



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

KALEIDOSCOPE

February 1 - 14, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter

Concert Programs for the New Year

February 28

Natasha

Program will include works by Beethoven, Schumann, and Bartok, and will feature a special presentation of a collection of twelve pieces (one for each month) by P. Tchaikovsky, called "The Seasons."

March 7

Helen

First of three free recitals when she will play the Bach Suites for Cello.

March 27

Ellen

A celebration of music and stories as only Ellen can assemble.

April 2010

Ken

Ken will headline a concert that will include a number of his musical friends and colleagues with some special surprises being promised.

May 2010

Natasha

Special program of masterworks for four hand piano.

Thank You from the Families at the DVS Shelters

Thank you to the Secret Santas who fulfilled the wishes of the mothers and children living at the Domestic Violence Solutions shelter over the holidays.

Eighty gift cards were hung on the tree and ALL of them were taken. One week later beautifully wrapped gifts appeared under the Parish Hall tree. It was wonderful to be able to grant the specific wishes of each mother and child. The Christmas Eve services also dedicated half of the offering to Domestic Violence Solutions. Thanks to our congregation and the generous donor who matched the offering, \$3000 was donated to DVS. Current needs at the shelter are twin beds for several families who are moving to independent housing and bath towels (nice used towels are ok) for the shelter. Please call Sally XXXXXXXXXX. We are making a real difference in the lives of these families.

Thank you!
Sally Hamilton

Connecting the Dots

In the 1970s through the 1980s I had the good fortune to work for a great company and great leader. Ken Olsen was the founder of Digital Equipment and a founding father of the computer industry. Olsen felt that leadership is about making important decisions when you don't have all the answers; "I need leaders that will make timely decisions with a limited amount of information — It's easy to make decisions when you know all the facts and have all the time in the world." Well, the truth is we will never have all the facts nor endless time; you've got to be able to connect the available dots and act, or you will wait way too long before you make any decisions and miss out on opportunity.

On Tuesday the Board of Trustees connected the dots and enthusiastically made the important decision to take the first of many steps needed to add a second minister at USSB starting in summer 2011.

Why are we doing this and why now? Things seem to be going along just fine. Good questions.

CONT'D ON PAGE 5: Dots

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

February 7

Peter, Service Host

Love, Devotion, Surrender

Love without devotion is absurdity. Devotion without surrender is futility. Love with devotion is our journey's start. Devotion with surrender is our journey's close.

Please join us as we explore the meaning of these words and look progressively deeper into the process of relationship and commitment.

The Chancel Choir will sing!

February 14

Rev. Ellen

Surrendering to the Ideals of Friendship

Since February 14th means Valentine's Day to me, I choose to address one of my favorite subjects that touches deeply on love: friendship.

After learning about your theme for the month, your minister and I concurred — how can we have true friendship without surrender? I think this is a good word here because it includes a giving-over, a softening of control-over and a letting go. I look forward to weaving this concept into my reflections on friendship and how it is delightfully intertwined with love and yes, of course, surrender.

Reverend Ellen Livingston is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served congregations for ten years in Park Forest, Illinois, and 19 years in Montclair, California at the Monte Vista UU Congregation until retiring with the title Minister Emerita.

Our Newest Members

bership, please attend the Path to Membership Class.

The 3-hour class is led by our Parish Minister, Reverend Aaron. It is an educational, informational and communal time to discover:

- * more about your own journey
- * history and theology of UU
- * programs and services offered at USSB
- * meaning of membership and how to officially join USSB

Potential members should know that this place is a spiritual home and that you will support the work of the Society in these four ways:

- * your presence through attendance and participation in the programs of the society
- * your personal commitment to your own ongoing growth
- * your financial contribution to support the work of the Society
- * signing the membership book

We welcome your decision to join us, and hope that your relationship with the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara will be spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally rewarding. In community, we have the power and strength to impact positive change in the world.

The Next Path to Membership Class:

Thursday, February 20th, 9AM - 12:30PM in Blake Lounge
Refreshments and childcare will be provided for those interested.

Upcoming Membership Outreach Activities

Guest Orientation – Intro to UU

Guest Orientation is an informal discussion and introduction to Unitarian Universalism and USSB. It is offered to newcomers every other week during coffee hour at 10:40AM.

The meeting is led by the Membership Coordinator, Jen, and one of our Membership Committee members. It's held in the Reception Office for 15-20 minutes. Although it is announced at the beginning of the 9:30 service, I encourage each of you to invite visitors and show them where the Reception Office is located. Even if you're a long-term member, you are also invited to attend. The presence of a seasoned member and a committee member provides a well-balanced introduction to newcomers. It is a time to share personal experience and meet new people. Guests have a lot of questions about USSB and this is a chance for them to find out all about us.

