



KALEIDOSCOPE

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

March 15–31, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Editor: Bruce Hanna

*Daylight Savings Mar. 14th!
Set Your Clocks Ahead...
Don't be Late for Services!*

Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

March 21

The Sins of Our Fathers

Reverend Aaron McEmrys

We do wrong, all of us, now and then. We hurt one another, we turn away from relationship, we put ourselves first at the expense of others. We all do these things. Naming and claiming this fact is hard enough – but what about the heavy weight of wrongdoing that we inherit? What about the sins of our fathers? The legacy of slavery, global warming, poverty, or (closer to home) the cascading effects of abuse or addiction that embitter the waters of so many family wells? We are not personally responsible for these sins, and yet they are ours to manage, to cope with and perhaps to heal. What do we do with dark fruits like these? Please join us as we wrestle with all this and more.

March 28

Social Justice Sunday

Pulpit Host Ken Ralph

Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the world take this opportunity to focus one Sunday service a year on a pressing social justice issue. We will focus on the economic injustice associated with the current economic crisis. As always, when times are tough it's the workers who pay the price. Millions of people have seen their livelihoods disappear completely while others watch their working conditions steadily deteriorate. Many employers have opted for massive layoffs without severance, uncompensated overtime, cuts to benefits like health care, and increased informalization of employment contracts. The end is not in sight. What can we do?

Join the UUSC and support its \$10 in 2010 minimum wage project! Our SPECIAL OFFERING this Sunday will support the UUSC. (see article →)

**Special Presentations
10:45 AM March 14 and 21
Parish Hall**

Knowing & Feeling our Way at a Deeper Level

Please attend one of two brief, informative and important presentations about the Unitarian Society, where we are headed, and how we might get there. Even if you've been a member for many years, we assure you that you will learn something and have some fun as well. Childcare and refreshments will be provided.



**\$10. in 2010
UUSC Justice Sunday**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a global network of human rights activists associated with UUs, but fiscally separate. Special focus for 2010 is to raise the US minimum wage, the **\$10 in 2010** campaign.

The current minimum wage (\$7.23) is worth less than the minimum wage 50 years ago when Eisenhower was president. A minimum wage of \$10 in 2010 will recover minimum-wage buying power, and bring us closer to ensuring that all workers in this country are paid a living wage.

Through the **\$10 in 2010** campaign, UUSC and its partners plan to take children out of the fields and put them back in school and help mothers advance their careers rather than stand in charity lines for food. Raising the minimum wage is one of the most effective ways to combat poverty and support the human rights of women, children, and people of color in the United States.

(continued on page 2)

\$10 in 2010 UUSC Justice Sunday

continued

Please help the UUSC help Americans in poverty.

Our congregation now has 94 UUSC members who need to renew. UUSC Membership is \$40 per year for a single membership, \$20 for seniors (65 plus), \$75 for a dual membership, and \$10 for students.

Let us commit to 115 members by June 30, 2010. If we do this, UUSB becomes a Justice Banner Society celebrating our passionate loyalty to human rights. If you are not able to join on Justice Sunday, envelopes will be at the Social Action table or in the office.

As the 21st century gets underway:

- 16 million Americans live in deep or severe poverty
- 49 million Americans are without health insurance
- 18% of children in the U.S. live in poverty
- 25% of immigrant children in the U.S. live in poverty

UNICEF gives the U.S. its lowest rank for child well-being among all developed nations. A majority of U.S. adolescents believe economic inequality is “normal” and poverty stems from a lack of “individual merit and effort.”

NOTE: Member contributions make up about 60% of UUSC’s annual budget. Please give as you are able to our Outreach Offering for The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on March 28th, Justice Sunday.

All in the Family In Memoriam—Harlene

We are saddened and send our sympathy to Bob and family on the death of Harlene. Harlene and Bob have been members since 1969. Harlene with grace, precision and humor gave many hours over years to support of the office staff. She knew she was very ill with cancer but was able to enjoy travel to Alaska with her family last summer. She will be missed by her many friends at the Society and Quilters’ Guild.

Cynthia and Alan, long-time members and active on our Library Committee, moved to Arroyo Grande in February to be near family. Alan was hospitalized promptly for two weeks with congestive heart failure. He is home now. Our warm wishes for a quick recovery to Alan and adjustment for both of them to their new home. Contact the office for Alan and Cynthia's new contact information, if you would like to remain in touch with them—they will enjoy hearing from everyone.

Roger We celebrate with Roger that he is feeling great and that his treatments have been successful. Also, Roger has the opportunity to participate in an advanced Stem Cell procedure in Los Angeles, which is to ensure his continued good health in the future.

Unitarian Society Hosts UUA Pacific Southwest District Assembly (DA) April 23-24

Register now and Save!

Friday April 23 and Saturday April 24, we will host DA, the annual meeting of 50 congregations across the region HERE at the Unitarian Society, with help from Live Oak UU Goleta members. DA—part revival meeting, part convention, and part jamboree—is a chance to meet fabulous and fascinating UUs, to learn and discuss new ideas in interesting workshops, and to strengthen the District and Unitarian Universalism.

We urge you to attend this weekend gathering. We promise that Friday night’s opening ceremony will be electric, thanks to the keynote speaker, the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed and to musicians from Live Oak and USSB! Workshops offered Saturday will spark many conversations and ideas for everyone. This is a family friendly weekend with childcare, children’s program and youth activities!

Online Registration is available. For information, see: www.pswduua.org/pages/district-assembly.php (or contact the Office). Our local planning team is forming now, so please be prepared to offer your assistance as a volunteer when you are contacted by one of our local leaders.

Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration

Spring into Flower Arranging

Does it seem like magic that there are beautiful flowers decorating the chancel table each Sunday? It is in a way. It is magical how a handful of dedicated flower committee members have for years on end, like elves in the night, obtained and arranged these offerings. The years are creeping up on some of these magicians and we could use some help. How about pairing with one of the experienced arrangers to learn the secrets of adding beauty to our worship services? Want more ideas of what joining the flower committee would entail? Talk to Pat Kruger or Donnis Galvan about becoming part of the aesthetics ministry.

All-Congregational Potluck March 20

Come join in 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—just bring a dish for 10-12 people (half that if you are coming alone). Questions? Call Catherine Birtalan.

Lifespan RE News

Secret Pals Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Secret Pals. We had a record number of "couples" this year. So many new friendships were made. We also want to thank the parents who provided a wonderful celebration brunch on Sunday, Feb. 28th.

Film Night: March 26

—2007 Academy Award Winner *The Lives of Others*—Don't miss Film Night with Chuck Wolfe Friday, March 26th in Parish Hall at 7 PM.

The Lives of Others (Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film in 2007) is a gripping tale of life in 1980s Berlin under the watchful eye of the East German Stasi (secret police). It "convincingly demonstrates that when done right, moral and political quandaries can be the most intensely dramatic dilemmas of all", wrote LA Times critic Kenneth Turan. The film explores our current monthly worship theme, sin.

Parents: Want a Date Night Activity?

Free childcare is provided for Film night. Popcorn will be served, and a lively discussion follows the film.

RE Spot Light Jo Saxon

If you don't know her personally, more than likely you have received one of Jo's beautiful smiles. Jo is one of our most supportive and active members. Not only does she teach RE, Jo also serves as a Coming of Age mentor, volunteers on the Membership Committee, and is on the selection team for a future associate minister.

Jo is a California girl born in Santa Monica, whose husband Ken brought her to Santa Barbara. "Ken and I were looking for a great place to raise our children. He came from Northern California and I from Southern and we merged our lives in Santa Barbara".

Jo has been sharing her enthusiasm, joy, and love for kids in RE for over six years now. She currently co-teaches the 1st and 2nd Grade RE class with her lovely daughter Hope.

Most memorable RE moment: "I'll never forget the conversation in one of my 1st grade classes about God. Drew Z. gave one of the most beautiful, spiritual interpretations that I had ever heard. I had another precious moment this year while telling the story of Ruth. The story told one sad happening after another. A child was following the story with amazing focus and showing great empathy until at one point she blurted out, 'You have got to be kidding!' I was so happy to be able to finish the story with a happier ending."

continued next column

Lifespan Religious Education News...

continued

In addition to USSB activities, Jo is on the Board of the Storyteller Children's Center. Storyteller provides preschool for homeless and at-risk children and offers general support for these families. When not out making the world a kinder place, Jo enjoys cooking, reading, and practicing yoga. Her favorite local restaurant is The Sojourner.

Jo was one of the first members I met from USSB this past summer, when she and husband Ken attended General Assembly in Salt Lake City—a perfect ambassador!

Marvelous March

During March please dress your children for active, creative, messy participation. We will be creating wonderful artistic renditions of our 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles. Making art is the children's worship activity.

March 21st, we'll make a Collage for Principle 7: Caring for the Earth. March 28th, we'll create banners.

Parents: Marvelous March at Home

What do these principles really mean and how can we live them in our every day lives? To make this process more meaningful for your children, this column will show which principle we will be covering each Sunday (they won't necessarily be in order). We will also include some questions you can discuss around the kitchen table and a book recommendation or two. We hope you find this useful in helping your children connect the values they learn on Sundays with their daily life.

Principle 3: Our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we learn together. (Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations.)

Kitchen Table Questions:

Describe a time when you felt accepted. How did it feel?

Describe a time when you didn't feel accepted. What was that like?

What are some things you can do to make new kids in church feel accepted?

We are learning about the seven UU principles together in church right now. How many can you name and what do they mean to you?

Good Reads for the 3rd Principle:

The Story of Ferdinand, by Munro Leaf

Emily, by Barbara Cooney

The Sneetches, by Dr. Seuss

LEEANN WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ellen Rockne in Concert Saturday, March 27, 7 P.M. Sanctuary

Our wonderful Ellen Rockne has prepared a special cabaret theater performance she is calling: *Coming Home Again*. The word “cabaret” means “small room”, and a hallmark of her past concerts is cozy intimacy—flavored with delicious irreverence! She reminds us that home can mean many things in these crazy times, but for this special night, let’s say that home is the music we make, the stories we tell, and perhaps one pair of sexy red shoes!

Bring your friends for this evening of song and lively stories—suggested donation is \$15 general and \$10 seniors. Students are our guests. The proceeds will benefit the new Warming Shelter program at the Society. For more information, send your inquires to Ellen at <ellen@stroypeople.com>. John Warnock, Concert Chair

Calling All Members

Wellspring Wednesdays, our adult Lifespan RE program starts again in April.

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT), is a workshop to examine one’s theological issues, ethics, and their religious roots. Participants will create a credo statement at workshop end to express what they believe.

Open Fun/Fund-raising Events: Hike/Camp with UUs

March 20 Forest Adventure with a “Carfull O’ Ladies” (ANY ability is OK) \$16. ea

March 28 Mystery Los Padres Hike “Easy Wilderness campout” \$15. ea

May 1 Hollyhock House, the Frank Lloyd Wright home considered his finest. A custom tour with Board President Barry Storch and car transport down. \$25. ea

May 13–15 two nights in Los Padres in Ventura County via spectacular Scenic Byway. Or join us hiking. Call for price.

July 4–6th “Roof of the World” campout, 2 nights with distant fireworks possible from 3 cities at 7500 feet elevation—Ventura County Peak, which is snowed in much of the year. \$25. ea

Register with Carol in office for any of these. For details, email <assistant@ussb.org> or call 965-4583x224

Seasoned Seekers March 30 The Secret Love Story in Shakespeare's Sonnets with Helen Gordon

Now it can be told—the most beautiful love story ever to come out of Elizabethan England. The queen had a love affair with her favorite court playwright, the Earl of Oxford. A love child from this union was raised as the third Earl of Southampton. Using the pen name of Wm Shakespeare, the Earl of Oxford dedicated a book of sonnets to him, as the “Fair Youth.”

Seasoned Seekers will hear Helen Gordon, who has researched the authorship question for 20 years, reveal how this love story came to light in the 20th century, fulfilling the poet’s promise to make the youth immortal.

Everyone welcome to join in the discussion on Tuesday, March 30th, 3 PM at Valle Verde Retirement Community, 900 Calle de los Amigos. For questions call Ginny Crane.

Calendar These Dates

April 2 Alliance General Meeting at 2:00PM in Parish Hall. As usual there will be an interesting program, a chance to visit with friends and to make new friends as well as to enjoy the always delicious refreshments. Our speaker will be Neal Graffy who has made a study of Santa Barbara history.

April 18 Religious Education Art opening on Sunday, April 18th. At this opening we will be displaying the lovely banners the children created during “Fabulous February, Marvelous March”

April 23–24 District Assembly here at USSB. See page 2 for full details.

April 30 Film Night will be the FIFTH Friday of the month, April 30th (Date Change), due to conflict with District Assembly on the 4th Friday of April.

May 7 Fashion Fling, USSB’s women’s clothing exchange (and wine and chocolate!). Girlfriends of all ages—the most fun part of spring cleaning awaits you. Go through your closets and find all the items you didn’t wear last year and bring them to the Fashion Fling on Friday, May 7, 6:30–8:30PM. Join your UU sisters in sorting through the goodies and find your new wardrobe additions at thrift store prices. Clothing, shoes, jewelry, purses, scarves etc. are welcome.

Can you bring a full length mirror? dessert? wine?

Please call Sally Hamilton to get involved.

Sketches . . . by Aaron

February was a fun, productive and very busy month for me.

