



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

KALEIDOSCOPE

May 15-31, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp,

District Assembly at USSB

Well, can't say I am surprised! The recent Pacific Southwest District Assembly that our congregation hosted here the week-end of April 23-25 was a major success on all counts!

Our congregation has a winning combination of willing volunteers, capable and committed lay leaders, talented staff and a beautiful campus—and this event was an extraordinary opportunity for our congregation to *shine* as host to over 350 UU's from the 50 congregation district of which we are a part. From the well coordinated registration and hospitality to the powerful music and inspiring words, to the activity-filled campus to the generosity reflected in the outreach collections, USSB met and surpassed the expectations of all our guests. Thank you to each and every one of you who helped with this enormous undertaking! Watch the next issue of *Kaleidoscope* for a more detailed report!

NANCY EDMUNDSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Program Faire May 16

Sunday, May 16, during our Community Hour, our Jefferson Garden will be "buzzing" with activities and opportunities for everyone to learn about ways to become involved with vital and new emerging programs here at USSB. The Faire will feature programs that have been especially selected by our Program Council and Membership Committee. See you at the Faire!

May 16 Sunday Service

The May 16th service marks our Chancel Choir's first collaboration (and we hope the first of many) with the Congregation B'nai B'rith Choir, directed by Cantor Mark Childs. Please join us as we celebrate the gift of courage, both in story and song. (See service announcement below)

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

May 16

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

The Gift of Courage

On April 9, 1945, just days before the first Allied troops arrived, a German Lutheran Priest named Dietrich Bonhoeffer was killed in a Nazi concentration camp for conspiring to kill Adolph Hitler. He was finally executed on April 9, but he had been on the knife's edge for years before then—an outspoken pastor, theologian and leader who had long since been forbidden to write or speak publically. Bonhoeffer's is a story of principled courage in the face of evil, and he has much to teach us all.

This service will be built around a magnificent choral arrangement of *Von Guten Machten*, a life- and love-affirming prayer Bonhoeffer composed shortly before his execution. Words, stories and poetry will be interwoven with the music to create an experience we hope will be inspiring and meaningful.

May 23

Pulpit Hosts: Coming of Age Youth

Coming of Age Worship Service

Our 8th Graders will share with you their experiences and memories of this year. Come join us as we celebrate this most important Unitarian Universalist milestone that culminates a year long program of mentoring, spiritual exploration and service. This service is a tradition in our congregation and one of the highlights of our year.



CHALICE LABYRINTH
SYMBOLIZING THE JOURNEY OF OUR
COMING OF AGE YOUTH

May 30

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

What's the Plural of Apocalypse?

You can pretty much bet that right now someone, somewhere, is waiting for the world to end—waiting for this or that apocalypse to end everything once and for all—for better or for worse. But the final day never seems to come.

Or does it? The Crusades, the Holocaust, Rwanda. These are all apocalyptic, world shattering, soul-crushing, life-shattering events for the people who live through them. And live through them we do; somehow, somehow, people make it through apocalypse after apocalypse. Somehow people go on living and loving and dreaming of a better future. And flowers grow on the rubble of bombed-out buildings.

What does it mean to live in a world where the apocalypse has already happened? What does it mean to go on living, even then, and blessing a broken world?

When a House is a Home

The Unitarian Society has the good fortune to own a house adjacent to the church that over the years has been rented out for a number of different purposes depending on our needs. In the past we have rented it out to outside tenants, and non-profit organizations. To ease the transition of moving, the "gray house" was made available to Aaron and Eliza as they decided, for the longer term, where and how they wish to live in Santa Barbara. As with any other tenant we rent the house to them at market rate.

Aaron and Eliza would love to buy a house in Santa Barbara, but as we all know that's not always easy. Finding the right place, at the right price, at the right time can be daunting, so it helps to have that interim step to allow time to consider the lay of the land before finding their own place. But living in close proximity to work can be both a blessing and a curse. On the one hand you don't fight the daily commute and save money on gas; on the other, you are never off duty, even when you think you are! Aaron works six days a week, most weeks, and he and Eliza don't always share days off, so their time together is limited and precious.

When I was a teenager my family lived in similar circumstances. My parents said that we were moving to the next town over to manage a golf course. To get settled before buying a house we decided to live in the 200-year-old farmhouse, attached to the pro shop, restrooms and snack bar on the property. We too learned very quickly about the term "close proximity." If you got to the golf course at 7:00 AM and you went left through the front door, you entered our dining room and joined the Welterlens for breakfast; if you went right, you

entered the pro shop, paid your greens fees and played golf. Needless to say we had more than our fair share of people showing up unannounced at breakfast looking for the first tee.

It was this way, every day, from Easter to Thanksgiving. We had the idea that this was our home, while everyone else in town, thought it was that house on the golf course. Although it was a wonderful house, it proved to be more difficult being a home. Soon my parents came to the conclusion that they needed both the time and space away from work and accelerated the process of buying their own house a few miles away.

In many ways the house on the golf course was like our gray house: a rental property close to work that is occupied by the family of an employee. We made our rental property available as a housing option at market rate to the minister as a way to ease the transition into the community. As was the case with my parents, the minister has the first option with no obligation to live there forever. The agreement, in exchange for rent, is we ensure among other things, "the right to peace and quiet enjoyment."

As Aaron and Eliza decide that the proximity and convenience of living in our rental house take a back seat to privacy, to a longer commute and the fun of fixing leaky pipes, they will look for their own home. When that happens, the house on Arrellaga would have served its purpose and we will once again be on the lookout for another great tenant or a way to use the building for other things. That's the way it was before and that's the way it will be again.

GARY WELTERLEN, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Campout: deBenneville Pines

It's time to start thinking about the all-church cluster retreat to beautiful DeBenneville Pines. Once again we will be joining the Live Oak, Ventura, and Conejo Valley (Thousand Oaks) congregations in the San Bernadino Mountains, at the foot of San Gorgonio mountain (the highest mountain in Southern California!). The dates are Friday, September 24–Sunday, September 26.

Activities include canoeing, hiking, drawing, chatting, smiling, eating, relaxing, walking, meditating, connecting, gaming, puzzle-making, coffee-drinking, nature-watching, singing, worshipping, doing crafts, archery...and more! There is no better way to connect with your fellow church congregants than spending a weekend with them. The relationships developed at DeBenneville Pines will be stronger and deeper when you return to the "real world." Guaranteed!

The demographic breakdown is something like 25% under 18, 25% seniors, and the rest somewhere in between. This is truly an intergenerational experience. I personally love eat-

ing meals with people I have just met, or know only casually, and getting to know them much better—especially folks from another generation.

There are workshops, sometimes there is a talent show, there are activities for the kids. Speaking of kids, the environment feels so safe, and with so many eyes watching the young ones, it truly has the "village" feel.

And for the teens, there always is a cadre of youth from around our district who attend, and they seem to have a splendid time hanging out with each other.

The food is good (with vegetarian and vegan options at *every* meal), the rooms are rustic but clean and warm. This is the last weekend the pool will be open too.

For more information, please don't hesitate to call Chris Shorb at XXXX or e-mail at inorbit@ix.netcom.com. And if you see Catriona Gay, Donnis Galvan, Rachel Petkus, Dennis Lammers, or Kir Zecher around, ask them why they love going to DeBenneville Pines. It's truly special.

All in the Family

Music! Two Concerts In May!

On Sunday, May 23rd at 3:00 PM our resident pianist Natasha Kislenko and her colleague, Israeli pianist Ilya Sinaisky, will present an exciting recital featuring compositions for piano four hands

The program consists of compositions written in the nineteenth century. However it presents a surprisingly wide variety of styles and genres with works by Beethoven, Brahms, Grieg, Debussy and Rachmaninoff.

The audience will enjoy the atmosphere of intimate chamber music-making which was so popular in the aristocratic salons in 19th century Europe. A brief commentary about the history of four-hand piano playing will precede the concert.

It is amazing to see two professional pianists playing major works on a single piano: in addition to the huge sound that is produced, you will marvel at the gymnastics needed as their hands often cross and they move out of each other's way!



Looking ahead to **May 30th**, also at **3:00 PM**, UCSB Professor and violist Helen Callus returns to the Sanctuary for the second of three free recitals where she will play the Bach Suites for Cello, Numbers 3 and 4. Appreciation of the music will be enhanced by the commentary by Professor of Musicology, Derek Katz who will describe Bach's works and provide illuminating insights into these master works. Donations may be made at the door to support the Society's music program.



Mark your calendars for our last concert of the season when on **June 6**, pianist and former UCSB professor of music Betty Oberacker and violinist Nicole McKenzie will play a program of three sonatas for Violin and Piano by Johannes Brahms. This will be a benefit for the Santa Barbara Charter School.

Details of all these concerts will be posted on the USSB website at www.ussb.org so at any time you can find out more about the upcoming concerts and pass along the information to your friends. Unless noted otherwise, the concerts are supported by donations of \$10 from USSB members and Seniors and general admission of \$15. Students are free! Tickets will be available at the door.

JOHN WARNOCK, CHAIR, CONCERT COMMITTEE

Film Night: The Heretics

Friday, May 28, 7 PM, Parish Hall

Upbeat and affirmative in this first person account, director Joan Braderman focuses on the Heresies Collective which published *Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art & Politics from 1975-1992*, as a microcosm of the larger international Women's Movement.

