



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

KALEIDOSCOPE

December 15–31, 2009

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Editor: Bruce Hanna

USSB Giving Tree a Tradition

Please help decorate our Parish Hall Christmas tree at the Holiday Craft party on December 13. Special ornaments are gift cards for women and children who will stay at a Domestic Violence Solutions shelter for the holidays. If you take a card, please deliver your wrapped gift under the tree the following Sunday, Dec. 20 (no later than Dec. 22). Last year we were able to fulfill ALL the wishes of delighted families at one of 12 apartments at Second Stage where they may live for up to 18 months - time to create new safe lives.

Thank you, Santas! Sally Hamilton

Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

December 20

Before There Was Christmas

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

The Christian celebration of Jesus' birth, Christmas, has become one of the most important and widely observed festivals in the Western world. But as recently as the 1700CE not only was Christmas rarely observed, it was illegal to celebrate it in the Colony of Massachusetts (5 shillings fine)! This was due in large part to Puritan fears about the winter solstice festivals people had been celebrating for centuries before it occurred to the Romans to arbitrarily drop Jesus' birth to December 25. The winter solstice was, and remains, a time of mystery and plenty; a time when usual laws temporarily cease to apply. The walls between the worlds grow thin and all of creation waits in hushed expectation. Please join us for this special Solstice service, in which we will mark the cusp between the dying of the light and the return of the Sun.

December 27 **Borderlands**

Peter Hale, Service Host

Endings and beginnings...is there a clearly defined border between them? Or do we dwell in the borderlands? A place of chaos and messiness but also alive with possibilities, invention and hope. Where cultures collide and blend... where past merges with future, happiness with sadness, life with death. As our year draws to a close, we will reflect on the meaning inherent in what we perceive as endings because in the borderlands, the place we call home, nothing ever really ends...it is only transformed.

Guest speakers: Donnis Galvan and Dan Snyder

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5pm **A Family Christmas in Story and Song**

This service will feature stories and songs for people of all ages. It will be full of light, joyful music by our own Chancel Ensemble, and special guest musicians and singers of all ages. This service will also feature flutist Karen Dutton, as well as our Organist Emeritus Mahlon Balderston and pianist Natasha Kislenko.

7pm **Lessons and Carols**

This will be the most like last year's service in terms of music, and will feature our wonderful Chancel Choir, as well as soprano Ellen Rockne, organist emeritus Mahlon Balderston, pianist Natasha Kislenko, and special guests flutist Karen Dutton and harpist Marcia Sherman.

9pm **A Celtic Christmas**

This service will be a little more reflective than the others, and will harken back to old English, Scottish and Irish traditions from Christmases long, long ago. Our music will feature our fantastic new Women's Chorale, harpist Marcia Sherman and pianist Natasha Kislenko, as well as an outstanding Celtic ensemble featuring vocalist Treasa McGettigan, Robert Winokur on pennywhistle and recorder, and Alan, on bodhran (celtic drum).

Christmas Eve Collections

This year the offerings from our three Christmas Eve Candlelight services will benefit Domestic Violence Solutions and Kiva microlending (see p.5 "Sketches by Aaron").

USSB is pleased to partner with Domestic Violence Solutions. Our efforts include monetary donations, holiday gift drives (see "Giving Tree" in top left column), and use of our facility. For more information about the Domestic Violence Solutions visit www.dvsolutions.org

Half our offering will build our ability to participate as a micro-lending team with Kiva, whose mission is to connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty. For more information about Kiva visit www.kiva.org.

A generous donor will add \$2,000 to our effort, if our collections reach \$4,000 or more!

USSB Helps Organic Soup Kitchen for Thanksgiving Dinner

Our congregation's beautiful commercial kitchen was put to good use on November 25 and 26. Volunteers from Organic Soup Kitchen, a local non-profit organization that feeds our community with wholesome organic food, prepared delicious and healthy food for the free Thanksgiving meal that was served at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Our congregation's values are closely aligned with the Organic Soup Kitchen belief that no person regardless of financial status shall compromise the quality of food they feed themselves or their family. They are committed to serving fortified street food as a way to prevent nutritional deficiencies in homeless individuals. Each Sunday the Organic Soup Kitchen serves delicious nutritious organic soup to families and individuals in need.

We can be proud that our facility has fulfilled an important need this holiday season. Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration

RE Faith in Action

Our **Guest at Your Table** program is going strong. So many families and friends have brought human rights home and welcomed Guests to their lives! Thanks to our support, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights. Your beautiful Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope introduce you to people whose lives have been changed by this work. Each week, families and friends can focus on a different Story of Hope as we sit down to meals together and consider our many blessings.

