition 8 state ballot initiative and the acceptance of the beautiful Laurie Zimmer memorial bench and garden.

As you are aware, on May 15, 2008 the Supreme Court of California overturned the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The four-to-three decision took effect on June 16, 2008. Same-sex marriage is now valid and recognized in California. An initiative measure which will be on the the 2008 California General Election ballot was just announced July 24th. If passed, this initiative will amend the California State Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage. Proposition 8, also known as the Limit on Marriage Amendment or the California Marriage Protection Act would override the court's ruling that struck down both the 1977 law and Proposition 22.

Our vote reflects the feelings of the Board of Directors on this important social issue. But it only represents the

feeling of the board members and not necessarily our membership. We collectively feel this important social justice issue needs the full involvement of our members to accurately reflect our position as a faith-based institution and, after thoughtful consideration, determine how this should best be expressed. This fall the Social Justice Committee and the Board of Trustees will lead the congregation in a public dialogue that will lead to the vote by the membership on our position on California Proposition 8. We hope you will participate with us in this most important social justice matter.

The Board of Trustees also wishes to acknowledge a most gracious gift: a memorial bench and garden in memory of our beloved Laurie Zimmer. Through the patient and tireless efforts of Laurie's husband, Jules, and the work of the Building Project Committee, notably Alex Cole, a memorial bench in honor of Laurie will be located at the corner of Arrellaga and Santa Barbara Streets, with re-landscaping along Santa Barbara Street. Our Building Project Committee and Board have considered with due diligence how this plan furthers our congregation's adopted Master Facility Plan. All of us who knew Laurie will be pleased and touched by Jules' generosity and love. On behalf of the entire congregation, thank you, Jules. We look forward to watching this loving project progress, beginning with landscaping work in the coming month.

Enjoy your summer.

GARY WELTERLEN, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Sunday Morning 10:30

August 3

### Standing on Shaky Ground

Life brings unexpected situations, disasters and blessings, events either good or bad, which challenge us. How do we maintain our equilibrium when the earth moves under our feet? When our firm foundations, our cherished images, our beliefs and things we hold most dear, are called into question?

Join us as we continue our summer stories of reconciliation and understanding

Service Hosts: Donnis Galvan & Peter Hale

August 10

### Beginnings

Beginnings are a time of hope, excitement and big dreams—like the first day of school, weddings, moving into a new home. But beginnings are also a time fraught with danger because of unrealistic expectations and an unwillingness to change.

Our congregation is entering just such a period of "beginnings" next week with the arrival of Rev. Aaron McEmrys. Join us as we prepare ourselves for the successful launch of a new ministry.

Service Hosts: Patrick Block & Ken Saxon

## Social Justice Matters

One of the highlights of the General Assembly wasn't in the convention center: it was the rally in downtown Ft. Lauderdale against the initiative to amend the Florida constitution to restrict marriage to a man and a woman. UUA president Bill Sinkford was one of the featured speakers, and the sense of warmth all around wasn't just due to the Florida temperature, though that certainly helped! It's not just California, but Florida (and now Arizona) too, that are targets of the people who want, for the first time, to change their constitutions to shrink freedom instead of enlarging it. If you haven't already, please sign a *Vow to Vote No* on Proposition 8" sheet at the Social Justice table in the courtyard after the service.

But at the Ft. Lauderdale rally "standing on the side of love" had an additional meaning—defending immigrant families against breakup when the children, born here, are American citizens. The UU Justice Action Network says that HR1176 (Serrano, NY), the Child Citizens Protection Act, "would return judicial discretion to immigration judges so they can take into account a family's well-being. Judges would be empowered to prevent deportations in cases where an undocumented parent's deportation would harmfully affect his or her citizen child." They suggest e-mailing our representatives to support it.

There will be an interfaith conference on "Restorative Justice" (stressing restitution and conflict transformation rather than criminal sanctions) on Saturday, August 16th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 8:30 AM–12:30 PM followed by lunch. It's online at [www.RJusticeSBC.pbwiki.com](http://www.RJusticeSBC.pbwiki.com), or e-mail at [rjtf.sb@cox.net](mailto:rjtf.sb@cox.net). **PAUL NAY**

## Women's Group Meeting

The drop-in women's group met in Jefferson on Sunday July 13 and shared hopes for future meetings including small groups for women.