The *New York Times* says, "Ms. Braderman's film...gives a joyful sense of what it was like to be feminist in the 1970's, a time when "everything seemed possible..." Thirty-odd years later, they're just as passionate and engaged. It's a pleasure to spend time in their company." This 95-minute documentary was shown twice at the 2010 Santa Barbara Film Festival.

And Good News...

Film Night Continues This Summer!

Our popular monthly film night will continue into the summer thanks to additional volunteers that have stepped forward to offer the leadership of this program in May and June. Thank you to Joanie Jones who will coordinate the May 28 showing of *Heretics* and Jody Thomas who will coordinate the June 25 showing of *No Impact Man*. See you at the movies! Parish Hall, 7 PM.

Alliance Meeting is on June 4

The Alliance General Meeting on Friday, June 4 at 2:00 PM in Parish Hall will be the last meeting until fall. There will be the presentation and installation of officers elected for the fall-winter season, as well as great entertainment and an opportunity to socialize with old and new friends and enjoy refreshments. As usual everyone is invited.

Lifespan Religious Education News

Our annual *Coming of Age* service will be Sunday, May 23rd. Don't miss this most important worship service and community event. On this day at both the 9:30 and 11:30 services, our 8th Graders will share with you their experiences and memories of this year. Come join us as we celebrate this most important Unitarian Universalist milestone.

Child Dedications

We will celebrate a Child Dedication service on Sunday, May 30. If you have a child to be dedicated, please contact Rev. Aaron McEmrys.

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that every child brings new hope and life into our world. The dedication ceremony is a celebration of the blessing of this life, an expression of the parents' hopes for their child, and a call to the congregation to lead and nurture the child's spiritual life as she/he grows. Child dedications are not only for the infants in our community. If you have an older child you would like formally welcomed into the congregation, consider participating in this ceremony.

Social Justice Sundays

During the month of May in RE for grades K-7th, our kids will engage in social justice projects that will help relieve homelessness right here in Santa Barbara.

May 16 Thinking in depth about homelessness and how we can help. Questions to ponder together. Guest Speakers: the Freeman Family will talk about their experience volunteering for Community Kitchen. We'll make hygiene packs for Freedom Warming Shelters.

May 23 is our multigenerational *Coming of Age Service*.

May 30 Children and homelessness. We'll make movie- and game-night baskets and friendship bracelets for Transition House kids, and visit with Dr. Lynne Janke about her medical practice in street medicine and the Freedom Warming Shelters.

Teacher Appreciation Service

Please join us on Sunday, June 6th for a celebration of our Religious Education teachers for the 2009-2010 church year.

Unitarian Universalism: The Adventure Begins Here

There are only a few of the UU water bottles left! Cost is \$10 per bottle and all proceeds will support the 2011 YRUU Mission Trip. Visit the RE table on Sundays to purchase yours or stop by the RE office Monday-Thursday.

Bannerpalooza!

I hope you all have had an opportunity to admire our children's 7 *Principle* banners that are currently hanging in the Sanctuary. The children in our Religious Education program spent two months creating these banners and the results are beautiful.

If you heard the Story for All Ages on Sunday, April 18th you would have learned that Donnis Galvan planted the seed of this idea by donating the fabric we used to create the individual flags. This material was a once-in-a-lifetime find—rescued from a dumpster! And the project blossomed from there.

Mari Headly was the creative force behind identifying the various artistic media the children explored during the course of this project. Mari enthusiastically led our children in tie dyeing, batiking, pastel milk bath wash portraiture, painting, and collage. It was such a wonderful opportunity to share this experience with Mari. Her love of art and children brought such joy to this project. Thank you Mari!

The vision of arranging the flags and appliquéing them onto panels is attributed to the artistic genius of new comer **Kathy Swor**. Prior to retirement, Kathy designed and planned special events in Los Angeles. Now Kathy is sharing her talent and warmth with us. If you see Kathy around on Sundays, thank her for such a great art display.

Of course I want to shout out a huge **thank you** to everyone who donated their time, energy, creativity and sewing machines to this project.

Our COA Youth & Leaders	Sarah Hough
Our YRUU Youth	John Housh
Kelly Bedard	Joanie Jones
Kathleen Boeh	Christal Leeth
Chrissie Cable	Courtney Narine
Louise Currey	Betty Noling
Marika Davidek	Rachel Petkus
Gun Dukes	Patricia Reilly
Alice Edwards	Chris Shorb
Cathrine England	Tammy Shorb
Donnis Galvan	Terri Stelzer
Karen Harris	Eric Watson
Linda Hill	

Sketches by Aaron

The Flower Communion

Every Spring we celebrate one of the most beloved of Unitarian Universalist rituals, *the Flower Communion*. On June 6, you are invited to bring flowers to church. You can bring as many as you want to share with the community. Whether you pick them or buy them doesn't matter, it's the gift that counts. You don't even have to bring flowers—just bring yourself—there will be plenty for everyone!

The way it works is very simple. When you come to church, as you enter, you place your flowers in a basket as a symbol of your own unique, individual self. The baskets full of all our individual flowers symbolize the full flowering of our community in united fellowship and love. Later in the service, you will be invited to come up to the chancel to choose another flower to take home with you to symbolize our commitment to walk together in our search for truth—and the ways the gifts we give and receive help us grow and change and flower in ways we could never do all on our own.

But first, some background, provided by Reginald Zottoli, (a Unitarian historian who wrote *The Flower Communion: A Service of Celebration for Religious Liberals*) to help you better appreciate why Flower Communion is so important to Unitarian Universalists:

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. The format had to be one that would not alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions. The traditional

Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic faith. So he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a communion which would be genuine to them.

This simple service was the result.

It was such a success that it was held yearly just before the summer recess of the church.

The flower communion was brought to the United States in 1940 by Dr. Capek's wife, Maja V. Capek. The Czech-born Maja had met Norbert Capek in New York City while he was studying for his Ph.D., and it was at her urging that Norbert left the Baptist ministry and turned to Unitarianism.

Unfortunately, Maja was unable to return to Prague due to the outbreak of World War II, and it was not until the war was over that Norbert Capek's death in a Nazi concentration camp was revealed. From this beginning the service has spread to virtually all of our Unitarian Universalist congregations and has been adapted along the way.

The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community; it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this ritual is a statement of our community.

Please plan to join us for this beautiful service on June 6.

Is Leadership in Your Future?

Spring is planning time, and our Nominating Committee wants to hear from you if you are interested in being considered for future elected leadership positions in our congregation, or if you would like to recommend another member for consideration.

Our Nominating Committee builds a multi-year list of potential leaders and assists in the development of future program and governance leaders. Please contact Ivor John, Nominating Committee Chair, if you would like to add a name (yours or someone you know) to the Nominating Committee consideration pool! XXXX.

Seasoned Seekers—May 25

Tuesday, May 25, 3 PM

The Inner Journey" with Jonathan Young

Young's discussion of *The Inner Journey* will draw on his work with mythologist Joseph Campbell to explore the Russian tale of *Vasalisa and Baba Yaga*. Jonathan says "Becoming seniors is all about gaining wisdom."

Jonathan is a well-known storyteller and psychologist, and has the "Center for Story and Symbol" in Santa Barbara and a website at folkstory.com. His articles and books focus on personal mythology. He is an active member of the Live Oak UU Congregation in Goleta.

All are welcome: bring your friends to the Valle Verde Retirement Community, 900 Calle de los Amigos. For details or a ride call Ginny Crane XXXX.

Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

- 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, MAY 16 WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 & 11:30 AM

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Children's RE: Social Justice Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Program Faire & Community Social Hour, Jefferson Courtyard
- 1:00 PM New Member Recognition Luncheon, Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 4:00 PM YRUU Parent's Meeting, LaPaz Lounge

MONDAY, MAY 17

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

TUESDAY, MAY 18

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

- 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 Wellspring Wednesday Meal, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
- 5:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry, LaPaz Lounge
- 6:30 PM Wellspring Childcare, Starr King Nursery
- 7:00 PM Building Your Own Theology, La Paz Lounge
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B
- 7:00 PM Underlying Unity, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MAY 20

- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 6:30 PM Coming of Age Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010

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

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2010 WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 & 11:30 AM COMING OF AGE MULTI GENERATIONAL SERVICE

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM UU Inquiry, Reception Office
- 12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B
- 3:00 PM Natasha Kislenko Concert, Sanctuary
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 7:00 PM USSB Women's Group, LaPaz Lounge

MONDAY, MAY 24

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

TUESDAY, MAY 25

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

- 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, MAY 27

- 7:00 PM Choir, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MAY 28

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 2:00 PM Alliance Board Meeting, LaPaz Lounge
- 7:99 PM Film Night, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 29

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

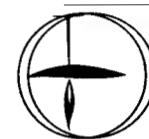
SUNDAY, MAY 30 WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 & 11:30 AM

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Children's RE Social Justice Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 3:00 PM Helen Callus Concert, Sanctuary
- 4:00 PM YRUU, Blake Meeting Room
- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline
May 15, for material covering
June 1-14, 2009
E-mail: kaleidoscope@ussb.org

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

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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