This week, meet Daw San and Moe Moe, courageous women in Myanmar who partnered with UUSC to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after last year's deadly cyclone. Daw San is now raising pigs and Moe Moe has opened a food stand, selling delicious bowls of Mohinga, a hearty breakfast food. Consider what security and returning home has meant to Daw San, Moe Moe, and others this holiday season. Consider what even a small gift to Guest at Your Table will mean to women surviving a humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and elsewhere in our world. You can learn more about UUSC's work to defend rights in times of crisis online at www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises.

Your generosity with the Guest at Your Table is tax deductible! Please return your Guest at Your Table donation in the form of a single check made out to the UUSC to the church on Sunday, Jan. 10.

As a special incentive, the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock will be matching all gifts of \$100!

End of Year Giving Special Appeal

The generosity of our members and friends is what makes it possible for all of us to enjoy programs, worship, care and facilities that enrich all of our lives. Thank you for all your gifts that you have shared in the past year. Our collective congregational generosity is extraordinary.

Donors who have made commitments to our program year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, and our 2007-2010 capital campaign, should have received statements the last week of November. If you did not receive a letter, please contact me. This mailing includes a special year-end appeal from your Board of Trustees. I encourage you to consider this appeal and respond to the office as soon as possible to assist the board with their important decision-making process.

Statements of giving for the January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 tax year will be mailed late in January, 2010 for your tax reporting purposes. These statements will include all your gifts to outreach donations, capital campaign and toward your annual pledge.

Thank you again for your generosity, every donation is valued and appreciated as an expression of commitment and support. Faithfully, Nancy Edmundson

Adult RE Update

The launch of our Wellspring Wednesday was a huge success! We had sixty-six participants in this program. The worship and community time both ranked very high in evaluations. Community members really enjoyed these extra opportunities for respite and connection.

One exciting shift we noticed during our evaluation process was the high number of young families who attended the program. Providing childcare proved to be a determining factor in participation for Society members who have young children.

We will be offering our Winter Session of Wellspring Wednesday starting some time in late January. Possible courses and workshops for winter include a book discussion focusing on Lex Crane's latest work on Unitarian theology, an exploration of the issues encountered by adult children caring for aging parents, a workshop on navigating Facebook and other social networking sites, and a meditation group.

If you have a talent or passion to share, consider volunteering in Adult Religious Education! We are always looking for fresh, exciting, and new topics to offer. Our ARE program provides continuing education for our faith community, always in a Unitarian Universalist context. Its mission is to continually build our faith and strengthen our UU identity. Contact the RE office for an ARE Course Proposal form. (see **Coming of Age**, p.4)

Path to Membership Class

Thursday, Dec. 17, La Paz Lounge 6:30-9:00 PM

Want to become a member or learn about membership? To sign up call the office or contact Jen Stroh, Membership Coordinator, membership@ussb.org

All in the Family

We are pleased to share Good News! TN just had successful eye surgery. JS had successful meniscus surgery - she was back on her feet in less than a week! And The Reverend Jim is recovering from bypass surgery at home.

Thanks from LP

With deep gratitude, I and our family thank you for your loving support of George during his 14 month illness. I am grateful for the deeply moving Celebration of Life Service conducted by Aaron McEmrys, Ken Ryals, the choir and music by Mahlon Balderston. Thanks also to Suzanne Fairly Green for taking charge of the reception with her usual skill and grace. Thanks for the wonderful food at the gathering, it was appreciated by all. The shared memories were healing and well received.

RE Spot Light

If you haven't met Hope Saxon you should! Hope, the youngest and a most vivacious member of this year's RE teaching team, is a recent graduate of our Coming of Age program and a 9th Grader at Santa Barbara Middle School. Hope officially joined our Society as member at the conclusion of the COA program. To share a little about who Hope is, her favorite book is *The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*, and her favorite movie is *Little Miss Sunshine*.

As part of her commitment to our community, Hope contacted me earlier this church year about sharing her talents with our RE kids. Currently, she and her mom Jo are co-teaching the 1st - 2nd Grade class and doing a fabulous job. Recently I visited their class to join in a Dawali celebration they organized. We had a lovely time with special art, music, and traditional Dawali treats. All their effort and planning was evident in this wonderfully crafted lesson—and we all had an awesome time, too. When I asked Hope what inspired her to teach in Sunday School she said, "I love to be with kids and it is so much fun to teach with my mom!"

