

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

# KALEIDOSCOPE

August 1–15, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

## Sunday Morning Hospitality Volunteers Organizing Now!

Summer is the time when we organize for our coming program year...and we have some exciting improvements to tell you about regarding our Sunday morning volunteer teams. These teams help create our welcoming and inviting hospitality by greeting at our Sanctuary doors, staffing our Welcome Table, and serving coffee.

Welcome to Laura Bushnell! Laura is a relatively new member of USSB and she has volunteered to help coordinate our Sunday volunteer teams. Laura will assist with reminders to volunteers, and help keep our schedule lists up to date. This is an enormous contribution! And new this year: Sunday volunteers will communicate with Laura at [sundayvolunteers@ussb.org](mailto:sundayvolunteers@ussb.org).

In an effort to communicate in ways that are best for everyone, and help to reduce our paper use and our postage

costs, we will be surveying hospitality volunteers about whether you would like to receive your communication by paper mail, or electronic email and documents. Watch for a paper mailing in the coming weeks, and for an electronic survey as well!

Creating a Sunday morning that welcomes everyone is the collective responsibility of all our members, and so we assign members to teams. (Of course we keep special needs in mind, so some of our members do not participate, for very understandable reasons.) If you don't receive these communications by the end of August, and would like to help out, please contact me, I will be delighted to add you to our team. Serving on the hospitality teams is a great way to meet USSB members and visitors. (More on Page 4)

NANCY EDMUNDSON,  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Starting Sunday, August 22  
our first service will begin at 9:15 AM;  
our second service will begin at 11 AM

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

### August 1

The Reverend Erika Hewitt  
Worship Host: Ken Ralph

#### (UU) "MythBusting"

Our faith encourages us to conduct a "free and responsible search for truth"... but what are the half-truths that circulate about Unitarian Universalism? If we're not mindful, without knowing it, we UUs create and—perpetuate—certain myths. From "you can believe anything you want" to "we prize individualism," Erika will counter some of these myths with (to borrow a phrase from UU leader Michael Durall calls) "helpful heresies."

### August 8

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

#### Reaching Beyond, "Beyond"

This week we will begin our month-long exploration of the theme of "Transcendence." Transcendence is all about reaching beyond: stretching, expanding, exploring and growing into the possibilities and insights that lie beyond the edges of what we know and who we are right now. Please join us as we reflect upon what it can mean for us to deliberately step out of our familiar comfort zones and into the rich unknown. How can we reach beyond, "beyond?"

### August 15

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

#### Make Yourself Small

Mountains are great. Everybody knows that. So are the Roman Coliseum, Stonehenge and the planet Jupiter. Our society has always loved Hugeness: grand gestures, sweeping change and towering edifices. As the movies and late-night infomercials constantly remind us, "size matters." But in this counter-cultural service we will celebrate the Small, the Diminutive and the Unnoticed. We will draw inspiration from floating leaves, raindrops and small kindnesses as we pause to appreciate all the beautiful smallness within and without us.

## 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 membership, please attend the *Path to Membership Class*. If you are unsure, or not ready to become a member yet, this class is still a wonderful opportunity to learn about UU and the programs and events offered at USSB.

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

- more about your own journey
- history and theology of Unitarian Universalism
- 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: The Next Path to Membership Classes:

- 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

Thursday, August 26, 6:30–9 PM or Saturday, September 18, 9AAM–12:30 PM in Blake Lounge

Refreshments and childcare will be provided for those interested.



## Young Adult Game Night Summer Celebration!

In August, **Young Adult Game Night** is going high-tech! The event will be on Friday, August 13th in Parish Hall, from 6:30–9:30 PM. Childcare is available! This gathering is for adults over 21, who self-identify as young adults. There's no official upper age cut-off.

This month, we will be cooking out and playing Rock Band on the big screen! If things go well, there may even be some karaoke in addition to the usual board games and card games.

Please join our Facebook group “USSB Young Adults” to get the latest details, and contact Eliza McEmrys [emcemrys@yahoo.com](mailto:emcemrys@yahoo.com) or Sarah Bennet [bennett915@gmail.com](mailto:bennett915@gmail.com) for details or to find out what you can bring.

