



KALEIDOSCOPE

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

September 15–30, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

Reminder!!!

Ingathering and Social, September 13th. One service at 9:30 AM. This will be followed by our famous Pot-luck Social.



Our Annual Services Auction

November 7th, 5 PM–9 PM. Make your donations now!

A special thank you gift for donations received by September 20th! All donations needed by October 11th.



Council of Chairs...

...meeting of September 19th is postponed. Committee Chairs: watch for information via a special mailing!



Mark Your Calendar and Save These Dates

STARR KING RUMMAGE SALE AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, October 16th (9:30 AM–5 PM) and Saturday, October 17th, 9:30 AM–1 PM

Special Congregational Meeting—November 15

Proposed Changes to Congregational Bylaws Vote

For the past year several teams have been working quietly behind the scenes on updating and modernizing of our congregation's bylaws. It has been many years since the bylaws have been reviewed and the committees that were tasked to review them felt they were in need of updating. A decision was made by the Board of Trustees to bring a slate of changes to the membership for an up or down vote in mid-November.

Although this may seem to be an academic process to many of us, it truly is important work to restate the rules by which we will govern our congregation. It speaks to and reinforces how we will work together, agree to solve disagreements and conduct our affairs. Since we are a non-profit corporation under California law, we must follow strict guidelines whenever we choose to

CONT'D ON PAGE 2: *Bylaws Vote*

"Ahhh...September"

I love September. It's the time of year that still feels like summer but you know down deep it's not going to last. It's an odd place where time seems to bend and things come full circle—like a time of new beginnings and at the same time a return to old ways. September is the time of year when migratory animals wake up one morning and decide it's time to hit the road again. They can't tell you how or why, just that it's time. They turn their noses into the wind, get one more good feeding under their belts, and start heading back to where they had come from, either to start or finish the cycle once again.

There is something ancient and primal about this time of year and like the migratory animals we are not so removed from our tribal ancestors. Each fall that migratory calling comes to us all to return home, whether we have moved to the shore of Cape Cod, the mountains of Colorado, or the bustling streets of Paris, or maybe we stayed closer to home taking part in summertime

CONT'D ON PAGE 2: *September*

Sunday Morning Services—9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

September 20

Peter Hale, Service Host

The Mango Thief and Other Stories

The worship theme for September is *Unity* and Treasa McGettigan, Chris Shorb and I will explore this subject in terms of continuity and completion rather than the more common approach of spiritual "oneness."

The laws of karma suggest we are connected not only through space but time as well and there is a divine balance to be maintained in all we do. There will be beautiful music as always! Please come for this morning of Worship and fellowship.

September 27

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

Setting Things Right

Sometimes we mess up. Badly. We do and say things we know we shouldn't and don't do, don't say, things we know we should. If you are anything like me, you probably also manage to mess up without realizing it with astonishing regularity!

The truth is that we all fall short, we all wrong ourselves and one another—and then, once the smoke clears we are left with the sometimes daunting task of setting things right once more. Please join us as we ponder the art and practice of atonement on this, the first day of Yom Kippur.

change the rules under which we are governed. These procedures are put in place to ensure that proposed changes have an extensive review and public comment process by the membership and have the widest distribution of information to ensure the greatest possible participation in the process.

Over the next few weeks there will be a series of mailings, notifications, informational meetings and opportunities for comment on the proposed changes. Please plan to attend these meetings. We encourage your participation and welcome your comment. A calendar of events will appear in the *Kaleidoscope* and on our website.

Provided all things go as planned, a special congregational meeting will be held November 15 to vote on the final proposed changes. We will vote for the entire package. A 75% affirmative vote of at least 25% of our members voting will be needed for approval.

These truly are exciting times. And with the excitement comes a responsibility to keep our rules vibrant and relevant. I am looking forward to taking part in our democratic process; I hope you will join me.

GARY WELTERLEN, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Women's Group

Sunday, September 13th, 7:00 PM in La Paz

The origin of all conflict between me and my fellow-men is that I do not say what I mean and I don't do what I say. MARTIN BUBER

Our Women's Group will continue our exploration of the thoughts of Martin Buber, an Austrian-born Judaic scholar and philosopher. We welcome you to join in the discussion.

COSM is the Committee On Shared Ministry. We are a team of members of our Congregation whose purpose is to strengthen the quality of ministry in the congregation. That includes how Aaron ministers to the congregation and how the congregation ministers to Aaron. It includes Nancy Edmundson and how she cares for us and how we care for her.

The members of the committee this year are Deborah Wolfe, Gerry White, Pat Kruger, Lauren Wyeth, Jared Dawson, Carla Neufeldt-Abatie, Gail Stichler, Deb Karoff and Jody Thomas. We meet once a month with Aaron and Nancy to listen and offer feedback. We hope, collectively, to have our finger on the pulse of the congregation and be able to discuss things that come up through the year. We encourage all members of the congregation to actively use our covenant of good relations.

We want to put the "S" in COSM

activities or have just taken the proverbial summertime deep breath. Somehow we know it's time to come back. We come back to begin a new year or complete the final push of the old.

All over the world the subtle change from summer to fall is nature's signal to go back home. Return to your home and reconnect with the tribe. For Unitarian Universalists in Santa Barbara this is the meaning of Ingathering: the reconnection after the migrations, near and far, of summer. We celebrate the return of our clan with Ingathering and the sharing of communal meals. These traditions are not so far removed from those of our ancestors. Like the return of clans in times past, we look to the return of our tribesmen from summer pastures and revel in the chance to reconnect with friends and the opportunity to make new acquaintances. We seek out our friends, share stories of our accomplishments and laugh at our misadventures. We celebrate the safe travels of the clan and the return to community together for another year. We begin our lives together anew.

Yes, September really is a special time. Take the opportunity this month to reconnect with old friends, to renew the bond—or reach out to someone you've just met and make a new one. Welcome back.

GARY W.

Two Beach Events Still Have Space!

Aloha Luau on Sunday Sept 20, for \$50 a space is not to be missed! Luau food, tropical drinks, private beach!

Sandcastle All-day Beach Party, Saturday, Sept 19. Great fun for families and those young at heart! \$15/person or \$25/family. Fun, drinks and shade provided!

Sign up with Carol at assistant@ussb.org 965-4583 x224.

There are a couple of ways to do this with Aaron and Nancy. You may make appointments with them directly. They are **always** open to meet with congregants about any issue.

Or you may speak with a member of COSM about anything of concern. We will take that concern to the next COSM meeting where it will be discussed.

Our intention is to foster healthy communication among ourselves in our congregational community but we're not able to discuss information that comes to us anonymously. We also encourage the dissemination of positive feedback and hearing about things you appreciate. The good stuff is usually easier to share than the hard stuff, but we are able to hear it all. I love this quotation by Gwendolyn Brooks:

We are each other's business; we are each other's harvest; we are each other's magnitude and bond.

JODY THOMAS, CHAIR, COSM

Seasoned Seekers

Heroes of American Unitarianism

BY THE REV. LEX CRANE

Since our denomination had neither creed nor doctrine, it has been evolving steadily after the American Unitarian Association was formally organized in 1825. By that date ministers educated at Harvard had set it all in motion over a period of 75 years. What made the movement what it is today? A few key figures later emerged: three lay Unitarians and three ministers. Let's get to know them.

On **Tuesday, September 29 at 3 PM** everyone is welcome to the **Seasoned Seekers** gathering at Vista del Monte Retirement Community, 3775 Modoc Rd. For directions, questions or ride call Ginny Crane at 682-3476.

All in the Family XXXXX

That's right!

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

Our first year-round choir experience is going really well. New members are showing up and we're always in learning mode.