Interest is high in small group ministry, and two people may be attending the *Small Group Ministry Institute* in The Highlands, North Carolina. These delegates will commit to a 2008-2009 Small Group Ministry Task Force "to be started this fall, in which they will train other small-group facilitators.

The attending women shared how they had grown during their time in Unitarian Universalism.

Some materials on small-group ministry were picked up at one of the workshops at the General Assembly

The next meeting will be July 27 in Jefferson at 6:30 PM. For further information contact Joanne Nay at 682-3381 or Carlene Van Pelt at 963-1897.

## Social Justice in action

We're looking for digital photos of social justice in action during the past year. Some examples include the January 21st celebration and march for Martin Luther King's birthday, the Footwashing event on March 20th, the ongoing reading mentor program in the elementary school class rooms. You get the idea.

Please contact Sandy Grasso-Boyd (966-9256) or Joanie Jones (683-1937) if you have any photos that commemorate these special events. The pictures will be part of a Social Justice presentation in September, so the sooner we receive these photos the better.

## Restorative Justice Practices For Youth Problems

**Interfaith Community Conference,  
Saturday, August 16th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 8:30 AM–12:30 PM**

Restorative Justice is a practice that is beginning to come into its own in this country, having been very successfully used to reduce the incidence of youth involvement in the juvenile justice system in New Zealand, and now in some counties in the US. This practice not only significantly reduces re-offending, but also works to prevent further problems, and has healing ripple effects through the entire community each time an offense is dealt with. In this age of cynicism, this movement is nothing short of revolutionary.

Problems with youth violence and alienation are apparent in the South County. This is an issue close to the hearts of many in our USSB congregation. This

conference, sponsored by the *South County SB Restorative Justice Task Force* and the *Interfaith Initiative*, will bring together people of the community's religious and spiritual institutions to learn about this process and how to support building such a movement in this community in order to embrace our youth. Please plan to join Rev. Aaron McEmrys at this event! Let's make a big showing on Saturday, August 16th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1500 State Street!

Please contact Karolyn Renard, Social Justice Committee, at 569-3111 if you plan to attend and/or for further information.

## DeBenneville Pines Cluster Retreat With Rev. McEmrys...

...is shaping up to be wonderful, and relaxing! So Save the dates: Friday–Sunday, September 26–28, 2008.

This is an intergenerational retreat nestled in the beautiful San Bernadino Mountains. This is a special weekend in the mountains for members of our congregation, and Live Oak, Ventura and Thousand Oaks. There will be good food, good company, and great accommodations. Many folks have asked questions about the cabins. They are rustic yet comfortable. Most have bunk beds, either 4 or 8 beds per room, 4–8 rooms per cabin. There are a limited number of double-bed rooms available, on a first requested first served basis (and a supplemental fee). In addition, there is Craig's Cabin, which is very nice and has a kitchen in the room. It also has a handicap access bathroom (also a supplemental fee). And speaking of restrooms, each cabin has at least 2 restrooms with shower, sink, and flush toilets.

The food is great, and they are very accommodating to special diets of all sorts. There is always a vegan option at every meal, and every meal has fresh veggies or fruits. For more information on DeBenneville Pines, go to [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org).

The program starts on Friday night with a dinner and a mixer/get-to-know-one-another fun time.

Then on Saturday there will be breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In the morning before lunch, I will be leading a hike up the mountain. Also there will be crafts for the kids, activities for the kids, activities for the adults, and activities for adults and kids! The pool will be open, there will be archery, and a new feature—canoeing down at the local lake! Or, if you like, just sit on the lodge deck and read your favorite book *all afternoon!* After dinner, there will be some sort of entertainment, perhaps group singing, a talent show, a dance.

Sunday starts off with continental breakfast in the morning, followed by a worship service at 10:30 AM, and then brunch. Then we say farewell to beautiful DeBenneville Pines until the next time.

