

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"

October 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

October 18
Welcome to the Human Race
Ken Ralph, Service Host

We've all made errors in judgment, some ridiculous, some hilarious and others painfully serious. What could be more human than making mistakes? Our challenge is: "What do we do next?" Reflections by Lora Barnett, George Solinas, and Lauren Wyeth.

OCT
18

October 25
Passing 'Go'
The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

All month we have explored the theme of forgiveness together: on Yom Kippur we focused on forgiving one another, and a week later we talked about forgiving god. And now this week, as we complete our month-long reflection on forgiveness, we will explore the most difficult kind of forgiveness of all—forgiving ourselves. Many of us have played the game of Monopoly, and sometimes we land on that card that says, "Go to Jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200." Well that happens in real life too; we get stuck in a guilty prison of our own making, unable to move forward, unable to pass Go. In this service we will reflect upon this, and explore some ways that we can set ourselves free through forgiveness.

OCT
25

Save the Dates for Bylaw Revisions Sundays November 1 and 15

1st—1 PM 2nd Discussion on USSB Bylaws
Parish Hall

15th—1 PM Congregational Vote on Bylaws,
Sanctuary

Lifespan RE Startup Retreat

Hello Friends. Religious education (RE) is at the center of everything we do within a congregation. RE is the tie that binds us to our heritage, it is our investment in the future—it's how we keep our values alive.

An RE program that is vibrant and meaningful requires the energy and generosity of all us here at USSB. Creating a program that meets everyone's needs requires the input of our whole community. Because your voice is so important in this process, I want to offer you a special invitation to the Religious Education Startup retreat that will take place here at USSB on Saturday, October 24, from 9 AM–1 PM, in Parish Hall.

What is an RE Startup retreat? Simply put, it is a time to focus on the roles, responsibilities, and goals of those who are invested in religious education. This is a time for us to revisit our goals and strategic plans for our lifespan program. Tera Little, our Program Consultant for the Pacific Southwest District, will be leading us in this process. Please make time to attend this retreat. Looking forward to seeing you there, LeeAnn.

LEEANN WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Potluck and CD Release Concert for *Elements of Jazz*

Come eat, drink and be musical at the Potluck/Concert! We invite you to share a meal with friends and family Saturday October 17 for the monthly 3rd Saturday potluck in Parish Hall. We all help set up at 5:30 PM and eat at 6:00. All are welcome—friends, families and neighbors. Bring a dish for 10–12 people (half that if you are single.)

After the meal, plan to attend the music concert at 7:30 by our choral director Ken Ryals to help celebrate the release of his new CD, *Elements of Jazz ... LIVE*, that was recorded previously this year in collaboration with Tony Ybarra, guitarist. USSB members attending the potluck are invited to the concert for the bargain suggested donation of \$5! (a \$5.00 discount since the suggested non-member donation is \$10.00.)

Questions? Willing to help? Our Program Council is building a coordinating committee right now! Contact Catherine Birtalan on the Program Council.

Lifespan RE News

There is still time to register for Adult RE programs. Visit our website at USSB.org for more information or visit the Adult RE table on Sundays during coffee hour.

Not all Adult RE takes place on Wednesdays! A discussion group focusing on William Murry's *Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism For the 21st Century* began Monday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 PM. To register and purchase a copy of the book, visit the Adult RE table on Sunday morning or call the RE office.

RE Farmer's Market

Because this is southern California, the RE Farmer's Market continues! Please bring extra produce from your garden and fruit from your trees to the table on Sunday mornings. All proceeds support a social justice project voted on by the kids.

Dia de los Muertos

Our annual *Dia de los Muertos* children's worship and fiesta will be Sunday, November 1 in Jefferson Hall. Join us for this special celebration of loved ones who are no longer with us. We encourage kids to bring pictures of deceased loved ones or pets for our *ofrenda*.

Auction project

The kids will create eco-friendly felt chalice ornaments for the church auction. If you enjoy working with fiber and needlework projects and would like to help with this project contact LeeAnn at lifespan@ussb.org.

Seasoned Seekers 'Going for Baroque'

The musical group *Going for Baroque* is featured at the Seasoned Seekers meeting Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 3 PM in the Social Room of Valle Verde Retirement Community, 900 Calle de los Amigos.

What is it about the 300-year appeal of Baroque music? Everyone is welcome to come, learn more about, and hear the genius of Bach and his contemporaries.

Unitarian Society members Anne Anderson (cello), Maren Henle (violin), and Karin Nelson (flute), will share their knowledge, their instruments and their love of the Baroque period of music. Join this gathering of UU retirees and friends. For questions or a ride call Ginny Crane.

Annual Starr King Rummage Sale and Silent Auction

Friday, October 16, 9:30 AM–5:00 PM

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM

Each year USSB kindly postpones, relocates, or cancels meetings and activities on the USSB campus to accommodate the week-long setup, sorting, and sale dates for the Starr King Parent Child Workshop. We make this gift of support and commitment because USSB founded the parent-child workshop here 61 years ago (with Rev. Berkeley Blake and USSB member Sarah Foot.)

The Starr King Parent Child Workshop is a preschool dedicated to early childhood learning and parent education, supported in cooperation with Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education and USSB. The move-in and setup of the sale will begin Sunday October 11 at 1 PM. Shoppers can look forward to enjoying a gourmet lunch (11:00–1:30 Friday; 11:00–1:00 Saturday) with refreshments and home-baked goodies for sale.

Call 966-1325 for more information. To make a tax-deductible donation of lightly-used items, drop items off on Sunday October 11 between 2:00 and 5:00 PM at La Paz alley behind Jefferson Hall and get your tax deduction receipt.



Restatement of USSB Bylaws

All voting USSB members have been mailed a notice of a congregational meeting on November 15, 2009 to vote on approval of proposed restated bylaws. The mailing includes the current proposed draft bylaws and an announcement of discussion meetings and the revision process. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the discussion process:

Second Discussion meeting: Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 PM, Parish Hall

Congregational Vote: Sunday, Nov. 15, 1 PM, Sanctuary

A second mailing will be sent to USSB members the week of October 26 to include revisions based on congregational input, and rationale for changes.

Disco Fever! ★ ★ ★ ★ USSB Annual Services Auction, Saturday Nov. 7

Our LARGEST fundraiser of the year is coming soon, and we need you to help in the following ways:

★ Complete your services and event donations, and if a volunteer or staff member contacts you to clarify details of your donation, please reply immediately! By the time you read this, we will be putting the finishing touches on our Auction Brochure, including filling in missing details, and working out date conflicts.

★ Help with the production and distribution of the Auction Brochure. Contact Carol at assistant@ussb.org, 965-4583 x224, to assist with data input, labels, and tables in the garden!

★ Make a special effort to pick up your Disco Fever Auction Brochure on Sunday, October 25. This will save USSB the significant cost of first class postage—be frugal and pick up your booklet!

★ Assist with planning and executing the party the night of the event. Contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration, 965-4583 x225, director@ussb.org.

★ Finally, start planning your Disco Attire now! Here are some tips—accessorize with fake gold chains, make your body sparkle, slip on platform shoes, pull on that leisure suit or velour jump suit, wear your hair big and put on those tight pants that flare at the ankles.

See you all Saturday, November 7 for our congregation's largest fund and FUN raising event of the year at Club 1535 (Parish Hall)!

USSB Serves 500 Local Teens AHA! a USSB Facility Partner

"AHA! saved my life. I was in a gang and I was violent and I didn't know there was any other way. I hated school and I didn't care. My grandmother made me go at first but then I realized that people could be different and I felt it. The people at AHA! really make you feel like you matter. I changed. I was the first one to graduate high school from my really big family. Thank you AHA!" (Leandra, age 18)

AHA! (The Academy of Healing Arts for Teens) is dedicated to the development of character, imagination, emotional intelligence and social conscience in teenagers. This summer AHA! teens met in Jefferson Hall Monday through Thursday afternoons to learn to reduce prejudice and celebrate difference, develop responsible and effective ways to handle conflict and stress, and focus on the positive attributes of youth leadership.

"I was really messed up and using drugs and I had no goals. I hated myself. I went to AHA! and learned to like myself and set goals. I realized that I had worth and that I could do something great with my life." (Julian, age 20)

The Unitarian Society has housed AHA! for five of its ten years. This generosity of our congregation, along with grants and personal donations, have empowered AHA! to serve over 500 teens in a variety of programs.

Every other Thursday the teens and staff did various community service projects for USSB. They cleaned church pews by dusting and oiling the wood as well as vacuuming the cushions. They painted the benches in front of Parish Hall, and moved over 800 bricks from the back of the church to the front of Parish Hall. The students and staff also baked 150 cupcakes for a special welcoming reception for LeeAnn Williams, Director of Religious Education.

We are profoundly grateful for the Unitarian support of our program and we hope we represent the values of the Unitarian society in our philanthropic work, and our mission to empower teenagers to lead with Character, Compassion, and Creative Expression.

AHA! is now beginning their school year program here on our campus, meeting Monday through Thursday afternoons in Jefferson Hall. Once a month AHA! holds parent support meetings, and USSB parents are welcome to participate to explore issues common to all parents of adolescents and teens. Upcoming dates for the parent meetings are Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Jefferson Hall, on October 22, November 19, January 21, February 18, March 18, and April 15. AHA! welcomes any parents of teens who want extra support in parenting.

Sketches . . . by Aaron

This time around I really want to write about two very different things and I can't decide which to focus on, so this will be a newsletter article in two acts:

Act I: Experiments in Worship

You may have noticed some changes in our worship services lately. As always we are doing our best to create the very best Sunday morning experience we can, and this will always involve some tinkering here and there.

The first thing you may be noticing already is the way we've begun building the services around monthly themes. In September the theme was 'Unity', this month we are focusing on 'Forgiveness' and next month we are moving on to 'Gratitude.' This allows us to explore these critical themes much more deeply and from many more directions than we otherwise could. It also has created opportunities for our children and our Connection Circles to reflect on the same monthly themes. So every month our whole community has the chance to explore the same themes at the same time, but in our own individual ways.

The other main experiment we are conducting has to do with the content of the two worship services. In the 9:30 service we have continued to feature the Story for All Ages, while in the 11:30 service we have begun including Reflections from congregants in place of the story. This allows us to offer one service that is slightly more family- and story-oriented and another that is slightly more oriented to adults. Both services have remained otherwise the same.

It seems like both experiments are going well so far, and we (the Worship Committee and I) are eager to hear how these experiments strike you!



Rev. McEmrys and colleagues meet with Representative Lois Capps to urge workers rights and healthcare for all

Act II: Rev. McEmrys Goes to Washington

September was a big month in this country. The nation was flooded, it seemed, by venomous shouting matches at town hall meetings about healthcare reform. So when our Representative Lois Capps held a town hall meeting here in Santa Barbara, I was one of a good number of local clergy who turned up and scattered ourselves through the hall to help keep things as civil as possible. Fortunately there turned out to be little need of us, as the meeting (mostly) went smoothly. I was, however, shocked back to reality when someone handed me a flyer as I was leaving. On the flyer was a picture of a Nazi concentration camp with President Obama's face superimposed on it. Oh, what crazy days these are!

Soon after that I found myself on a plane to Washington D.C. where I was part of a clergy delegation lobbying Congress (especially the Senate) in support of sweeping reform of our nation's workers' rights laws. I spent most of my time teamed up with a couple of Rabbis from the LA area. We visited with Members and staff of both Houses, and by the time we were done we had managed to personally cover a big chunk of our California Congressional Delegation. My feet hurt just thinking about it—Capitol Hill is a big place and everything seems to be made of the most unyielding marble—but I digress....

The highlight of the trip was our visit with Rep. Lois Capps. While we were on the Hill focusing primarily on workers' rights, it proved impossible to separate that discussion from other critical issues, especially healthcare reform. We had a very good conversation with Rep. Capps and we encouraged her not only to continue supporting these key reforms, but to step up and lead on them wherever possible. I gave her the hundreds of post-cards that you filled out at our Labor Day service, and she was excited to see so many personal notes. Being a Santa Barbaran herself, she recognized quite a few of your names and made sure that I would send you her greetings as well as assurance of her ongoing support. If you look closely at the photo you will see she is holding your cards in her hands, your voices!

After that I flew back to Santa Barbara, celebrated Ingathering with you, and then flew right back to the East Coast, to Pittsburgh, for the fall meeting of the Interfaith Worker Justice Board of Trustees. Our meeting was designed to coincide with President Obama's visit, and I hoped against hope that I might be able to meet him in person, but it was not to be. We did, however, get to see Hilda Solis, the Secretary of Labor, Sen. Arlen Specter and Caroline Kennedy, among others, and we did

get to see the President speak in person, which was quite an experience. I spent much of my time with our public policy committee crafting a draft resolution and position paper about healthcare reform for our affiliates to use nationwide. My colleague Susan Leslie, who is the Director of Congregational Advocacy and Witness for the UUA, and I even managed to carve out some meaningful time to discuss ways our UU movement can be more effective in our social justice work. Hopefully our discussions will begin to bear fruit soon.

It was a busy month, but it feels good to live our Unitarian Universalist values in the wider world and to carry your voices with me wherever I go.

See you in church,
Aaron

THE REVEREND AARON McEMRYS, PARISH MINISTER



In support of the Employee Free Choice Act



Next Movie Night

On Friday, October 23, at 7 PM in Parish Hall, Chuck Wolfe will be showing *I've Loved You So Long* (2008). Released from prison after a long sentence, Juliette is taken in by her younger sister and family. But relations are strained and rumors among locals rife. Writer-director Phillip Claudel deftly unveils the contours of Juliette's emotional predicament in this finely etched character study, starring Kristin Scott Thompson, and set in Claudel's hometown of Nancy, France.

Invite Your Friends and Acquaintances to USSB!

Every worship and all programs are great opportunities to invite your friends and acquaintances to join you here at USSB. Our Membership Committee has produced attractive and welcoming postcards for you to mail or hand deliver to those you know. Pick up your supply from the Welcome Table in the garden, or from the reception office. We have an ample supply, so take a good number, and don't worry if someone receives multiple invitations to visit USSB; how better to encourage folks to check us out? How else might you use these cards? How about sending one to someone you haven't seen here in a while? Let's all be part of our welcoming membership ministry.

In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. Forrest Church: Theologian, Author, Minister of All Souls

We note with sadness the passing on September 24 of Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, who was the senior minister at New York City's Unitarian Church of All Souls for almost thirty years.

"We have lost a brilliant and articulate thinker, a champion of democratic values, and a compelling advocate for liberal religion," commented the new President of the UUA, Peter Morales.

More information and links to other coverage may be found on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/151146.shtml>.

Calendar

Thursday, October 15, 2009

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

Friday, October 16

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:30 AM Starr King Rummage Sale (until 5 PM)
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, October 17

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:30 AM Starr King Rummage Sale (until 1 PM)
- 6:00 PM Congregation Potluck, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM Ken Ryals/Tony Ybarra Concert, Sanctuary

Sunday, October 18 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Classes
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 4:00 PM High School OWL, Blake Lounge

Monday, October 19

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:30 PM Reason and Reverence Discussion, LaPaz Lounge

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 10:00 AM Women's Choral Group, Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM COSM, Blake Meeting Room
- 6:00 PM ARE Ingathering, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM UU History with Aaron, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM Homework Hangout, Classroom I
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B
- 7:00 PM Parenting with Positivity, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Natural Nourishment, Parish Hall

Thursday, October 22

- 6:30 PM Path to Membership, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, October 23

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Film Night w/ Chuck Wolfe, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, October 24

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM LRE Start-up Workshop, Parish Hall

Sunday, October 25 9:30 and 11:30 AM Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Classes
- 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 YRUU High School Group, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, October 26

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:30 PM Reason and Reverence Discussion, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, October 27

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 12:15 PM USSB IT Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 3:00 PM Seasoned Seekers, Off Campus

Wednesday, October 28

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:00 PM ARE Ingathering, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM UU History with Aaron, Blake Lounge
- 7:00 PM Homework Hangout, Classroom I
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B
- 7:00 PM Parenting with Positivity, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Natural Nourishment, Parish Hall

Thursday, October 29

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, October 30

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:00 PM Alliance Board Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, October 31

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

Next Newsletter Deadline
October 15 for material covering
November 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-4 PM; SUN: 10:00 AM-NOON

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