Honor Roll (continued from right column)

(more: 25 to 30 years)

Ruth Petri
Tim Pettit
John Romo
Mary Romo
May Sax
John Schmidhauser
Marilou Shiells

Elsie Sklar
Alan Smith
Cynthia Smith
Judy Stapelmann
Nancy Van Antwerp
Carol Weingartner
Candace White

Honor Roll Re-Do:

December is for Repair

As your Director of Administration, I want to be the first to take advantage of our congregation's reflection theme of "Repair" for the month of December!

We have received a number of communications since the publication of membership honor roll members in the November 15-30 issue of the Kaleidoscope. Our listing included the names of members honored at the 5-year intervals of 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years. Many of you requested a listing of members in the intervening years as well, so here you are! We are proud USSB has such a distinguished list of long-standing members and that you want to be known. Please know you are honored and cherished for your enduring commitment and contributions to the heart of our congregation. Nancy Edmundson

51 plus year members

Bradley Currey
June Kelley
Erica Savage
Paul Barrett
Virginia Barrett
Lex Crane
Lillian Flavin
Ilse Hance
Henry Levy
Joan Levy

Florence Michel
Betty Newcomb
Ruth Pocock
Peter Pocock
Pat Strayer

41 to 45 year members

Sarah Carr
Carole Cowan
Ginny Crane
Mary Alice Floyd
Roger Horton
Richard Jensen
Bonnie Jensen
Kenneth Kruger
Patricia Kruger
Sheila Lodge
Albert Melkonian
Gwen Phillips
Lise Savage
Ann Wright

36 to 40 year members

Robert Bailey
Harlene Bailey
Gerald Floyd
Sally Hamilton
Gloria Hendley
Dorothy Holland
Rachel Johansen
Anne Johnson
Patricia Latham
Sara Maust
Gary Maxwell
Barbara Maxwell
Elin Pratt
Carol Quest
Lillian Savage

31 to 35 year members

Elaine Ohlin
Eve Gordon
Anna Sweeney

(more: 31 to 35 years)

Emily Martin
Carol Preston
Sylvia Gerard
Steven Johnson
Joy Pinson
Louise Currey
Mary Grimm
Dolores Cheek
Charles Brown
Linda Anderson
Carnzu Clark
Regina Fletcher
Geraldine Atkinson
Rita Shaw
Frank Michaelson
Nancy Revlin
Russ Revlin
Louise Anagnoson

25 to 30 year members

Kathleen Boehm
Anna Di Stefano
Phyllis Dunn
Sonya Elias
Gail Fairburn
Suzanne Fairly Green
Steven Faulstich
Sally Faulstich
Donnis Galvan
Laura Hackett
Peter Hale
Mark Hamilton
Bruce Hanna
Maren Hansen
Virginia Harper
David Hodgdon
Barbara Hodgdon
Tony Johansen
Colin Jones
Joanie Jones
Deborah Karoff
Gail (Abi)Katz-Becker
Carol Keator
Kathy Marden
Donald Margerum
Barbara Margerum
Naomi Meyer
Harriet Miller
Donnie Nair
Bob Newcomb
Woodrow Ohlsen
(see bottom left column)

More RE: Coming of Age

Following the Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service on November 22nd, the Coming of Age youth and their mentors participated in a special event called "Goldsworthy at the Beach" on a beautiful sparkly dolphin jumping Sunday at Leadbetter Beach. "Goldsworthy at the Beach" is based on artist Andy Goldsworthy's method of creating and building ephemeral works of interest using natural materials. COA youth and mentors worked in pairs to create and describe their own sculpture... such as this:



New mentor-mentee pairs connect by shared inspiration from Santa Barbara's natural wonder and focus on communication about form, color, light, space, texture, composition... and life.

Please visit the Religious Education table on Sundays to see all the photos from this excursion.-

All-Welcome Potlucks Third Saturdays

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share on **Saturday, December 19th**, the third Saturday of December. Join us in Parish Hall for a relaxing dinner. We all set-up at 5:30pm and eat at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome - friends and families.

Please bring your own table settings - plates, cups, flatware and cloth napkins. If you have questions, or need transportation, call Catherine Birtalan, ###-####.

Charitable IRA Rollover: Consider This In Your End-of-Year giving!

If you are age 70½ or older, current legislation allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 in 2009, from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities such as USSB without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This is good news for people who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty. The provision has been extended for the tax year 2009 so you must act by December 31 to take full advantage. Contact your tax advisor for more information.

Previously, individuals would have had to report any amount taken from an IRA as taxable income before taking a charitable deduction for the gift. The charitable gift deduction is limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, which caused some donors to pay more in income taxes than if they didn't make a gift at all! Fortunately, IRA gifts now can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Plus, you can make the gift now—while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity!

You may contribute from your IRA if: you are age 70½ or older; the gift is \$100,000 or less each year; you make the gift on or before December 31, 2009; you transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA; you transfer the gift outright to USSB for an annual gift, a capital gift, or the USSB Endowment, or other charity of your choosing.

How to make a donation to USSB:

1. Send a letter to your IRA custodian requesting a rollover directly from your IRA to USSB or USSB Endowment (contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration for a sample letter. director@ussb.org, 805-965-4583 x225).

2. Notify Nancy of your intentions.

Please plan ahead! It can take up to 2 weeks for the transfer to take place!

Reflection: Responsibilities of Membership for New and Long-term Members

Do you remember the day you signed 'the Book'... when you became a member of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara...and the commitment that you made at that time?

Whether it was twenty years ago or last April when you joined this dynamic congregation, you gained the responsibility of Membership.

The responsibility of membership at USSB is that you become involved in the church in some way that is meaningful for you.

(Continued: see "Membership" on page 5)

Sketches . . . by Aaron

Making A Difference This Christmas: One Loan at a Time

Panakh Abbasov lives on the other side of the world from us, in Imishli, Azerbaijan. He works hard to support his wife and six children, selling children's toys from a simple rented storefront. Panakh Abbasov is a stranger to us, and yet we are connected. With our help, he is expanding his business and providing a brighter future for his family.

The Mujeres en Desarrollo Group are made up of seventeen women in the Dominican Republic who run small food stands and other small businesses in San Pedro de MacorÃs, one of the poorest places in the country. They are working together to start a food market to serve their community and pull themselves out of poverty. The Mujeres will never know our names, and yet we are connected. With our help, they have not only launched their market, but have repaid their entire loan, which we have since passed on to other people from Mongolia to Bolivia.

Ndèye Marie Ndiaye, of Ziguinchor, Senegal is now supporting her five children through the phone-card business we helped her start, and Mang Srey Sam Phoas, in Kampong Cham, Cambodia is doing great in her newly expanded beauty salon. I cannot begin to pronounce their names, and yet we are connected. With the support of our congregation, their businesses are thriving and they are looking to the future with pride and hope instead of fear.

These are just a few of the people our congregation is helping through Kiva microlending. Since last Christmas we have made 25 loans so far, mostly in amounts that would seem small by our Santa Barbara standards – but which literally change (and even save) the lives of our sisters and brothers all over the world.

Kiva helps congregations like ours make “micro-loans” to people in the developing world so that they can better help themselves and make their own dreams come true! This is not charity. Every loan is repaid, and as soon as it is, we can either take the money back – or turn around and loan it to someone else. Needless to say, we will be doing the latter! This is just one small way that we can make a big difference in the world, strengthening and nurturing the interconnected web of which we are a part.

Half of this year's Christmas Eve offering will be going to Kiva again this year (the other half will be going to support the wonderful work of local non-profit, Domestic Violence Solutions), and we know that your gifts will be generous as always!

I encourage you to visit Kiva's website and to join our USSB team if you feel so inclined! You can visit our team page at: http://www.kiva.org/team/unitarian_society_of_santa_barbara

Then, if you want to get involved, all you have to do is register and then click the link to join our team. We will probably never meet any of the people we help this way, and they will never know who we are. But they will know that sweet rising feeling that comes to all people when they realize that someone, somewhere, believes in them, values them, and wants to invest in their future.

May it be so.

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister



Membership (continued from P. 4)

We asked you for four commitments:

1. presence through attendance and participation in the programs of the Society.
2. personal commitment to your own ongoing growth.
3. financial contribution to support the work of the Society.
4. to sign the membership book.

Your attendance and participation is related to your ongoing growth. Have you been attending Sunday service or found a small group here that feeds your soul? (There are so many to choose from!) In order to help you fulfill the first two items, the Membership Coordinator is working with the Membership Committee and other Program Coordinators in an attempt to help you get and stay connected so that you may be an active participant (at a level you are comfortable with).

Our Host Program is one way we are trying to accomplish this and we need more Hosts! There is also our hospitality service on Sundays, Outreach Postcards, and a number of other small groups, committees, and ministries that provide wonderful connections (Connection Circles, Book Discussions, and Neighborhood Groups are great examples of some of the small groups).

Reflect on your own personal commitment to your membership at USSB. Find a place within our congregation that is meaningful for you. If you have a question or need help, please ask Jen Stroh, Membership Coordinator.

In the meantime, we hope that in the process of helping new members explore and discover the many opportunities for growth at USSB, longer term members will remember their own personal commitment, stay involved, and contribute to the integration of all.

Path to Membership Class Thursday, Dec. 17, La Paz Lounge 6:30-9:00 PM

Discover more about the history and theology of Unitarianism and USSB programs and services, even if you are already a member. Aaron leads the class as an educational and communal time to get to know one another and USSB. Consider attending and inviting a friend. For questions or to register, call Jen Stroh 965-4583 x221, membership@ussb.org

Ministry Motors

I grew up outside of Boston in the 1960s. In that day nobody, but nobody, appreciated summer and British sports cars better than we did in New England. It probably was a combination of a very short summer season and the allure of a four-speed, two-seater British convertible in racing green, that we refused to consider the absolute impracticality of a car with no functioning heater and horrible traction with winter only months away. Love conquered all.

So it was no surprise when, in the May of my senior year in high school, up drives my best friend Rick, in a second-hand 1964 green MG-B convertible. Since Rick was headed that fall to the University of Maine this wasn't necessarily the best choice of cars beyond October the first. It didn't matter; Rick was in love with this car. We drove it everywhere that summer, driven as only a sports car should have been; hard and fast. Rick was of the opinion that, to keep a sports car in tiptop shape, you needed to "redline" the engine every so often. For those who aren't students of Car-ology, the tachometer on the dashboard tells you how hard your engine is working and has a section laid out in red that tells you that you are revving the engine higher that it should be revved, and, if you continue, you'll damage the engine. Rick countered that we only redlined the car for a short period of time and that it couldn't really be causing all that much damage, could it?

Summer turned to fall and off we went to college, Rick seven hours away to Orono and I an hour away to Amherst. At Christmas break Rick came to my house driving his dad's Buick. "Where's the MG-B?" I asked. Rick sighed, "Well I noticed the engine didn't seem to have the same old oomph it had earlier in the summer and so one day I redlined it a little more that I should have and blew up the engine. It would have cost too much to fix so I sold it." "God I'm going to miss that car", he said sadly, "I really didn't think I drove it that hard."

Sometimes we are all guilty of pushing things just that oh-so-little bit beyond what things were really designed to do. We do it not out of malice, but rather out of the everyday course of events. We push a little harder than we should, or run it a little longer than necessary, many times not taking into account the cumulative effects of overuse and little downtime. And, when things break down or we find they can't be repaired, we are surprised when we shouldn't be.

So why should it be any different with people at the Unitarian Society? We have come to expect a lot from our ministerial leadership, because they are very good at what they do and they seldom say no. We love how they make us feel. But by saying yes one too many times and adding one more item to their already full plate, this becomes the equivalent to redlining that engine. So, much like that little MG-B's engine pushed once too often, people, over time, also break down and lose that oomph. If only we had a "shop" to bring them to.

Jody Thomas chairs the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM). COSM provides a place where the ministries (plural) get respite, feedback, and discuss ideas on how we the congregation can best be served and how we can best serve our ministers. I like to call it Ministry Motors, the place your ministerial leaders go for preventive maintenance, and their 10,000-mile checkups. COSM opens up the hood, so to speak, listens to the engine, and with a few minor tweaks send its clients back out into congregational traffic, good as new.

But Ministry Motors can only do so much. So as we enter another holiday season, when redlining becomes a way of life, perhaps we can instead think of how we can all take our foot off the pedal just that little bit. Slow the pace, have a little more patience, and perhaps be a little less demanding of our every need. Every little bit helps and if we all take responsibility, members, ministries and COSM, this would keep our team in tip-top operating condition while cutting down on the wear and tear. Just think, with regular visits to Ministry Motors and with proper usage and scheduled preventive maintenance, we can expect to keep our team running for another 100,000 miles without any trouble at all.

A note from Ministry Motors: After the holidays, Aaron will be up on blocks for a tune-up (read that he will be taking a much-needed vacation) for a couple of weeks. Please respect his time off by allowing him to be at home without having us pop in on him and his family. Then he can come back refreshed, with his spark plugs firing evenly and fifth gear engaged.

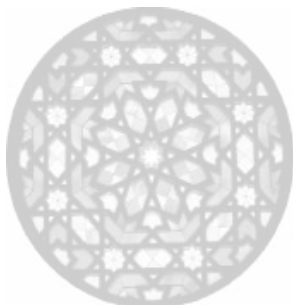
Thanks!
Jody Thomas & Gary Welterlen

Are You a Welcoming Congregant?

Here are 12 ways that you can practice hospitality with Members and Newcomers:

1. Approach someone you don't know during coffee hour and find out who they are.
2. Wear your name tag at every Sunday service.
3. When you see returning visitors, let them know that you're glad they came back.
4. Before Sunday service begins, locate a visitor to sit by during the service.
5. Develop your style and practice your response to "What is Unitarian Universalism?"
6. Coordinate an event to which you invite both members and nonmembers.
7. Attend a small group or a program within your congregation with a nonmember.
8. During coffee hour, pick out a copy of a UU sermon you liked for nonmember friends who'd appreciate it and give it to them.
9. Have some "7 Principles" cards in your purse or wallet, and give them to people when they ask about Unitarian Universalism.
10. Acquaint yourself with the wonderful programs offered so that you can pass on info to others.
11. Find out what the current path to membership entails and know your Membership Coordinator!
12. Invite someone to Sunday service and introduce them to other UUs.

Thanks! Jen Stroh, Membership Coordinator
membership@ussb.org 965-4583 x221



Happy Holidays from your Kaleidoscope Editors !

USSB Selected to Participate in Ministering With Technology Project

We are proud to announce that USSB is one of six congregations selected to participate in a pilot program just launching from the UUA and PSWD!

The Ministering With Technology Project is designed to support congregations in their use of technology. It is a year-long project that will provide technology planning support and encourage collaboration and sharing of resources with other project congregations.

Through this project we will be exploring and developing the many ways that our technology can support and enhance all of our ministries related to Religious Education, Worship, Pastoral Care, Social Justice and Membership services.

If you have interest in this project, or questions about how you might participate on the USSB team, please contact

Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration.

What's Going on in Children's RE???

We are a multigenerational community here at the Unitarian Society. As such, it is important for all of us here at USSB to know what's going on in our RE programs. Visit our Society's website, click on "*For Families*", then "*Read more*" halfway down the page, and select any class to find detailed information about the lessons and activities our kids are experiencing.

Sunday, November 29 was our monthly Children's Worship focusing on the theme for the month—gratitude. As part of our worship, we had the kids create a **Gratitude Tree**.

For what do our USSB kids feel Gratitude?

Family
Clean Water to Drink
Food
Pets
Warmth and Happiness
Friends
Trees
Rivers
Life
Pumpkin Pie



To ease the stress of the holidays, you might visit the **Gratitude Tree** on Sunday in Parish Hall.

Happy Holidays from your Kaleidoscope Editors !

Calendar

Tuesday, December 15

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

Wednesday, December 16

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
10:00 AM Women's Choral Group, Sanctuary
2:30 PM Pastoral Care Committee, LaPaz Lounge
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
(Free for USSB Members)
5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, LaPaz Lounge
7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, December 17

6:30 PM Path to Membership Class, La Paz Lounge
7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, December 18

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

Saturday, December 19

7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
6:00 PM Congregation Potluck, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 20

9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
9:30 AM Children's RE Classes, Classroom I
9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
11:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 21

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
(Free for USSB Members)

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

12:15 PM USSB IT Committee, LaPaz Lounge
3:00 PM Seasoned Seekers, Off Campus

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

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

Thursday, December 24, 2009 Offices Closed

3 Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM A Family Christmas in Story and Song
7:00 PM Traditional Lessons and Carols
9:00 PM A Celtic Christmas

Friday, December 25, 2009 Offices Closed

7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, December 26, 2009

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

Sunday, December 27, 2009

9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
9:30 AM Children's Worship, Jefferson Hall
9:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
11:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B
7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, December 28, 2009

6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
7:00 PM USSB Men's Council, Blake Lounge

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

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

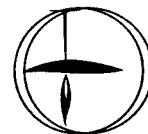
Thursday, December 31, 2009

USSB Offices are Open

E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org
 December 15 for material covering
 January 1-15, 2010
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-4 PM; Sun: 10:00 AM-NOON
 Nursery & Children's Care: Sunday, 9:00 AM-12:45 PM, Starr King
 Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 & 11:30 AM; Children's Program: 9:30 AM
 Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration
 John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus
 LeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
 Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister

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The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara