

KALEIDOSCOPE

„WE SEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN A WELCOMING AND CARING COMMUNITY“

August 16-29, 2008

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

Our Women's Group

is growing larger each time we meet. We are now working with the Evensong curriculum with much sharing on designated topics.

The next meetings are Sundays, August 10 and 24, 7 PM, Jefferson Hall. Share spiritual experiences and thoughts of the divine. Feel the support of the group.

We need to agree on a name for our group. Contact Carlene Van Pelt, 963-1897 or Joanne Nay, 682-3381.

Young Adult Labor Day Weekend Retreat & Gathering, August 29–September 1, Camp de Benneville Pines.

For young adults ages 18-35 and their children ages up to 12. See old friends and make new ones. Register at www.connectuu.com.

Meditation Continues

Due to vacations and construction in the Sanctuary, our next Morning Meditation will meet on Tuesday September 2. from 8:15 AM to 9 AM.

We wish you a summer of peace and opportunities to continue your meditation practice.

TONY JOHANSEN, LAURIE AND
GEORGE POTTER.

Sunday Morning 10:30

August 17

Travels with Willow

“This summer, my dog, Willow, and I drove across the desert Southwest to our new home and new life in Santa Barbara. We didn’t take the quickest, the most sensible or the straightest route, but instead took our time and let the road lead us where it would.

In the end, we found ourselves not only traveling through space but through time as well. Please join us as we unpack the power and potential of Journeys.”

Both Services with Rev. Aaron McEmrys

August 24

Another Shooting: Tragedy, Grief and Hope

Just a few weeks ago, a children’s production of “Annie” ended almost before it began in a hail of shotgun blasts. The painful echoes of those blasts will haunt and shape our sister congregation in Knoxville, TN, for many years to come. The sad truth is that this kind of tragedy can no longer be considered an isolated event, but yet another chapter in an emerging history of shootings: school shootings, work shootings, random shootings and now church shootings.

The most important thing about tragedy is often how we respond. What can we learn here, even as we grieve with our sisters and brothers in Tennessee? What does it mean to be a truly welcoming congregation in an increasingly dangerous world?

Safe Places

I was traveling through Dulles Airport outside of Washington, DC about to catch the third of three legs to finally reach Greensboro, North Carolina before midnight. I began thinking about being safe. The realities of modern air travel today are measures that are in place to protect the security and welfare of the public as we use our public carriers. We may not like the inconvenience and loss of personal freedom but few will argue the need for a safe and secure transportation system. Yet, I would not want the same type of intrusive security to ensure my welfare when attending services on Sunday morning.

On July 27th we heard the news of the tragic events in Knoxville, Tennessee where two parishioners died in an attack by a visitor to the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. A non-member, but someone with a connection to the congregation, entered the sanctuary with the intent to harm as many people as possible. Tragic as the deaths were, a greater tragedy was averted through the swift

and brave action of both parishioners and volunteers who disarmed and subdued the assailant until law enforcement arrived. I am familiar with Knoxville and in many ways it is like Santa Barbara. Knoxville is a mid-sized city of about 150,000 people, a diverse, tolerant, highly educated community; it is the home of the University of Tennessee and the Oak Ridge Laboratories. The city is the gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great Smokies and the home to many environmentalists, students, educators, writers and alas liberal thinkers. Sounds a lot like Santa Barbara.

I’m confident as we get ready for Sunday services, few—if any of us—are prepared for the type of events that took place in Knoxville. Yet it is an unfortunate reality that events, human and natural, unfold when least expected. The best you can be is to be prepared and have a plan for how to react to these events if they occur. I take for granted the work our staff and volunteers perform each week to provide a safe and pleasant place to worship and share com-

Safe Places—cont'd

munity. This is the ultimate compliment. The safety and well-being of our members and guests is one of the greatest responsibilities to the Board of Trustees, Ministerial and Professional staff. Most of the time these actions are of a subtle and hardly noticed nature; and that's the way it should be. But rest assured it is there.

We practice a delicate balancing act to be a welcome and open spiritual community to all that seek what we have to offer, yet at the same time provide a safe and secure place for all those we serve. I feel confident in our ability to handle emergency situations as they arise. And to ensure that is the case we, the Board, the staff and the Ministerial team, will in the upcoming weeks review and update our policies and procedures.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the members of TVUUC; we can do no less than to be as prepared to respond as decisively and swiftly as their parishioners did on July 27th.

