

Prior to posting on the web, this newsletter was re-edited according to the UUA guidelines at: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/leaderslibrary/55398.shtml>.

KALEIDOSCOPE

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

August 15–31, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Editors: Jared Dawson
and Bruce Hanna

Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

August 16

Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

The Chumash people have been here for a LONG time. In fact, our own Santa Rosa Island boasts some of the oldest human remains in the Americas. The Chumash developed a sustainable vibrant culture that lasted for thousands of years. They walked these lands long before we did, and have much to teach us if we are prepared to listen. In this service we will take a good long look at one important legend in particular, that of the Rainbow Bridge—and reflect upon the terribly important lessons it has for us in these dizzying times.

August 23

From Blossom to Blossom

The Reverend Carolyn Price

How shall we use our days, given the brevity of our time on earth? Across the ages prophets, poets, thinkers and mystics have all sought to answer this question. This summer morning we too will search for answers, and perhaps for a portal into the unerring certainty of now. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Carolyn Price, was an active lay leader in this church and in the PSWD before training for the ministry. She is now in her sixth year as Parish Minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, but, as always, she is delighted to “come home.” Please be with us today.

August 30

Tornado Season

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

In Wisconsin, where I grew up, this is the time of year we called “Tornado Season.” It was the time of year when the sky could suddenly turn a surreal electric green and an expectant hush would fall over everything. It was normal, a season of potential calamity. We knew we could not stop the tornados from coming, but we did learn how to respond when the skies turned green. We do not have literal tornados here in Santa Barbara, but the tornados of life do touch down in all our lives from time to time. In this service we will consider the ways we can not only emerge from these seasons—but emerge stronger, healthier and happier than before the twisters came.

From LeeAnn Williams

Hello USSB,

First let me say how happy I am to be joining the community as your new Director of Lifespan Religious Education. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the USSB family. I know we will have many exciting adventures together.



As many of you know from Aaron’s recent article, I was not raised UU. I began my UU journey at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. After attending All Souls, I felt called to seminary and attended Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Prior to attending seminary, I was a classroom teacher in both traditional and alternative schools. Working in religious education has provided me the opportunity of combining my passion for education and my deep love of our faith. It’s been a blessing to serve in this vocation.

Religious Education, I believe, is crucial to sustaining our faith. Adults who come to Unitarian Universalism need our support in understanding and articulating what it means to be a UU, that we are not a church where “you can believe anything you want.” Our adult members need a program that will sustain them while providing a place to question and grow, a place that will nurture and challenge.

I also believe that UU kids are truly our gift to this troubled world. In our Religious Education programs, we are raising a generation of kids who seek peace, justice, and equality. It is our great privilege to be entrusted with these youth.

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I hope many of you will consider sharing your energy and talents in our Religious Education program this year. There are so many opportunities available—children’s Sunday School, youth programs, mentoring, and adult education. I know we can find just the right spot for you.

Peace, LeeAnn

LEEANN WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR LRE

Campout at Skofield Park

Friday to Sunday, September 4–6

Join UU friends for an intergenerational campout at Skofield Park for the evenings of September 4 and 5. All fees are covered by USSB, so bring your tent, food for the weekend (bring some to share), musical instruments, and sports equipment. If you don’t want to camp overnight, come spend the days and evenings. We hang out in this beautiful local park and relax together, avoiding the Labor Day crowds elsewhere! We begin our camping on September 4, Friday at 2 PM and pack up at noon, September 6, Sunday, so there is plenty of time to join Labor Day crowds in town on Monday if you must.

Here is the secret to this special event: Keep it simple. Throw your tent, bag, mattress, food, lawn chair and favorite outdoor toys and camping treats into the car, call some UU friends and invite them to join in, and come on up. Over-planning spoils the fun. Between our groups, we trust we’ll have everything we need to relax in this beautiful local setting, still untouched by our wildfires.

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

Social Justice Outreach Offering

Our monthly Outreach Offering on August 16 will be for WillBridge of Santa Barbara, Inc., a safe haven for chronically homeless, mentally-challenged individuals, sometimes with a dual diagnosis. This organization works to move its residents toward permanent life skills for independent living.

Thank You and Farewell

To Will Allison, Sunday Facilities Assistant

We have marveled at Will’s youth and energy, and benefited from his quiet attention to his work tasks! And now the time has come to wish Will the best of all to come as he leaves Santa Barbara to attend Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Thank you, Will, for serving USSB on our staff team.

And Welcome

To Katie Gately, Sunday Facilities Assistant

We welcome Katie Gately to our USSB staff team as our new Sunday Facilities Assistant. Katie is a recent “transplant” to Santa Barbara from the New York area, seeking additional graduate education. We are fortunate to have Katie join us with her significant background in the production of live events and performances and working in theatrical and musical settings—that has included a good share of the heavy work behind set-up and breakdown and sound and lighting responsibilities. Say ‘hello’ to Katie on a Sunday morning...she’ll be the one dashing about helping USSB create our warm and welcoming community hours and worship services!



DeBenneville Pines Retreat Update

Friday September 25–Sunday September 27

The retreat registration is now at 73 people and adding more weekly. Join many of your friends at this beautiful retreat in the San Bernardino mountains. Information about the camp itself can be found at www.uucamp.org. Information about our specific retreat can be found at <http://clusterretreat.cvuuf.org/>. Accommodations are rustic but comfortable. Meals are camp food but delicious. The kitchen always has vegetarian and vegan options. This is the best way to foster deeper relationships with your fellow congregants and others from around our cluster. For questions, please contact Chris Shorb.

The OWL Program

Everyone Knows Someone Aged 14–17 Years! Please Read On!!

This fall the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara is offering a very important opportunity and class for youth 14–17 years of age in the 9th to 11th grades. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a values- and sexuality-based curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The curriculum has components for all ages. This fall we are offering a special class for 9th–11th grade students. The course is **fun, innovative, much more than sex ed, informative, builds community, inclusive, and world transforming!**

Please share the following information with the youth and parents of youth that you know:

- Mandatory parent orientation and information session is Sunday, September 13, 4–6 PM, in Jefferson Hall.
- Classes will be held Sunday afternoons, 4–6:30 PM, at the Unitarian Society through December, with a kick-off sleepover, Saturday September 19.

Please contact us with the names and contact information of those you know that would appreciate a special mailing or telephone call.

Do I have to be a parent of a teen to learn more? NO!! Absolutely not!! All interested adults are welcome to attend the September 13 orientation meeting to learn more about this incredible experience.

Is this really interesting to these youth? YES...participants will be able to tell their friends they are attending a party every Sunday that is focused on healthy sexuality! Yes, there will be **movies** (but maybe not the movies you are thinking of). Yes, there will be **demonstrations** (but maybe not the demonstrations you are thinking of). Yes, there will be **food, fun and games** (but...).

Our energetic, and well-trained teaching team of Nancy and Alan Edmundson are anxious to get started! Many thanks to this team, and please join them (or encourage those you know) for the informative (and mandatory) parent orientation on September 13!

By now you should have LOTS of questions...please contact:

Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration

965-4583 x225, director@ussb.org

LeeAnn Williams, DLRE

965-4583 x229, lifespan@ussb.org

Membership Committee Launches the ‘Host Program’

USSB has welcomed over 50 new members in the past 12 months! In order for the new members to successfully “plug in” to some of the many activities, classes and volunteer opportunities that being a member affords, we have developed a Host Program. This program allows for longer-term members to get to know the newer people and allows the newer members an opportunity to find out what’s going on.

We have already assigned Hosts to about 25 new members. To continue to do this we need some help. Every month, we’d like to assign each new member an experienced “Host” for a period of six months. The task of the Host is simple: We ask that you make contact with your assigned new member twice a month to see how things are going, answer questions (or refer to someone who knows the answer), and highlight upcoming events, classes, and so forth. This could be done by phone or in person after a Sunday Service. That’s it! If you are interested please email Ken Ralph. He will provide you with a summary that explains how to become good host. Please give some consideration to this. Everyone will benefit!

Path to Membership

**Saturday, August 22, 9 AM to Noon
Blake Lounge**

Newcomers and those interested in joining the USSB are invited to attend this short class. 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.

Please register by contacting Jen Stroh, Membership Coordinator, 965-4583 x221 or membership@ussb.org.

Lifespan Religious Education News

Why Should I Teach Children's RE?

Teaching children's religious education classes is one of the most important things you can do to ensure the growth of our UU movement. When you make the commitment to teach, you send a message to our children that they are worth your time. If our children grow up in a community in which they are valued, where adults are eager to form relationships with them, I believe that they will remain UUs. Who wouldn't want to remain part of a religious movement where you were listened to and valued by the whole community when you were growing up? I hope you all will consider teaching children's RE this fall. Here are some FAQs that might help you in your decision:

Do RE teachers ever get to go to the service? We like to staff each class with three teachers. This ensures that our teachers lead a class no more than once a month and assist once a month. And RE classes are only during the 9:30 AM service. You are always free to attend the 11:30 AM service.

How much preparation is involved? You receive training, a well-planned curriculum, and on-going staff support. You will need to prepare for the lesson you are leading (once a month) and plan to arrive at 9:00 AM on that Sunday to prepare the room.

What if I don't know very much about Unitarian Universalism? Teaching children's RE is a great way to learn! You can explore the seven principles, sources, and history of Unitarian Universalism along with your class. And you will be putting your faith into action by teaching. I guarantee you will learn at *least* as much as the kids, about Unitarian Universalism and about yourself.

What about classroom management? Classroom management and guidance techniques will be covered in the teacher training. There will always be at least two adults in a class. If a problem persists, staff are on hand to assist you.

Can anyone teach? We consider the best possible matches for each class. In keeping with our commitment to a safe congregation, teachers are encouraged to have participated at USSB for at least six months, and USSB will conduct a routine background check.

How can I get more information about teaching RE? Contact Charla Bregante at 965-4583 x227 or at re@ussb.org. I will happily answer your questions and help you find the right fit. Our class configuration this year will be Preschool, K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-7.

Keep Those Fruits and Veggies Coming

The Sunday morning RE Peas & Justice Farmers Market continues into the fall. Thank you to everyone who has donated fruit and vegetables from their home gardens so far, and to everyone who has purchased this fresh, local produce. We look forward to your continued generosity. All proceeds from the market will be donated to a social justice cause voted on by RE children in the fall.

Childcare Coordinator Position Open

Applications are currently being accepted to fill this part-time position. The Childcare Coordinator is primarily responsible for scheduling and providing childcare on Sunday mornings and for other congregational events, and for supervising our teen childcare assistants. This is a wonderful position for a college student, retiree, or anyone who loves being with young children. For more information, please contact Charla Bregante at re@ussb.org, 965-4583 x227.

EET—Ethical Eating Discussion Group

Sunday, August 23

Our Choices as Consumers: Influencing Our World

La Paz Lounge, 12:45–2:30 PM.

Wrap up our summer class with a guide to the many ways we can serve ourselves, our congregation and our community. This will be a potluck. To learn more about USSB's Ethical Eating Task Force contact Cat Robson.



Part of our stalwart work party crew working on our Arrellaga Street landscaping last August 1. See the next page for details—can you match faces with names?

Sketches . . . by Aaron

In September we will begin a new experiment. We will mark the start of our new church year by instituting an integrated, intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Each month, from September 2009 through June 2010, worship, religious education, Connection Circles, and other programs will offer opportunities for us to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss a key theological theme. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in effective and positive ways.

On each Sunday in September, for example, we will be reflecting on the theme of “Unity.” This will make it possible for us to explore this critical theme and the many questions it generates much more deeply than we ever could in a single service.

I am especially excited about the opportunities this will create for our whole community to learn and grow together. When we are exploring “Unity” in worship, our children will be doing the same in Children’s Chapel and participants in the small groups of our Connection Circles (let me encourage you to sign up for a group now!!) will be doing the same—each group, each person, exploring the concept of Unity from their own unique perspective.

Other upcoming themes include: forgiveness, gratitude, repair, resistance and surrender—all complex, textured and critically important themes that ought to

keep us struggling, laughing, discussing and challenging ourselves for the rest of the year.

But for now, let’s begin our contemplation of Unity with the words of my old Professor the Rev. David Bum-baugh, who writes:

*We busily guard ourselves
from the full implication of love—
that all people under the sun,
regardless of time
and death,
and the space between the stars
are one kin,
flesh of our flesh,
bone of our bone,
bound together in inescapable unity,
destined to the same end,
bound together in a mystic oneness
the origin of which we may never know
the reality of which we can never escape.
We guard ourselves against the radical truth
that it is our separateness
which is the great illusion.*

Peace to you all, Aaron

THE REVEREND AARON McEMRYS, PARISH MINISTER

Work Party Celebrates Ken Ralph!

Thank you to the USSB members who gathered on a Saturday morning recently to celebrate the many contributions of Ken Ralph, retired Facilities Manager, by creating a new bike parking area in our Parish Garden. Check out our website www.ussb.org for photographs of the event, as well as the previous page.

Under the ever-skilled, watchful and visionary eye of Ken we created an open and welcoming bike parking area that manifests our congregation’s commitment to sustainable practices and says to all “ride your bikes!”

We thank Nancy Van Antwerp, Gun Dukes, Sayre MacNeil, Dick Jensen, John and Dorothy Warnock, Kathleen Boehm, Jared Dawson, Anita Blume, Suzanne Fairly Green, Dale Charpentier, Florence Michel, Barley Donahue, Marika Davidek, Chuck and Deborah Wolfe, Tim Pettit, Pat Kruger, Linda Hill, Joanie Jones, and Lowell Dabbs for all their individual and collective contributions to a wonderful morning.

We were prepared for this amazing group, so we worked not only on the bike area, but were able to extend our peoplepower to further the landscape renovation on the Arrellaga Street side of our Parish Hall and a special additional project behind our administrative offices.

As we celebrated our work well done over a light lunch, we spent intentional time reflecting on Ken’s gifts to our congregation while serving as our Facility Manager. We recalled the refurbishment of the Parsonage, the renovation of the Parish Hall Kitchen, the Master Facility Plan creation and our recent Building Project. More than that, we all appreciated Ken’s ability to create and share and inspire a vision that has benefited us all!

Join us for our next work party (as there are more to come!) and find out just how fulfilling it is to get your hands dirty caring for our beautiful campus.

NANCY EDMUNDSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Calendar

Saturday, August 15, 2009

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 8:00 AM Board Retreat, Off Campus

Sunday, August 16 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 3:00 PM June Schuerch Memorial, Sanctuary

Monday, August 17

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

Tuesday, August 18

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM USSB Board Meeting, Parish Hall

Wednesday, August 19 Office Closed for Staff Retreat

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting, Off Campus
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, August 20

- 9:00 AM Pastoral Care Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 22

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM Path to Membership, Blake Lounge



Looking Ahead

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| September 4–6 | Skofield Park Campout |
| September 10 | Usher Training |
| September 11 | Family Fun Night |
| September 13 | Water Ingathering Services |

Sunday, August 23, 2009 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B
- 12:45 PM Ethical Eating, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, August 24

- 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, August 25

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 12:15 PM USSB IT Committee, LaPaz Lounge

Wednesday, August 26

- 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, August 27

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, August 28

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

Saturday, August 29

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM RE Teacher Training, Jefferson Hall

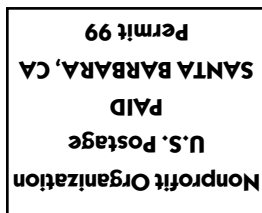
Sunday, August 30 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden

Monday, August 31

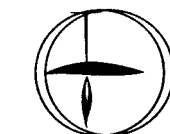
- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 August 15 for material covering
 September 1-14, 2009
 E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister
 LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
 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-NOON; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON



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