I'm very excited about our next season: *Ingathering*. Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far away. So if you've been thinking about joining, then this is the best time!...Get involved! Music is an avenue to having a deeper, richer experience in the services here at the Society. and it's a meaningful way to reach out to our congregation.

Come and join us!

KEN RYALS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dance-Away? What's that?

* It's a room full of people of all ages, each moving to the beat of a DJ's music however she/he feels like doing—alone—with a partner—standing—sitting or whatever...

* It's continuous music with a beat, non-stop from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM (except for a 20-minute drums-only jam session) every Friday night in either Parish Hall or Jefferson Hall...

* It's people coming and going whenever the spirit moves, socializing and/or drinking water outside, dancing inside...

* And did you know, it's been a program of the Unitarian Society since November 1978! (USSB members need not pay the requested donation of \$6 for adults, \$2 for children)...

So if you enjoy moving to music, why not give **Dance-Away** a whirl?

Chamber Music Concert September 20th at 3:00 PM

Dr. Allen Bishop, a professor at Pacifica Graduate Institute, has recently founded a new chamber music ensemble called *The Pacifica Chamber Ensemble* and the Concert Committee is delighted to host its first concert in our Sanctuary on September 20th at 3:00 PM. The members of the ensemble are Allen Bishop, pianist, Suzanne Duffy, flutist, Claude-Lise LaFranque, violinist and Ervin Klinkon, cellist. These artists are well known in Santa Barbara and are looking forward to launching their new group before an appreciative audience! The program will include the music of Haydn (his bicentennial year), Mozart, Bach, Dvorak and Saint-Saens.

Tickets are \$15.00 general admission and \$10 for Senior, Students and USSB members. They may be purchased at Santa Barbara Sheet Music and at the door. For more information on the concert and the program, you may contact Allen Bishop at (805) 969-0037 or by email: abishop@pacific.edu

Looking ahead, the Concert Committee will feature Ken Ryals in another innovative program of jazz. Ellen Rockne is looking to bring us her new cabaret program in November, and we are working on hosting a special program co-hosted by The Arts Fund to celebrate the new compositions by composer, Stephen Wilcox. Natasha Kislenco, our resident pianist, is presently on a concert tour in Eastern Europe. She will present a solo concert in early December.

More details on these programs will be announced soon. Watch for further details on our website!

JOHN WARNOCK, CHAIR, CONCERT COMMITTEE

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Lifespan Religious Education News

Hello Friends!

Preparations for the upcoming church year are in full swing. On Saturday, August 29th we hosted our teacher training here at USSB. We had a great time learning about new developments in children's religious education, faith development, and classroom management. Melissa Block gave a presentation on the *Nurtured Heart Approach* to parenting and it was met with much interest and enthusiasm. Look for her four-week class this fall in the *Adult Religious Education brochure*.

Our Children's Religious Education teachers this year are Rachel Petkus, Tish Housh, Scott Barnett, Rosaleen Lancet, Carol Millar, Courtney Narine, Paul Kretschmer, Kir Zecker, Denis Lammers, Nancy Edmundson, Alan Edmundson, Jo Saxon, Anita Blume, Chuck Champlin, Ken Ralph, and Emiliano Campobello.

All of our 2009–2010 fabulous teachers deserve a big high five and a loud shout-out! But let me highlight six very special teachers—Nancy, Alan, Anita, Ken, Chuck and Emiliano. These five volunteers currently do not have children enrolled in our CRE program but are generously investing their time, energy, and goodwill in our kids.

All too often we see the responsibility of religious education falling to our parents. Year after year we see the same faces teaching our CRE classes, hosting our children's celebrations, staffing our family events.

But, I ask you, what would our USSB village look like, feel like, sound like if we all shared the honor of working with our kids? What if we created an authentic multigenerational community here at the Society?

Our kids are inspired when they see non-parents invest in their religious education and spiritual development. Our young parents feel nurtured and supported when adults with launched children will take the time to invest in their families.

My vision for USSB is for us to be a true intergenerational community—a place where we all join in the work but share the joy. Let's work together to make this a reality!

Coming Soon!

Our new *Adult Religious Education brochure* is now available. Upcoming classes include *Unplugging the Holiday Machine: How to put love and joy back into the season*; *Unitarian Universalist History*; *Nurtured Heart Approach*, *Natural Nourishment for Radiant Health*. Stop by the Religious Education table for more information.

A New Face in Starr King.

We are pleased to welcome Melody Malek as our new Childcare Coordinator. Melody will be in Starr King on Sunday mornings working with the youngest of our children and supervising our teen childcare assistants. Drop in and say hello when you can.

Children's RE Open House and Beginning Classes: September 20, 11:00, Jefferson Hall.

After the classes adjourn, join LeeAnn Williams, Charla Bregante, and the Children's RE Council in Jefferson Hall for a parent orientation, registration, and overview of children's religious education for 2009–2010. Learn about the Parent Task Forces, Family Fun Nights, Youth Choir, the curricula for the year, and lots more.

Youth Choir.

Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 20 at 10:45 AM, location to be announced. Join Youth Choir Director, Vaiva Janusoniene for the first rehearsal of fall. Youth Choir is open to children age five and up. No previous musical experience necessary. Children learn vocal technique, experience the role of music in regular worship services, and have a lot of fun. (While children are in choir rehearsal, parents can attend the RE Open House in Jefferson Hall.)

Our Solar Project is Complete!

After winning approval from Santa Barbara's Historic Landmarks Commission, installation was completed this week of solar panels on the roof of our administrative offices. We are the first Downtown Santa Barbara church building to install a solar system. Members of our congregation have also helped to establish the *Clean/Green Energy Fund* of the *Fund for Santa Barbara* which serves as a resource for all local nonprofits and religious organizations who want to make their facilities more energy efficient. By making a contribution to the Fund, members and friends of the Society follow a long standing tradition among religious organizations of "paying forward" to support other social conscious groups and religious ministries.

Inspired by implementation of a "Green Sanctuary Program" for the Unitarian Society (with a grant from the Bower Foundation), the year-long program culminated in the construction of solar panels on the roof which will serve to offset the costs of electrical energy usage and to provide clean electricity for the church for years to come.

Other energy saving practices recently undertaken by the Unitarian Society included installation of energy efficient heating and lighting systems and these were also instituted during the capital building project. "Most important," said Ivor John, Chair of the Green Sanctuary Committee, "was our campaign to build awareness of the Society's environmental issues and

Sketches by Aaron

How I Craft a Service

One question people ask pretty frequently is, “How do you design these services? What is your process?” Well in this column I will see if I can explain. Ask and ye shall be answered.

It all begins in the summer. That’s when I first begin to map out the worship year. I try to figure out which Sundays I will be away, make sure all the “big” dates (like Thanksgiving, Yom Kippur, Christmas and MLK Day) are on the calendar—and then I start working with the themes, a different one every month, and letting my mind wander across each one in a fairly directionless way. This gets the creative juices flowing and helps make sure that some part of me is always percolating away on themes that are months away.

Next I begin to fill in the next few months' worth of Sundays in more detail, picking questions, themes and ideas that I want to explore, all the while knowing that real life has a way of bumping my best-laid ideas aside as this crazy world of ours unfolds around us. Planning this far out is helpful because I can prioritize my study and reading time accordingly, and so our music and religious education staff can do their planning and preparation as well.

Once I have titles penciled in, I turn my attention to whichever one is approaching fastest. About two weeks before any given service, I talk with the worship associate so she/he can start thinking about the Chalice Lighting, personal reflection and any readings or quotes we might use.

And then it goes like this....

The **Sunday** before: in the afternoon, after church, I usually edit my sermon one last time after delivering it, so it will be ready for printing and uploading to the website. I do this because I often discover new things *as* I am preaching, and then I edit the text to incorporate my “ad-libs” after the fact (if they were any good...).

