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# KALEIDOSCOPE

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

April 11–24, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Editor: Jared Dawson

in  
the  
words  
of...

“  
It's official. We have passed final inspection on our Building Project!”

KEN RALPH,  
FACILITIES MANAGER  
MARCH 18, 2009

“  
Warm greetings to you all....Today I hope you will reflect back on ALL that you accomplished in a three-year period of time....You are NOT the same congregation that I first saw in 2004 and you can rightfully be proud of all that you have accomplished. And, it was not just a few of you doing this—so many of you stepped up for your turns at bat....I have enjoyed following the building project on your website and in the *Kaleidoscope*. Congratulations to you all!”

LARRY WHEELER  
UUA STEWARDSHIP  
CONSULTANT

## A Welcomed Call

Ring.... Ring.... Ring....  
“Hello.”

“Hello Gary? This is Sally (the name is changed to protect the innocent) from the Unitarian Society. I'm calling about this year's annual Stewardship Campaign....”

Each spring thousands of Unitarians perform the most difficult act a Unitarian can do: call a fellow congregant to set up the annual stewardship meeting. I used to think that I would rather spend the day cleaning out the gutters on the shaded side of the house than to set aside an hour to have a parishioner come to meet with me and talk about money. Yet each time I've agreed to meet with the visiting steward I am glad that I did and spiritually richer for it. I now look forward to the call.

This year I will join more than 50 other congregants who have volunteered their time to call on two or three other members and friends. Each year we visit one third of our members and sit down face-to-face to talk about the place the Society holds in our lives. A visitation by a visiting steward is an important part of the relationship we have as members and friends. The visit gives us the time to express our hopes, and the things we like and the things we'd like to see changed. Sadly, if we miss the chance to visit this year we miss the chance for the next three. We really want you to say yes to getting together!

See, we all have a story to tell and a story that we would like to hear. Yes, one of the

[Continued next page](#)

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*Sunday, April 5, 2009 Annual Campaign Celebration!*  
*The Future Is Now*  
*Special Worship 9:30 and 11:30 AM*  
*Community Hour Celebration Brunch 10:30 AM in our New Jefferson Courtyard*

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

April 12

**Easter Services—Rise Up O Flame**  
**Intergenerational**

**The Reverend Aaron McEmrys**

Sometimes in life it can feel as though life's candle has been all but extinguished. Hope is lost, breath is short and the world seems full of ashes. And yet even here, at the apparent end of all things, we can often find new hope, regeneration and renewal in the least likely of places. The sun rises, spring scents the soil, and we find that the flickering flame of our hearts is rising up once more. Some call it grace, some call it fate, some call it dumb luck—and still others call it resurrection. Please join us for a very special service on this Easter Sunday. We will celebrate life and love in all their resurgent glory with song, with stories old and new, and with inspiring music featuring Ken Ryals, Ellen Rockne, our Youth and Chancel Choirs and other musical guests!

Water is the source of all life. It refreshes, purifies, and sustains almost 7 billion human beings. But as it is with so many things in today's world, the precious gift of life-giving water is not equitably distributed, and many millions do not know where their next drink of water will come from, or if it will arrive in time. We are beginning to see the outlines of an onrushing global water crisis that, combined with the effects of global warming, may be the most difficult challenge the human race has ever faced. The stakes are high. In this service we will celebrate Earth Day and pay our respects to great Gaia in all her wondrous beauty—even as we wrestle with the many challenges that lie ahead. Every person has a right to the waters of life—what can we do to make sure everyone can exercise that right?

## A Welcomed Call . . . continued from previous page

main purposes of the call is to ask for your continued support to fund the upcoming year's operations of our Society, but equally important is the chance for me to meet you and learn about your story. In community we share our successes, our disappointments, joys and fears. In community we find we are not alone and that people really do care. We get the chance to be the best people we can be only in the context of our relationships with others.

So when you get that call from one of this year's visiting stewards, take it as a compliment—somebody from your congregation, who shares your values, wants to learn more about you! In return, if you are called I hope you will return the compliment by accepting the invitation to meet and share your story and your thoughts. In this conversation learn how your financial support, at whatever level, plays a role in meeting the needs of our society.

GARY WELTERLEN, BOARD PRESIDENT

## Thank You from Starr King!

We'd like to thank you for your continuing support of Starr King and our 60<sup>th</sup> school anniversary. Though the construction project posed some interesting challenges for us all, it was well worth the wait. The courtyard and surrounding grounds are beautiful! It is such a wonderfully peaceful and serene environment for all of us to enjoy and we thank you for sharing it with us, our children and the community. During the rummage sale, shoppers repeatedly commented that the grounds were beautiful and we believe the project made the rummage sale that much more enjoyable for everyone.

Despite the torrential rains, we had many customers and our rummage sale was quite a success. As always, every shopper left the sale with a USSB flyer stapled to their bag of merchandise, and your logo was featured on our large "thank you" poster displayed in the central courtyard during the sale. As first time Starr King rummage chairs, we enjoyed working with your wonderful and helpful staff. We hope that some of you were able to attend the sale and that you found some "treasure". We feel privileged to be a part of such a long-standing partnership and tradition, and we look forward to working with you for the next couple of years.

KIM FERRARIN & JEN THATCHER, SK RUMMAGE CO-CHAIRS

## The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)



UUSC is an organization that receives no UUA funding, depending on the financial support of its members. Membership is \$40, \$10 for students or youth, \$75 for a dual membership and \$20 for seniors (65 plus). The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY, will match gifts of \$100 or more.

UUSC develops partnerships with organized, effective, and transparently run grassroots organizations in America and around the world that challenge oppression and inequality. The organization focuses on four major program areas: defending civil liberties and access to democratic processes; advancing economic justice; protecting rights in humanitarian crises; and promoting environmental justice as in the fight for clean water.

Today, one in six people around the world have no safe drinking water. Over 13,000 people die every day due to water-related diseases; dehydration from disease claims the lives of nearly 2 million children annually. Cash-strapped governments everywhere turn to private water companies to purchase rundown water systems, upgrade them, and sell services for profit, but too often, prices rise and services deteriorate, leaving behind society's most vulnerable citizens who cannot afford to pay.

All over the world, even in Santa Barbara, many people worry about drinking tap water. They choose vended water because it is cheaper than bottled water. California requires vended water to meet all drinking water standards required of tap water. Yet water vending machines do not filter all the contaminants that may be present in the tap water. Random tests in Los Angeles County in 1997 and 2000 showed unacceptable pollution and bacteria levels for water in 32% of vending machines.

This spring, UUSC, its partners, allies, and supporters will be lobbying for the historic AB 1242, the Human Right to Water Act of 2009, which promises that "every Californian shall have access to safe, affordable water for basic human needs." AB 1242 will not only affect Californians, but will also build the movement for the human right to water in the United States and internationally. Get ready to lobby your elected officials for AB 1242!

### **Now is the time to take up water justice work.**

Join other Unitarians and their partners locally and globally by joining UUSC. Make your voice heard.

You may call Barbara Sachs for more information about this or about our Social Justice Committee's work.

*"You are not obligated to complete the work,  
but neither are you free to abandon it."*

THE TALMUD

## Sketches . . . by Aaron

### **Making A Difference: One Loan at a Time**

Panakh Abbasov lives on the other side of the world from us, in Imishli, Azerbaijan. He works hard to support his wife and six children, selling children's toys from a simple rented storefront. Panakh Abbasov is a stranger to us, and yet we are connected. With our help, he is expanding his business and providing a brighter future for his family.

The Mujeres en Desarrollo Group are made up of seventeen women in the Dominican Republic who run small food stands and other small businesses in San Pedro de Macoris, one of the poorest places in the country. They are working together to start a food market to serve their community and pull themselves out of poverty. The Mujeres will never know our names, and yet we are connected. With our help, they have not only launched their market, but have repaid almost 50% of their initial loan!

Ndèye Marie Ndiaye, of Ziguinchor, Senegal, is now supporting her five children through the phone-card business we helped her start, and Mang Srey Sam Phoas, in Kampong Cham, Cambodia, is doing great in her newly expanded beauty salon. I cannot begin to pronounce their names, and yet we are connected. With the support of our congregation, their businesses are thriving and they are looking to the future with pride and hope instead of fear.

These are just a few of the people our congregation is helping through Kiva microlending. We have made 11 loans so far, mostly in amounts that would seem small by

our Santa Barbara standards—but which have the power to change (and even save) the lives of our sisters and brothers all over the world.

Kiva helps congregations like ours make “micro-loans” to people in the developing world so that they can better help themselves and make their own dreams come true! This is not charity. Every loan is repaid, and as soon as it is, we can either take the money back—or turn around and loan it to someone else. Needless to say, we will be doing the latter! This is just one small way that we can make a big difference in the world, strengthening and nurturing the interconnected web of which we are a part.

We have started our Unitarian Society micro-lending “team” with the offering from our Christmas Eve services as well as with some initial loans from congregants, and I encourage you to join us too. Even a twenty-five dollar loan has the potential to change somebody's life.

You can visit our team page at [http://www.kiva.org/team/unitarian\\_society\\_of\\_santa\\_barbara](http://www.kiva.org/team/unitarian_society_of_santa_barbara).

Then, if you want to get involved, all you have to do is register and then click the link to join our team. We will probably never meet any of the people we help this way, and they will never know who we are. But they will know that sweet rising feeling that comes to all people when they realize that someone, somewhere, believes in them, values them, and wants to invest in their future.

IN FAITH, AARON

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## **Farewell Celebration for Rev. Melitta Haslund**

### **Save the date! Sunday, May 3, 2009**

On the morning of Sunday, May 3 our congregation will take the opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Rev. Melitta Haslund and her family. Be sure to join us at either Sunday morning worship, 9:30 or 11:30 AM, and be sure to join us at Community Hour between 10:30–11:30 AM for a special potluck reception. Please contact Pat Kruger with offers of assistance with the reception. We'll keep you informed about Melitta's, Bill's, Benjamin's and Alexandra's favorite foods!

## **Prom Delayed, Movie Night On**

Sadly, the Spring Formal Dance, or Prom, on April 24 has been postponed. Those holding tickets will be informed of the future date.

The good news is that our movie impresario Chuck Wolfe will fill in with his regular last-Friday-of-the-month film series in our 'surround-sound' Parish Hall. He will be presenting *Persepolis* (2007). This is a poignant account of a strong-willed girl growing up in Iran during the years of the Islamic Revolution, told from the perspective of her later years as a European émigré. Based on the acclaimed “comic strip” memoir of Marjane Satrapi, this animated film (rated PG-13 in the U.S.) was written and directed by Satrapi in collaboration with French animator Vincent Paronnaud.

# Supporting Our Lifespan Religious Education Programs

Our congregation is in transition between the consulting services of Rev. Melitta Haslund and our next Religious Education professional. In the meantime, all of our religious education programming will continue through the spring and summer and we will continue planning for our fall programs. Our staff and lay leadership is a collaborative, talented and flexible one, and we will all work together to make sure that our broad ministry continues to thrive throughout this transition. Below is a short summary of the leadership groups that support and organize these programs, and who to contact with offers of assistance, or to have your questions answered.

## Adult Religious Education

Ken Saxon

The Spring and Summer ARE guide is published in this issue of Kaleidoscope, on our website, and can be found on our Welcome and RE tables on Sunday mornings. To register in any of these classes, sign up on Sundays or contact Charla, at [re@ussb.org](mailto:re@ussb.org), 965-4583 x227.

For the past year, our ARE committee, under the leadership of Ken Saxon, has been actively planning for a revitalized program that will launch Fall 2009. Stay tuned for more exciting details, and to find out how you may support their efforts and participate!

## Coming of Age

Kir Zecher

The COA program is moving full speed ahead toward their May 16 worship service. Planning for the Fall 2009 COA program will begin later this summer. Current COA youth will be welcomed into our YRUU group later this spring.

## YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists-High School Group)

Rev. Aaron McEmrys [minister@ussb.org](mailto:minister@ussb.org) 965-4583 x222

Our ministry to this age group has been in transition for many years. This group of youth will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 11:30 AM, and Aaron will be convening focus groups of recent COA parents, recent COA youth and potential youth group advisors to plan and implement the programming for summer and fall.

## Children's Religious Education Program

Charla Bregante, RE Assistant  
[re@ussb.org](mailto:re@ussb.org) 965-4583 x227

Our Children's Religious Education Committee works with Charla to support the already recruited and trained spring teaching teams, and to organize and support specific volunteer task forces (such as Family Fun Night). We are currently seeking volunteers for our Summer Sunday programs and for our Peas and Justice Garden.

## Youth Choir

Vaiva Janusoniene, Youth Choir Director

Our youth choir is full of energy and enthusiasm that you can't miss in their new red t-shirts, or while they are selling baked goods to fund their end of year trip.

## Religious Education Task Force

The Board of Trustees appointed this task force earlier this year, to study the emerging needs of our congregation, as we look to our future and articulate our desire to become an increasingly growing and age diverse community. We are seeking to place all of our Religious Education programs for young and old at the center of the heart of all of our ministries. See the article on the facing page for more details.

## Religious Education Professional Search Committee

In the near future the Board of Trustees will be forming a search committee to help us to identify and recruit our next RE professional leader. The search committee will solicit input from all stakeholders and then guide us through a search and hiring process.

## Contacting Lifespan Religious Education by Phone or Email

In this transition time, and until our next Religious Education professional is in place, all phone and email messages sent to [lifespan@ussb.org](mailto:lifespan@ussb.org) will be received by Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration. Nancy will reply to your messages and let you know where your inquiry has been directed.



## Lifespan Religious Education News

### Children's Religious Education Program

On March 29 RE children shared a farewell Children's Worship Service with Rev. Melitta Haslund. They created a sand mandala with Melitta, talked about their time together, and shared a lovely cake made by Lauren Wyeth for this special occasion.

The Go Green curriculum for grades 1-7 is in full swing. Classes have planted a beautiful "Peas" and Justice Garden behind the Blake Building. On April 5 will be going on a field trip to Alice Keck Park to follow a stream, do tree yoga and write Hike Haikus! After that they look forward to making environmentally-friendly cleaning products and much more.

### Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir raised \$187.50 in their bake sale to raise money for their June trip to the Ojai water park. Thank you to everyone who supported them.

### Coming of Age Program

Our COA youth will be busily hiding colorful eggs for young children to hunt for during community hour on Easter Sunday. The youth and their advisors are currently making plans for a service project at a Los Angeles homeless shelter later this month.

### From our High School Youth

The YRUU is having a blue jean drive to collect jeans to give to women affected by domestic violence in Santa Barbara county. YRUU has decided to do this because it is a unique way to help those around us in need, and every person deserves a "trusty" pair of jeans. We will be collecting jeans Sunday April 19 and 26 in the Jefferson Courtyard. Any contributions (for women or children) are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your support.

### Adult Religious Education

Look for the Spring Adult Religious Education brochure in this issue of the *Kaleidoscope!* It will also be available to pick up on the RE Table in the garden.

### Summer Sundays

Do you have a hobby or passion you would enjoy sharing with our USSB children this summer? Summer Sundays are a wonderful way to share your gifts with children eager to learn about what brings you joy. Visit the RE table in the garden on Sundays to sign up to lead a Summer Sunday Children's Service or contact our RE Assistant, Charla Bregante, at 965-4583 x227, re@ussb.org for more information.

## About Your Lifespan RE Program Review Task Force

We are a group of five (Deb Karoff, chair, Carla Abatie, Carol Schwyzer, Betty Noling, and Jared Dawson) who were appointed by our Board of Trustees earlier this year to consider and recommend options to "grow" our Lifespan RE program. Within our group we have children in RE, are current or past teachers and program leaders, and have experience with the USSB Strategic Plan.

On January 19, when we met with a UUA Pacific Northwest District Program Specialist we began to define the scope of our service and received UUA congregational resources and contacts reflecting dynamic and growing Religious Education programs. One issue we have been exploring is that, given our size, the number of youth enrolled in our RE programs is distinctly lower than similar congregations. While numbers alone never tell a complete story, it is valuable for us to consider this situation.

During the last two months, we have been:

- ⚙ researching how other successful UU congregations organize and staff their RE programs;
- ⚙ having conversations with the leadership of these congregations;
- ⚙ doing extensive online research into congregational practices and curriculum models;
- ⚙ conducting interviews with a diverse number of participants in our past and current programming including our two ministers;
- ⚙ exploring the leading curricula options for perceived strengths and challenges.

This already has been a rewarding and exciting process that has given us a richer understanding of religious education and of the depth of our denominational movement.

We will be meeting with the Children's RE Council soon. We will be preparing a written report about our findings that will go to the Board of Trustees the third week in April. It is likely that our report will be used to inform the search for new leadership of our Lifespan RE program, as well as to seed new ideas and approaches in our strategic planning. We recognize and value the work previously done by Rev. Melitta Haslund, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Children's Religious Education Council. We also will reference the hard work that the Adult Religious Education Committee, chaired by Ken Saxon, has been doing in planning for the fall. We strive to be complementary in fostering our common goal for the best and most vibrant religious education community possible.

We will also be meeting with Rev. McEmrys and RE parents to discuss our initial findings as part of a broad process to assist in our congregation's moving forward.

# ADULT

# RELIGIOUS

# EDUCATION

## **SPEAKER'S BUREAU**

Tuesday, April 21 7 PM  
Parish Hall  
Imran Ahmad

London based author of the highly acclaimed book, *Unimagined: A Muslim Boy Meets the West* will join us to discuss his autobiographical book about his life as a youngster moving from Pakistan to London.

Contact: Don Bushnell.

## **COURSE ON SPIRITUAL FITNESS**

Tuesdays, April 7–May 12 6:30–7:30 PM  
Sanctuary

Rev. Sharon Kerwin

Using a combination of specific foundational teachings, principles, daily practices and the perfect amount of humor this class will support you in experiencing spiritually fit relationships with yourself and the Divine. Learn how having a spiritual fitness practice that works best for you, contributes as much to your health and the health of those around you as physical fitness does.

Free to USSB Members \$5 at door donation for others.

## **INTERSPIRITUAL MEDITATION**

Wednesdays, May 6–June 17 7–8:30 PM  
Blake Lounge  
Ed Bastian

The purpose for these sessions is to enable community activists and other active people to gather together in a community contemplative process. Our goal is to help active people return to the sources of their original inspiration and to be sustained in their work through a calm and rejuvenating contemplative practice. Each session will begin with a bit of teaching and discussion, followed by a thirty-minute, seven-part meditation, then a period of silent reflection, and finally a period of deep dialog about ways to apply contemplative wisdom and compassion to our lives, professions, and community.

Ed Bastian, Ph.D., is President of the Spiritual Paths Institute. His Doctorate is in Buddhist Studies and Western Philosophy from UW Madison. Bastian studied for over a decade with Buddhist monks in monasteries in the U.S., India and the Himalayas. As a Fulbright Scholar, he studied Indian philosophy at Banares Hindu University and translated Buddhist scriptures from Tibetan and Sanskrit sources. He is co-director of ECOFaith Santa Barbara and a board member of the Interfaith Initiative of Santa Barbara. He is the author of *Living Fully, Dying Well*, published by Sounds True.

## **EET ETHICAL EATING DISCUSSION GROUP**

Sundays, May 24, June 28, July 26, Aug 23  
Blake Lounge 12:45–2:30 PM  
Cat Robson

Ethical Eating is UUA's Congregational Study Action Issue for 2008–2012. That's a mouthful! Congregations worldwide are asking questions about how our diet choices affect not just our health, but our brothers and sisters who grow the food, those who are forced to go hungry, the animals we create and kill, and ultimately the survival of our planet. EET, USSB's new Ethical Eating Taskforce, is hosting discussions where we can ask questions, find information, watch some great short films, and get encouragement so we can eat more ethically, whatever that means for each of us. Please check out the RE table for information and discussion materials. Potluck (how could we not have great food!), youth welcome.

## **MEN'S MOVEMENT**

Thursdays, April 23–May 14 6–8 PM  
Jefferson Hall  
Patrick Block

Most dance in this country is modeled on the female body. In this class we focus on the gifts and limits of the male form. We explore and expand the vocabulary of the body by stretching, breathing, and moving creatively. Time is given to witness and share. Each week we build on a choreographic piece of our own, using models of traditional dances for men from around the world. No experience is necessary.

Patrick Block is a member of USSB. He is a modern dancer, a massage therapist and a yogi. He has participated in small group men's work for over twenty years.

## **MUSIC—DE-MYSTIFYING THE MYSTERY!!**

Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, and 30 7–8:30 PM  
Jefferson Hall

Ken Ryals, USSB Chancel Choir Director

Would you like to be a better singer/musician? Would you like to make a more joyful noise or at least a more accurate one, when you are singing in church? This is a class designed to help the church choir member and the congregational singer. We will learn music fundamentals and ways to read music that are fun and interesting. We will also learn music from our own hymnals.

# LISTINGS, SPRING/SUMMER 2009

## SEASONED SEEKERS

Last Tuesdays of the month until May 26 3–4:30 PM  
Vista del Monte and Valle Verde

**Ginny Crane**

Senior members and friends of USSB and Live Oak UU Congregation of Goleta meet to hear challenging speakers and have discussions. The gatherings are open and welcome to everyone. We do not meet in summer. Our programs will be:

April 28 Rev. Erika Hewitt, Live Oak UU  
Valle Verde

May 26 Discussion with Carlene Van Pelt  
and Steve Young  
Vista del Monte

## FILM SERIES

Last Fridays of the month Parish Hall 7 PM

**Chuck Wolfe**

Here are upcoming films, introduced by UCSB Film and Media Studies Professor Dr. Chuck Wolfe, who then facilitates a discussion afterwards. Everyone is welcome, no charge. Popcorn and juice provided, of course.

Friday, April 24

**PERSEPOLIS (2007)** This is a poignant account of a strong-willed girl growing up in Iran during the years of the Islamic Revolution, told from the perspective of her later years as a European émigré. Based on the acclaimed “comic strip” memoir of Marjane Satrapi, this animated film (rated PG-13 in the U.S.) was written and directed by Satrapi in collaboration with French animator Vincent Paronnaud.

Friday, May 29

**THE VISITOR (2008)** The life of a dispirited economics professor is transformed by a chance encounter with a Syrian-Senegalese couple in New York City in this finely etched drama by writer-director Tom McCarthy, following up on his 2003 debut film, **THE STATION AGENT**. Richard Jenkins received an Academy Award nomination for his performance in the lead role.

## TWO PIANO CONCERTS COMING UP:

Jazz Concert on April 11

Classical Concert on April 26

Jazz pianist and composer **Larry Karush** will perform a program of unique arrangements of jazz standards and original jazz improvisations on Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 PM. A major figure in the jazz and world music arenas, Larry is currently a member of the music faculty at Occidental College and tours the country and abroad doing solo concerts and appearing with his jazz quartet. He is a noted composer who is heavily influenced by African-based pieces and the music of North India. From Carnegie Hall to the Purple Onion, he has performed jazz with John Abercrombie and Jane Ira Bloom, world music with Kanai Dutta and new music with Steve Reich.

Performer and music critic Josef Woodard recommended Larry and we are delighted to have this outstanding jazz artist in our concert series. See his web site at [www.larrykarush.com](http://www.larrykarush.com).

On Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 PM outstanding concert pianist **Zeynep Ucbasaran** returns to the Sanctuary for the fourth time to present a program of works by Chopin, Liszt and Saygun. Zeynep lives in Santa Barbara with her husband who is a professor at UCSB. She began her studies at age four at the Istanbul Conservatory and then studied in Budapest where she received her Concert Artist Diploma from the famous Liszt Academy of Music. She obtained her advanced degrees in Piano Performance from Hochschule für Musik in Germany, and her MA and Doctorate of Piano Performance from USC. She has a very active solo and chamber music career and is currently touring in the US and in May will perform in Switzerland and Denmark.

She has recorded a number of award-winning CDs for Eroica Classical Recordings in the past several years and her recording of Turkish composer A. A. Saygun's solo piano works was recently released by the distinguished Naxos International. For more information visit her web site at [www.zupiano.com](http://www.zupiano.com).

A donation of \$10 is requested from Society members and friends for each of these concerts! Put these dates on your calendar and invite your friends to join you!

JOHN WARNOCK, CHAIR, CONCERT COMMITTEE

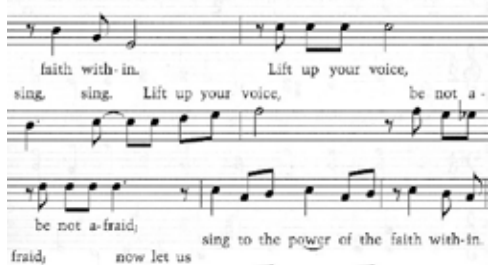


## COME AND JOIN AND GROW AND SHARE

## The Joy of Singing Can Be Yours

Following a choir Sunday service, I often hear from other congregants that it appears we singers are having a good time. This is an understatement. Singing in the choir is a huge reward for being part of the USSB congregation. We, in the choir, want all in the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara to experience the elation singing can bring. Yet, the characteristic responses to an invitation to join the choir are similar to ones I held for my first 25 years as a congregant: I don't have time for another commitment, you wouldn't want me in your ranks, I can't read music, leave it to those who have a better voice than I have.

I was flattered when Tim Pettit, our choir president, persistently asked me to consider being part of the choir.



Inwardly smiling, I would think to myself "he has never heard me sing". Eventually, seeing how many I admired were loyal choir members, my

reluctance to joining diminished. Then singing with the summer singers a few times got me hooked.

Now that I have been a choir member for six months, I realize all my previous resistance only kept me from the joyful community support I now have in the choir. I am surrounded by those who hold me up when my pitch or rhythm are off. As Ken Ryals our director says, "Sing out so I can correct your mistakes". We all get a good laugh when we are "killing" him. After a Thursday night rehearsal I have forgotten any difficulties at the office, housework to be done, and any fatigue I felt prior to coming to choir practice. I leave with a song in my heart.

I feel grateful for having the opportunity to be part of such an exuberant music program and hope all who want to partake will join us soon so we can build a dream music program. Now let us sing!

KATHLEEN BOEHM

## Lending Opportunity to Aid Our Congregation

As you will have read in our last issue of *Kaleidoscope*, our Board of Trustees and Finance committee have approved a member and friends loan program to help finance our completed building project. We are accepting information through April 3 from anyone interested in participating in the program.

Our loan program is similar to those of other Santa Barbara churches that have successfully initiated loan programs with their congregants, and is similar to the loan program we utilized to finance our own Blake re-roofing project four years ago.

The Board approved the loan program on the following terms:

- Only Members and pledging Friends of the USSB are eligible to participate.
- Minimum individual loan size of \$20,000, increasable in \$10,000 increments.
- Maximum of \$400,000 in loans are available.
- 4.75% annual interest rate, paid semi-annually.
- Interest only for 5 years, with loan principal repaid at the end of the loan term.
- The loan will be unsecured (not backed by any specific property).
- Funds are due to the USSB in mid-April 2009.
- Borrower (USSB) can prepay loans without penalty.
- Lender must understand that this is a lending opportunity, not a gift, and that participation with this loan program should not interfere with payment of Capital Campaign pledges and with full participation in our all-important Annual Campaign.

You are encouraged to contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration for more information, and to request an Expression of Interest form: [director@ussb.org](mailto:director@ussb.org), 965-4583 x225. You can also contact Ken Saxon with questions.

## Women's Group

The Women's Group will meet on April 5 and April 19 in Jefferson Hall at 7 PM. Barbara Sachs will lead the discussion on "Being Alive" and Carlene Van Pelt will lead the final one on "Belief and Action". All women are welcome whether you've only come once or not at all. For further information call Joanne Nay or Barbara Sachs.

## Important Building Project News! What is Next?

It's official! Yes, we had a wonderful celebration and building dedication. And, yes, we have all our financing arranged. What could be left? Well, there was that final building inspection by the city . . . and guess what? We did it! Our construction project passed final city inspection on March 18. Congratulations to our Building Project Committee, Ken Ralph, Facilities Manager, and our fine professional team.

And what might be next . . . ?

There are still exciting things happening in regard to our beautiful facility.

Dick Jensen, Ivor John, Don Bushnell and Chris Shorb continue to work diligently toward our solar panel project. This project is working its way through the city and historic landmark commission approval process now. Our contractors are all ready to go once approval is received, so stay tuned for our announcement for when we finally “flip the switch” on this significant project. It will be yet another celebration!

Jules Zimmer has been patiently working our Parish Wall Garden project through the city and historic landmark approval process as well. We're about to see the “tuning up” of the street side of the wall with new paint, and new landscaping will follow later in April, with a beautiful tile bench at the corner of Santa Barbara and Arrellaga Streets along with repair work to Arrellaga curbside brick areas. This has been a labor of love in memory of Laurie Zimmer.

Finally, we will be learning how to live in, share and care for our newly renovated facility! That means “tuning up” our room-use policies through a special board appointed task force; re-activating our buildings and grounds committee; developing an envisioned garden group with regular work parties; and training a MAGIC Team (Media, Arts, Graphics, Information & Computing) to help us take full advantage of our state of the art sound and video equipment in Parish Hall and the Sanctuary! If any of these sound interesting to you, please contact me, I am seeking volunteers for all areas! (*see the next column—ed.*)

NANCY EDMUNDSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

## Special Volunteer Trainings: Save the Dates!

M \* A \* G \* I \* C \*

media arts graphics information computing

*Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.*

ARTHUR C. CLARKE

**Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5 and 6  
7–8:30 PM Parish Hall & Sanctuary**

Attend one or both of these introductory trainings for our new A-V and Sound systems! This is your chance to see all the bells and whistles on our new system, and determine if you would like to join this important ministry of supporting worship, music, performance, film, lectures and social events. All genders and ages and interest levels are welcome! Contact Nancy with your questions and to indicate your intention to participate.

**Be a Master of the Kitchen: Kitchen User Training  
Saturday, May 16 10–11:30 AM Parish Kitchen**

Don't you wish to be an “authorized user”? Haven't you said “I could run the coffee system or the dishwasher or the oven, if I only knew how”? How often have you asked “Where does this belong?” These and many other questions will be answered and even more permissions granted when you have participated in our Kitchen User Training . . . complete with your own “Kitchen Users Manual”. Don't be left out! Contact Nancy with your questions and to indicate your intention to participate.

director@ussb.org, 965-4583 x225

## Thanks for Building Celebration

Did you enjoy our party March 15?

It took many villagers to prepare . . . and it took the WHOLE village to celebrate!

Thanks to all who helped—about 50 members and friends. The previous *Kaleidoscope* showed many images of the fun. Let that be only the first of decades of rousing events for our USSB community and many that involve our fellow Santa Barbarans. Special thanks to the planning committee: Bev Appleton, Nancy Edmundson, Bev and Bruce Hanna, Patricia Reilly (with support by Rev. Melitta Haslund, Rev. Aaron McEmrys, Ken Ralph, Ken Ryals, and John Warnock).

## Stewardship Campaign 2009-2010 'The Future is Now'

It was surprisingly easy to identify our theme for the Annual Stewardship Campaign this year. We looked back over the past several years at the things we were doing to improve, sustain and grow our ministry and our presence in Santa Barbara. These things include completing a transition in ministry, an expanded and higher quality music program, and necessary maintenance and improvement to our facilities. By now you have received your copy of the Campaign brochure that tells this story in pictures and comments from our members. Change. Change is leading our congregation into the future and this is reflected in what's really important for our Unitarian Society now. In the face of this change it is important that we maintain the stability and quality of our programs. To do this we must "Keep the Home Fires Burning".

When we made these plans and took these steps, we were looking toward a better future for our congregation. This is a time of excitement and possibility at USSB. There is more to come, but right now we have in place the most important features of our plan. So we say that this future we have been looking toward is all around us right now. We have done these things and right now our focus is on realizing the full value of these achievements. No waiting. The Future is Now.

USSB has a three-year stewardship plan. Most of us will be called and visited by a steward once every three years. This year is the second year of this plan. When you are contacted by one of our visiting stewards, please welcome this meeting invitation to discuss the successes of USSB as well as the needs of our society. Perhaps you are not on the list for a visit and you would nevertheless like to meet with a steward. Please let us know by calling one of the Campaign co-chairs below or the church office. We would love to meet with you and learn from you how USSB could be better.

The income of our Society speaks volumes about what we want our ministry to be and what it will achieve. The annual planned gift, the pledge, is our primary source of income. What is the right amount to give? While this is a personal decision, the Full Share giving guidelines, which were mailed to you, can be a helpful guide. We ask you to review these guidelines to help you arrive at the right amount for you and our Society. All gifts are very much appreciated.

continued next column

continued from previous column

Whether you receive a steward visit or not, help us complete this process quickly. This is a time of some financial stress and for USSB it is a critical planning year. We need to hear from all of you by the end of April at the very latest. Your commitment is very important, so please meet with your steward or get back to USSB soon. Thank you.

Please contact Chris Appleton or Mark Hamilton with any Campaign question.

## Library Committee's Annual Book Sale

April 17, 18, 19 in Parish Hall from 9 AM to 2 PM  
Early bookworm gets the best bargain!

The Library Committee is now accepting book donations for our book sale in April. Help us buy more informative books and entertaining movies to make available to the congregation. You may leave the books on the stage. **We do not want or accept encyclopedias, magazines, textbooks, music cassettes, books on tape, videos, or music CDs.** We will take books on CD or movies on DVD. Write "library sale" on the bags or boxes. We will continue to accept donations through April 16. Any questions? See Lana at the Library table on Sunday.

## Have You Tried the Monthly Potluck?

Come join in April 18 for the monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday potluck in Parish Hall. At 5:30 we all set up, and we eat at 6:00. All are welcome: friends, families . . . bring a dish for 10-12 people (half that if you are single). After the meal, we play: we have folk danced, shared stories, sung, played two truths and a lie . . . . Questions? Contact Bruce Hanna.

## Path to Membership

Saturdays, April 11, or May 16

9 AM to Noon

Blake Lounge

Wednesday, June 10

6:30-9 PM

La Paz Lounge

Newcomers and those interested in joining the USSB are invited to attend this short class (just attend one class, any date). We will get to know one another, learn about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation and membership. It is an enjoyable opportunity to meet and get to know Rev. Aaron McEmrys! Childcare provided.

## Social Justice Empowerment Process Begins in April

As a congregation, our actions regarding social justice issues are most effective when our community as a whole makes empowered choices of which issues we are most passionate about, and on which we want to work. This process is referred to as “The Empowerment Process”.

The Social Justice ministry is an integral part of our Unitarian Universalist congregation. The goal of the Empowerment Process is to focus the congregation’s social justice actions to maximize opportunities for service and enjoyment to the greatest number of our members and non-members.