It was so fun, productive and busy, in fact, that when it came time for me to drive up to San Rafael for a revitalizing interfaith retreat for religious leaders—I had a hard time forcing myself out the door. After all, I had so much still to do! But I did go. I did. And it was just what I needed.

This retreat series is based on the Courage to Lead process created by Quaker activist and educator Parker Palmer (for more info see: <http://www.couragerenewal.org/>). Our work together revolves around helping this diverse group of thirty religious leaders come together in a single circle of trust.

We will meet seasonally throughout the coming year, and each session will find us reflecting deeply on the themes of the seasons. This first session was all about Winter – about living through blizzards and finding our way back home in the driving snow. It was about winter bleakness and winter beauty; about frozen ground that nonetheless bears the promise of Spring.

Much of our time together is spent reading and journaling; reflecting, listening and sharing deeply. And much of our time is spent in silence and solitude.

There is very little cell or internet service at the retreat center where we stay. The food, hard beds and shared bathrooms are little changed from the time (not so very long ago) that the center was full of nuns.

All of this was just fine with me. It was the silence, the stillness, the solitude that I struggled with.

Like many of us, I have grown accustomed to action, to doing and near-constant stimulation. And I find the hum and bustle of work and focused activity very seductive sometimes.

So I had some stretching to do when faced with several

HOURS of free, still, reflection. HOURS of silence. HOURS with only my feelings, my thoughts and the quiet beating of my own heart.

And oh, how precious, how replenishing, how freeing once I finally allowed myself to lean into it! I return from my retreat with a feeling of clarity, foundation, creativity and purpose. The vitality, the deliciousness of this feeling is one I hope all of us can find in good measure.

Of course I am always reminding myself to attend to my own spiritual needs, my need for renewal and reflection, but most of the time this feels theoretical to me, optional—like, I know I should eat beets more often. I know I should, but I rarely, if ever, actually do.

This experience reminds me that if I want to live fully there is nothing optional about renewal and reflection, not for me and not for you, for without these things we are only half-living our lives.

It will not be easy (nothing important ever is), but I am getting serious about making more room in my life for “retreat”, both in organized settings like these seasonal retreats and within the bounds of my daily life. I am making a list of the things that feed and nourish me and give me room to discover myself—and I am adding them to my calendar, the same way I carve out time for anything important I need to do.

I invite you to do the same. Start with just fifteen minutes a day, if that’s all you can do right now. Start with that, fifteen minutes on the beach, sitting quietly in your garden or with your journal (even the one you haven’t touched for six months) as the sun goes down.

Schedule it. Write it down and defend it. Commit – and then notice how you wear your life differently than you did before. As always, I look forward to hearing what you discover!

REVEREND AARON McEMRYS, PARISH MINISTER

Come Join the Choir

"You're working it too hard. Breathe in. Let the music come through you, not from you. Keep thinking UP. Think HIGH. And smile! This is supposed to be fun," urges our director.

THIS...is choir practice! A gathering of people who love music and love making it meet every Thursday evening here in our beloved church. Having been a choir member for many years I hadn't given much thought to why I keep coming. Upon reflection, I realize that my attendance is for purely selfish reasons: I come for the joy! It's always there. The joy of being with friends who share my love of music, the joy of helping to make beautiful music, of learning and trying "really hard" to follow directions and the ultimate joy of sharing wonderful music with our congregation.

It's impossible to leave choir practice with a heavy heart. It's just so good for my soul.

Nancy VanAntwerp

Calendar

Monday, March 15, 2010

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

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

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

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

- 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
- 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

Thursday, March 18, 2010

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

Friday, March 19, 2010

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

Saturday, March 20, 2010

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

Sunday, March 21, 2010 Worship Services 9:30 & 11:30 am

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Marvelous March, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:30 AM Know Your Congregation, Parish Hall
- 12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room

Monday, March 22, 2010

- 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, March 23, 2010

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

- 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, March 25, 2010

- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, March 26, 2010

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

Saturday, March 27, 2010

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM Ellen Rockne Concert, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 28, 2010 Worship Services 9:30 & 11:30 am

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Coming of Age, Blake Lounge
- 9:30 AM Marvelous March, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

Monday, March 29, 2010

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

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 3:00 PM Seasoned Seekers, Valle Verde

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

- 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

Looking Ahead

- April 23-24 PSWD Assembly, hosted here!
- June 23-27 UUA General Assembly, Minneapolis

Next Newsletter Deadline
 March 15 for material covering
 April 1-15, 2010
 E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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
 LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
 Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister



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