The Next Guest Orientations

February 14th & 28th

March 14th & 28th

Path To Membership Class

The more you know about Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, the more rewarding your experience will be. Through worship and participation, you may realize that this place and our congregants add significantly to the quality of your life. At this time, if you are considering mem-

Postcard Invitations

We have one more box of beautifully designed postcards for you to mail out to your friends to invite them for a visit.

These cards have the classic watercolor by Martha showing the main entrance to the Sanctuary. The welcoming text reads, ***“Come Share in the Joy and Excitement Happening at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara”***. Please stop by the Welcome Table and pick up a couple.

My Heart is in the Mountains

A Snowy Winter Weekend Camp for Elementary Children grades K-6 at Camp de Benneville Pines, February 12-15, 2010.

Imagine hot chocolate, fast sled runs, festive snow people, lots of music & singing, games, heartfelt worship, and a community of Unitarian Universalists who share your values and speak your religious language. Wait a second - you've just imagined the Elementary Winter Camp! We have trained cabin counselors & responsible adults who lead the interactive programs for you and your camper this weekend.

This camp isn't just one weekend - the friendships made will last a lifetime. Won't you join us?

For Campers in grades K-2, or those not ready to come to camp by themselves, they are invited to bring their parents.

CONT'D ON PAGE 3: **Mountain**

February Birthdays

Alliance Meeting

Everyone is invited to the monthly Alliance general meeting which will take place in Parish Hall on Friday February 5 at 2:00 PM. The speaker will be Sylvia, photographer, also a member of our Unitarian Society.

The subject of her presentation will be "Peru, The Stories Behind the Images".

In her role as a visual journalist she will show us pictures of a wide variety of subjects and their natural settings. The people and their activities, the places and the variety, the range of landscapes will illustrate the stories she will tell. One of her special interests was her attendance at a weavers' consortium.

She will bring some textiles and other articles from Peru to show us.

Refreshments will be provided by Alliance members (A thru H).

February Outreach Offering: Pacific Pride

In February our Social Justice Outreach Offering will go to help the work of our local Pacific Pride Foundation.

The mission of Pacific Pride Foundation is: 1) to offer comprehensive health and social services, counseling, care, education and advocacy to anyone at risk for, infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS; and 2) to provide socio-cultural services sensitive to the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Since 1984, Pacific Pride Foundation has been the largest service provider between Los Angeles and San Francisco that both helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and helps those affected with the disease. They provide anonymous HIV-testing, two Food Pantries, Case Management, Counseling, and Recovery Services. Last year they helped over 590 people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Their outreach and education programs reached over 12,000 more people locally through sites in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria.

Second, since 1975, Pacific Pride has worked to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. They provide counseling, youth services, family support, education, and training affecting over 3,000 local LGBT youth and adults. They are the sponsors for the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Pacific Pride Festival, Get Out and Golf Tournament, and Families of Pride: serving LGBT parents and their children.

Pacific Pride Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and an important and unique community resource that we UU's can feel pride in supporting.

All in the Family

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3: Mountain

Parents may attend with the understanding that if their child is in grades K-2, the parents will accompany them throughout the day and be their primary supervisor. If children are 3rd grade or older, and their parents come with them, the parents will be expected to help out with activities.

Cost - \$145.00 campers; \$120.00 parents; \$85.00 younger siblings (under age 3 free). Registration form available at www.uucamp.org

Lifespan Religious Education News

Secret Pals This Month

Drop off your special notes and prizes for your secret pal in the Secret Pal Mail Box located in Parish Garden on Sundays. Remember, the goal of this program is to connect our RE kids with an adult in the congregation. So please do not overdo the gifts. We suggest a total limit of no more than \$5-\$10 for the entire program. Ideas for gifts include puzzles, cards, stickers, pictures and poems.

Secret Pals is a wonderful bridge between generations and thank you to all adults who registered to participate. The program will conclude with a brunch on Sunday, February 28th during coffee hour. The food is provided by the parents of children who are participating in this program.

Children's Worship

There will be no children's worship during the month of February. Instead, our kids will be using art to learn about our 7 UU Principles. Our Fabulous February committee includes Tracey, Emalani, Mari, and Catriona.

We recommend that kids DO NOT wear their Unitarian Sunday best during the entire month of February. Instead, dress kids for active, artistic, messy participation.

Family Fun Night

Join us on Friday, Feb. 12th from 6-8 for our monthly Family Fun Night. We will gather in Jefferson Hall. This is a great opportunity for our families to connect. Please bring a potluck dish to share and cups, plates, and utensils for your family. See you there!

Parents, looking for a Date Night activity?

USSB's monthly film night now offers free childcare in Starr King Preschool. This month Film Night will be Friday, February 26th and we will be showing *Wit* starring Emma Thompson.

A lively discussion will follow the film hosted by Chuck.

RE Spotlight

Meet Rosaleen. Rosaleen is a Santa Barbara native. She has been active in teaching Religious Education for five years. That's a tour of duty that demands recognition and celebration.

This year, Rosaleen is teaching our 4th and 5th grade class. She and her two partner teachers are using the new UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum *Windows and Mirrors*. The primary theological message of *Windows and Mirrors* is the belief that we understand others better by building connections and relationships. To learn more about *Windows and Mirrors* check out the entire program at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/windowsand/index.shtml>.

Rosaleen says she enjoys teaching RE because "my children attend and I want to be learning along with them." You prob-

ably have seen her adorable children — Daryanna and Daniel — running around the church. They are the kids with the lovely curly locks.

Rosaleen is a Jane Austen fan and lists *Pride and Prejudice* as one of her favorite movies. The BBC version of course! Also, she recommends *Dream of Scipio* by Ian Pears as a great read. Add it to your "To Read" list for 2010.

One day, Rosaleen says, she would love to participate in the choir.

When you see Rosaleen at coffee hour, give her a great big smile for her support and generosity.

Exploring at Home

Our worship theme for February is surrender. Check out *January's Sparrow* by Patricia Pallocco.

Family Chalices

The Shorb Family hosted January's potluck and led us in making family chalices. Many thanks to the Shorbs for organizing this very special and meaningful project.

Having a chalice in the home is a wonderful way to recognize those special family moments and milestones. Here is a chalice lighting you can practice together using your brand new, one-of-a-kind creation.

Words and Motions for Chalice Lighting

By Patty Collins

We come together

(Bring hands together and clasp them in front of you.)

To remind ourselves

(Touch your index and middle fingers to your temple.)

To treat all people kindly

(Spread arms wide, encircling.)

Because they are our brothers and sisters,

(Fold your arms across your chest, in a hug.)

To take good care of the earth,

(Raise your arms above your head, in a circle.)

Because it is our home,

(Fold your arms, holding your elbows, and motion as though rocking a baby.)

To live lives full of goodness and love,

(Put both hands over your heart.)

Because that is how we will make our world

(Raise your arms above your head, in a circle.)

The best place it can be.

(Clap your hands quietly.)

Sketches by Aaron

Why I Am Here

As I watched the waves crash against the grey Oregon coastline during my annual post-Christmas vacation, I found myself reflecting on my call to ministry, my hopes and dreams for our shared future, and on the kind of relationship I always want to have with you. Then it occurred to me that just as I need to be reminded of who I am and why I am here – it might also be helpful for me to say it out loud to you now and again as well. So here goes...

A Minister's sense of Call is a mysterious thing. I do not know where it comes from or where it will lead me exactly – just that it has a power that I cannot ignore, resist or turn away from. My sense of calling, elusive as it sometimes may seem, is rooted in service to something much greater than myself, and I have no choice but to follow where it leads.

I am called to grow spiritually and ethically, and to help others do the same. I am called to live my values in daily life to the best of my ability, and to help others do the same.

I am called to bless babies, to celebrate relationships and nourish community, to listen and empathize in heartbreak, to walk with you while you live and to hold your hand when it comes time for you to die. And I am also called to remember and to serve the stranger, to be here for all those who need me, whether I know their names or not.

The mission of this church, as I see it, is to be a welcoming center

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1: Dots

Everyone in the congregation has worked really hard over the past few years to make the Unitarian Society a welcoming and vibrant place for our members, children, youth, friends and visitors. When you do these things well it invites more involvement from our members of all ages and attracts more people who want to know more about us and what we do. It becomes an ever-growing snowball of good will and good people.

Great congregations have a sense of knowing when additional reinforcements need to be added. It becomes a matter of timing. Too early, and members question why and if we really need to be doing this; too late, and good people get burned out and we stop doing the things that makes us vibrant and attractive to ourselves and to others. To the casual observer, everything continues along its efficient and professional way; on the outside things appear great. But it does, however, take its toll on everybody: staff, volunteers, and minister. They all need to be maintained and refreshed or they will start to breakdown under the load: redlined, so to speak. But at some point you notice that no matter how much rest and refurbishment you have, you can't keep up the pace and you breakdown. Then things are no longer great.