**YA Game Night** happens every month.

## 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 10:40 AM.

The meeting is led by Nica Guinn, Membership Coordinator, 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, we 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: August 1 and August 15.

## All in the Family

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## USSB Film Night Continues!

Friday, August 20, 7 PM Parish Hall

### Plunder: The Crime Of Our Time

*Plunder: The Crime of Our Time* is a hard-hitting investigative film by Danny Schechter. The “News Dissector” explores how the financial crisis was built on a foundation of criminal activity uncovering the connection between the collapse of the housing market and the economic catastrophe that followed.

The film opens with the conviction of Ponzi King Bernie Madoff, whose acknowledged criminality drove a \$65 billion dollar pyramid scheme. It argues that the wrong doing committed by a few individuals distracts from the real story, implicating the best-known institutions that financed and profited from fraudulent subprime lending. This connection is now being investigated by the FBI as part of a probe into what it calls a “fraud epidemic.”

*Plunder* shows how these firms created special securities to repackage and resell these dubious loans after they were re-rated as Triple A. These firms then bet against many of these toxic assets with credit default swaps and other insurance scams. By leveraging these investments, they recklessly put trillions of dollars and the world economy at risk.

This film is a 2010 Cannes winner.

We thank Debbie and Gary for hosting the August Film Night, Jody Thomas for hosting the June Film Night, and Joanie Jones for hosting the May Film Night. Our September Film Night will be hosted by Chuck Wolfe on September 17!

Childcare provided with advance request. For childcare contact LeeAnn Williams at 965-6273 or [lifespan@ussb.org](mailto:lifespan@ussb.org).

## Annual Congregation Celebration & Events & Service Auction

### Save the Date! Saturday, November 6, 2010

We are already looking forward to and planning our congregation’s largest fundraising and FUN-raising event of the year! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on November 6 for *Cirque du USSB*, where we will slither together, party hardy and send ripples of energy and surprise through our ranks to raise funds and FUN!

Contact Nancy Edmundson, Director of Administration now to find out how you might help with planning, organizing and supporting this important event. Now is the time to think about what you might donate as an event or service for our silent and live auctions!

## Happy August Birthday

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## USSB Campout at Skofield Park

### Saturday, September 4, Labor Day Weekend

Join UU friends for an intergenerational campout at Skofield Park for the Labor Day Weekend. Bring your tent, food for the weekend (bring some to share), musical instruments and sports equipment. If you don’t want to camp overnight, come spend the day and evening.

We hang out in this beautiful local park and relax together, avoiding the Labor Day crowds elsewhere! YRUU (our high school youth group) will begin our campout on Friday, September 3. Other campers please join in beginning at 10 AM on Saturday. Then we will all pack up at noon Sunday, September 4, so there is plenty of time to join Labor Day crowds in town on Monday if you must. This year we are asking individuals to contribute \$10 to cover the cost of the campsite (\$15 for families).

Contact Alan Edmundson, 452-7273, [alanedmundson@cox.net](mailto:alanedmundson@cox.net) for additional details.

# Volunteer Opportunities Abound in the Summer at USSB!

Would you like to learn a new office trick, handyman skill, or leadership skill? Do you have some already developed or under-used skill ready to offer? Or perhaps you would like to spend a bit more time in the company of like-minded folks, supporting a beloved community. Well, look no further than your very own UU congregation! Volunteer opportunities abound here at USSB, and we would love to know how you might be interested in helping out this summer and in the coming year. Our congregation is richer for the programs and activities we provide, all fueled by the talent, time and energy of volunteers!

Here are just some of our identified needs and ideas. If you have a few hours to lend to any of the following, please contact me, so we can work out the “perfect gift of yourself” to USSB. Check out the USSB website at [www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org) under “Getting Involved/Volunteer Opportunities” for more information. (High school students...I encourage you to volunteer for community service hours and a great reference for future employers!)

Office Receptionist: we always need help! Tasks vary according to your interest and we train on phone, office equipment and computer use.

Are you a “wiz” at filing and organization? We are seeking a volunteer assistant for Aaron to help get those important documents organized and filed on a regular basis.

Do you love new school supplies, and like to keep them sorted? Join a work party team to reorganize and restock our Religious Education materials and classrooms.

Do you look forward to our new Photo Membership Directory and like to meet people? Join a Sunday morning team to staff the scheduling table in the Garden!

How about Blake Lounge Kitchen re-organization (2 hours for two volunteers, date TBA)?

Learn to replace candles in our chancel and contribute to their upkeep.

Help plan and participate in upcoming Garden and Facility work parties (Saturday mornings TBA)

Occasional assistance to Rob Brown, Building Manager for those “more than two-handed handyman jobs”! (Rob is a great guy to work with so how about coming by regularly on an afternoon?)

Do you get special satisfaction from small “home improvement projects”? Join a work party team to freshen up the paint in our classrooms and paint our RE cupboards. What a BIG difference this small change will make!

Join our Usher Team. (Two hours once a month commitment; special training provided)

Join our “Kitchen Coordination” team. Be a kitchen “know-it-all” for one-time congregational events such as food in community hour, memorial receptions, services auction, or potlucks. You’ll learn the secrets of the dish sanitizer, coffee system, ovens and more!

Join our “Technology Support” team. Get your “soon-to-be-well trained hands” on our new state of the art sound, lighting and audio-visual system in Parish Hall and be available to assist with congregational events!

Promotion of a new e-scrip program—NOT sales, but sign-ups.

Promotion of Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sales. Help revive and then coordinate our established system of sales for these products. (One-time a month order/Sunday coffee hour sales and delivery) A wonderful potential fundraiser with a social justice conscience.

Help plan and implement our Annual Events and Services Auction and Celebration. (Already scheduled for November 6!)

Join a quarterly advisory group for room use or building maintenance.

I look forward to hearing from you! And hope to see you at one of our many upcoming volunteer trainings in the coming months—watch for them!

On behalf of all of our program leaders, staff and congregation, thank you for considering how you can help out!

NANCY EDMUNDSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION,  
965-4583 x225

## And...the Membership Committee is Looking for Few Good Volunteers

The Membership Committee is looking for Committee Volunteers. There are many opportunities to welcome visitors and integrate new members into our community.

We meet once a month for one and a half hours and discuss how we can make our Society as welcoming and inviting as possible. We would love more volunteers who are interested in co-creating a welcoming, engaging experience for all who attend.

Contact Ken Ralph, Membership Committee Chair at [kenralph@cox.net](mailto:kenralph@cox.net). or Nica Guinn, Membership Coordinator at [membership@ussb.org](mailto:membership@ussb.org). or call 963-4583 x 221, if you are interested in participating or wish more information.

# Lifespan Religious Education News

## Family Fun Night Moves Outdoors!

**2nd Friday of the month, 6–8 PM**

Our monthly family potluck moves to area parks and beaches to fully enjoy the long days of summer. Join RE families on the second Friday of each month from 6–8 PM for dinner and community. A BBQ will be available if you'd like to bring something to grill for your family. In addition, please bring a dish to share (see the alphabetical assignments for each month below), and plates, utensils and drinks for your family.

**August 13: Goleta Beach Park (near the playground)**

Hosted by the **Cable** family

**A-G** dessert; **H-L** main dish; **M-Z** salads/sides

**September 10: Kiwanis Meadows (at Tucker's Grove)**

Hosted by the **Shorb** family (Dogs are welcome to this off-leash dog friendly park!)

**A-G** salads/sides; **M-Z** main dish; **H-L** dessert

**See you at the park!**

## Important Dates

### USSB Campout...

...in Big Sur, Veterans Day Weekend, 2010. Interested in camping out with USSB on the beautiful Big Sur coast? Contact Rachel Petkus at [rachel.petkus@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.petkus@gmail.com) to find out more.

### Children's RE Teacher Training

Saturday, August 28 from 9–1:30.

### USSB Intergenerational Campout at Skofield Park

Saturday, September 4, Labor Day Weekend

### Multigenerational Ingathering Service

Sunday, September 12

### DeBenneville Pines Cluster Retreat, September 24–26. Sign up now!

### Adult RE

Our Fall semester of Wellspring Wednesdays, our Adult Religious Education program will run October 6th–November 10th

## Summer Sundays

During the summer our RE children enjoy a wide variety of children's worship services and activities led by parents and other friends and members of our congregation. In past summers kids have enjoyed cartooning, bird watching, lego building, map making, drum circles, painting, bee keeping, and more. Please visit the RE table in the garden for more in-

formation about Children's RE during the summer and to sign to lead a Summer Sunday service. Charla Bregante, [re@ussb.org](mailto:re@ussb.org) or 965-4583 x227.

