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KALEIDOSCOPE

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

August 30–September 12, 2008

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Editor: Jared Dawson

in
the
words
of...



The chief moral obligation of the 21st Century is to build a green economy that is strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Those communities that were locked out of the last century's pollution-based economy must be locked into the new, clean and renewable economy. Our youth need green-collar jobs, not jails.

VAN JONES, THE 2008
WARE LECTURER AT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Inspired by the Unitarian Universalists of Knoxville, Unitarian Universalists everywhere have rededicated themselves to our religious mission: to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, to work for justice, to nurture the spirits of all who seek a liberal religious home, and to help heal this wounded world.

REV. BILL SINKFORD

Welcome to Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister

By the time that you read this, our newly settled Parish Minister will be in his first or second week with us. A warm UU welcome to Aaron, Eliza, and family (including Willow!)

The New Look for Parish Hall

In the midst of all of this messy construction, we are actively envisioning what the finished Parish hall will look like, or perhaps I should say "feel like". Creating a wonderful "feeling" inside the hall is largely dependent upon our choice of colors and finishes. It's one thing to choose color for your home's living room walls. Dealing with a space as large and complicated as Parish Hall is a far more daunting task. It requires a high level of skill, artistic sensibility and experience.

I am thrilled with the design team we have working on the Parish hall interior finishes. It is being led by Suzanne Fairly-Green, a

highly accomplished interior designer, and Ellen Rockne, whose work in our parsonage and her new home are absolutely stunning. We also are getting advice from Alex Cole, an extraordinary architectural historian. Alex, Ellen & Suzanne are all members of USSB. They are being assisted by April Palencia, our project architect, who, in addition to a thorough understanding of color, has a wealth of knowledge about other finishes, materials and fixtures.

Say goodbye to that grey-blue trim and peach accent. We're entering a whole new era.

KEN RALPH, FACILITIES MANAGER

Sunday Morning Service

10:30 AM

August 31
Life Tattoos

Rev. Aaron McEmrys

Many of you have expressed a good deal of curiosity about the tattoos you can sometimes catch glimpses of when your new minister is wearing short-sleeved shirts. Rest easy, your questions will be answered—and then some!

In this service we will not only learn the "whys and wherefores" of Aaron's tattoos, but also about the ways life "tattoos" all of us, and how powerful it can be for us to wear the markings of our lives with gratitude and pride.

Note—There is no scheduled worship for the campout in Skofield Park.

September 7
Wade in the Water
Intergenerational
Ingathering Ceremony

Water is the source of all life. Just as an old Sufi verse reminds us that we are all "both drops of water and the whole of the ocean", let us come back together in all our little rivulets, back into the deep pool of our religious community once more. In this service we will celebrate the beginning of a new congregational year with a fun and exciting intergenerational service featuring our traditional water ceremony. See you there!

Adult and Youth Choirs will Sing
Please bring water for our ingathering ritual

Social Justice Matters

First, life and death: We don't want to think that people die to produce the food we eat, but according to the United Farm Workers there have been six heatstroke deaths in California fields in less than four months. They want messages sent to ask Governor Schwarzenegger to enforce better conditions. See http://www.ufwaction.org/campaign/heatdeath14?qp_source=web.

Second, marriage equality: The Social Justice Committee, and the Board, want to put our church on record with regard to the initiative amendment against marriage equality that will be on the November ballot. As required in our Bylaws, there will be two special congregational meetings between now and November so that members can decide whether to support the following statement, proposed by the Board and endorsed by the Committee. (*Note: the exact wording of the name of Proposition 8 may change between now and November!*)

“Whereas Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,

“Be it resolved that the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, California, opposes California’s Proposition 8, currently labeled as *Eliminates right of same-sex couples to marry. Initiative constitutional amendment.*

“Be it further resolved that the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara also opposes Arizona’s proposed constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

“Be it further resolved that the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara also opposes the Florida Marriage Protection Constitutional Amendment.”

Finally, meeting times: Social Justice Committee meetings will no longer be on Sundays after the service. The next will be Tuesday, August 26, 6:30–8:30 PM in Jefferson Hall. The change will allow Aaron to attend, and we look forward to working with him from now on.

PAUL NAY, SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Hear and See the High Points from Our Fort Lauderdale General Assembly

The DVD of the Ware Lecture by Van Jones, “Prepare to Govern”, from the UUA General Assembly, and the CDs of Rev. Dr. Forrest Church’s talk on “Love and Death, My Journey through the Valley of the Shadow”, and the John Murray Lecture, Rev. Dr. William Schultz’s “The Future of Human Rights”, are available to borrow from the social justice table after church.

Finally Home!!!!

Yes, after two days of cancelled flights I'm home. For those of you who didn't know, I was in Boston for the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network National Conference.

What an amazing and humbling experience. Really great clinicians as well as services so moving and engaging that I can hardly describe them. I learned so much about the UU musical experience. There was one day devoted to Unitarian Universalist Development through history that started in ancient times and continued through to today; each step of this course was correlated with a hymn from Singing the Living Tradition. Imagine my excitement at the opportunity to get in-depth information on the specific hymns and to understand their significance to Unitarian Universalism. I was able to meet some very fun and cool friends from as close as San Luis Obispo to as far as Toronto, Canada. Thanks for this amazing opportunity—I really feel like I will be able to serve you better as a congregation thanks to my time with UUMN.

Please join us at our first choir rehearsal on August 21, Thursday night, at 7:00 PM.

KEN RYALS, USSB CHORAL DIRECTOR



*Foundation Work for the Edmundson Terrace
photo by Ken Ralph*

DeBenneville Pines Cluster Retreat With Rev. McEmrys equals...FUN!

In this space you have seen the details of this amazing and relaxing retreat in the San Bernardino Mountains. Owned and operated by our own Pacific Southwest UU District, there really is nothing like smelling the air of the pines and oaks at 6800 feet while spending quality time with other Unitarian/Universalists. And don't forget that there will be activities, as well as 6 square meals served. The dates will be from September 26–28, Friday through Sunday. Reverend McEmrys will be there as well, and as of this writing, at least 25 of your USSB friends, from ages 5 to 75! As for my family and me, we love it. However, I would like to share with you words from others in our congregation who have been there before.

"I have been to deBenneville three winters in a row and will continue to go. Each time I am moved by how the smells of being in a high pine forest, the sound of the wind in the trees, seeing snow fall, and a warm toasty lodge makes me feel grounded and loving. Then, add a bunch of super cool people with different experiences from different areas.... Yeah, it's good."

Kirsten Zecher

"I actually attended a winter LRY camp and I attended some cool healthy living workshops, groovy sing-alongs, and enjoyed the snow and beautiful trees. Eight years later I worked the pool as a lifeguard for a summer job. I loved working up at the camp. I got the worst sunburn of my life at the Clothing optional camp, enjoyed meeting great UUs from all over our area, hiked, swam, biked, and really felt free and open to learn new things up in the pines. My father met his current wife at DeBenneville over 20 years ago—never underestimate the romantic possibilities of the camp!"

Bill Gourley

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call or e-mail me. I'll be out on the patio August 24, September 7 and 14.

CHRIS SHORB

Meditation

Tuesday morning Silent Meditation will resume in the Sanctuary on September 2 from 8:15 to 9:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you then.

TONY JOHANSEN, GEORGE AND LAURIE POTTER

Lifespan Religious Education News

Lifespan Religious Education: A Shared Ministry
Flourishing Lifespan RE Programs can only be so when members make the commitment to support them by volunteering to teach or help with special events. Teaching teams make it easy yet meaningful to become involved. All volunteers receive training, staff support, supplies and get to know other members who are dedicated to exploring values and theology with young people. We will soon distribute a Member Participation Form for those interested in assisting with our Children and Youth RE Program. Please contact Rev. Melitta Haslund or our RE Assistant, Charla Bregante, at 965-4583 or lifespan@ussb.org.

Introducing our New Youth Choir Director

We welcome a fabulous Youth Choir Director, **Vaiva Janusoniene** to USSB! She has an excellent academic training and is wonderful with children and youth. Children and youth, ages 5–12, are invited to join the choir. New Rehearsal time: 9:30–10:30 AM in Jefferson Hall. We will begin on September 7.

The choir, to be successful, needs your commitment as parents. We have extended rehearsal time to begin at 9:30 on Sunday mornings (as opposed to holding it during the week.) Parents are encouraged to be timely and are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in the Garden. Periodic Adult RE Classes will be available at 9:30 AM.

Summer Sundays

We will finish our Summer Sundays RE Program called “Building Our Future; Building Our Community” on August 31 in Starr King. Children and youth are invited to join us for fun and exploration of UU values in the context of community at 10:30 AM Sunday mornings. We thank our RE Assistant, Charla Bregante, for organizing such a great summer program!

Summer Singers!

All parents are especially welcome to attend Summer Singers on Sundays, 9:45 AM, in our Sanctuary. Come, sing! No experience necessary. Child care is provided in Starr King.

USSB Intergenerational Campout and Sunday Service at Skofield Park

USSB members and friends are invited to camp out overnight on Saturday, August 30. The fun begins on Saturday afternoon at 1 and ends at 2 on Sunday. All

camp fees are covered by USSB Program Council. Bring your tent, food, plus some to share, musical instruments, & sport equipment. Hang out & relax together. Contact Alan Edmundson for further details and to let him know you plan to participate.

Intergenerational Ingathering Water Ceremony

Bring a vial of water from your summertime, be it from your backyard tap or a far-off adventure. We will blend our water as we blend our lives, on September 7 at 10:30 AM. This will be the summer’s last single service.

Religious Education for Children and Youth Open House

All parents and families are invited to attend the RE Open House on Sunday, September 7 in Jefferson Hall at 11:30 AM. Learn about our upcoming calendar of events, curricula, meet our teachers and register your child, children, or youth.

Coming of Age Luncheon

On Sunday, September 14 at 12:30, in Jefferson Hall, we will host our annual COA Luncheon. All 8th graders, their parents and interested friends are invited to join a short lunch and presentation about our program. Hear from former COA youth, mentors, meet the facilitators, and sign up. We thank Chris Shorb, Doug Thomas and Kirsten Zecher for being our facilitators this year!

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists—YRUU Begins!

Our YRUU group will begin again on Sunday, September 21 in the Blake Meeting room. All youth, ages 14–19 are welcome! This is a cooperative Sunday morning program, led by both youth and adult advisors.

Camp de Benneville Pines Family Retreat with Rev. Aaron McEmrys and our cluster UU congregations.

Register now for the Cluster Retreat, September 26–28. Hiking, swimming, canoeing, archery, relaxing, reading, meditation, labyrinth walk, talking, yummy food, good company, UU service, intergenerational connecting, and more at our UU Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. Send your questions to Chris Shorb.

A limited scholarship has been offered anonymously to make this event affordable for families. Please contact Rev. Melitta Haslund at lifespan@ussb.org.

Lifespan Religious Education News...

(continued from previous page)

Adult RE and Program Guide

A fall edition of the Adult RE and Program Guide will soon be available. Sign up for exciting classes and attend many wonderful events as a way to continue your own search for truth and meaning—and meet like-hearted folks along the way! We thank the Adult RE Council (Don Bushnell, Lucinda Eileen, Carol Quest, Karolyn Renard, Ken Saxon, and Chuck Wolfe) and our many facilitators for their dedication to our Lifespan RE Program for Adults.



Power of Three— Oh so Close to Our Goal!

We need to complete our raising \$100k, and we only have \$25k to go!

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 over 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. Every dollar of your contribution will be matched with two more dollars. We need all gifts, large and small. Thank you to those who have added to your commitments, or made new commitments that now total \$75k 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.

Are you ready to get creative? Contact Nancy. 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, and neighbors. Contact Nancy for more details and ideas.

Calendar

Saturday, August 30, 2008

7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
1:00 PM Labor Day Campout, Skofield Park

Sunday, August 31

9:00 AM USSB Children's Choir, Jefferson Hall
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
2:00 PM Campout ends at Skofield Park

Monday, September 1 Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall

Tuesday, September 2

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Jefferson Hall
(free for USSB members)
8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary
4:00 PM USSB Executive Committee, Blake Lounge

Wednesday, September 3

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall

Thursday, September 4

7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, September 5

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

Saturday, September 6, 2008

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

Sunday, September 7

9:00 AM USSB Children's Choir, Jefferson Hall
9:45 AM Childcare, Starr King
10:30 AM Intergenerational Ingathering Worship Service,
Sanctuary
11:30 AM Children's RE Open House, Jefferson Hall

Monday, September 8

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall
7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, September 9

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Jefferson Hall
(free for USSB members)
8:15 AM Morning Meditation, Sanctuary
4:00 PM USSB Program Council, Blake Lounge

Wednesday, September 10

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall

Thursday, September 11

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

Friday, September 12

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, Summer, Jefferson Hall
6:00 AM USSB Coffee Boys, Off Campus
5:00 PM USSB Board Retreat, Off Campus
7:30 PM Summer DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Looking Ahead

September 14 Early Worship resumes & RE classes begin!
September 26-28 DeBenneville Pines UU Retreat with Aaron
October 3-4 Ministerial Startup Retreat
November 8 Annual Services Auction

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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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, 10:30-NOON
Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-4 PM; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

August 27 for material covering
September 13-26, 2008

E-mail: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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