OUR VISION

We are an open and welcoming diverse religious community.
We stimulate personal and spiritual growth, living lives of care and compassion.
We work for a better world by speaking and living our values.
We celebrate all life and the beauty of the world we share.

OUR MISSION IS

1. to inspire through meaningful worship, music and other programming.
2. to offer religious education for all ages.
3. to care for one another.
4. to promote peace, justice & understanding.
5. to invite others to share our tradition of social action and freedom of worship.
6. to engage in the larger Unitarian Universalist movement.
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UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA
1535 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone (805) 965-4583, 965-6273 (FAX)
Office Hours 9-4 PM, M-F, Sunday 10–Noon
Summer Hours 9-Noon, M-F, Sunday 10-Noon
ussb@ussb.org

“We seek spiritual growth in a welcoming and caring community.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS – 2005/2006 FISCAL YEAR

President - Ivor John
Vice-President - Gary Welterlen
Corporate Secretary - Doug Thomas
Treasurer – Anita Blume

MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Patricia Reilly 966-3985</td>
<td>Joanne Nay 682-3381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birdie Newborn 899-2145</td>
<td>Ivor John 563-0389</td>
<td>Percy Sales 451-8647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Olson 689-8307</td>
<td>Virginia Barrett 967-0298</td>
<td>Beverly Sheldon 967-4173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Thomas 963-2673</td>
<td>vacant</td>
<td>Gary Welterlen 682-5275</td>
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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<td>Jo Saxon</td>
<td>Bruce Hanna</td>
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<td>Terry Nelson</td>
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<td>Chuck Wolfe</td>
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STAFF

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Minister</td>
<td>Kenneth Collier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Religious Education</td>
<td>Melitta Haslund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education Assistant</td>
<td>Charla Bregante</td>
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<td>Custodian</td>
<td>Jaime Moreno</td>
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<td>Organist</td>
<td>Mahlon Balderston</td>
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<td>Chancel Choir Director</td>
<td>Marilee Mouser</td>
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<td>Children’s Choir Director</td>
<td>Charla Bregante</td>
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- Please contact us by phone to be sure of availability before coming by.
## BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<td>Buildings and Grounds</td>
<td>Ted Stern</td>
<td>969-0602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Pledge Drive</td>
<td>Barbara Margerum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign Planning</td>
<td>Patricia Reilly</td>
<td>966-3985</td>
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<td>Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)</td>
<td>Susan Neufeldt</td>
<td>962-9344</td>
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<td>Endowment Board</td>
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<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning</td>
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<td>563-0389</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned Giving Advisors</td>
<td>Mike Noling</td>
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<td>Room Use</td>
<td>Allen Doyle</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Ken Saxon</td>
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<td>UU President’s Roundtable</td>
<td>Bruce Hanna</td>
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## PROGRAM COUNCIL MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percy Sales</td>
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<td>Birdie Newborn</td>
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<td>Brian Hansen</td>
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<td>Joanne Nay</td>
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<td>Joanie Jones</td>
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<td>Nancy Edmundson</td>
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<td>Ken Collier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melitta Haslund</td>
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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dance Away</td>
<td>Dorothy Holland</td>
<td>967-5241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chautauqua</td>
<td>Brian Hansen</td>
<td>684-7345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Lana Haskett</td>
<td>692-1115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaleidoscope Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kaleidoscope@ussb.org">Kaleidoscope@ussb.org</a></td>
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<td>Esperanto Circle</td>
<td>Dorothy Holland</td>
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<td>Lifespan Religious Education</td>
<td>Rev. Melitta L. Haslund, Consulting Minister for Religious Education</td>
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<td>Coming of Age</td>
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<td>Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU Teen Group)</td>
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<td>Affordable Housing Task Force</td>
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<td>Hunger Task Force—Mobile Food Pantry</td>
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<td>Nancy Broyles</td>
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<td>Phyllis Dunn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flower Committee</td>
<td>Pat Kruger</td>
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<td>Hearing Assistance</td>
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<td>Peter Hale</td>
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Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
Notified Agenda for Annual Meeting June 11, 2006 – 10:00 AM Sanctuary

1. Opening – Ivor John, Board of Trustees president

2. In Memoriam – led by Reverend Kenneth Collier

3. Additions or Deletions from Agenda if one-third quorum permits*

4. Election of Board of Trustee members
   a. Slate Presentation and candidate remarks
      i. Sayre Macneil  6-30-09 term
      ii. Kathleen Boehm  6-30-09 term
      iii. John Gilbert  6-30-09 term
      iv. John Chere  6-30-09 term
      v. Aaron Brown  6-30-07 term
   b. Nominations from the floor (if any) and Election of Trustees

5. Election of Nominating Committee Members
   a. Presentation of and remarks by eligible nominees
      i. Carol Schwyzzer  6-30-09 term
      ii. Betty Noling  6-30-09 term
   b. Election of Nominating Committee Members

6. Affirmation of Covenant and Core Values

7. Annual Fiscal Plan presentation and vote

8. Reception, Discussion and Vote on Approval of Annual Reports

9. Reception, Discussion and Vote to accept Revisions to Strategic Plan

10. Reception, Discussion and Vote on Recommendations for Use of Cummins Memorial Fund Revenues.

11. Vote to proceed with Capital Campaign

12. Installation of Board and Nominating Committee

13. New Business (if any; only with 1/3 quorum)

14. Closing – Ivor John

15. Adjournment

*Quorum to conduct business: 103
*Quorum to make Additions or Deletions from Agenda: 172
# 2006-2007 Proposed Budget USSB

## Operating Budget

<table>
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<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Pledge Revenue</td>
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<td>Contributions Revenue</td>
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<td>Program Revenue</td>
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<td>Investment Revenue/Endowment</td>
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<td>Fundraising Revenue</td>
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<td>LREDA Grant</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET OPERATING INCOME</strong></td>
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## CASH FLOW BUDGET

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<td>Depreciation Add Back</td>
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<td>Cummins Contribution to Program Fund</td>
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<td>Cummins Contribution to Capital Reserve</td>
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<td><strong>Income Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Cash Flow</strong></td>
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Notes on Proposed Budget 2006-2007

Operating Revenue
- **Pledge and Contributions Revenue** based upon current year projections, and known commitments.
- **Facilities Revenue** based upon known contracts, and current year projections. This item includes rental for parsonage and schools, weddings and other room use.
- **Program Revenue** is for Danceaway. Other programs are budgeted for net zero.
- **Investment Revenue** is from Endowment. $5,000 of this figure is re-paid to endowment for loan.
- **Fundraising Revenue** is based upon current year projections, and next year’s plans. Service auction will be held in fall. Several other fundraisers are in planning stages now.
- **LREDA Grant** is a fixed amount received from third of 3-year grant to assist congregation in attaining appropriate level of compensation for Religious Education Professional.

Operating Expenses
- **Staff Expense** includes adjustments in staff salaries and associated costs (taxes/pension) per Staff Development recommendations. Minimum adjustment to each position is 2.5% COLA. Includes projected increase in health insurance costs. Includes addition of 1/3 time clerical position January 2007, to support further development of membership services by administrative staff.
- **Administration Expense** includes cost of audit review, bookkeeping, office equipment leases, supplies and interest expense. Decrease reflects lower cost of review vs. full audit.
- **Facilities Expense** includes insurances for property, liability and earthquake; regular maintenance, contract services for gardening and security, utilities, supplies, and organ maintenance.
- **Program Expense**: Includes program cost and board expenses as well as cost of Pastoral Care and Social Justice Coordinators.
- **Denominational Support** is full Fair Share to UUA and PSWD, based on official membership.
- **Interest Expense**: Interest on Blake Roof Loans and cash flow line of credit.

CASH FLOW BUDGET
- **Income**: Cummins Program and Capital Reserve are from the generous planned gift of Roy and Laurie Cummins.
- **Expense**:
  - **Program expenses**: are beyond operating budget for Program/Board approved projects. In 2005-2006 include Voter’s Action Initiative and UU Legislative Ministry of California. In 2006-2007 will be utilized for capital campaign consultants.
  - **Capital Expenditure**: Based on detailed analysis by staff and building consultants of priority projects related to safety or if deferral means significant inflation of future costs.
  - **Capital Campaign Consultants**: For Architectural and Feasibility Consultation.
  - **Debt Repayment**: Endowment loan will be fully repaid in 2006. Blake Roof loan will be fully repaid in 2010 under current financing.
During 2005-06, the Board of Stewards worked diligently to provide clear direction for our Congregation, continuing the good work of our recent Boards in pursuit of our vision. This year, the Board of Stewards consisted of: Ivor John (President), Doug Thomas (Secretary), Doug Duncan, Birdie Newborn, Brian Olson, Patricia Reilly (President-elect), Virginia Barrett, Rita Solinas, Gary Welterlen (Vice President), Joanne Nay, Beverly Sheldon, Percy Sales. Anita Blume served as Treasurer (though not as an elected Board member). In February 2006, Rita Solinas resigned from the Board, and the Nominating Committee was asked to find a replacement.

We began the year with an upbeat retreat that focused on team-building, and a detailed review of the five-year Strategic Plan adopted by the Congregation in 2004-05. It is pleasing to report how valuable the Strategic Plan has been to provide focus and direction for our Board and staff.

Based upon the Strategic Plan, the Board set some very ambitious goals for the year:

1. **Oversee the early implementation of the Strategic Plan, especially the actions that are scheduled for 2005-2006.**
2. **Restructure and revitalize Membership Committee (MC), and related Task Groups.**
3. **Revise the USSB By-laws.**
4. **Conduct our own (Board) educational process regarding transition to a new Ministerial Team.**
5. **Work with staff and Personnel Committee to develop a Staff Plan.**
6. **Identify the facilities maintenance requirements and essential improvements for the next five years, and develop detailed budgets for next five years to address these requirements.** Begin to implement these deferred maintenance action items.
7. **Conduct a cost-benefit study of facilities to determine what actions will be taken, if any, to improve earthquake resistance.**
8. **Hire a qualified professional to conduct a study of options for creating adequate office space to accommodate an expanded staff in one centralized office area.** The study shall indicate expected costs and address the likely permitting issues.
9. **Conduct a “campus enhancement study” that addresses the potential to improve the appeal of our campus including meeting rooms, bathrooms, amenities, landscaping, and street appeal.**
10. **Maintain a strong commitment to our Full Share Giving campaign appealing to all members to make Full Share pledges.**
11. **Develop a balanced Operating Budget that incorporates facilities maintenance.**
12. **Develop a plan to fully fund the Society’s Restricted Accounts.**
13. **Prepare for a Capital Campaign.**

How did we do? Overall, we have made good progress on all of these goals. Many are not yet complete, but we have witnessed an amazing amount of enthusiasm and energy for working on these goals, and morale has been very high. Our agenda was even fuller through the late summer and early fall, as the Board took time to consider what response our Congregation should take to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In November, Anne Anderson retired as the Director of Religious Education. We were fortunate that Rev. Melitta Haslund accepted our offer to direct our Religious Education programs on a temporary part-time basis as Consulting Minister for Religious Education.

There were many high notes this year, particularly with respect to the gifts our Congregation has received from our members, and our attention to fiscal responsibility:
• At the beginning of the year, we heard that the Society was the beneficiary of a very large bequest from the Roy and Laurie Cummins Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. The Society will receive a very generous sum from this Trust each year in perpetuity. The Board appointed the Cummins Fund Task Force to develop a plan for the use of these funds. The group was led by Doug Thomas and included representatives from Endowment, Finance, Stewardship, Planned Giving, Board and Administration.

• We were informed by Helen Gordon that she will be donating a very generous gift to USSB, recognizing this to be a “worthy cause that has meant a great deal to me and my late husband, the Reverend Clifton B. Gordon, who died in September of 2004”. This gift is to be shared equally with the Live Oak Unitarian Congregation for use in construction, remodeling, or upgrading the physical facilities of the two churches.

• We completed a major remodel of the Parish Hall kitchen. This work began in July and we celebrated its completion in October.

• We have lived within our means. We began the year and we are ending the year with our finances in very good order.

• In December, our leadership group attended an upbeat and spirited workshop led by Rev. Tom Owen-Towle focusing on how to grow our Congregation.

So, as the year ends, I am extremely pleased with the work this Board has accomplished. I greatly appreciate the efforts of this Board, the hard work, the commitment, and the enormous progress we have made. Also, on behalf of the Board, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for our incredibly hard-working staff and Ministerial Team, and all the committees that have contributed to the success of the Society this year.

Respectfully,
Ivor John, President

MINISTERIAL TEAM

We will not take the time here to duplicate what is said of our work together in other places. Suffice it to say that there is little that happens at the Society that the Ministerial Team is not involved in one way or another, from the day-to-day activities to long range planning. We meet together every Tuesday morning for up to two hours to discuss up-coming activities and events as well as some mid-term planning. We also meet once a month for three to four hours in a more retreat-like atmosphere to consider more visionary issues and long-term planning.

This year our work fell into two distinct segments. In the fall we worked very hard to effect a smooth and gentle transition from Anne Anderson’s administration of religious education to that of the Rev. Melitta Haslund. In the winter and spring we have worked equally hard to implement that transition and to adjust our ways of working together. This transition as been very smooth, and Melitta has been well integrated into the Team’s work.

On several occasions we have written reports to various committees and working groups that have greatly effected their work. For example, when the Staff Development Task Group began its work, we made several suggestions about what the staff might look like in 2010, and the Task Group made those suggestions the basis of their plan. Another example has been our support for the Board in its work on the
developing Strategic Plan and other long range planning efforts. In all of this, we have used the Strategic Plan as our guide in setting priorities.

In summary, we find that the Society is continuing its evolution into a bright and exciting future. Clearly there are challenges ahead. There are always challenges. But none of those challenges we can foresee are crises. They are all opportunities to move into a new era of powerful and healing ministry, both within the congregation and in Santa Barbara.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kenneth Collier, Parish Minister
Rev. Melitta Haslund, Consulting Minister for Religious Education
Nancy Edmundson, Administrator

PARISH MINISTER’S REPORT

Yet another banner year! As I write this report, we’ve had 33 new members this year; for the fourth year in a row our annual drive set a new record for pledges and for the first time ever has topped the $400,000 mark; adult religion education classes have grown substantially, both in attendance and in offerings; and adult attendance on Sunday morning averaged 165, versus 167 for the same time period last year.

There have been very few evenings over the last year when our campus has been dark. Between concerts, lectures, films, social justice projects, adult religious education classes, and other community events, we’ve been so full that we’ve actually had to turn some wonderful events away. In this regard, I want publicly to thank Ken Ralph for the wonderful work he has done using our facilities to carry the ministry of The Society beyond our walls and into the greater community. His understanding of shared ministry is an inspiration.

We have continued perfecting our Strategic Plan. You will recall that at the last Annual Meeting the congregation adopted the first Strategic Plan we have had in many, many years. That plan, as remarkable an achievement as it was, did not include some vital pieces. In particular, it did not include financial forecasts or a staff development plan. The need for financial forecasts is likely to be obvious, but perhaps a word concerning staff development is in order.

When the Rev. Sara York (then Sara Moores Campbell) resigned, our staff was just about the same as it is now. Yet we have added a net growth of approximately 140 new members. That is the equivalent of absorbing a whole church larger than the Live Oak congregation. You will notice that even though 33 people became members this year, our total membership grew by only 3. That is essentially a flat growth curve for this year. There are several reasons for this, but one of the main ones is that the current staff is stretched beyond its capacity to deliver needed services.

We all want to work toward the programming and vision that the Strategic Plan you adopted calls for, but we simply cannot do it with the current staff organization. For just one example of this, we have no clerical position, and this means that our professional staff is doing clerical work, which wastes their time and the congregation’s money. We have the staff who could be doing the work of volunteer coordination but cannot because of being burdened with clerical work. A Staff Development Plan would show us how to move beyond this impasse.

The other major work of this year has been the planning aimed toward a major capital campaign. A lot has been said about how this campaign would allow us to address several major maintenance items, and I will not address that now. What I will address is the other aspect of this planning. Think about all the things that
you said you wanted the Society to accomplish in the next several years. Most of what you asked for required enhancing our programming, both within the Society and for the entire Santa Barbara community. In a word, the plan you adopted last year called for the Society to become a major resource for Santa Barbara.

That is an ambitious and admirable idea. As noted above, we are already having to turn away worthy events and projects because our facilities will not support them. And we are beginning to feel significant pressures on our facilities from our own programming as well. There is a possibility, for example, of needing 10 classrooms next year for our Children’s RE program. In short, in order to meet the goals you set for the Society in the next several years, we will have to enhance our space and make it more usable, both for ourselves and for the greater community.

I think that this is an exciting idea. It is another example of the kind of shared ministry that Ken Ralph has demonstrated to us and is another way that we can open our ministry beyond our own walls. It would also open Santa Barbara to the ways that Unitarian Universalism changes lives and can work for a more just world. In short, not only is it a way of opening us to the community, but also it is a growth strategy.

But why would we want to grow? As far as I can tell, there are only two answers to that question. First, we should grow because there are many more people in Santa Barbara whose lives would be changed and healed by Unitarian Universalist religious ideas and ways of living than we are currently reaching. The second is that larger churches have resources that smaller churches can only dream of. And I believe that the key to both is in opening ourselves to the community and expanding out ministry beyond ourselves. This is what the proposed Capital Campaign is designed to do.

And now I am addressing the future. As you all know, I will be retiring from Parish Ministry next year about this time. So why should I care about these things? Why not just coast my way out? Good questions. It would certainly be a lot easier to coast my way out. But I cannot do that. It would be a betrayal of everything that I stand for in my ministry and all that I have worked for as your Parish Minister. Let me quote myself in a sermon from a little more than a year ago:

I feel a lot like that old farmer who planted an orchard from which he would never harvest a single apple. When asked why he was planting it, he said, “I love this farm, and I want to pass it along to those who come after me.” Well, I love this “farm,” and I want to pass it along, healthy and strong, to those who follow me.

And so I will not coast my way out. I pledge myself here and now to the making of my last year with you hard-working. I cannot plant that orchard by myself, but I can certainly do everything in my power to make sure that it is planted well and is off to a good start. It will be a year of working full-bore right up until the end.

At this point in my reports I always seem to find myself waxing a little sentimental about how good it has been working with and for you this past year. And I guess this report is no different. It has been a good year. When I see such dedication, energy, creativity, and plain good will in people coming together to create something as beautiful as The Society, it stimulates me beyond words. I have said before that being your Parish Minister has been the pinnacle of my career. Now, standing here at the beginning of the end of my career, I say it again. I have had no greater reward than being your Parish Minister and participating in the love that you bring to each other and to this congregation. And I look forward to a year of continued vitality, creativity, and growth into our collective vision of our own future.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth W. Collier, Parish Minister
Children’s Religious Education
Our Religious Education program was launched solidly by Anne Anderson, former Director of Religious Education, this Fall. With her able leadership, we began the church year with Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources for grades first thru fifth. Our preschoolers learned about Unitarian Universalist faith through concrete experiences with people and places while our sixth/seventh graders learned about the Spiritual Life of the World’s Most Animated Family, the Simpsons! Teachers taught in teams and received training from Anne around creating and adapting their own lessons. Classes began with chalice lightings and time for deep sharing with talking sticks. Children attended intergenerational services during the In-Gathering, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve Services. They also attended two services of their own in Jefferson Hall. They held a Halloween Party in the Fall and RE Family Picnics in Alice Keck Park once a month. Anne created an inviting Children’s RE Brochure.

Upon Anne’s retirement, the Board hired me, Rev. Melitta L. Haslund, as the ¾ time Consulting Minister for Religious Education. For three weeks Anne and I worked closely together so that the transition would be seamless. She helped to familiarize me with the office, computer, staff, membership and RE program. For the most part, I believe the transition went well, with, as she aptly predicted, a few “Anne-shaped” holes. She is a hard act to follow!

Together, Anne and I developed a new Winter/Spring Curriculum which focused on World Religions and held a teacher training to introduce the new materials. Children, youth and adults attended the festive Holiday Craft Party. Over the year, a total of 23 teachers taught classes.

Beginning in January, I held a Children’s Worship Service twice a month to celebrate each particular world religion studied and to honor Local UU Heroes. My intent with the Local UU Heroes service was to help strengthen our bonds between our children and adult members. Each month, local heroes shared their life stories with an emphasis on how they live in accordance with our UU principles.

With the Children’s Services, I focused on the elements of worship, wanting to make it a truly worshipful experience in a sacred space for our children and youth. I introduced a water bowl with stones symbolizing our joys and sorrows, whereby placing a stone in the water, we recognize that our lives make ripples in the big pond of life. Hymns were sung, meditation was held, stories were told and we were delighted to hear Children’s Choir for each service.

