

KALEIDOSCOPE

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

September 1-14, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

USSB Campout at Skofield Park

September 4 and 5

Join UU friends for an intergenerational campout at Skofield Park for the evenings of September 4 and 5!

All camp 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 begin our camping on September 4, Friday at 2 PM and pack up at 11 AM September 5, Sunday, so we may re-join the congregation at worship in the Sanctuary at 11:30 AM.

A large grassy meadow, walking and hiking trails, numerous native shade trees, and picnic and barbecues are within our reserved site.

Contact Alan Edmundson, 687-5892, alanedmundson@cox.net for additional details.

Ingathering Service & Social for Everyone! Sunday, September 13 One Worship Service 9:30 AM followed by our Congregation Potluck Social

This year we will celebrate our annual *Ingathering* with one worship service at 9:30 AM, followed by a potluck social!

Remember to gather and bring the waters from your summer experiences, and a generous amount of "really yummy" food to share (we'll

be eating by 11 AM, an early lunch). Main course and drinks will be provided.

Willing to help out? Contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration 965-4583 x225, <director@ussb.org>.

Disco Fever

USSB Annual Services Auction Saturday, November 7, 2009

Be sure to mark your calendars now for our congregation's largest fund- and FUN-raising event of the year! Saturday, November 7 we will transform our Parish Hall into the 1970's Disco Club that, depending on your age, you remember...wish you didn't remember...or have seen in the movies!

Here is a planning checklist so you don't miss out on all the *Disco Fever*!

☞ Submit your donation forms now! Complete the donation form in this *Kaleidoscope*. These forms are also available in the reception office

CONT'D ON PAGE 2: AUCTION—DISCO FEVER

Sunday Morning Services

September 6 9:30 & 11:30 AM
The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

Where Weekends Come From

Ahhh, Labor Day! Where I was raised Labor Day meant softball and orange soda, unlimited ice cream at the factory company picnic where my dad worked.

It was also a day off for our whole family, no small thing in a family where both of my parents worked long hours every day. As time passed I began to wonder about where Labor Day comes from...and weekends...and eight-hour days...and child labor laws and so many other things that today we take for granted. Labor Day is a very special day for me, a day of thanksgiving and gratitude, and so I hope you will join us as we celebrate this long weekend by celebrating the dignity of work and a job well done!

September 13: 9:30 AM ONLY!
The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

The Welcome Table

Please join us as we begin our new church year as we always do—with Ingathering Sunday! In this service we will reflect upon all the things that nourish us—food, friends, community—as we renew our commitment to being a sanctuary, a place for whoever needs us, whether stranger or friend.

We will have great music, inspiring stories, our annual *Blessing of the Waters*, and a good old-fashioned church pot-luck afterwards!

This is the one time each year where our entire congregation comes together at one time, so please remember that we will only have one service—at 9:30 AM. We're all excited to see you there!

Save This Date!

Auction Queen Requests Your Creativity

As a firm believer in the *Power of Community*, I look forward to what you can dream up to contribute to our largest annual FUUndraiser, our November 7 auction—**Disco Fever**.

We expect that each of us can contribute something fun or practical to be added to the silent auction and we favor things to do that are your passion. Perhaps you know how to mushroom hunt and would offer the privilege of joining you? Or you have a special recipe you'd like to cook for a "Meal on Wheels" you would deliver to a family. Do you have a hobby that you could share with others? A sail on the channel or a favorite hike or camping adventure? People love to buy anything to do with wine and events in members' homes are especially popular. I am happy to brainstorm about what you might find fun to offer. Some of our best ideas are collaborations between members to cook up something fun,

Please contact me if you have an idea or need inspiration and let's work together. Donnis 453- 6374 donnisgalvan@gmail.com

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1: TO-DO ITEMS (DISCO FEVER)

and in the Garden on Sundays. Donors who submit their forms on or before September 20 will receive an appreciation gift of a USSB re-useable shopping bag! Early donations make our "behind the scenes work" so much easier, and save valuable volunteer and staff time.

☞ Mark your calendar for November 7, 5–9 PM

☞ Need Donation Ideas? Contact Donnis Galvan for new ideas, or a way to combine your interests and talents with others in the congregation.

☞ Plan for your "touch of Disco" costume or accessory. It is never too early to google "Disco Fever" and get inspired! (All some of us may have to do is just open our hall closets!)

☞ *You Should Be Dancin'!* Is it time to start practicing? We'll let you be the judge, but don't wait until the "Last Dance"!

Peace Concert: Commemoration of 9/11 With Sister Cities

September 11, 2009, 5:30-6:30, USSB Sanctuary

Our congregation and the community at large is encouraged to attend a free Peace Concert to commemorate the anniversary of September 11, 2001. This concert is a collaboration of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Organization and USSB. Bring your family and friends.

Portland Was Hot!

The weather in Portland was freakishly hot with record highs every day that I was there but this didn't slow down any of the activities at the UU Musicians Network conference. With harmonies sailing through the air this musical group sang, baked, dripped and roasted through every event that was planned on the very full conference agenda.

At these conferences there are many issues addressed that help to keep music, choir, and children's choir directors in touch with some of the latest UU music and Music education programs available. Workshops on subjects ranged from composition to choir covenants, vocal health and musical healing through the voice to name just a few of the topics covered at this truly vital conference.

More than the information in the workshops however is the opportunity to be with people who are committed to Music as Ministry and their ability to be motivating and inspirational to one another.

The choral clinician was Rodney Eichenberger with whom I have had choral clinics since 1978. He had wonderful active ideas for working with a non-professional choir. He worked with three different directors who directed the UUMN (Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network) choir for the Sunday morning service. As last year, the Sunday service at the end of the conference was for me emotional and life altering in that along with 209 other voices I got to sing great choral repertoire and worship at the same time. Even now it brings tears to my eyes when I think of the congregation and the choir singing *There is more Love Somewhere* without accompaniment. The choir filled in the parts and there was not one dry eye afterward—just silence and awe filled this really warm, full-to-bustin' church and it turned out there was more love right there than when we started. What a joy to be a part of this spiritually inspiring event.

So I am back again from this conference with a head full of new music and fresh ideas as well as a heart full of new friends and inspiration for moving forward with our choral program here in Santa Barbara. There is more Love right here and it is in the choir! Thanks for this opportunity!

KEN RYALS, CHORAL/MUSIC DIRECTOR

P.S...

Choir is back and in full swing! Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Come! Join us!

Our first year-round choir experience—although challenging—is still going really well. New members continue to show up and we're always in learning mode.

Our coming season will be an exciting one. *Now* is the time to get involved. Music is an avenue to a deeper experience with the services here at the society and a universal way to reach out to people.

Thank You and Farewell to Will Allison and Katie Gately

Welcome to Mandeep Sablok, Sunday Facilities Assistant

We have marveled at Will's youthful 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 as part of our staff team.

Unfortunately, we say farewell all-too-soon to Katie Gately, a recently hired assistant, as she needs to return to the East Coast for an indefinite period of time to deal with a family emergency.

Fortunately, we have had a wonderful number of equally and differently qualified applicants to this position and we now welcome **Mandeep Sablok**, as our new Sunday Facilities Assistant. Mandeep is a current Biopsychology UCSB student who has spent many hours as a facility assistant in his hometown of Modesto, California. We are fortunate to have him join us! Say 'hello' to Mandeep on a Sunday morning...he'll be the one dashing about helping USSB create our warm and welcoming community hours and worship services!

Connection Circles Powering Up

Make friends, build connections, deepen trust. You are invited!

It's not too late to become part of a Connection Circle, or small group. With 17 people ready to facilitate, and 65 members signed up to be in a circle, there is still plenty of room in a Connection Circle for anyone who wants to participate.

Connection Circles are groups of 6-10 who meet twice a month for an hour and a half with a trained facilitator to share on changing themes in a structured format. Most groups will be at group members' homes. Some groups have permanent hosts and some move to different houses. We have groups open in the mornings, afternoons and evenings.

If you have not yet experienced this, you will be surprised at the power in these simple deep listening and sharing groups that are a growing phenomenon all over the country. "Awesome, deeply satisfying, wonderful, rich in friendship and spirit, and Thank You" are some of the adjectives from the last round of Circles three years ago.

The Circles are starting now so sign up in the garden, email Carol Schwyzer at carolschwzyzer@gmail.com, or call 687-0890.

(P.S. It's a great way for new members to make new friends and for the rest of us to widen, strengthen and deepen our connections.)

Happy September Birthdays

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Coming up:

**ALOHA Luau Sunday afternoon Sept 20~
Sandcastle All-day Beach Party Sept 19**

Check out next issue of the *Kaleidoscope*.

Thanksgiving Heros Sought

Like to cook and help prepare a feast? There is a wonderful opportunity to do this and give back to our UU Society.

Last year we had a very successful Thanksgiving Feast offered at auction and more than 40 people attended. We held it in Parish Hall on Thanksgiving day. And it was a good fund raiser as well as a wonderful community-building time for families and those who may not have family in the area—a chance for people to relax and enjoy the holiday without the fuss of endless cooking chores. And—we had a “really good” time.

You can put your own stamp on how it happens this year if you wish. Please call or email me if you would like to help coordinate. Donnis, 453-6374, donnisgalvan@gmail.com.

Lifespan Religious Education News

Adult Education News

Keep an eye out for our new adult education brochure coming in September. We will be offering many exciting courses this year. For more information stop by the LRE table at coffee hour.

Children's Religious Education

Thank you to our Summer Sunday Volunteers.

Our children enjoyed a rich and varied summer program at USSB thanks to the dedication of a group of wonderful volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Max Neufeldt, Melissa Block, Jody Thomas, Aaron McEmrys, Ken Ryals, Kathleen Boehm, Jared Dawson, Emiliano Campobello, Gary Welterlen, Christyn Edmundson, Chrissie Cable, Chris and Tammy Shorb and Amy Bacheller. Thank you all for sharing your gifts with our children this summer.

Recruiting Teachers

Want to have tons of fun? Learn more about our rich UU Faith and heritage? Want to change the world? All in about three hours a month? Consider teaching children's religious education this year!

Really? Three hours a month? That's right! We ask that our teachers lead one class and assist during another class each

month with about an hour for preparation. What could be easier than that? For more information contact LeeAnn.

Calling Our Artists around USSB

Currently, we are seeking to recruit artists to lead our kids (grades K-7th) in various art projects that explore and teach our 7 UU Principles during the month of February. We are calling it *Fabulous February*. If you are an artist and would like to be *Fabulous* contact LeeAnn.

Teacher Training

Our CRE teacher training will be Saturday, August 29, 9:00–1:00 in Jefferson Hall. Childcare, breakfast, and lunch will be provided.

A Big Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who made my first Sunday here at USSB such a wonderful experience. It was lovely meeting all of you. The cake provided by Joanie was delicious—as were the AHA cupcakes. Not a single bite was left over. I am looking forward to learning more about the USSB community and becoming a part of such a fun group. Again, thank you for such a warm welcome.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program Begins for our High School Youth

Intro September 13 (Sunday), 4–6:30 PM

This fall the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara is offering a very important opportunity and class for youth 14–16 years of age in 9th–10th grades. *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) is a values and sexuality based curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and is used by many different educational institutions.

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

•Mandatory parent orientation and information session is Sunday, September 13, 4-6:30 PM, Jefferson Hall

•Classes will be held Sunday afternoons, 4-6:30 PM, at the Unitarian Society, beginning September through December, with a kick-off sleep-over, Saturday, September 19.

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

Please contact us with the names and contact information of those you know who would appreciate a special mailing or telephone call. Nancy Edmundson, 965-4583 x225, director@ussb.org, LeeAnn Williams, DLRE 965-4583 x229, lifespan@ussb.org.

Path to Membership Upcoming Classes!

With the added support of our new Membership Coordinator and thriving Membership Committee, we are now offering regular monthly *Path to Membership* Classes. Even more exciting is that attendance at these classes has been consistently 5–8 participants, with an average of 5 new members joining every month!

Our upcoming classes are scheduled for:

Saturday, September 26: 9 AM to noon, Blake Lounge

Thursday, October 22: 6:30-9 PM, Blake Lounge

Saturday, November 21: 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

Sketches by Aaron

Every September we celebrate the beginning of our new church year with an *Ingathering* service. For those of you who don't know, *Ingathering* is a special service where our whole congregation gets together all at once to reconnect, recommit and to celebrate the many blessings of our community.

The paths of summer take us in many different directions, to far away places like India, Spain and Bolivia on the one hand and to quiet gardens, boisterous backyards and the parades of summer right here in Santa Barbara. There are as many ways to fill a summer as there are snowflakes, or people for that matter.

Yet no matter how far we travel, whether by boat, plane or within the vast reaches of our own personal interiors—we always come back together again, every September, as if the old white walls of our sanctuary inhaled deeply, gently pulling us close, through the same old mahogany doors that have welcomed so many people before us.

We are a congregation founded in diversity, a place where scientists, carpenters, poets, atheists, mystics, searchers, singers, talkers and listeners can all find a place in a community that values, loves—and needs—they, for it is from our diversity that our richness arises.

We are paradoxically unified in our diversity, and we relish all the many differences between us every bit as much as we enjoy discovering our commonalities. This is a big part of what

we celebrate during our annual *Ingathering*—all the ways our individual journeys can be woven together into the fine tapestry of community.

We will, as we do every year, come together in our Water Ceremony. This simple ritual symbolizes our fundamental interconnection with one another and with all the mystery that surrounds us as we tread our many paths through life. Please bring some water with you to help fill our pitchers. This can be water you have found somewhere on your summer travels, from your garden, from the ocean, and even from your kitchen tap. It doesn't matter so much where your water is from—but that you bring it with a loving heart and in a spirit of goodwill for all.

The service will be full of music and laughter and fun for all ages that will spill out into our garden after the service and turn into a big, good-old-fashioned church potluck – complete with the tastes and smells of the charcoal grill and the cool flavors of gradually melting ice cream.

Whether you have been part of this congregation for fifty years, for five minutes, or even if you are just now visiting us for the first time—I hope you will join us as we celebrate the waters of life, the end of summer and the nourishment of our beloved community.

Love, Aaron

Usher Training

Thursday, September 10, 6:30 to 8 pm Parish Hall

Join the USSB Sunday Morning Usher Team

Who are the friendly people who meet you with an open door and an order of service? They are our ushers. In addition, they take up and secure the offering, count the house, reserve choir seating and a few other appreciated tasks that contribute to the feeling that our newcomers and long-time members alike have been anticipated and prepared for.

Please contact Nancy at director@ussb.org, 965-4583 x225 to indicate whether you will attend and if we may schedule you as an usher. The training will include Nancy's chocolate rum cake, review of traditional usher duties, review of new emergency procedures and opportunities to build a team by getting to know each other better. (Bring your calendar with you!)

The Unitarian Society needs a total of 4 ushers each Sunday (two each service). This will allow ushers to serve as usher one time a month.

We look forward to your response, and welcoming you to the USSB usher team!

NANCY EDMUNDSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Membership Committee Invites You To Help Invite UUs Back!

As we build our program capacity with the addition of Jen Stroh, Membership Coordinator, and our growing Membership Committee, we will continue to advise you of all our new membership programs and invite everyone in our congregation to participate!

In a recent issue of the *Kaleidoscope* we introduced you all to our new *Host Program*. This program is designed to help longer-term members get to know the newer members in the congregation, and to help our newest members find their "fit" and comfort in their new spiritual home!

Our next program launch is coming in mid-September. We are creating welcoming post-cards, designed to be sent to past members of our congregation who have left our community over the past 8 years or so. We will be sending these cards with encouraging and welcoming personal messages...letting folks know we'd love to see them again, and that they are missed! So please join us. If you know of someone who hasn't been around for a while, pick up a postcard from the Welcome Table or the Reception Office, add a personal note, and send it or deliver it to them!

Calendar

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 pm USSB Executive Committee, Blake Lounge

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

- 6:00 am Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 12:15 pm Long Range Planning, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, September 3, 2009

- 7:00 pm Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, September 4, 2009

- 6:00 am Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm All Congregation Skofield Park Campout begins!
- 6:00 pm Danceaway Committee, Parish Hall
- 7:30 pm DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, September 5, 2009

- All Day: All Congregation Skofield Park Campout continues!

Sunday, September 6, 2009 9:30 & 11:30 Worship Services

- 9:00 am Childcare, Starr King
- 10:30 am Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 am UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 11:00 am Skofield Camping Trip Ends

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

- 7:00 am Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 pm Program Council, Blake Lounge

Looking for Beach Fun and Fellowship?...

Call the office to purchase your auction space at our **SandCastle Party** on Sept 19 or our **Luau** on Sept 20!

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

- 4:00 pm Finance Committee, Conference Call
- 5:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, September 10, 2009

- 6:30 pm Usher Training, Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, September 11, 2009

- 5:30 pm Santa Barbara Sister Cities Event, Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, September 12, 2009

- 11:00 am Connection Circles Training, Parish Hall
- 2:30 pm Esperanto Circle, Blake Lounge

Sunday, September 13, 2009 ~ One Worship Service! 9:30 am

- 9:00 am Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 am InGathering Service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am Community Potluck Social
- 10:45 am Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 4:00 pm OWL Parent Orientation, Jefferson Hall
- 6:00 pm S B Country Dance Society, Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, September 14, 2009

- 7:00 pm USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Looking Ahead

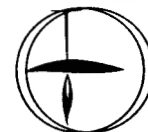
- Sept 19 Council of Chairs
- Sept 19 SandCastle Party (space available)
- Sept 20 Luau (space available)
- Sept 25 Film Night

Next Newsletter Deadline
September 1, for material covering
September 15-30, 2009
E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-4 AM; Sun 10 AM-noon
 Nursery & Children's Care: Sun 9:00 AM-12:45 AM, Starr King
 Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM; Children's Program: 9:30 AM

Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister
 John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus
 LeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
 Nancy Edmondson, Director of Administration

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The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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