



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

KALEIDOSCOPE

December 20–January 2, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

A New Years Resolution

Perhaps you have made a new years resolution to make an extra gift of your time and talent. Or perhaps you would like to learn a new office trick, handyman skill, or leadership skill. Or perhaps you would like to spend a bit more time in the company of like-minded folks, supporting a beloved community.

Well, look no further than your very own UU congregation! Volunteer opportunities abound here at USSB, and we would love to know how you might be interested in helping out in the coming year.

Watch the next issue of *Kaleidoscope* for a more detailed listing of projects. Opportunities for involvement abound....I will look forward to hearing from you. Our congregation is richer for the programs and activities we provide, all fueled by the talent, time and energy of volunteers!

NANCY EDMUNDSON
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2008

“Lessons and Carols”

Family Service at 5:00 PM
Second Service at 7:00 PM

This Christmas Eve is special for many different reasons. We have so much to sing and tell stories about and Christmas is a great opportunity to share.

This year our services are centered on the blessings of Faith, Hope, and Love and the music will support these ideals with musical flashbacks and traditional carols as well as new music ripe with the sentiment of the season. From a candle-lit *Gaudeté* to our traditional *Silent Night* around the fountain these services are sure to warm your heart.

The Chancel Choir will be at both services to help the congregation sing carols and our guest *Guitarist Anthony Ybarra* will be on hand to add a special touch to our caroling.

In the first service our own Youth Choir led by Viava Janusoniene will be a special treat. They will be leading carols and singing for us.

Carol singing before and after each service will make this holiday a special experience of music, Christmas spirit and community.

Sunday Morning Services 9:30 and 11:30 AM

December 21st

December 28th

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

A Winter's Tale

That Still, Small, Voice

In this service, on the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice, we will make space for rest, reflection and quiet amidst the bustle (dare I say “frenzy?”) of the pre-holiday rush. Instead we will turn our attention to the subtle tides of nature and to the corresponding tides in our own bodies and spirits. Come, and take your rest with us.”

In this service we will pause on the tipping point between the Old and the New Year for a time of introspective word, music and silence. This has been a momentous year, a tumultuous year, by turns a wonderful and a frightening year. Let's spend some time together reflecting on where we've been and where the road ahead may lead us.

Last Minute Holiday Stocking Stuffers

Support your church and choose handmade notecards and reusable shopping bags complete with our local UU logo. In addition, there are *Story People* whimsical prints, *Good Taste* cookbooks, and if you are quick, a USSB mousepad, handmade journal and a pair of "spark bugs" made by our RE kiddos.

We also have some locally made UU fridge magnets with inspirational quotes (\$2.00), sets of adult and children's versions of our UU principles (\$15.00, which includes your choice of one extra quote magnet), and good-sized bookmarks (\$2.00).

Wrap your gifts in a novel way: Pick up UU green shopping bags emblazoned with *Green Thoughts Into Action... Heal the World*. These make an easy and non-polluting way to wrap gifts. Place your gift in the bag along with some festive tissue, add a bow. Voila! Two gifts in one, wrapped and functional! (\$4.00)

These items are for sale in the front office. Check them out!

Alliance Meeting—January 9, 2009

The first Alliance meeting of 2009 will be in our beautiful Parish Hall at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 9.

The program will be presented by two members of Alpha Resource Center of Santa Barbara who will describe the aims, activities and challenges involved in helping mentally challenged children and adults.

Everyone is invited to come for the meeting. Refreshments will be provided by Alliance members (I thru Z).

Special Screening: *Bride And Prejudice* and Monthly Potluck, Saturday, Dec. 20 at 5:00 PM

Come early and bring food to share as we combine our monthly all-congregational potluck series with the grand opening of our new film theater in Parish Hall, hosted by Chuck Wolfe and Ken Ralph.

We'll eat at about 5:45 PM to clean up so the movie can start about 7:00 PM. (And, yes, one can come only to the movie at 7:00 PM). Those who can, please come by 5:00 PM to help set-up. For more information contact Bruce Hanna at 451-5414 or bphanna@cox.net.

About *Bride And Prejudice* (2004):

Bollywood meets Hollywood in this colorful musical comedy from director Gurinda Chadha (and the British team that produced *Bend It Like Beckham*). *Bride and Prejudice* puts a modern, cross-cultural spin on Jane Austen's story of spirited courtship, in settings spanning India, England and America, and features musical numbers that will showcase our new sound system and large screen.

Social Justice Matters

The state constitutional amendment denying the right of marriage to same-sex couples that was voted in as Proposition 8 is now headed for the California Supreme Court. UULM-CA (which our December outreach collection goes to) will write an "Amicus" brief asking the Court to strike it down, though arguments won't be heard before next March. While a strikedown of the so-called "marriage protection amendment" would be good news for everyone who wants to extend rather than restrict human rights in California, it wouldn't directly help those working for equal marriage rights in the rest of the country except to encourage them in their own efforts. But a decision by the US Supreme Court that the "equal protection of the laws" guaranteed in the 14th Amendment includes marriage—that would open doors everywhere.

There will be extra needs for food—yes, and Christmas toys!—from Santa Barbara families most hurt by the current recession. Remember this when contributing to the FoodBank, the Domestic Violence Solutions tree that will be in Parish Hall, and all other givers of help.

The first problem above is a **social justice** issue—correcting a long-standing situation that unjustly benefits some and hurts others—and the second is a **social service** issue, helping people in need. These two areas overlap, but they aren't the same, and it's usually easier to work for the second than for the first. Both areas require money and sweat, but in the social service area serious conflicts are unlikely (after all, almost everybody approves of helping people) and results are easier to see. Social justice work, on the other hand, requires much more patience, and sometimes real courage.

More about this next year. Have the very best holiday, whatever you want to call it!

PAUL NAY, CHAIR, SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



Folk Dancing: Wednesday Nights, 8–10 (when it's not movie night!)

The Oak Park Balkan and Greek folkdancing comes indoors to our Parish Hall in winter, so come join us! This is great exercise with a wide variety of line dances from many countries; if you are there early, you will find people will be glad to teach you. Just ask.

These are traditional dances with occasional live music.

Questions? Call Donnis

Sketches by Aaron

The bells never really stop ringing around here. Just about every fifteen minutes or so there is a new peal or carol from one of our neighborhood bell towers. I don't know how many of them are real bells; probably most of them are electronic these days.

But they are wonderful, electronic or not. The sound of bells in the distance is one of my favorite sounds, right up there with the sound of a distant train late at night or the sounds of children playing. The bells order the day, calling out to one another across the green blocks, "It's 11:15 am—can you believe it? It's wonderful!!!" The bells always sound so excited, so genuinely pleased with the measured passing of the day. They remind me to take notice of the beauty and uniqueness of each passing moment, which can be hard to do over the sounds of jackhammers and ringing telephones.

But the bells do, more often than not, make it through to me.

I notice them most on my writing days. On Tuesdays, for those of you who don't know, I sit at my old desk and prepare the first draft of my latest sermon. It usually takes all day, and if I am lucky I will end the day with a decent draft. So my day is spent sitting at that desk trying to weave and conjure a fabric of words, feelings and ideas. It is hard, but deeply gratifying work.

And the bells are my conversation partner. I can make out some of the different bell voices now, can tell the difference between a peal designed to mark time and a carol designed to sing to our City. I can (and do) hum

along to many of the hymns now—they have become my companions, even though they were strangers to me just a few weeks ago. I particularly enjoy it when the bells sing one of "our" songs. A couple weeks ago I heard *Be Thou My Vision*, and thought, "that's lovely—we should sing that this Sunday!" And so we did.

I can't be sure of all the ways the bells affect me or my writing, but I know they help me be more present in the moment—at least in fifteen minute intervals—and I suspect that they help my writing and my life become more... musical... somehow. It's as if the bells ring out and my life sings back. I am reminded of Alfred Lord Tennyson's beautiful hymn, *Ring Out Wild Bells* and with his words I will leave you:

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;*

*Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;*

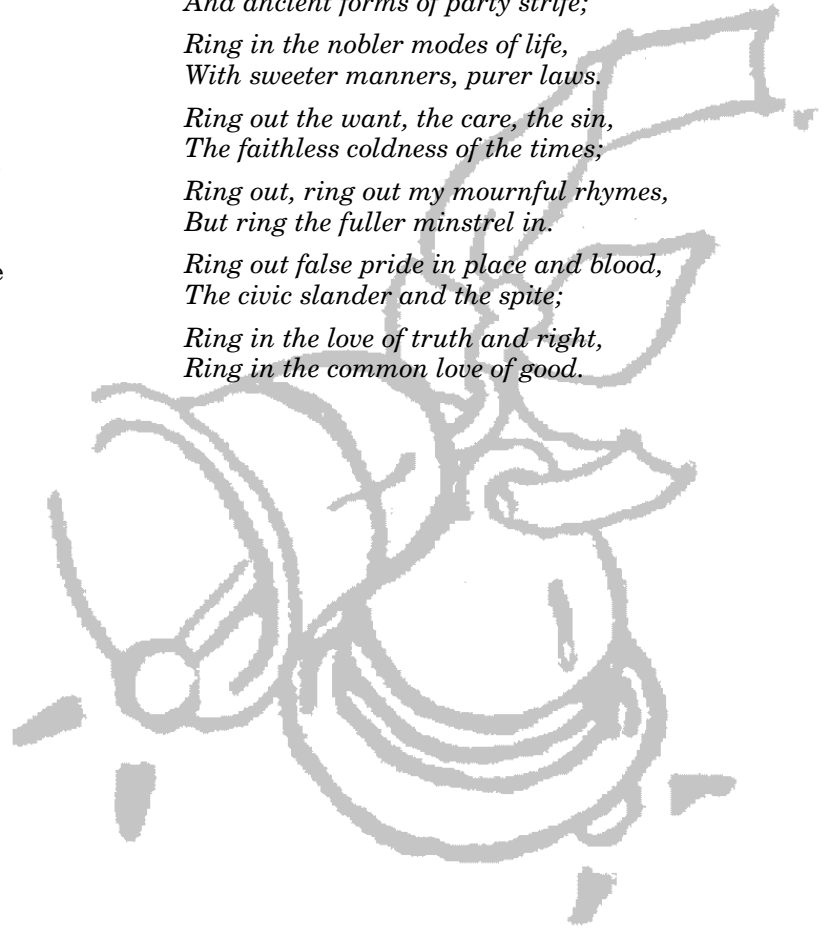
*Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;*

*Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

All in the Family

Happy January Birthdays



Calendar

Saturday, December 20, 2008

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hal
- 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Congregation Potluck & Movie Grand Opening, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 21, 2008

- 9:00 AM USSB Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Holiday Children's Worship, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry Conversation, Sanctuary
- 11:30 AM Children's RE Council, Blake Lounge
- 11:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 22, 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, December 23, 2008

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 12:15 PM USSB I.T. Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 5:30 PM USSB Worship Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 6:00 PM Caroling With RE, Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday, December 25, 2008 *Office Closed for Holiday*

Friday, December 26, 2008 *Office Closed for Holiday*

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

Saturday, December 27, 2008

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 28, 2008

- 9:00 AM USSB Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 11:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 29, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall

Thursday, January 01, 2009 *Office Closed for Holiday*

Friday, January 02, 2009

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:00 PM Danceaway Committee, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM Danceaway, Parish Hall

Looking Ahead...2009

- January 9 Alliance General Meeting
- January 11 Thomas Yee violin concert, Sanctuary
- January 17 Congregation Potluck, 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
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: 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-1:00 PM

Next Newsletter Deadline

December 17 for material covering
January 3-16, 2009
E-mail: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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