I also wanted the children to learn about the major world religions’ spiritual disciplines and the cultures. Sacred objects, scents, food, art projects and background music from each religion welcomed the children. For Taoism, Jean John taught Tai Chi and we held a Dragon Parade through the garden. With Islam, we ate dates, hummus and pita bread after learning Sufi dancing from Shelley Purcilly. We tried our hand at Arabic calligraphy as well. For Hinduism, we ate homemade dahl and naan and drank mango lassies after learning yoga from a local yoga instructor, Barbara Rose. For our study of Native American Spirituality,
we collectively made a huge medicine wheel with stones with Shelley Purcilly and listened inwardly to which direction, element or animal spirit to which we felt called. We chanted about mother earth and heard a story about the Chumash. In May, we concluded the year with a celebration for all we had experienced and learned throughout the year.

In February, I held an RE Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for all of our teachers and their families in Blake Lounge. RE Family Pizza Picnics were moved to Jefferson Lawn, where families enjoyed playing music and games together. RE families also attended the first Capital Campaign Building Committee focus group in which parents and children offered their inspired visions for our campus for the next twenty or more years.

Summer Sundays, our Intergenerational RE gatherings, will offer an interesting variety of services including: map making, walking a labyrinth, playing drums, hearing from a Unitarian Universalist violist and more! Each gathering will begin and end as a worship service and be tied into our UU principles.

Next Fall, we will receive the final installment of the LREDA Grant that Anne Anderson and the Society were awarded two years ago. I completed the annual review, which the LREDA Grant Committee approved. I will look forward to the Fall when we can create a new covenant between the Board, the Parish Minister, congregation and me as the new professional RE leader. The LREDA Grant Committee is very impressed with the Society’s support of Lifespan Religious Education and commitment to fair compensation for all staff members.

A wonderful, new Children’s RE Council officially formed in the late winter and held its first meeting on Tunnel Road hiking trail with the aim of getting to know one another and expanding our vision of possibilities for our RE program. With a little sweat and a patch of shade, Jo Saxon, Katrina Kujan, Terri Stelzer, Chrissy Cable, Charla Bregante and I came up with many rich ideas for the program, families, social justice events and more for the coming year!

**Children’s Choir**
Charla Bregante led our Children’s Choir with an attendance between four to twenty children, ages between 3 and 11. They performed almost every month, often accompanied by the Adult Choir in the Sanctuary. They also performed during each Children’s Worship Service from January through June, often twice a month.

**Child Care**
The much admired Brett Gardali resigned from Child Care Coordinator and Laura Cabanth stepped in and offered reliable and amiable child care to our youngest ones. She is joined regularly by Mallory Zaunius, Charli Parkison, Chandra and Athena Brown who offer a warm, friendly environment for our children. We are grateful to the Brown sisters as we benefited greatly from their high school requirements of community service. They donated their time for child care each Sunday morning during the months, January through May.

**Coming of Age**
Our Coming of Age program was skillfully led by Kirsten Zecher, Sayre Macneil and Ken Ralph. The class sent athletic equipment to youth in Iraq, created a haunted house for the RE Halloween Party, learned about world religions and Unitarian Universalism, met with wonderful mentors from our congregation, held a Goldsworthy beach day, went on a very damp vision quest, had a “sleepless” overnight at Matt Andreas’ home and rose early to help set up the crosses at Arlington West at the Wharf, and did a beautiful job with their COA service on May 21st. We are also making a concerted effort to help them bridge over to YRUU during the summer months and into next year.
Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)
The YRUU group began in the Fall and was reinvigorated at a special dinner/workshop in January led by Ken Ralph and me. What was clarified at that time was that the youth prefer informal gatherings in which they can talk together. Graciously, Ellen Rockne and Alex Abati offered to facilitate the group and the Rockne/Andreas family offered their home (the Parsonage) as a gathering place. The new configuration has worked with requests that they meet more often (every Sunday evening!) The group has ranged from 8 to 16 youth and we only envision the group growing more!

Ultimately, it would be preferable to have a Youth Ministry Coordinator to help coordinate youth activities to make USSB “the place to be” for progressive youth in our city. We are excited about the possibility of the Naked Music Concerts drawing the young adult crowd to USSB. I am also anxious to weave our youth into the weekly life of our church, in whatever ways they wish. I can imagine youth serving on the music, worship and the yet-to-be formed Social Justice Committee, supporting the RE program—and more!

Four wonderfully trained and able members have stepped up to offer a Teen OWL (Our Whole Lives, a curriculum about sexuality) next year.

Adult Religious Education
Last Spring, Anne Anderson held a gathering to look closely at the direction for and needs of the Adult Religious Education program. Out of that came the concept of the Core Curriculum which offers classes on Unitarian Universalist history and theology. It became evident over the course of the year that because we offer so many new courses and programs each season, we truly need to offer three brochures a year. Hundreds of people participated in our programs overall. In general, seven or more people participated per Adult RE course, with 15 courses, 3 workshops, 8 films, 6 science nights, 1 poetry café, 1 spelling bee, 1 reader’s theatre, 2 plays, 15 concerts, 4 weekly opportunities for spiritual practice, and countless small groups available for seasoned seekers, neighborhood groups, 4X4X4 potlucks, small group ministry, book groups, men, women, Carl Jung enthusiasts and more! (Please forgive me if I have unintentionally omitted a group or event.)

I held an Adult RE Appreciation Dinner in May and extended the invitation to the over 30 people who facilitated our many thought provoking and heart moving classes, movie series, concerts, plays and programs. My aim, of course, was to thank everyone on behalf of the congregation. I also intended to begin plans for the coming year, which is what we began to do. It is to the credit of the many talented and wise members that we can offer such a diverse program.

Financial Summary
The Lifespan RE program was budgeted $3000 this year which was gladly used for UUA curricula, supplies, brochures, mailing, teacher training, holiday craft party, COA Vision Quest, and food.

Other Ministerial Activities
I participate in the life of the church by offering the Story For All Ages, * joining Ken Collier for Christmas Eve, Easter, Mother’s Day and COA services, * submitting my Musings for each Kaleidoscope, * attending all Program Council, Board, Executive, planning and Committee On Shared Ministry meetings, * participating in weekly Ministerial Team and staff meetings, * meeting with Ken Collier and our
remarkable Pastoral Care Coordinator, Mary Grimm, * offering individual pastoral care for adults, children, youth and parents, * speaking at a session with the Seasoned Seekers, * providing openings and closings for the Non Partisan Voter Initiative events, * participating in the Immigration Legislation March with USSB folks, * performing weddings, and * attending social USSB events.

I delighted in offering a Parents as Spiritual Guides class in the Winter, co-facilitated the Living Well, Dying Well class in the Spring with Aaron Brown, Mary Grimm and Marjorie Shore and co-facilitated two New UU courses with Ken Collier, Nancy Edmundson and Bruce Hanna.

I attended monthly Cluster UU Ministerial Association gatherings, one LREDA Cluster gathering, the UUMA Winter Retreat, the President’s Roundtable forums, and look forward to attending the General Assembly.

I want to thank the entire staff for their warm welcome and help to bring me on board. I feel fortunate to work with such qualified and passionate people. Charla Bregante, our RE Assistant, makes our Children’s RE program run smoothly each Sunday with her care for the children and teachers and attention to detail.

Most of all, I have greatly enjoyed serving you, the congregation. It is a joy to return to active ministry and I thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to another fascinating year!

Most Sincerely,
Rev. Melitta L. Haslund

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

It is a privilege to serve USSB as your Administrator. I have enjoyed working with all the fine members and staff of our congregation, and look forward to continuing a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

I echo common themes that run throughout this complete Annual Report:
· Satisfaction at the hard and inclusive work accomplished toward our congregation’s Mission, Vision and Long Range Strategic Plan.
· Pride in our commitment to work together and honor our Covenant of Good Relations and to address our four pillars of Worship, Religious Education, Social Justice and Pastoral Care.
· Awe and wonder at the profound generosity of time, talent and resources the members and friends of USSB give to your congregation.

I complete this year loving my work and feeling that I am making a positive contribution to our congregation. The Administrative Team views our work as ministry. Our work is done in the spirit of service to Unitarian Universalism. Our Administrative Team consists of Carol Doose, Administrative Assistant, Ken Ralph, Facilities Manager, Jaime Moreno, Custodian. USSB is blessed to employ such competent dedicated individuals. They all do a commendable job in serving this congregation.

I reflect on my work this year with the use of a metaphor. I would liken my contributions to those of the organ motor and pump that reside in our basement. That may not sound glamorous, and you may not know the vital function this motor and pump provide. Many of you have never seen the motor and pump, and until know, may not have known its existence. Yet we all enjoy the beautiful music produced by Mahlon and the organ. Without the motor and pump, there might be music, but it would not have the volume, strength and impact that we all enjoy. It is my hope that my work with the other staff, volunteers and leaders of this congregation intensifies, focuses, and supports the impact that USSB has on all of our lives and work together.
The majority of administrative responsibilities fall into the following categories, all supported by significant volunteer efforts:

**Planning:** I add this section this year, as USSB has matured organizationally, and is now turning more of its leadership time and talent to planning for future years, versus one year at a time. Our congregation’s 2004-2005 Mission and Vision work and development of a 5-year Strategic Plan last year was a major step. This year I have spent significant time supporting the efforts directed toward implementing this plan. This is reflected in the work of task forces on Staff Development, Long Range Planning, Strategic Financial Forecasts, Capital Campaign and Building Planning. Our congregation is in the middle of a very important conversation. We don’t have our answers and decisions yet, and our challenge is to hold to our covenant and stay in conversation with our eyes forward on the future we have articulated for ourselves.

**Program Development:** I add this section this year as well! Last June’s adoption of the 5-year Strategic Plan resulted in more members seeing possible areas and potential programs to engage their time and talents. Over the year new initiatives in Membership (see the report on page 24) have been supported by the Administrative Team. Growth in programs also translates into support for facility scheduling, promotion and communication. Several new initiatives are worth mentioning that do not appear elsewhere in this report. These are early in development, and are definitely moving out of “incubation” and into manifested programs for us all.

- USSB Speaker’s Forum; Coordinated by Don Bushnell. This group has already held 3 forums and holds future promise for a significant contribution to USSB.
- Ministry for Earth; An initial film series was coordinated by Ivor John and Aaron Brown; and hope for the near future will be a Ministry for the Earth initiative in our congregation.
- Interfaith Voter’s Action Initiative; Coordinated by Mike Hackett. This project is awaiting news on UUA Fund for Social Responsibility Grant. The Initiative held a forum featuring George Regas on what churches can do politically, and fueled two other forums, one on values in politics, and the other on immigration legislation. At least 3 other Santa Barbara faith communities are now engaged with USSB on this project.

Finally, significant energy has been devoted this year to addressing the need for better focus and support to Social Justice activities in our congregation. This need was clearly identified in the Strategic Plan, and we are clarifying strategic steps to meet this need.

**Business Administration and Office Management:** Supported by a team of front office volunteers, newsletter volunteers, hospitality volunteers, and information technology committee, we maintain the congregation’s database and website, produce the regular publications of the Society (this report, directories, newsletters, mailings, etc.), and direct and answer your many phone and email inquiries.

**Finance and Stewardship:** I work in collaboration with our part-time bookkeeper, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Pledge Drive Committee, Endowment Board, and Budget Task Force to oversee this important aspect of congregational life. These groups strive to be responsible stewards of your generosity, and the congregation has responded with increasing generosity in all areas of giving. This year we continued with a 3-year financial plan that was first developed last year. Consistent with our Constitution, the 2004-2005 fiscal year underwent a full audit by an outside CPA. There will be an audit review for the 2005-2006 year.

**Personnel and Human Resources:** Behind the scenes, the Personnel Committee and I work to ensure compliance with labor regulations, inform the Board of Trustees on fair practice, and implement our congregation’s personnel policies including implementation of annual personnel reviews. The Committee has defined work for the coming year that includes defining audit procedures.
Facilities: The day to day maintenance, scheduling and security of our facilities and grounds, is no small task! This work would not happen without the ministry of talent and time that we call the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Room Use Committee. Please see separate reports for details on these highlights:

- The Kitchen Renovation completed construction in October. We have enjoyed this facility upgrade enormously.
- Buildings & Grounds Committee will be reorganized for the coming year.
- Supported by the Room Use Committee and Program Council we have implemented a plan of room use sponsorship.
- Implementation of our wedding outreach plans.
- Implementation of a 3-year Facilities Repair and Maintenance plan.
- Creation of a Facility Reserve Study.
- Continued implementation of our Building Valuation Study to ensure appropriate levels of insurance coverage.
- Approval of the 2006-2007 budget will allow USSB to proceed with and attend to numerous repair and safety issues.

Ministry Team: As a team, we coordinate work with our Board of Trustees, Program Council, and Committee on Shared Ministry. This year significant time and energy was prioritized to meet the challenges of the transition created by Anne Anderson’s retirement. As a team we worked hard to honor Anne’s loving and professional contribution to USSB and to welcome the future contributions of Rev. Melitta Haslund.

Professional Development: This year I attended various workshops related to administration and participated regularly in the Santa Barbara Non-Profit Resource Center Executive Director Roundtable. This month I will attend UUA GA Administrative Professional Day where UU administrators from around the US will focus on topics that include electronic communications, legal and tax updates, emergency preparedness and insurance resources. (May sound dull, but remember the pump in the basement!)

In my spare time: As a volunteer, I have enjoyed contributing my time this year as a member of the PSWD Leadership Resources Council, PSWD Organizational Consultant, USSB Services Auctioneer, USSB Teen Parent Support Group facilitator, and cast member of USSB production of Mornings at Seven.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my ministry with this incredible congregation!

Nancy Edmundson, Administrator

TREASURER’S REPORT

This year we continued to improve on the procedures for tracking our monies, following recommendations made after our audit. We have kept to the budget set up by the very able budget committee last year, and kept close track of any variances. The considerable financial skills of Nancy Edmundson combined with the outside bookkeeping service, made for a seamless audit this year.

In addition to watching over the financial operations of the Society, the Treasurer attends Finance Committee Meetings and the Endowment Committee Meetings, and gives a monthly report to the Board of Stewards.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Blume
ASSOCIATION AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

The ADR, or Association (UUA) and District (PSWD - Pacific Southwest District) Representative, is responsible for keeping an eye (primarily email) on activities of the UUA, the PSWD (Southern California, Arizona, and Las Vegas), and our Cluster (about 30 congregations from Thousand Oaks to San Luis Obispo), bringing information (such as General Assembly or District Assembly deadlines) to pertinent groups or to the whole congregation as appropriate. Since USSB is a large congregation with an adequate campus, centrally located in our cluster, we may be host to Cluster or PSWD conferences.

We entered 2005-2006 with no ADR; I served, part of the time with Lana Haskett, as an interim ADR, but I have stepped down. The position is currently open. Interested parties should make their interest known to the Program Council, or directly to the Board. No meetings, no travel required. Good scheduling skills are useful.

