

KALEIDOSCOPE

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

August 15-31, 2010

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

Newsletter: Nancy VanAntwerp

Standing On the Side of Love in Phoenix, Arizona

On July 29, hundreds of Unitarian Universalists from across the country went to Phoenix, where they joined with justice-workers from dozens of different organizations to peacefully protest the implementation of Arizona's controversial new immigration law.

I followed the news as it trickled in via Twitter, Facebook and text message while I also followed the story as it was reported by mainstream news organizations.

I watched as many of my friends and colleagues were arrested and jailed for their acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, like forming a human chain in front of the Phoenix jail-house to symbolically prevent immoral use of the jail and the implementation of an unjust law.

Flipping through the updates, I saw a photo of my colleague, Susan Frederick Gray, Minister of our congregation in Phoenix sitting in a holding cell with her hands cuffed behind her back. My eyes widened as I recognized the woman sitting next to her, Audrey Williams, a member of our USSB family.

Audrey was also cuffed, but looked into the camera with a broad and defiant smile. I spent much of the next twelve hours trying to figure out how to find out what was happening with her and how to help, to little avail.

She was, however, in very good company. Also arrested was the Rev. Peter Morales, President of our Unitarian Universalist Association, along with two-dozen UU Ministers and lay leaders from around the country.

Audrey will share her story with you soon enough (as of right now, the afternoon of July 30, she has been released from jail and will soon begin her journey home), so for now I want to write a bit about why so many Unitarian Universalists are ready to go to jail to prevent the implementation of this law.

Arizona SB-1070, in the form passed by the Arizona legislature (significant portions of the law are now under injunction by Federal courts), requires Arizona law enforcement officers to demand the papers of anyone who LOOKS like they might be an illegal immigrant.

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

Sunday Morning Services—

August 15 (9:30 & 11:00 AM)

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

Make Yourself Small

Mountains are great. Our society has always loved Hugeness: grand gestures, sweeping change, the Roman Coliseum, Stonehenge, the planet Jupiter. 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.

August 22 (9:15 & 11:00 AM)

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

Life and Death

In this service we will continue to explore the role of nature as spiritual guide and source of theological reflection by meditating upon what the natural world in general, and one Pacific Northwest rainforest in particular, have to teach us about Life and Death, the twin pillars of our existence.



August 29 (9:15 & 11:00 AM)

The Reverend Aaron McEmrys

The Transcendentalist Watermelon

In 1968 a young beat-poet-storyteller named Richard Brautigan published a wonderful little novella called, "In Watermelon Sugar." In this service we will dive into the deep end of the pool by exploring some of the more surreal, silly, playful, and even psychedelic forms that transcendence can take—with Richard Brautigan and other contemporary poets and dreamers as our guides!

Phoenix con't

When asked what illegal immigrants look like, Governor Jan Brewer, who enthusiastically signed the bill into law, said she had no idea, leaving that part of the job to people like Mari-
posa Sherriff Joe Arpaio, who requires his deputies to demand papers based on damning criteria such as the kind of “boots and shirts they wear.”¹

SB 1070 invites and encourages racial profiling, for although the law was “changed to clarify that it does not allow for racial profiling”, it is impossible for me to imagine how else it might work.

No matter what sort of “clarifying” (or camouflaging) language gets tacked on, SB-1070 strips people of their civil and human rights on the basis of the color of their skin and their socio-economic status, casting in sharp relief the terrible intersection of racism and classism in America today.

Our opposition to this Bill is not because we support illegal immigration, but because our Principles call us to work for comprehensive reform that is just, compassionate and equitable.

We must not stand by as our sisters in brothers are “other-ized” and scapegoated on the basis of their skin tone, language or country of origin. Illegal immigrants are not “invading” the United States as Governor Brewer would have us believe, nor are they the source of our Nation’s woes.

Our country is in a period of rapid social change and swamped in a time of extended economic strain. Countless people have lost their jobs, their homes and their dreams for the future—and whenever that happens, people start looking for someone to blame. And immigrants, the strangers in our midst, have long been popular targets: Irish, Italians, Jews, African Americans, and Mexicans.

I understand the pain and frustration that so many people feel today, but our public policy cannot be dictated by our fears or our stereotypes.

As our UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales put it, we must remember that:

“People are being pushed from their homes and pulled by opportunities in the United States. America is involved in both the push and the pull.

“We have to understand that the US has helped to set in motion the forces that drive people to risk their lives to come to America. The massacres of the 1980s in Guatemala and El Salvador were carried out by military governments we supported, by US-trained officers and by military units using American weapons. More recently, our economic policies have helped contribute to massive unemployment and dislocation in Mexico and Central America. The

vast majority of immigrants from the south are not criminals, they are economic and political refugees.”²

That’s the push. We must also remember that American employers have been more than happy to help pull our southern neighbors to this country by hiring them as a source of cheap, and often under-the-radar, labor.

This is not just about “those people” coming here – we are all involved, much more deeply than many of us would care to admit.

The solution cannot lie in the kind of thinly veiled racism embodied in this legislation or in the hyperventilation of talk radio rhetoric.

As people of faith and conscience, we must strive for solutions that bring people together rather than break them apart, solutions that are rooted in respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people and the profound reality of our interdependence. In short, we must stand on the side of love.

Which is exactly what Audrey Williams, Peter Morales and dozens more of our sisters and brothers in faith, were doing when they held out their hands to be cuffed, and it was that love that kept them warm in their cold and lonely jail cells as the minutes slowly ticked by.

The struggle this week was in Arizona, but soon it will be here in Santa Barbara, indeed it is here already, right under our noses. Now it is time for us to decide where we stand and what we are prepared to do in the name of justice and love.

President Morales told the Washington Post, *“People of faith and conscience must do three things. First we must raise our voices. We must stand on the side of love and the side of human dignity with immigrant families. We must resist the implementation of laws like these, even if it means breaking them.”³*

Let us consider these words very carefully, my friends, for our humanity, our future, hangs in the balance too.

LOVE, AARON

¹ “Stopping Arizona”, New York Times Editorial, April 29, 2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/30/opinion/30fri1.html?ref=select-editorials-on-immigration>

² Peter Morales, “What People of Faith and Conscience Must Do About Immigration Reform,” in the Washington Post, June 29, 2010 http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/07/what_people_of_faith_and_conscience_must_do_about_immigration_reform.html

³ Ibid.

Standing on the Side of Love in California

It is with great joy that I, as your Board president, and all of us received the news that Proposition 8, the stand against marriage equality, was overturned. Not only is it the affirmation of the right to marry for all people; it is also a reminder that justice can be served in our legal system.

“Gay rights is a religious issue,” wrote Jay Michaelson in the current issue of *Tikkun*¹. He points out ten reasons why that is so. Among these are some facts: Those who are married—and connected to others—have better health and longer lives than those who are alone. Teenagers who are permitted to be open about their sexual identity are much less likely to feel marginalized and consequently less at risk of hurting themselves.

And in terms of principles, all religions enjoin us to stand against cruelty and consider compassion and justice holy. Affirming the rights of homosexuals to marry is both compassionate and just, as it is for all people. As a religious person, Michaelson reminded his fellow believers that “sexual diversity is a beautiful part of God’s creation. Whether or not we subscribe to the idea of God, we all recognize and celebrate

diversity in all its forms in the natural world, a world that includes human beings.”

Our USSB tradition continues to affirm gay rights and the right for all people to marry. Our speaking out against Proposition 8, our press release when it was overturned, and our banner that shows our commitment to the community all illustrate the promise of Unitarian-Universalism in this community.

SUSAN NEUFELDT, PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

¹ *Tikkun* means to mend, repair, and transform the world. It’s a magazine edited or published by Rabbi Michael Lerner and speaks to spiritual issues in terms of politics from a somewhat but not exclusively Jewish liberal perspective. He is well known for the book, *The Left Hand of God* and others.

Jay Michaelson is a writer and teacher on the intersections of spirituality, sexuality, Judaism, and law. He is a columnist for the *Huffington Post* and the *Forward*.

The Challenge! It Begins on Monday, August 29

At film night the end of June, we viewed the film *No Impact Man* and the following Sunday we had a worship service about the Sabbath and about giving the earth a rest. I invited the congregation to join me in the *No Impact Experiment* coming up this August 29th.

Those of you willing to give this a try should first read the book, *No Impact Man* by Colin Beavan and/or watch the documentary *No Impact Man*.

Then look up www.noimpactproject.org and get ready for the August 29 start date. This is the structured, one-week experiment designed to get us to take a look at our daily life and how we each impact the planet. The goal of the project is two-fold: to promote behavioral change and to enable the public to experience their own *No Impact Experiment*.

And so...

I invite you to join me on this one-week long project. It will be more fun for us to do this together. Participate as much as you wish/can. On day one, Sunday August 29, we begin by vowing to not purchase anything new for the next week. We need to figure out if we can get what we need second-hand, or by borrowing or by making it ourselves—or maybe just doing without!

Day two, Monday, August 30, we vow to not create any trash for the rest of the week.

Then each day we eliminate something else from our lives.

This’ll be challenging and inconvenient, but relevant and enlightening. Collectively, we are among the “greenest” folks around and yet we know there’s a long way to go.

So let’s try this! Check out www.noimpactproject.org August 29. And we can all walk to church together on September 5!

JODY THOMAS

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 their 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 for additional details.



Hello from USSB's New Youth Coordinator!

Dear friends:

I'm delighted to be joining the USSB staff as Youth Coordinator and leading the dedicated team that works with our high school group, YRUU. It's a great privilege

to spend time with young UUs, and it's also just about as fun and rewarding as it gets.

I've been involved in teen programs at this congregation since I was in high school myself, and some of my dearest friends today are people I got to know in those incredibly formative years. More recently, as a facilitator and mentor with our Coming of Age Program, I've been honored to accompany our 8th graders as they make the transition into high school. All of us who've passed through the territory of our teen years know what an exhilarating ride it can be, and how good it is to have friends and allies by our side. That's what YRUU is all about.

We have an exciting year ahead of us, with an initiation campout at Skofield Park, Friday, September 3rd, a social justice trip to New Orleans in late March of 2011, and plenty of bonding and deepening in between. We'll kick things off with a get-to-know-you meeting on Sunday afternoon, August 22 from 6-8pm at my house: 1740 Hillside Road, 93101. If you're going into 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade this year, I hope you'll join us.

If you have any questions or just want to chat, you can find me on Facebook, email me at yruu@ussb.org, or give me a call at 252-0038.

Yours on the journey, ELIZABETH SCHWYZER

Spots Still Available For DeBenneville Pines Retreat

There are still spots available for the Cluster Retreat at DeBenneville Pines. Dates are from 4 PM Friday September 24 through 1 PM Sunday September 26. Cost is \$135 per adult age 20+, \$105 per youth age 13-19, and \$77 for each child 12 and under. Kids age 0-3 are free!

This is an amazing way to connect with your larger church community. You will meet people from the congregation you have never spent time with before, doing fun activities with them. Activities include swimming, singing, canoeing, reading, games, chatting, eating, and more.

Accommodations are rustic and comfortable.: cabins and rooms with bunkbeds. Please go to <http://www.debenneville.org/facility.html> for more details on the facilities.

If you have any questions about the retreat, please e-mail Chris Shorb at inorbit@ix.netcom.com or call at 805 636-6086.

All in the Family

XXXXX

Spanish for the Workplace at USSB

September 17 to November 19, on Fridays, 2-4 PM, Jefferson Hall

This Fall, USSB will partner with the Continuing Education Division of Santa Barbara City College to offer "Spanish for the Workplace." One of our newest members, Dinorah Isis Molina is an experienced SBCC instructor and is bringing this important class to our campus!

This course is for those who need a basic knowledge of Spanish for communicating with employers, employees, clients or peers on the job. Each week a particular workplace theme will be addressed. Some basic Spanish skills are required. The class will be included in the fall 2010 Adult Ed. Schedule.

Dinorah's classes fill fast, so we encourage you to sign up for this FREE class right away! Don't just imagine a class full of USSB members improving our Spanish! Sign up or register online beginning August 16th.

For more information on the class, see Dinorah in the Parish Garden during community time on Sundays, or contact her at ixmucane@cox.net, 965-9391.

Connection Circles Begin Next Month...

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 and 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.

Sign up at the Connection Circles table in the garden, by emailing Carol Schwyzer carolschwzyer@gmail.org, or by calling her at 687-0890. We'll be in touch with you to 'connect' you with 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

New USSB Photo Directory!

We will be taking sign-ups in the Garden on Sundays, beginning August 15. You will also be able to sign up on-line so watch your emails for instructions on how to use the web-based system! We want to have as many of our members and friends included in the directory as possible. Help out our office staff by making your appointment early!

Appointments will be scheduled between the hours of 2 PM and 9 PM on the following days:

Monday, September 13, Wednesday, September 15,
Thursday, September 16:

Monday, September 27, Tuesday, September 28,
Wednesday, September 29;

Thursday, September 30, Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2, (until 5 PM).

USSB Film Night Continues!

Friday, August 20, 7 PM Parish Hall

Plunder: The Crime of Our Time, a 2010 Cannes winner is a hard-hitting investigative film by Danny Schechter. It explores how the financial crisis was built on a foundation of criminal activity and shows the connection between the collapse of the housing market and the economic catastrophe that followed. Hosted by Debbie and Gary Welterlen.

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.

Could you spare a Dishtowel—and—help on a summer project?

We are seeking a replenished supply of new or gently used dishtowels for our Parish Kitchen. Please drop your donations off in the reception office on Sundays or during our summer office hours. When dropping by during the week, don't forget Nancy's favorite words (How can I help?) and we can check in on a summer project that might be the perfect gift of yourself. (see our last issue of *Kaleidoscope*, or visit www.ussb.org under "Getting Involved" and "Volunteer Opportunities." To contact Nancy directly pop her an email at director@ussb.org

Coming Up:

Saturday, August 28 from 9–1:30: Children's RE Teacher training

Friday, September 10: Family Fun Night at 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.)

Sunday, September 12: Ingathering Celebration and Potluck. We will be have a fun filled potluck community time between our two Sunday morning services...so stay tuned for more details!

Sunday, September 19: RE Classes Begin and Open House

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.

Date	Worship Leader	Service Title
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!

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 hearty 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!

Calendar

Sunday, August 15, 2010

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:30 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 9:30 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Community Social Time, Parish Garden
- 10:40 AM Guest Orientation, Reception Office
- 11:30 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary

Monday, August 16, 2010

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

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 10:00 AM Women's Choral, 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, August 19, 2010

- 9:00 AM Office Closed Staff Retreat, Off Campus
- 7:00 PM USSB Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, August 20, 2010

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Film: *The Crime of Our Time*, Parish Hall
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Jefferson Hall

Saturday, August 21, 2010

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

Sunday, August 22, 2010

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:15 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary
- 9:15 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:15 AM Community Social Time, Parish Garden
- 11:00 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Library Committee, Classroom B

Monday, August 23, 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 24, 2010

- 7:00 AM Toastmasters Club #5, Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM Adult RE Council Meeting, LaPaz Lounge

Wednesday, August 25, 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 26, 2010

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

Friday, August 27, 2010

- 6:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 4:00 PM Board of Trustees Retreat, Off Campus
- 7:30 PM DanceAway, Parish Hall

Saturday, August 28, 2010

- 7:00 AM Early Morning Exercise, with Linda, Parish Hall
- 9:00 AM RE Teacher Training, Blake Lounge
- 9:00 AM Board of Trustees Retreat, Off Campus

Sunday, August 29, 2010

- 9:00 AM Childcare, Starr King
- 9:15 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary
- 9:15 AM Summer Sundays, Jefferson Hall
- 10:15 AM Community Social Time, Parish Garden
- 11:00 AM Worship Services, Sanctuary

Monday, August 30, 2010

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

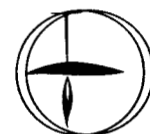
Tuesday, August 31, 2010

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

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

Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM; Children's Program: 9:15 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 Edmundson, Director of Administration



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