Summer Sundays meet in Jefferson Hall after the *Story for All ages*.

Date	Worship Leader	Service Title
August 1	Paul Freeman	Cooking
August 8	Chris & Tammy Shorb	Games
August 15	Carla Neufeldt-Abatie	Number Games & Puzzles
August 22	Cheryl Kelmar	Dancing: A variety of free style dancing
August 29	Gary Welterlen	Bee Buzz
Sept. 5	Astrid Nelson	Bubbles!

## Lifespan Religious Education News cont'd

In his Vision 2012 sermon, Aaron described a Religious Education program that was dynamic and creative, one that engages children on a variety of levels and respects and celebrates multiple intelligences. We all learn best in different ways. Which way do you think you learn best?

**Visual/Spatial** - learning visually and organizing ideas spatially. Seeing concepts in action in order to understand them. The ability to “see” things in one’s mind in planning to create a product or solve a problem.

**Verbal/Linguistic** - learning through the spoken and written word. This intelligence was always valued in the traditional classroom and in traditional assessments of intelligence and achievement.

**Mathematical/Logical** - learning through reasoning and problem solving. Also highly valued in the traditional classroom, where students were asked to adapt to logically sequenced delivery of instruction.

**Bodily/Kinesthetic** - learning through interaction with one’s environment. This intelligence is not the domain of “overly active” learners. It promotes understanding through concrete experience.

**Musical/Rhythmic** - learning through patterns, rhythms and music. This includes not only auditory learning, but the identification of patterns through all the senses.

**Intrapersonal** - learning through feelings, values and attitudes. This is a decidedly affective component of learning through which students place value on what they learn and take ownership for their learning.

**Interpersonal** - learning through interaction with others. Not the domain of children who are simply “talkative” or “overly social.” This intelligence promotes collaboration and working cooperatively with others.

**Naturalist** - learning through classification, categories and hierarchies. The naturalist intelligence picks up on subtle differences in meaning. It is not simply the study of nature; it can be used in all areas of study..

**Existential** - learning by seeing the “big picture”: “Why are we here?” “What is my role in the world?” “What is my place in my family, school and community?” This intelligence seeks connections to real world understandings and applications of new learning.

## Coming of Age

The purpose of the COA program is for our 8th grade youth to explore their own religious and spiritual beliefs, and the history, programs, and organization of both this congregation and the Unitarian Universalist denomination. The culminating project of the COA program is the development of a personal faith statement by each participant. These faith statements are presented to the congregation and the young people

are honored during the Coming of Age recognition service each spring.

If you have a youth who is entering the 8th grade this fall and are interested in learning more about this milestone year or registering your 8th Grader for this program, please contact LeeAnn Williams in the Religious Education office.

## Connection Circles begin in September

*...to ‘listen’ another’s soul into life, into a condition of disclosure and discovery, may be almost the greatest service that any human being ever performs for another. - Douglas Steere*

Connection Circles are small, facilitated groups that meet twice a month over a period of nine months. Meetings are an hour and a half long. They usually take place in group members’ homes. Through sharing personal connections with themes such as courage, love, hope and belonging, group members form lasting connections with one another. This past year over 100 members participated, and this coming year we expect that number to grow.

You may indicate your interest by signing up at the Connection Circles table in the garden, by emailing Carol Schwyzer [carolschwzyer@gmail.org](mailto:carolschwzyer@gmail.org), or by calling her at 687-0890. If we know you are interested, we will be in touch with you to find a group that meets at a convenient time for you.

*Our work is not so much to find a teacher as to improve our own receptivity and sharpen our ability to hear the teachings around us. -Mary Ann Brussat*

## Sketches by Aaron

### (Service) Times They Are A 'Changin'

After listening to a wide range of congregants over the last year and researching the best-practices of other thriving congregations, we have decided to modify the start times of our weekly worship services.

Starting Sunday, August 22, our first service will begin at 9:15 AM and our second service will begin at 11 AM.

Although we have heard many good reasons why these new times are a good idea, a couple stand out, and I want to share them with you.

For many of our elders, especially those living in Val Verde, Vista Del Monte or Samarkand, our current worship schedule is a hard one to work with. Our first service starts a little too early and our second service ends a little too late, making transportation and meals far more complicated than is ideal.

You may have noticed some of our older members scurrying out immediately after the service (and sometimes even before the closing hymn) so they can catch their shuttle. With careful planning and quick feet they can attend our regular services, but miss out on the chance to visit with the rest of the community afterward.

As inspiring and fulfilling as our worship services can sometimes be, nothing can substitute for the deep comfort and value of sitting down with a cup of coffee in community as children wander by with donut-sticky fingers.

These small adjustments to our schedule will make it easier for some of our most respected and beloved members to be with us on Sunday mornings.

Another group affected will be our three choral groups. While they will now have to come in to warm up fifteen minutes earlier than they are used to, they will finish their musical offerings at least half-an-hour earlier each week.

The people who sing in our choirs are some of the most devoted volunteers we have. In addition to weekly rehearsals and regular practice at home, they are typically here at church for at least four hours every Sunday they sing, often not heading home until 1 PM or later.

These time changes will not reduce the overall time and energy they put into preparing and performing the beautiful music they share with us week in and week out, but it will help our singers make it home in time for a good lunch and a little more well-deserved Sabbath time with their families, their gardens and their *New York Times*.

We know that change is never simple or easy and that these changes will no doubt be more convenient for some of us than for others. If you find yourself feeling frustrated, please come talk to me about it.

We are making these changes in response to the needs of our larger community: to make it easier for the many people who want to be here with us, to be here with us. And so I look forward to seeing you at morning services 9:15 or 11:00, starting Sunday, August 22.

LOVE, AARON

### Choir Corner: Observations on Music

As you may know The Chancel Choir meets to practice in the sanctuary each Thursday evening at 7 PM. But you may not know that we enjoy each other's company by gathering after Choir practice to celebrate the monthly birthdays. This is a long-held tradition. As each member who loves to sing comes to us over the years, we always inquire about the birth month.

Our tradition surprises some—we volunteer in bringing our own "Birthday Refreshments." Whatever appeals to the celebrants of that "birth month" or months being celebrated is what is served. It may be cheese and crackers or popcorn and cider, cookies and milk or Carrot Cake with cream cheese frosting, chips, veggies and dip. Some months we have two birthdays and some we have five to celebrate. If we miss a month, we gather the next month and enjoy getting better acquainted after having had lots of joyful singing together!

Remember: we are looking for you to join us at Chancel Choir practice. Come. Practice well and play after.

JOANIE JONES, CHANCEL CHOIR MEMBER

# Calendar

## Sunday, August 01, 2010 9:30 & 11:30 Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM Guest Orientation, Terrace

## Monday, August 02, 2010

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

## Tuesday, August 03, 2010

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

## Wednesday, August 04, 2010

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 10:00 AM Women's Choral, Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM Lark Yoga Classes, Jefferson Hall
- 7:00 PM Wednesday Book Discussion, Classroom B

## Thursday, August 05, 2010

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Friday, August 06, 2010

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

## Saturday, August 07, 2010

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

## Sunday, August 08, 2010 9:30 & 11:30 Worship Services

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden

## Monday, August 09, 2010

- 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, August 10, 2010

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

## Wednesday, August 11, 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, August 12, 2010

- 7:00 PM USSB Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Friday, August 13, 2010

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

## Saturday, August 14, 2010

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

## Sunday, August 15, 2010 9:30 & 11:30 Worship Services

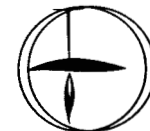
- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Community Social Hour, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM Guest Orientation, Reception Office

Starting Sunday, August 22  
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Next Newsletter Deadline  
July 15, for material covering  
August 1-15, 2010  
E-mail: [kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto: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  
Summer Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM-noon; Sun 10 AM-noon

Aaron McEmrys, Parish Minister  
John Alexie Crane, Minister Emeritus  
LeeAnn Williams, Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
Nancy Edmondson, Director of Administration



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