GARY WELTERLAN, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From Your Caring Committee

Fire Reflections, a Pastoral Care Invitation

Pastoral Care Committee invites anyone who would like to share their experiences of the Gap, Painted Cave or other fires or their knowledge of emergency preparedness to a gathering on August 24th, noon–1:30 PM in Blake Lounge (with a possible change of venue, check your Order of Service that Sunday).

DeBenville Pines Cluster Retreat With Rev. McEmrys means...F U N!

Flash: A generous Society member has offered a scholarship fund for this retreat. If you are interested, please contact Melitta Haslund, our Minister of Religious Education

Flash: Aaron McEmrys, our new minister will be attending this retreat. This will be a great way to get to know him in a casual atmosphere.

To recap:

DeBenville Pines is a beautiful Unitarian-Universalist retreat set at 6800 feet in the San Bernadino mountains, almost exactly a four-hour drive from the Society's front door.

Our retreat is inter-generational, with activities for kids, tweens, teens, young adults, parents, middle-aged, seniors, and everything in between. We will be sharing this retreat with our cluster neighbors: Live Oak, Ventura, and Conejo Valley. I will be leading a hike up the mountain. I also plan to play some games, do some jigsaw puzzles, play ping-pong with my kids, drink some wine and break some bread with all of you, and hang out on the patio of the lodge and read. I won't list all the other things folks do, but that just gets it started.

Social Justice Matters

At the General Assembly in Florida several Actions of Immediate Witness concerned with social justice were passed: to oppose the initiatives blocking same-sex marriage in Florida, California, and Arizona; to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10 an hour by 2010; to support single-payer health care particularly HR 676 (Health Care for All); and to end slavery conditions in the tomato fields of Florida and elsewhere. Links to all of these actions, including the full texts, are at <http://www.uua.org/social-justice/issues/process/index.shtml>, where I hope many of us have already read them.

A couple of thoughts on the tragic shooting in Knoxville. After the first shock and horror that U-Us (of all people!) could be the targets of such hate, I had to cheer the heroes who overwhelmed the shooter and held him for the police—not at all what the shooter expected. So now there's a better chance of finding what, in his early and recent life, put him into such darkness. But then the question has to be: what can U-Us, what can liberals, what can all caring people, do to light such darkness?

PAUL NAY

Special Needs

Pastoral Care invites our members to share with one another their special needs. Dorothy Holland shared her thoughts about those with hearing problems (See page 4). Often those with visual impairment are not obvious to the sighted and may need to remind us that they cannot see well. So members and friends please identify your needs so we don't ignore you or think that you are ignoring us!

Accommodations are rustic but comfortable. Craig's cabin has a handicapped accessible bathroom, living room, and kitchen. It is the most "luxurious" of the cabins. The other cabins have bunk beds or double beds. There is still availability in Craig's Cabin and double-bed rooms, but they are first come first served.

Meals served: Friday: Dinner; Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner; Sunday: Continental breakfast and Brunch. And the food is tasty! The camp is happy to meet all dietary needs—there is always a Vegan option at every meal.

The retreat begins at 4 PM on Friday, September 26, and check-out is 2 PM on Sunday, September 28.

I have a car right now with two available seats for those who would like to carpool. More will no doubt become available, so please don't let not having a car or not wanting to drive stand in your way.

Questions? Please call Chris Shorb at 805 636-6086; or e-mail inorbit@ix.netcom.com. Or come see me on the patio on Sunday.

Melitta's Musings

And for ourselves, the intrinsic
“Purpose” is to reach, and to remember,
and to declare our commitment to all
the living, without deceit, and without
fear and without reservation. We do
what we can. And by doing it, we keep
ourselves trusting, which is to say,
vulnerable, and more than that,
what can anyone ask? JUNE JORDON

My family and I have returned from a whirlwind trip which included visiting family in San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and Denmark. The majority of our time was spent in Denmark, where we visited with my foster grandmother who took care of my father as a “hidden child” during WW II on her family farm. I have long wanted to interview her about her decision to help my grandmother and father—risking not only her life, but that of her entire family. At the age of 19 she agreed to move back to the farm and adopt my father as her own son. His mother brought him to the farm with a layer cake for his fourth birthday, said farewell to him, and then set out by boat at night for Sweden as the Nazis had begun to round up the Jews. It was already taboo to have a child out of wedlock. And it was a risky period of life, when suspicious neighbors could have turned the foster family in to the authorities. People were

hanged for lesser reasons. Nazi soldiers raided the farm on numerous occasions while my father was sent quietly up into the hay loft to hide. He lived there for three years until his mother, along with thousands of other Danish Jews returned from the safety of Sweden. In my book, Elsa Poulsen and her family are heroes.

I return, refreshed and gladdened to have gone—but shocked by the violence experienced in our Knoxville UU congregation. It is unthinkable. But then again, so is the extermination of Jews and others during WWII. There is an understandable response of fear and suspicion in the face of such violence. But truly, what we can learn from those who survived concentration camps, from my foster grandmother and from the brave usher, Greg McKendry, who gave his life to save others is that love is what shines beyond the impulse to live life in the suffocating clutches of fear and loathing. It is always love that affirms that we must continue to sing the song of life, to risk remaining open and vulnerable, to embracing what is good and just. It is the resiliency of spirit we must seek in such a time, which can be found in our hearts and in community. As the beautiful stained glass window in our UU church in Santa Paula implores, “Beloved, let us love one another.”

So may it be, Melitta

P.S. Remember to bring a small vial of water to our service on Sunday, September 7th, for our annual Gathering of the Waters Ceremony. It can be from your kitchen sink tap or wherever the summertime has taken you.

Thank You and Farewell to...

Bryan Stern, Sunday Facilities Assistant

We have marveled at Bryan's youth and energy. Having been compared to either the “energizer bunny” or “the road runner” (yes, Bryan is quick and steady!), the time has come for Bryan to focus on larger horizons in his life. Bryan has let us know that he will be with us on Sundays through August 17, but after that, only on an occasional “fill-in” basis. Thank you, Bryan, for serving USSB on our staff team.

Summer Singers

Thanks to all of you who have been a part of this summer's music program! There is still plenty of summer singing to do...so please attend the 9:45 AM sessions and bring friends.

When music is “in service “ to the congregation the fear that sometimes inhibits individual participation is minimized and allows the ministry of music to touch, heal, enlighten and welcome people to a deeper musical experience in worship. This deeper musical experience strengthens us as a community, and that is the gift that we take with us to serve the community at large.

And don't forget:

Choir Rehearsal Starts Thursday, August 21st, 7:00 PM!!!

What's Happening with-all-that-dirt?

Our Building Project is moving ahead at breakneck speed. All demolition work is complete. All rough framing is done. Rough-in electrical wiring and plumbing is almost finished. Excavation of the Jefferson lawn area is done. New drainage systems and underground utility conduits have been buried. The floor in the library area and the former minister's office have been lowered and concrete has been poured to underpin the sanctuary foundation. Whew!

So what's next?

Over the next couple of weeks big work will be happening in the new Jefferson Courtyard area. Concrete trucks will be arriving almost daily as we build the retaining walls, concrete walkways, labyrinth, amphitheatre and the fabulous new terrace. Meanwhile, we are going to put Parish Hall back together. Insulation, sheetrock and plastering will be the major emphasis.

The work is proceeding on schedule. Very few big surprises. No setbacks.

And I'm having a great time! KEN RALPH, FACILITIES MANAGER

Power of Three

So Close to Our Goal! Only \$28k to go! Every dollar of your contribution will be matched with two more dollars!

Why? As you recall, in June our congregation had raised \$1.7 million toward our \$2 million building project. (Yes! the wonderful project that is under way right now!) To complete raising the remaining \$300k a group of generous donors challenged the congregation to create “The Power of Three” and our congregation voted to redirect \$100k in Cummins revenue from our endowment to the capital campaign; and the remaining \$100k is to be made by commitments from our members and friends. Remember...the challenge group and the Cummins monies are not automatic...we need to raise the \$100k from each other first!

The excitement of seeing our building project underway and welcoming Rev. Aaron McEmrys is growing! We are so very close to our goal! Please help close the gap.

We need all gifts, large and small. Thank you to those who have added to your commitments, or made new commitments that now total \$72k toward this \$100k goal. **We can do it!** Please contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration (965-4583 x225, ussb@ussb.org) to make your commitment.

Now! Are you ready to get creative? Consider this: ask your family members to skip the birthday or holiday gift this year, and make a donation to the campaign and YOU match their gift to USSB! What would it be like if you matched \$200? It would mean \$400 to our goal, and that translates into \$1,200 for our total campaign through the Power of Three! You don't even need to wait for a holiday, challenge your book group, exercise group, neighbors. Contact Nancy for more details and ideas.

Hearing Problems*

From Pastoral Care

BY DOROTHY HOLLAND

Being able to hear is something most of us take for granted. I certainly did—until I got acquainted with Lawrence Kaupp. And when I married him, I entered a whole new world.

It included attending a local support group called *Self Help for Hard of Hearing People*, known as “SHHH.” There I got a new perspective on hearing. I would like to share with you some of the things I learned:

- 1) People with partial hearing loss try to relate to the hearing world, whereas people with complete hearing loss (deaf people) rely on their eyes, and use sign language, which sets them apart from normal society.
- 2) Because hearing loss usually occurs very gradually, the person experiencing it is often unaware of what is happening, so assumes other people are mumbling or not paying attention.
- 3) As hearing loss becomes more severe, people often show some of the symptoms of mental illness, including depression and withdrawal. And others may think the hard-of-hearing person is stupid or rude.
- 4) When people finally get hearing aids, their expectations are often unrealistic because they don't realize that hearing aids are not like glasses; they will never restore hearing as it was originally, because essentially all they can do is magnify sound—and that includes background noise.
- 5) However, there are many things a hard-of-hearing person can do to make hearing easier, with or without

hearing aids—things like asking others to look directly at you; not to cover their mouth or chew while speaking; and to speak distinctly and slowly--but not to shout. And the first thing anyone wishing to speak to a hard-of-hearing person should do is to get their attention. Actually, these are all things that people with normal hearing would do well to emulate. My present husband has perfectly good hearing, but sometimes when I speak to him, he doesn't hear me because his mind is elsewhere.

6) One other kind of helpful strategy is what is called “an assistive listening device”, which is used when hearing aids are not adequate. One type of these is available during our Sunday services, and also during meetings in Parish Hall. The original system was donated by my late husband Lawrence Kaupp in 1989. They are essentially FM radio receivers which operate on the same frequency as the Society's microphones. So whenever anyone speaks into a microphone, sound waves go directly into each receiver and then through a wire into the listener's ear. If a speaker does not use a microphone, none of those using one of our devices will hear him or her.

But just hearing words doesn't necessarily mean communication. That's why I so highly value the part of our *Covenant of Good Relations* that reads:

“In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will be receptive, listening with care and compassion.”

Not just “hearing” but listening—really listening. And responding with care and compassion.

***Presented July 20, 2008 at the USSB 10:30 AM service**

USSB Campout at Skofield Park

We hope that by now you have saved the date: **Saturday, August 30** for the return of the USSB campout at Skofield Park. Join UU friends for an intergenerational campout followed by Sunday morning services and potluck lunch, all at the park.

All camp fees are covered by USSB Program Council; so bring your tent, food for the weekend (bring some to share), musical instruments, & sport equipment. We hang out in this beautiful local park and relax together, avoiding the Labor Day crowds elsewhere! We pack up at noon Sunday, so there is plenty of time to join Labor Day crowds in town on Monday. Here is the secret to this special event: Keep it simple. Throw your tent, bag, mattress, food, lawn chair and

favorite outdoor toys and camping treats into the car, call some UU friends and invite them to join in, and come on up. Over-planning spoils the fun. Between our groups, we trust we'll have everything we need to relax in this beautiful local setting.

Nestled high in the foothills, beyond the Botanical Gardens and adjacent to Rattlesnake Trail, this is the only city park with reservable camping areas for nonprofit groups. We are lucky to have the site! Large grassy meadows, walking and hiking trails, numerous native shade trees, and picnic and barbecues are within our reserved sites. Contact Alan Edmundson, 687-5892, alanedmundson@cox.net for additional details.

All in the Family

XXXXXXX

Lifespan Religious Education News

YRUU Start Up!