So is it the right time? Well, no time seems like it is until it becomes too late. So after looking at those dots around us the Board thinks so.

There are a lot of dots that say this is the time to start the process. In August at the Board of Trustees retreat we started to have the feeling that the pace had quickened dramatically from the year before. In November we held a leadership workshop with Rev. Arvid Straube from the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. After a weekend of meeting with members and staff Rev. Straube said in his view the need is upon us now. In early December Aaron hosted over 20 people for this fall's annual new members lunch, the most we have ever had since I've been here. We had three Standing-Room-Only Christmas eve services and probably could have filled

of transformation — personal, relational and global, to be a place where people can become ever more fully themselves, whole, healed—and then go out and help to transform and heal our larger world.

I envision a congregation where we walk together, sharing our lives, lessons and journeys. I envision a congregation that is relevant, a powerful voice for the good that carries far beyond our church doors. I envision a welcoming congregation, where we make room for every person of goodwill who wants to hitch their hopes and dreams and commitment to ours. I envision a congregation where our ministry is deepening and spiritually rich — and where numerical growth will always be understood as just one of many by-products of living out our mission and not as a goal unto itself.

I want the relationship between you and me to be one of dynamic partnership, a relationship in which I can become the minister I am called to be and you can become the individuals and the congregation you are called to be. I want us to grow together in an abiding spirit of love and respect. I want us to share a vision of what we can do together, of how we can discover and live out our collective calling — and then bring that vision to life together.

This is why I am here. I am excited. I am grateful. I am proud to be your Minister. And so I welcome the year 2010.

a fourth if we were crazy enough to have scheduled a midnight service! Coming of Age continues to be outstanding, we are launching a re-vitalized youth group and we have developed a rocking Religious Education program for all ages. Not to mention continuing unanswered needs in Social Justice, Young Adult Programming, Pastoral Care, Community Outreach — well, you get the picture.

It's important to keep in mind a few things. First, we aren't hiring another Parish Minister or lead minister; rather, we would be considering a minister with an agreed-upon focus. That is different from a Parish Minister that is responsible for all that goes on within the church. This second minister would report to the Parish Minister and be responsible for a specific body of work. Second, this minister would be "hired to call." This means this minister is brought on board with the understanding that he or she would not be initially "called", but rather would work as an employee of the Society. In the second year in this capacity we would then take up the matter of whether the congregation wishes to "call" this minister or whether we go our separate ways.

The timing is important for if we say "Go" today, to do it right, the process says we would not have a second minister in place anytime sooner than summer 2011. However, if we delay the "Go" beyond March of this year, we miss the window for 2011 and won't have anybody in place anytime before summer 2012. As we learned from the search process with Aaron, it's important to get it right. And getting it right means doing all the prudent steps and following the program, which means at least a 15-month process.

With the Board's overwhelming "yes" vote on Tuesday we are saying this is the time to act, to put things in motion. As always we'll figure out the details and make the necessary decisions as we go along and as the need arises. Now is the time to get out on the road and take that first exciting step of the journey. For that's what great congregations do.

Gary, Board President

Calendar

Monday, February 1

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

Tuesday, February 2

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM USSB Board Meeting, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM RE Council Meeting, Classroom 1

Wednesday, February 3

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
- 10:00 AM Women's Choral Group, Sanctuary
- 12:15 PM Long Range Planning, Blake Lounge
- 5:00 PM Welcome Committee, LaPaz Lounge
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, February 4

- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, February 5

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

Saturday, February 6

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

Sunday, February 7 9:30 and 11:30 am Worship services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:00 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Classes, Classroomsl
- 10:30 AM Brunch Break, Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room

Monday, February 8

- 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, February 9

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

Wednesday, February 10

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM Finance Committee, Blake Lounge
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Class, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, February 11

- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, February 12

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:00 PM Family Fun Night, Jefferson Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, February 13

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:30 PM Esperanto Circle, Blake Lounge

Sunday, February 14 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, Classroomsl
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:45 AM Youth Choir, Jefferson Hall
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, February 15

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

Next Newsletter Deadline
February 1, for material covering
February 15 - 28, 2010
e-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

Aron McEmrys, Parish Minister
John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus
LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration
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
Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am-4 am; Sun 10 am-noon

1535 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Office: (805) 965-4583
Fax: (805) 965-6273
e-mail: ussb@ussb.org
Internet: www.ussb.org



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara