



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

# KALEIDOSCOPE

November 8–21, 2008

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

## *Super Hero Powers*

### Calling on All Super Friends

**USSB Annual Services Auction  
Saturday, November 8, 5-9 PM Parish Hall**

**Admission Free**

**Food Free**

**Childcare Free**

**Entertainment? Priceless**

Holy Auction Batman...the USSB annual services auction is just around the corner! We're calling on all our Super Friends to attend USSB's Annual Services Auction on November 8, 2009 at our new Hall of Justice (aka Parish Hall). It will be a night of SMASH, BAM, OUT-OF-SIGHT fun and an opportunity to help our beloved congregation.

Be there as we gather Super Powers to fill our calendars with wonderful get-togethers to rejuvenate us throughout the year, attain much-needed pieces to fill our homes and our souls, and to engage with our other Super Friends. Dust off those capes and spandex superhero suits, because this event will be destined for Super Hero Glory. So be there and be a hero! Meet us at our Hall of Justice headquarters to lend your Super Powers.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, please call Percy Sales at (805) 637-7984 or Wonder Woman (Nancy Edmundson) at (805) 965-4583.

Pick up your Auction Booklet on Sunday, November 2 during Community Social Hour. (This makes you a Boy Wonder Super Hero, because it saves us postage!) Be sure to review this fabulous super-duper offering of events before arriving at the event so you are ready to make your Super Bids!

Look for our SuperHero Services Auction link on our website at [www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org) which has a pdf of the auction booklet and more helpful information.

—Auction—Cont'd on Page 2

## Sunday Morning Services 9:30 and 11:30 AM

**November 9th**

**4 Years**

Every four years the citizens of this nation elect a new President of the United States. While this is naturally of great interest to millions of Americans, it is also vitally important to billions of people around the world who are not Americans, but whose lives are indelibly shaped by the leadership choices we make.

For many of us here and abroad, this election is more crucial than most, perhaps the single most important election in living memory. Our nation and our planet are faced with dire challenges, and it will fall to our next President to help us overcome them.

On this Sunday, the first after we elect our new President, we will take stock of the road before us and begin to find our way forward into the next four years.

**The Reverend Aaron McEmrys**

**November 16th**

**Where We're Coming From**

There's a lot going on in this congregation as we begin our one hundred-thirty-second year. We have called a new Minister, hired two new choir directors, completed a two-million-dollar capital campaign and are about to become the first church in Santa Barbara to install a battery of solar panels on our roof. We are doing all of this at a time of profound economic uncertainty while our nation wages two wars on the other side of the globe and one of our great cities remains in ruins after a devastating hurricane.

There has never been a time when the Unitarian Universalism message of tolerance, justice and love was needed more than it is today. Or was there?"

In this Heritage Sunday service we will travel back in time to celebrate and to learn from all those who have come before us. Their voices will not only help us learn more about our proud history, but can also help guide us as we navigate the difficult times ahead, striving to become everything we are capable of becoming.

The Chancel Choir will sing

# And YOU Can Too!

## Super Hero Events Are Economically Accessible for Our Annual Fundraising Services Auction, Saturday, November 8

Recognizing that we have a great diversity of discretionary income in our congregation, the auction planning committee makes special efforts each year to create an event that is economically accessible for all the members of our congregation.

### How?

The event is Free! Please attend! And childcare is provided for free.

Affordable fixed price items: Note in the Auction Brochure (pick it up after services on Sunday, November 2, or watch for it in your mail November 4, and check our

website) that there are a number of affordable events that have a set fee. You will not need to bid against others. These events are “fixed” cost. Sign up and come. You will not be bumped by a higher bid.

Lottery of scholarship events: If your financial circumstances prohibit you from bidding at all, please contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration at 965-4583 x 225, [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org). You will be entered into a confidential lottery of event items that are being held for members whom we do not want excluded from the many activities that occur throughout the year.

## Auction—Cont'd from Page 1

### But don't...

...be foiled if you are out of town! Can't make it to the USSB Super Hero Services Auction?

If you are unable to make it to the auction you have several options to still bid on items you want and help make this the best auction yet!

Send your very own “Boy Wonder” (aka your friend) to do the bidding for you! Partner with a friend and let them know what item(s) you want to bid on and the maximum amount you are willing to pay for each.

OR...Contact Nancy Edmundson at 965-4583 x225 or [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org) before November 6 (Thursday) with your proxy bids.

## All in the Family

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## Next All Congregation Potluck Saturday, November 15

Sixty five of us had great fun eating, singing, chatting and enjoying a media show at the first one in October. You are invited to join us in November 15 in Parish Hall. We begin at 6 PM

Call or email Bruce or Bev Hanna for details XXXX

## Great Opportunities To Meet Our New Members

The Membership Committee would like to enhance our care for brand new and newer members. Here are a few ways you can volunteer to help.

1. Take photos of our brand new members who missed the photo shoot opportunity and publish their photos with a short bio on a page that can be inserted in or distributed with our latest Photo Directory.
2. Host a small dinner for a few new(er) members and established members to nurture relationships and connectedness.
3. Join the group of Super-Greeters who will take turns focusing on making our new(er) members feel welcomed during our community hour.
4. Become a mentor to a new member.

Please contact Janice Chellini XXXX or Sandy Grasso-Boyd XXXX if you would like to volunteer in any of these ways.

# View Point

GARY WELTERLAN, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## “My Civil Rights”

I close my eyes and start to be quiet. My heart rate slows, my shoulders and arms relax.

It is the feeling I get when I've done something I know is right, and believe in deeply.

On October 11th we, as a congregation, voted to affirm our support of the fundamental rights of marriage granted to every Californian, including our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. In doing so we acknowledged the dignity and worth of our friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and fellow parishioners by publically supporting the rights of all to live together with respect and equality. We also affirmed our opposition to ballot measures to block rights in Arizona and Florida.

## Sunday In Service

At Board meetings I have been known to suggest to my fellow board members that, to get a fuller understanding of congregational needs, it might be helpful to experience our congregation from places where individually we don't spend a lot of time. For example, if you don't have children in the RE program, attend an RE class for younger children, or if your experience revolves around young children, then attend a meeting of the Alliance.

I decided to practice what I preached.

On most Sundays Debbie and I dutifully attend the new 9:30 AM Sunday Service, spend time to meet and greet with friends in the garden after, then collect our belongings and return home for another Santa Barbara Sunday afternoon.

Today would be different.

Instead of attending Sunday Service I participated “In service” on Sunday. It started with my first Coming of Age (COA) meeting with our young adults and their mentors.

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara has joined 50 fellow California congregations and the greater community of elected officials and civic leaders, labor and civil rights groups all supported, editorially, by the largest newspapers in California

Our vote—our voice—signals the beginning of the journey. The real work lies ahead, to face the on-going challenge ensuring these liberties—the most basic of human rights—remain forever as a part of our State's rich social fabric.

COA is a program in which a young adult is matched with an adult mentor to begin the transition to adulthood. Under the leadership of Rev. Mellitta Haslund and the Religious Education program, nine young people and their adult mentors share experiences, participate in activities and listen to each other with the hope of developing trust—and understanding that growing up happens at all ages. I'm really looking forward to next year's program.

Following our COA meeting I “practiced” Social Justice manning the phone banks and called registered voters, asking that they vote *No* on Proposition 8 in the upcoming election. Joanie Jones and the Social Justice team had provided a script and a list of registered voters to call, so for the next hour or so I made 25 phone calls to voters.

It was a great day, and one I intend to repeat in the upcoming months. Attending Sunday Services means many things to many people. And today for me the definition broadened considerably.

## Pianist Natasha Kislenko opens our Concert Program in November

Our wonderful pianist, Natasha Kislenko will open our Concert Program with a piano recital on Sunday, November 16th at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Natasha will play a delightful suite of baroque dances by J. S. Bach, the virtuosic Toccata by Robert Schumann, and a selection of works by her native Russian composers: Tchaikovsky, Scriabin and Prokofiev. The highlight of the program is the well-known Third Sonata by Scriabin—one of the most beautiful and romantic works of the late 19th century.

Everyone has enjoyed Natasha's playing on Sunday mornings and now you can hear her perform some of the major works written for solo piano. Natasha graduated

from the prestigious Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and has earned a Masters and Doctorate of Arts. She has played at Carnegie Hall, performed solo recitals in Europe and the U.S. and currently is a faculty member of the Music Department at UCSB, as well as the famed Music Academy of the West. Natasha frequently appears in and chamber music programs and will present a chamber music concert in our series in May.

The Music Committee appreciates Natasha making this recital a fundraiser to provide funds needed in our Steinway Piano Major Maintenance Fund. Donations of \$10 from Members and Friends are requested. A reception in the newly completed Parish Hall will follow the concert.

## Melitta's Musings

We  
light this  
chalice  
to  
remind ourselves to treat all people kindly  
because they are our brothers and sisters  
to take good care of the earth,  
because it is our home

and to try  
to live lives,  
filled with goodness and love  
because that is how we will become,  
the best men and women we can be.

~Chalice Lighting from the Unitarian Universalist  
Church in Concord, Massachusetts.

I wanted to share with you the following story I found recently. It is written by Noreen Kimball who included it in a short essay about our Unitarian Universalist symbol, the flaming chalice, called *The Healing Cup*.

One very old woman told how the flaming chalice of her homeland, Czechoslovakia, helped her while she was in a Nazi prison camp. Printed under the picture of the Czech flaming chalice was the motto "pravda vitezí," which means, in English, "truth overcomes," or "truth prevails." Every single morning in that terrible camp, the

old woman said, she traced a picture of a flaming chalice in the sand with her finger. Then she wrote the motto underneath it. "It gave me the strength to live each day," she said. Whenever she drew the chalice in the dirt she was reminded that some day the world would remember the important truth that every single person is important and should be free to think and believe as he or she chooses."

May our chalice, which symbolizes many life-affirming values, be a beacon of hope ever calling us to our better selves in service of a world in need of peace and justice.

So may it be, Melitta

## Lifespan Religious Education News

### Adult Religious Education Council

The Adult RE Council is deeply involved in envisioning our future Adult RE program. Melitta has conducted research on the best practices in our movement and we are taking small, yet steady steps toward our goal. We thank Ken Saxon, our chair of that Council, for his leadership.

### Upcoming Adult Religious Education classes include:

•UU Inquiry: Visitors and newcomers are invited to join members of our Ministerial Team in the Sanctuary from 10:40–11 AM to learn about our congregation and the Path To Membership. Sundays, November 16th and 30th.

•Path To Membership: Join the Rev. Aaron McEmrys, the Rev. Melitta Haslund, Director of Administration Nancy Edmundson and our Membership Committee to get to know other newcomers, to learn about the Unitarian Society and our UU history. Lunch included. Saturday, November 22, 9–1 PM in Parish Hall. Child care will be provided. Please sign up in the Garden at the Adult RE table.

•Articulate Your UU Faith with the Rev. Melitta Haslund: Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20, December, 4 and 18, 7–9 PM in La Paz. You are guaranteed to come away with your own UU elevator speech! Sign up in the Garden on Sunday mornings.

### Coming of Age

Our COA youth and their three trusty facilitators went to Sage Hill for a campout in October. Hikes were taken, a council was held and our youth found their way, blindfolded, across a dry creek bed, guided by drum beat!

Mentors have undergone training and have met their mentees. Soon, they will enjoy a morning at Hendry's Beach XXXX where they will create art together. Be sure to explore Hendry's Beach to find their creations.

### Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Ministry!

Our high school age youth continue to meet—planning their auction items, which will include assisting folks at home in changing light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs and volunteering their services during our Auction.

We are in conversation about undertaking a social justice project.

All youth, 14–20 are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary at 11:30. After the *Story for All Ages*, we gather in Blake Meeting Room. The Rev. Melitta Haslund and Astrid Nelson are the adult advisors.

## Sketches by Aaron

Sometimes the best of intentions, the most valid of goals clash. I find this terribly frustrating. It's hard enough for me to come to any sort of clarity about what I call the "big questions" in life; what is important, how should I live; should I turn this way or that way at the crossroads?

Then, no sooner do I get some of these vexing questions settled (insofar as such questions can ever be settled...) than I find my all noble goals and aspirations crashing into one another!

I had a funny taste of this last Sunday after church. I had just finished delivering a sermon about things, stuff—and our relationship to them. I talked about how easy it is for us to become enslaved by our own "stuff" and by the societal pressure to accumulate and consume ever more ravenously. At the very end of the service, I challenged all of us to go home and take on that dusty and unopened box of junk we all put off dealing with—and to start liberating ourselves from all the "stuff" that clutters our lives and distracts us from the things that matter most.

So far so good.

But then, after the service, a couple of women came up to say hello. They told me how much they enjoyed the service, and then, with a devilish gleam in their eyes, they reminded me that just a couple weeks ago I preached a sermon encouraging people to make their Sundays into Sabbath days—days without work! These two had been assiduously working to build and honor their Sabbath day—and here was their minister telling them to go home and clean out their junk drawers!

Ahhh, there's the rub.

And so, once again, two important and meaningful priorities collide. I am so grateful for the feedback from

those two women. They reminded me that the real challenge of living our values is not when we have to choose between the "right way" and the "wrong way"—but when two "right ways" have trouble fitting into the same space at the same time.

I did correct myself in the second service, making sure to encourage people to declare war on their junk on Monday or Tuesday instead of Sabbath Sunday—but still, the issue remains an important one. How can we balance all the values we hold dear, especially when they sometimes seem to be competing for the scant energy we have left over at the end of yet another long day?

Unfortunately, I don't have a great answer to this question. I struggle with these kinds of tough choices all the time. What I can suggest is that we can be gentle and patient with ourselves. We don't have to get everything done immediately or perfectly, or maybe even at all. We can take things in their own time, step by step. To paraphrase the Book of Ecclesiastes, there is a time to reap, a time to sow—a time for every purpose under heaven. A time for all things.

But only as individuals can we figure out if this is a time for reaping or sowing—what we need to be working on right now. So reflect deeply, prioritize based on what you need most right now—and don't beat yourself up when you fall down. The mere fact that so many of us even care about difficult questions like "how shall I live?" is amazing, and the fact that so many of us try so hard to walk our talk is wonderfully inspiring.

When we find ourselves forced to choose between two goods, then we have to know that something is going very RIGHT in our lives. Those are the kinds of problems I want to have!

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### RE News—Cont'd

#### Seeking a Couch...

Our high school group would appreciate a donation of a slightly used but comfortable couch. If you have one to offer, please contact the Rev. Melitta Haslund at 965-4583 x 229 or lifespan@ussb.org. Thank you!

#### Children's Religious Education Ministry

All of our children and youth have been busily working to create useful Auction items! Don't miss out on our reflective bookmarks, beautifully decorated journals with UU quotes, colorful "spark bugs," and watercolor UU note cards, hand painted tote bags for sale! We thank Gretel Huglin for her assistance in selecting many of these fine crafts! We also thank the RE Teachers for their patient assistance!

On Sunday, November 2nd, our children and youth held a meaningful *El Dia de los Muertos* Ceremony and Fiesta in Jefferson Hall. We thank the YRUU and COA youth for their contributions to the service and celebration. And thanks to the Parent Participation Task Force Members, Claire Chytilo, Jean John, and Lauren Wyeth for helping to organize this grand event!

**Secret Pal Program** is well underway! More thanks to the 29 adult volunteers who will be Secret Pals! This is a wonderful way to connect intergenerationally as a congregation. The *Secret Pal Brunch* will be held in Parish Hall at 10:45 AM on Sunday, November 23rd.

# Calendar

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2008

- 2:30 PM ESPERANTO CIRCLE, LAPAZ LOUNGE
- 4:00 PM USSB ANNUAL SERVICES AUCTION, PARISH HALL

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2008

- 9:00 AM USSB CHILDCARE, STARR KING
- 9:30 AM COMING OF AGE, BLAKE LOUNGE
- 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S RE CLASSES, CLASSROOMS
- 9:30 AM 1ST WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY
- 10:45 AM SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW, PARISH HALL
- 11:00 AM YOUTH CHOIR, JEFFERSON HALL
- 11:30 AM 2ND WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 5:30 PM LARK YOGA CLASSES, JEFFERSON HALL
- 7:00 PM USSB MEN'S COUNCIL, BLAKE LOUNGE

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2008

- 7:00 AM TOASTMASTERS CLUB #5, PARISH HALL
- 5:30 PM USSB PROGRAM COUNCIL, PARISH HALL

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 4:00 PM USSB FINANCE COMMITTEE, BLAKE LOUNGE
- 5:00 PM USSB MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LAPAZ LOUNGE
- 5:30 PM LARK YOGA CLASSES, JEFFERSON HALL
- 7:00 PM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, CLASSROOM 1

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

- 7:00 PM ARTICULATING YOUR FAITH, LAPAZ LOUNGE
- 7:00 PM USSB CHOIR, SANCTUARY

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 8:00 AM USSB COFFEE BOYS, OFF CAMPUS
- 6:00 PM FAMILY FUN NIGHT, JEFFERSON HALL
- 7:30 PM DANCEAWAY, PARISH HALL

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008

- 7:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 6:00 PM CONGREGATION POTLUCK, PARISH HALL

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008

- 9:00 AM USSB CHILDCARE, STARR KING
- 9:30 AM COMING OF AGE, BLAKE LOUNGE
- 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S RE CLASSES, CLASSROOMS
- 9:30 AM 1ST WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY
- 10:00 AM COA GOLDSWORTHY, OFF CAMPUS
- 10:40 AM UU INQUIRY SUNDAYS, SANCTUARY
- 11:00 AM YOUTH CHOIR, JEFFERSON HALL
- 11:30 AM CHILDREN'S RE COUNCIL, BLAKE LOUNGE
- 11:30 AM 2ND WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY
- 3:00 PM **NATASHA KISLENKO CONCERT**, SANCTUARY

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- :30 PM LARK YOGA CLASSES, JEFFERSON HALL

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

- 7:00 AM TOASTMASTERS CLUB #5, PARISH HALL
- 5:30 PM USSB BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PARISH HALL

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 5:30 PM COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY, BLAKE LOUNGE
- 5:30 PM LARK YOGA CLASSES, JEFFERSON HALL
- 6:00 PM USSB VESPERS POTLUCK, LAPAZ LOUNGE
- 7:00 PM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, CLASSROOM 1
- 7:00 PM USSB VESPERS, LAPAZ LOUNGE

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008

- 7:00 PM ARTICULATING YOUR FAITH, LAPAZ LOUNGE
- 7:00 PM USSB CHOIR, SANCTUARY

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008

- 6:00 AM EARLY MORNING EXERCISE, WITH LINDA, PARISH HALL
- 8:00 AM USSB COFFEE BOYS, OFF CAMPUS
- 7:30 PM DANCEAWAY, PARISH HALL

## 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](mailto:ussb@ussb.org)  
Internet: [www.ussb.org](http://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: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM; Children's Program: 9:30 AM  
Nursery & Children's Care: Sunday, 9:00 AM-12:45 PM, STARR KING  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-4 PM; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON

### Next Newsletter Deadline

November 4 for material covering  
November 22-December 19, 2008  
E-mail: [Kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto:Kaleidoscope@ussb.org)

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