Activities are open, and anyone can lead one—would you like to volunteer for one?

Cost of the weekend includes all accommodations, and all six meals are: Adults 20+ \$135; Youth 13-19 \$105 Kids 4-12 \$77; age 3 and under free! Double bed rooms: additional \$40 per couple; Craig's Cabin—additional \$50 per person

If you have any questions, please e-mail me, Chris Shorb, at [inorbit@ix.netcom.com](mailto:inorbit@ix.netcom.com), or call me at 636-6086. I will be out on the patio for many of the Sundays leading up to the retreat to answer questions.

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### Remember Jim?

Join Rev. Jim Grant (a past USSB Interim Minister) and Betty Grant (Jim's beloved wife) at Camp de Benneville Pines—PSWIRL Adult Camp, this August 17–22.

PSWIRL Camp is the only time during the year where UU adults can gather at our mountain camp to enjoy art classes, yoga, hiking, swimming, massage, music, dream work, drumming, astronomy or just relaxing and “being”.

The keynote topic of the morning lecture series, *The Struggle to Become Human*, is based on a quote by Rabbi Abraham Heschel: “We can be without ever becoming human.” Topics will include how our expectations shape our humanity, how our humanity may be gained and enriched.

For information log onto [www.pswirl.org](http://www.pswirl.org).

### Time for Chancel Choir Rehearsals

No sooner than our Summer Sunday Singers learn to be a “real” singers' group than it's time to invite them—and you—to join our amazing Chancel Choir led by our new choir director, Ken Ryals. We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 PM, and the first rehearsal is Thursday, August 21st.

### All in the Family

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### Reminder: The Power of Three

We are so very close to our goal. Please help close the gap. Every dollar of your contribution will be matched with two more dollars. We need all gifts, large and small.

If you have any questions about the capital campaign, please contact Nancy Edmundson (965-4583 ext. 225, [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org)) or Beverly Appleton (682-0402, [AppletonB@aol.com](mailto:AppletonB@aol.com)).

# Calendar

## Saturday, August 02, 2008

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

## Sunday, August 03, 2008

9:45 AM Summer Singers, Sanctuary

9:45 AM Childcare Summer, Starr King

10:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Summer Sundays, Starr King

## Monday, August 04, 2008

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

## Tuesday, August 05, 2008

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5 (USSB Members free), Jefferson Hall

8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary

4:00 PM USSB Executive Committee, Blake Lounge

## Wednesday, August 06, 2008

6:00 am Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

6:00 pm Vespers Potluck, Offsite

7:00 PM Vespers, Offsite

## Friday, August 08, 2008

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

8:00 AM Coffee Boys, Offsite Lazy Acres

7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

## Saturday, August 09, 2008

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

2:00 PM Esperanto Circle, Blake Lounge

## Sunday, August 10, 2008

9:45 AM Summer Singers, Sanctuary

9:45 AM Childcare Summer, Starr King

10:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 AM Summer Sundays, Starr King

## Monday, August 11, 2008

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

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

## Tuesday, August 12, 2008

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5 (USSB Members free), Jefferson Hall

8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary

## Wednesday, August 13, 2008

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

## Friday, August 15, 2008

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall

8:00 AM Coffee Boys, Offsite, Lazy Acres

7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

## Looking Ahead...

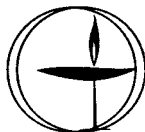
### USSB Campout at Skofield Park

Save the date. Saturday, August 30. Join UU friends for an intergenerational campout followed by a Sunday morning service at the park. Watch for further details about this FREE campout..

Aug. 17 Rev. Aaron McEmrys' first service  
Aug. 21 Adult Chancel Choir Rehearsals resume  
Aug. 30 Labor Day Camp Out Skofield Park  
Sept. 7 Intergenerational Ingathering Ceremony  
Sept. 14 9 AM Worship Services resume

## 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, 9:45 AM-NOON  
Summer Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-NOON; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON

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### Next Newsletter Deadline

July 30 for material covering

August 16-29, 2008

E-mail: [Kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto:Kaleidoscope@ussb.org)