



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

KALEIDOSCOPE

November 15 - 30, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Percy Sales

Thankful Sayings

"Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference."

- Unknown Author.

"Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?"

- Unknown Author.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

- Melody Beattie

Democracy in Action

What if you had an election and nobody voted? Is it really an election? Well in the case of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara it would be a resounding NO! That's why we need your participation on the special election to vote to approve the restatement of our bylaws on November 15th. We have a high standard of member participation to make changes to our core governance document and we need each and every member to vote on these most basic issues.

Yeah, I know, bylaws and constitutions seems so dull and uninteresting, and really now, what do they have to do with me anyways? Well believe it or not they do! They have a lot to do with letting the Society function smoothly and efficiently day to day so we can continue to meet the needs of our members. They also ensure we are positioned for the future by spelling out how we will approach the challenges we may face in the years ahead.

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Program Council Considers Changes in USSB Programs

The 2009-2010 Program Council, which now includes Glenn, Catherine, and Susan from the congregation, has met twice this fall with LeeAnn, Director of Religious Education, Aaron, Minister, and Nancy, Administrator. Monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month will continue throughout the year. The Program Council reports to the Board of Trustees.

The Program Council oversees and supports the program needs of the congregation. In fulfillment of this mission, the Program Council will carry out as many of the following as possible this year:

1. Submits an annual budget request and allocates the allotted Program Budget among the various committees and programs.
2. Responds to requests for funding from

CONT'D ON PAGE 2: Program

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

November 15

Jody, Service Host
All That Glitters

The goal is to live in gratitude. But what about when greed and want show up uninvited? How do we appreciate what we have, everyday, even when things are hard? It is easier to be grateful when things are good, but it is life's work to maintain gratitude in the face of adversity and challenge.

November 22

The Reverend Aaron
Thanksgiving "'Tis a Gift"

Please join us for our annual multigenerational Thanksgiving service. The walls will fill to the brim with music, song, and story as we celebrate the many blessings in our lives and renew our commitment to the holy practice of gratitude.

November 29

Shelley, Jo, & Pat
On the Edge of the Water

From the perspective of the Child at the edge of the Water, the Water seems big and deep. The Child sees possibilities from the edge of the Water. The Water is alive to the Child that sees mystery and discovery everywhere. The work and play of the mythological Graces can be found in these moments. The Graces (Charities) were the goddesses of charm, beauty, nature, human creativity and fertility. They were great lovers of beauty and gave humans talents in the arts, closely associated with the Muses.

Come prepared for a service filled with joyful song and playfully contemplative reflection about perspectives from the edge of the water—about the Child Within each and every one of us and the children in our community; about the Great Mother and how she/we mother(s) our selves; and about what the Graces have to teach us and what gratitude brings.

We need 113 affirmative votes to approve this very important restatement. THAT MEANS YOUR VOTE COUNTS! So vote by absentee ballot, or vote by proxy or vote at the meeting on November 15th but by all means vote. We look forward to your participation in this, our most, important expression of our democratic process. Thanks.

GARY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thanksgiving Contributions

Our third Sunday outreach contribution for November will be to the Santa Barbara County Foodbank. Helping out children and families in need is what keeps the people at the Foodbank going. Families are grateful to be together this Thanksgiving but throughout our community, they are facing very tough economic times. We will have food barrels set out the week of November 8th to Nov 15th. We will have sheets printed up listing the requested items. Non perishable foods like peanut butter, tuna and canned fruits are needed. The Foodbank supports 220 local non-profits. Every \$1 donated allows the Foodbank to distribute \$7 worth of food.

Joanne

Women's Group

Sunday, November 22nd 7:00 PM in LaPaz

Yes! We are still meeting, having lively discussion, and deepening our relationships with ourselves and others. Come join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 7:00 PM in LaPaz Lounge

All Member Third Saturday Thanksgiving Feast

Join us for a Thanksgiving Feast on November 21 at 6:00 PM in Parish Hall! This monthly 3rd Saturday gathering is not a potluck. The members and supporters of our Ethical Eating Group will cook a luscious holiday meal for you and your family and friends. Sit back and enjoy! We'll all set up at 5:30 PM and eat at 6:00 PM. After the meal, we'll hear from a renowned organic cook and sustainable food expert, so bring your big appetites, as well as questions you may have about food and its very important place in our lives. We do ask that you bring your own table service, including plates, drinking cups, flatware and cloth napkins. If you have questions, feel free to call Cat at 845-6946 or Catherine at (805) 252-0483.

current programs and from those wishing to initiate new programs.

3. Evaluates and approves new programs and facilitates their startup.
4. Monitors existing programs to make sure they don't fall through the cracks.
5. Develops or clarifies policy as requested by groups or others in the congregation.
6. Develops and uses tools to evaluate new and existing programs.
7. Coordinates with the Ministerial Team to facilitate communication and leadership training and works to identify, recruit and support volunteers.
8. Provides input to the Long Range Planning Committee regarding the status and prospects of the various programs to facilitate development of long range planning.

Recently the Program Council has sought leaders and participants to:

~Coordinate the conduct of Sunday morning brunches by congregational committees once a month. The Board provided the October brunch, and the Pastoral Care Committee, the November one.

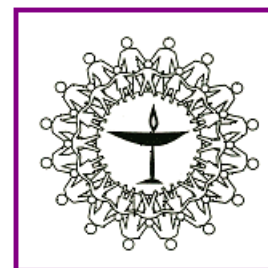
~Find leaders to coordinate monthly congregational potlucks, to be provided by congregational groups.

In the process of evaluating or planning future programs, they have also:

~Met with John to discuss how the concert programs will be carried on after John's retirement at the end of the current church year. Ways in which the concerts might meet more congregational needs are being considered, and leadership will be sought.

~Met with Sandy who reported on the Social Justice Empowerment Program surveys. Sandy and her committee will offer them to youth and new members. Catherine has also been working with LeeAnn and Cat to structure the Ethical Eating task force as a model for other social justice task forces. The Council is considering how task forces will be coordinated for social justice purposes in the future.

Susan
Board Member and Chair, Program Council



Honor Roll Members

Congratulating our
dedicated members

x

Please Welcome Our Newest Members

Path to Membership Class

Do you know anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism? Invite them to the Path to Membership Class!

Path to Membership is offered once a month, a class that we think you might enjoy, even if you are already a member, but especially if you are considering membership.

The class is led by our Parish Minister, Reverend Aaron. It is an educational, informational, and communal time to discover more about the history and theology of Unitarianism and about the programs and services offered at USSB.

Path to Membership is scheduled on Saturday, November 21st, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

Refreshments and childcare will be provided for those interested.

To register for the class, please contact the USSB Membership Coordinator, Jennifer at (805) 965-4583 ext. 221.

For more information regarding the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, Path to Membership, or Unitarian Universalism, please visit our web site at www.ussb.org.

All in the Family

~

Annual Services Auction Success!

Congratulations to all our organizers, donors of events, services and items, and everyone who attended Disco Fever!

We have broken ALL of our previous fundraising and FUNraising efforts. We have surpassed our fundraising goal for the event on all levels, monetary, donations, attendance, and participation. Kick off those disco shoes, soak those aching feet and shout out "Job Well Done!" See the next issue for a more complete report on our largest fundraising event of the year.

The insert in this Kaleidoscope features some of the events that still have room. Make your purchases by November 29! For a complete listing of services, items, and all events that remain available...pick up an "after-auction brochure" in the garden on Sundays, or visit our web site, under "Disco Fever!"

Lifespan Religious Education News

Thank you to everyone who helped organize and celebrate our annual Dia de los Muertos worship and fiesta. It was a special time of remembering loved ones who have left us and appreciating those who are with us still. Activities included face painting, skull cookie decorating, tin ornament decorating, and ofrenda making.

Our parent/granparent volunteers included Terri and Charlie, Chrissie, David, and Bonnie. You are all awesome!

A very special shout out to our Coming of Age class who led the younger kids in a Calling the Ancestor ritual.

Teaching Religious Education is one of the most important acts of social justice we can embrace as Unitarian Universalists. Our congregation's RE programs are the means through which we pass along our heritage to a new generation of religious liberals. Those who hear this calling -- the calling to share our vision and passions -- with our kids deserve our utmost appreciation and respect.

In the upcoming months, you will be introduced to our RE teachers in our new RE Teacher Spotlight column. Take a moment and find out a little about these amazing people.

Religious Education Teacher Spotlight

Meet one of our fabulous and BRAND NEW RE teachers, Courtney. Courtney was born in Los Angeles but spent many years in New York. The harsh New York winters eventually sent her back this way to the land of sunshine and ocean breezes. She and her family have been in Santa Barbara for five years and have not looked back since.

When asked to share her favorite book, Courtney replied, "I am a children's librarian (tech., actually) and an avid reader so choosing ONE book is impossible! Among my favorite kids

books are: Charlotte's Web, the Percy Jackson series, Holes, Loser, anything by Gary Paulsen, and really just too many to list here! Among my favorite books for "grown-ups" are Beloved, Poisonwood Bible, Red Tent, anything by Malcolm Gladwell, and Mountains beyond Mountains."

Included among her favorite movies are Sound of Music, Lawrence of Arabia, Music Man, To Kill a Mockingbird, Harold and Maude.

This is Courtney's first year teaching RE, and I asked her why she volunteered to share her energy, time, and talents with our kids. Courtney said, "I appreciate the larger world view that the Unitarians in S.B. espouse (curiosity about the world religions and philosophies) and am happy to be learning, and teaching important ideas to our children."

Courtney would one day love to join our choir. She is also very interested in the parenting classes Melissa has been teaching around here this Fall.

If you see Courtney at coffee hour or teaching in the classroom, be sure and tell her how much we all appreciate her supporting our community and supporting our UU faith.

HIGH FIVE COURTNEY!

For more information regarding our Children's RE Classes or our Adult RE Classes, please contact LeeAnn in the RE office or email at lifespan@ussb.org.



Planned Giving Workshop

"Do You Have Your Bases Covered?"

November 19th 2:00 to 3:30 PM at Parish Hall

Greg R. Lowe, attorney specializing trust and probate law, will offer his views on what most of us need to have in place when the time comes.

The presentation will cover healthcare directives, power of attorney, wills, trusts, probate, estate taxes, charitable trusts and conservatorships. This hour and a half long seminar will provide you with an overview to create your game plan for your estate.

Bring your questions and experiences to share. This interactive session will be aimed at the basics. No situation is too small or insignificant not to be covered. Handouts and resources will be provided to start your process or bring your plans up to date.

For additional help call Chris

Sketches by Aaron

Goodbye, Tree

My back deck is a whole lot sunnier now, which is, I suppose a good thing. I'm of two minds about that part. You see until a few days ago there was a big old tree standing there. I don't know what kind of tree it was, or how long it had been there – but I do know it had been around long enough to become part of the landscape.

It was the kind of tree you might walk by ten or twenty times a day without ever once stopping to notice. And yet, it's somewhat tired looking leaves offered what shade they could, a delicate cloud of green against the bright blue sky.

But as much as I would be happy to let that old tree live and die according to its own liking, there was a problem. The tree was about ready to fall over (part of it actually had cracked and fallen before I moved in), and the problem with letting the tree return to dust in a manner of its own choosing is that it might just decide to come crashing down on our roof, our car, or even us one of these days.

The tree needed to come down.

In the weeks before the chainsaw-wielding arborists came, I spent a lot of time looking at that tree. Its leaves did indeed look tired, and its branches had large bald spots. I tried to imagine what it would be like when the tree was gone – like a missing tooth? But as it turns out you really can't imagine the absence

of something that big until you experience it.

It took the arborists all day to take that tree down, piece by piece. Trees are big and tough. They fed the ENTIRE tree (really, even the thickest parts of the trunk) into the biggest wood-chipper I have ever seen – and hour-by-hour the old tree was slowly turned into fine chips and slivers – soon to be nurturing mulch for much, much younger plants. I would like to imagine that the old tree felt good about that – being of service even in death – but if I had mixed feelings as I watched I expect it did too.

At the end of the day the big truck drove away, full to the brim with our old tree, off to a new future in a new form in some other place. All that is left is the stump, and its absence does indeed look like the place where a tooth should be. But I know that the empty space will soon fill up with...what? Something new, something beautiful, I hope. In time the stump will be covered up and forgotten, if not by me than by those who follow me – but it will still be there. The stump will still be there, covered in beauty, lost in memory, slowly giving itself up, atom by atom, to the great living world. And so the wheel of life turns.

Goodbye, Tree, and thanks for all the shade. I will remember you.

NEW CHAMBER MUSIC PIECES AND CONVERSATION WITH COMPOSER STEPHEN WILCOX FEATURED AT OUR NOVEMBER 20TH CONCERT AT 7:30 PM

Join us for a program of chamber music and conversation with composer Stephen Wilcox on Friday, November 20th at 7:30 p.m. Stephen received an Individual Artist Award from The Arts Fund for his original compositions for piano and voice and the Concert Committee is delighted to collaborate with The Arts Fund to bring Stephen and his new works to our concert series.

Stephen, who now lives in Santa Barbara, recently completed his PhD in composition at the University of Pennsylvania and already his compositions have been performed by major orchestras. He has a truly eclectic musical language and is as happy incorporating bagpipe music into his music as he is paying harmonic tribute to the Romantic masters. The performing artists include pianist Dr. Joseph Bogner, a professor of music at Valparaiso University. As a proponent of contemporary music, he has premiered piano solo works by Stephen throughout the country. Our concert will feature some of these major works as well as a new piece written this week!

Local artist soprano Deborah Bertling will sing a set of songs entitled "Facing the Moon" and she will be accompanied by pianist John Ballerino who is on the faculty at UCSB and on the music staff of Santa Barbara Opera. In addition to commentary by Stephen on his compositions, Dr. Ronald Egan, a prominent scholar on Chinese poetry at UCSB will discuss Stephen's Chinese songs.

Donations of \$10 are requested from members and friends. The proceeds will benefit the The Arts Fund and its important work in supporting artists in our community. If you have any questions, please contact me at johnwarnock@cox.net.



John
Concert Committee Chair

Calendar

Sunday, November 15 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, Classrooms
 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
 10:40 AM Guest Orientation - UU Inquiry, Reception Office
 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
 1:00 PM Congregation Meeting and Vote on Bylaws, Sanctuary

Monday, November 16
 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall

Tuesday, November 17
 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
 5:30 PM USSB Board Meeting, Parish Hall
 7:00 PM ARE Meeting, Blake Lounge

Wednesday, November 18
 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
 10:00 AM Women's Choral Group, Sanctuary
 3:00 PM Memorial Service, Sanctuary
 3:30 PM Audit Committee, LaPaz Lounge
 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, Blake Lounge
 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall
 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, November 19
 9:00 AM Pastoral Care Committee, LaPaz Lounge
 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, November 20
 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall
 7:30 PM The Art Fund Concert, Sanctuary

Saturday, November 21
 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
 9:00 AM Path to Membership, Blake Lounge
 6:00 PM Congregation Potluck, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 22 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 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, November 23
 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, November 24
 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
 12:15 PM USSB IT Committee, LaPaz Lounge
 3:00 PM Seasoned Seekers, Vista del Monte

Wednesday, November 25
 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

Friday, November 27
 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
 2:00 PM Alliance Board Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, November 28
 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 29 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, Classrooms
 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
 10:40 AM Guest Orientation - UU Inquiry, Reception Office
 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline
 November 15, for material covering
 December 1 - 31, 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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