Join in the fun and excitement as we begin our Young Religious Unitarian Universalist youth group this year. Youth, parents and adults committed to our youth ministry are invited to attend this informative and inspiring Cluster workshop. Saturday, August 16th, 9 AM–4 PM in Blake Lounge. Please RSVP by August 12th by calling Rev. Melitta Haslund at 965-4583 x229.

Religious Education Open House

Sunday, September 7 at 11:30 AM

Learn about our Children and Youth RE Program for the year. Register your children and youth. Sign up for Parent Participation and meet our teachers. Hear from our Children's RE Council members. See you there!

Children and Youth Religious Education Program Begins

Religious Education classes for children and youth begin on Sunday, September 14th. Please be sure to register for classes in advance. For more information, please contact our RE Assistant, Charla Bregante at 965-4583 x 227.

Adult Religious Education

Keep posted for the Adult Religious Education and Program Guide which will be sent out in late August for our fall classes and events. There will be many wonderful classes, groups, and events from which to choose. Continue your search for truth and meaning by joining in thoughtful dialogue and soulful sharing.

Sunday Facility Ass't Job Opening

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara seeks an individual for regular Sunday employment, 6-8 hours on Sundays between the hours of 7 AM and 3 PM. This individual is responsible for opening and setting up the building for Sunday activities, operating sound and light systems for worship services, and providing take-down and light clean-up at the end of services. Tasks also include assisting the Director of Administration and volunteers and working as part of a team. This is an ideal position for a college student or anyone seeking weekend work in addition to weekday commitments. The position is open immediately for qualified applicants and will remain open until filled.

Must be 18 years of age to apply, demonstrate effective oral and written communication in English, able to be trained and operate sound and lighting systems, coffee system, dishwashing system. Experience with church settings is desirable but not required.

Physical Demands: frequent and repetitive walking, standing, bending and stooping. Carrying and moving of approximately 25 pound items such as tables, chairs and boxes.

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara hires without regard to sex, age, ethnic identification, marital status, sexual or gender orientation or religious belief system.

To request a job description and application form send your message of introduction to the attention of Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration, ussb@ussb.org.

Calendar

Saturday, August 16, 2008

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
- 8:30 AM Restorative Justice Workshop, Episcopal Church
- 9:00 AM YRUU START-UP, BLAKE LOUNGE

Sunday, August 17, 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 18, 2008

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

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5 (USSB Members free), Jefferson Hall
- 4:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting Blake Lounge

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

- All Day Offices Closed for All Staff Planning Retreat
- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
- 5:00 PM USSB Membership Committee, Blake Lounge
- 6:00 PM Vespers Potluck, Off Campus
- 7:00 PM Vespers Potluck, Off Campus

Thursday, August 21, 2008

- 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, August 22, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
- 8:00 AM USSB Coffee Boys, Off Campus
- 7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, August 23, 2008

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

Sunday, August 24, 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
- 12:00 PM Fire Care Meeting, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Women's Group, Jefferson Hall

Monday, August 25, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5 (USSB Members free), Jefferson Hall
- 12:15 PM USSB I.T. Committee, Blake Lounge
- 4:00 PM USSB Program Council, Off Campus
- 6:30 PM USSB Social Justice Committee, Jefferson Hall

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

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

Thursday, August 28, 2008

- 9:15 AM Pastoral Care Committee, Classroom 1
- 5:30 PM USSB Worship Committee, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, August 29, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
- 8:00 AM USSB Coffee Boys, Off Campus
- 7:30 PM Summer Danceaway, Jefferson Hall

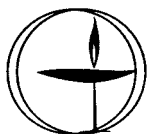
Looking ahead

- Aug 30 Labor Day Campout Skofield Park
- Aug 31 Skofield Park Worship AND 10:30 Sanctuary Both!
- Sept 7 Intergenerational Ingathering Ceremony

- Sept 7 RE Open House
- Sept 14 9 AM Worship Services resume
- Sept 26-28 DeBenville Pines UU Retreat with Aaron
- Oct 3 All Congregation Ministerial Startup Workshop

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

1535 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Office: (805) 965-4583
Fax: (805) 965-6273
e-mail: ussb@ussb.org
Internet: www.ussb.org



Aaron McEmrys, 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

Next Newsletter Deadline

August 13 for material covering
August 30-September 12, 2008
E-mail: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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