The first step in this process is to survey the congregation. Please look for the survey in April. It will be distributed through several means to allow for as much input as possible from members and friends. It will ask which social justice issues you personally are most interested in, which three you would support a task force on, and which resources and skills you are willing to offer.

The second step is planned for May through September. This step will report the results of the survey and provide opportunities for champions of the most popular social justice issues to speak before the congregation.

Lastly, in early October 2009, the congregation will select by vote two to three social justice issues on which to commit and act.

The Empowerment Process is being led by a Social Justice subcommittee composed of Sandy Grasso-Boyd, Sukey Kielman Briggs, Marshall Getto, Mike Getto, Nancy Murdock, Daniela Kostruba, and Barbara Sachs.

SANDY GRASSO-BOYD

## Author Imran Ahmad to Speak

Tuesday, April 21, in Parish Hall at 7:30 PM

What has gone wrong between America and the Muslim world? Can re-humanization be achieved?

Imran Ahmad, a London-based author of the highly acclaimed non-fiction book, *Unimagined: a Muslim boy meets the West*, and Board Member of British Muslims for Secular Democracy, is embarking on a 12,000 mile, 40-city speaking tour of the United States by hybrid car—with re-humanization between America and the Muslim world being his key aim.

This is sure to be an excellent program on a timely subject that should concern us all. I hope to see you there to welcome Imran to our city and to our church!

IN FAITH, REV. AARON MCEMRY

## COSM Available for Conversation and Assistance

In the last year and a half, there have been numerous transitions—a new minister, and new ministerial emphases, a new music director and new music, changes in our building and gardens that we celebrated on March 15, and changes in the religious education program including the departure of our consulting minister. As humans we both embrace and struggle with change. The Committee on Shared Ministry welcomes your feelings and thoughts as we experience the many transitions. We can listen to you and, if you wish, take your comments to our meetings with the ministerial team.

You can speak with any of the following COSM members about anything either at church or by telephone. We look forward to hearing from you.

Deb Karoff  
Pat Kruger  
Charles McCracken  
Susan Neufeldt  
Jody Thomas  
Dorothy Warnock  
Gerald White  
Deborah Wolfe

SUSAN NEUFELDT, CHAIR

## Cluster Retreat Repeats in Fall

Yes, it’s happening again! The Cluster retreat at beautiful DeBenneville Pines is happening again. Reserve these dates on your calendar now: Friday September 25–Sunday September 27, 2009. Prices are still being determined—check back in this newsletter for updates.

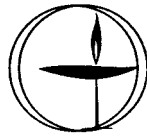
For more information, please contact Chris Shorb.

## SB Homeless Foot Washing

The second annual Santa Barbara Homeless Foot Washing will be held on April 9 between 10 AM and 1 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building. Your Social Justice Committee is a generous sponsor for this event. Those of you who are wanting to volunteer, please leave a phone message at the WillBridge office at 564-1911 (even if you have previously contacted Wayne Mellinger). Be sure to leave your contact information with WillBridge.

# The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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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  
Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 & 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

April 8 for material covering  
April 25-May 8, 2009

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

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## Calendar

### Saturday, April 11, 2009

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM Path to Membership, Blake Lounge
- 2:00 PM Pat Huglin Memorial Service, Sanctuary
- 2:30 PM Esperanto Circle, Blake Lounge
- 8:00 PM Larry Karush: Jazz Piano Concert, Sanctuary

### Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday Services at 9:30 & 11:30

- 9:00 AM USSB Childcare, Starr King
- 9:00 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt, Jefferson Courtyard
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour

### Monday, April 13

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

### Tuesday, April 14

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM USSB Program Council, Blake Lounge
- 5:30 PM Empowerment Process Committee, LaPaz Lounge

### Wednesday, April 15

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM USSB Finance Committee, Blake Lounge
- 5:00 PM USSB Nominating Committee, Classroom 1
- 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, Blake Lounge
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
- 6:00 PM USSB Circle of Friends Potluck, La Paz Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Circle of Friends, La Paz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

### Thursday, April 16

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary
- Last day for book donations, Parish Hall

### Friday, April 17

- 9:00 AM Library Committee's Annual Book Sale (until 2 PM)
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

### Saturday, April 18, 2009

- 9:00 AM Library Committee's Annual Book Sale (until 2 PM)

### Sunday, April 19 Sunday Services at 9:30 & 11:30

- 9:00 AM Library Committee's Annual Book Sale (until 2 PM)
- 9:00 AM USSB Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Children's Religious Education, Classrooms
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour
- 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 11:30 AM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM Women's Group, Jefferson Hall

### Monday, April 20

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

### Tuesday, April 21

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM USSB Board of Trustees, Blake Lounge
- 7:30 PM Speaker's Forum: Author Imran Ahmad, Parish Hall

### Wednesday, April 22

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

### Thursday, April 23

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

### Friday, April 24

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:15 AM Pastoral Care Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 2:00 PM Alliance Board Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Film Night with Chuck Wolfe, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

## Looking Ahead

- May 1-3 PSWD Annual Assembly, Mesa, AZ
- May 3 Farewell Celebration for Rev. Melitta Haslund
- May 9 Council of Chairs Gathering