Monday? Ah, my day off! I try not to do any real work on Mondays, but I do start thinking about what I will write on

Tuesday. Lots of good, creative ideas show up on Mondays, probably because my mind and my day are both relatively free and unstructured. Some of my best ideas seem to come while I am at the elliptical machine at the gym, walking the dog, falling asleep or just waking up.

Tuesday: The Big Day. I get up around 8 AM, and start brewing a pot of decaf. I read my email and check my phone messages. After that, I write my outline and then prepare an index of citations so I don’t have to go hunting for them while I am in my writing-rhythm. That finished, I write steadily for the rest of the day, and if I am lucky, I will have a rough draft done by the time I have to start getting ready for my evening meetings.

Wednesday: I prepare the order of service, meet with Ken to fine tune the music, and usually touch base with the worship associate. This day is full of meetings so I do not usually do any writing. This time away from the sermon is helpful because it gives me some distance and fresh perspective when I return to it on Thursday.

Thursday: This is typically when I outline and write the *Story for All Ages*, which is intended to be both a supplement to and a distillation of whatever key themes are at work in the sermon. This is also usually when I write the meditation and do significant sermon editing.

Friday: prepare the opening words, final sermon edits, print everything up and hope for the best.

Saturday: I don’t even look at any of it unless I have to.

Sunday: This is the part you see every week. Everything is prepared in advance except for the closing words (the “challenge”), which generally turns out to be whatever feels right at that moment, and often varies a bit from service to service. Let it roll, edit later in the afternoon if needed, and repeat the cycle the next 30 years or so...it’s a wonderful life!

Solar Project—continued!

to establish a connection between our spiritual practices and a growing environmental consciousness.” A series of Eco-Club meetings designed to help members become aware of environmental issues, both personal and collective within the context of faith-based practices, helped to reach this goal.

High priority was also given to enabling other membership and faith-based institutions to build and sustain energy-saving practices in their buildings, church sanctuaries, and homes. By collaborating with the Community Environmental Council’s Interfaith Outreach Campaign and with the Eco-Faith Initiative of the Interfaith Council, this goal was also realized and culmi-

nated in Society members making an initial downpayment to establish the *Clean/Green Energy Fund* to support other similar initiatives among nonprofits and faith-based institutions.

Technical advice and representation before the City Planning Commission was provided by Chris Shorb who is a consultant from Ojai Solar Electric. Tax-deductible contributions to the Clean/Green Energy Fund are welcomed by the Fund for Santa Barbara.

We thank Ivor John, Dick Jensen, Don Bushnell and Chris Shorb who coordinated this project! In addition, our congregation’s offertory on September 20 will be designated to the Clean/Green Energy Fund.

Calendar

Tuesday, September 15

- 08:30 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM USSB Board Meeting, Parish Hall

Wednesday, September 16

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 3:30 PM Audit Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:45 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, September 19

- 6:30 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:00 AM High School OWL Sleepover, Blake Lounge
- 5:00 PM Coming of Age Parent Meeting, Jefferson Hall

Sunday, September 20 9:30 and 11:30 am Worship services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Classes
- 10:30 AM Children's RE Open House, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Blake Lounge

Monday, September 21

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, September 24

- 2:00 PM Endowment Board, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, September 25

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:00 PM Alliance Board Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
- 5:00 PM DeBenneville Pines Retreat, Off Campus
- 7:00 PM Film Night w/ Chuck Wolfe, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, September 26

- 12:00 AM DeBenneville Pines Retreat, Off Campus
- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM Path to Membership, Blake Lounge
- 1:00 PM Noreen Theede Memorial, Sanctuary

Sunday, September 27 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:45 AM Children's Worship, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B
- 4:00 PM High School OWL, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, September 28

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Next Newsletter Deadline
September 15, for material covering
October 1-14, 2009
E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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

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

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The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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