This year our congregation participated in Association and District Activities in the following ways:

- Continued our Fair Share status with our annual contributions. We are an Honor Congregation of the UUA. (Top fifty contributing congregations)
- Team of USSB members attended PSWD Workshop on Policy Governance.
- Team of USSB members attended PSWD Workshop on Small Group Ministry
- Team of USSB members attended PSWD/UU Legislative Ministry Workshop on Empowering Justice
- Team of USSB members/staff attended PSWD Assembly
- Team of USSB members/staff will attend UUA General Assembly in June
- Anne Anderson currently serves as a PSWD Trustee and organizational consultant
- Nancy Edmundson currently serves as a PSWD organizational consultant on the Leadership Resources Council
- Bruce Hanna chairs the UUA President’s Roundtable local steering committee for the Channel Cluster
- USSB has hosted two UUA President’s Roundtable gatherings
- Board appointed members of USSB serve on the UUA President’s Roundtable
- USSB hosted a PSWD Youth Mini-Con in November

Birdie Newborn

AUDIT COMMITTEE

On March 21, 2006 the Board of Stewards established a standing Audit Committee, authorized the Charter below, and appointed Mike Noling, Chair, Roger Horton, Kevin Peirik, Chris Butler and one board member (TBD) as committee members.

Earlier at the Audit Committee Formation Group meeting on March 2, 2006, the Committee unanimously moved to approve and accept for submission to the Board the June 30, 2005 audited financial statements and the Auditor’s Letter of Reportable Conditions/ Staff Recommendations and recommended acceptance
by the Board. Copies of the financial statements and letter as approved by the Board of Stewards are available from the Administrator, Nancy Edmundson.

**Charter Responsibilities of the Audit Committee**

- Recommends to the full Board, the retention and termination of the independent auditor (retention and discharge of the independent auditor is a Board responsibility)
- Negotiates the independent auditors’ compensation on behalf of the full Board
- Confer with auditor to satisfy its members that the financial affairs of the Society are in order
- Review and determine whether to accept the audit or audit review
- Review the Auditors’ Letter of Reportable Conditions/Recommendations and subsequent Response by the Finance Committee/Administrator and recommend acceptance by the Board
- Monitor the Implementation of the Recommendations/Response by the Finance Committee/Administrator

**Charter Membership, Officers, Terms, and Meetings**

Annually in July the Board chair shall propose to the entire Board, for approval or rejection, of the names of five candidates for membership on the Audit Committee and shall also recommend one of them to be the Chair. One shall be a member of the Board, one shall be a member of the Finance Committee, one shall be a member of the Endowment Trustees, and the remaining members shall be at large members.

The term of each member shall be one year with a limit of five consecutive terms.

The Audit Committee shall select a Secretary to record meeting minutes and prepare an annual report for the Board.

The Audit Committee shall meet at least twice annually (once to engage an auditor and second to review and accept the audit).

Submitted by,
Mike Noling, Chair

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**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

This year was the first year that the Budget Committee acted as a fully chartered committee of the Unitarian Society. In the two prior years, the group operated as an ad hoc task force that had been assembled with the help of the Finance Committee and other interested members of the congregation. However, this year we became an accredited committee and will operate as such as long as our services are needed by the Board.

The Budget Committee prepares a budget that is provided to the Board. It is not our intent to create a balanced budget—as required by our Society’s bylaws—but to provide the Board with our best estimates of the Society’s income and expenditures for the next fiscal year. In the past three years, we have not provided a balanced budget to the Board. In fact the budget we create is always out of balance on the negative side. In other words, the budget provided to the Board has higher expenditures than income to cover these expenditures. In part this is due to our philosophy to be conservative in all our assumptions. We tend to underestimate the amount of money we will receive from pledges and other income sources and we always try to be very realistic in our assessment of the expenditures for the coming year. This inevitably leads to unbalanced budgets. However, the Board is more than capable of balancing the budget we provide.

This year we also extended our budgeting forecast for an additional two years. In other words we provided the Board with a three year rolling budget. In addition to the normal line items seen in our financial reports,
we created a cash flow budget. This is very important for the Board’s decision-making. It allows the Board to differentiate between theoretical income and expenditures and actual cash available to the Society.

We met four times this year. Our typical schedule begins our meeting process shortly after the beginning of the New Year and we try to have the budget completed and to the Board by their April meeting. This allows them one to two Board meetings prior to our end of year annual meeting where the coming budget is voted on by the congregation.

The Budget Committee members are Anita Blume, Ken Saxon, Ted Stern, Patricia Reilly, Susan Neufeld, Kevin Pierik, Roger Horton and Chris Butler. Nancy Edmundson and Cindy Young (our outside bookkeeper) serve as ex-officio members of the committee. In fact, all of the detail work needed prior to our meeting is done by Nancy and Cindy. Without their contributions, we wouldn’t be able to do our jobs. They both deserve a large vote of thanks from the congregation for the important work they do to support this committee.

Our challenges for next year are to codify the charter of the Committee and have it approved by the Board. We will need to find a new chairperson, since I will not be here next year. Maintaining enthusiasm for this vital task may also be a challenge in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Butler, Chair

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Building and Grounds Committee met actively for the first 6 months of this program year. The committee is now inactive and plans are in place for the Board of Trustees, Staff and Committee members to re-vision and recharge this committee for the coming year.

The mission this past year has been to work with staff to monitor the general condition of the Unitarian Society’s facilities and gardens; to advise and assist the Facilities Manager and Administrator in planning and priority setting; collect and evaluate bids; identify new areas that need attention; and oversee aesthetic concerns. We are also the place to which congregants can bring new ideas about the care and use of our facilities.

Accomplishments of the Buildings and Grounds Committee this year:

- Aesthetics sub-committee with significant contribution of Suzanne Fairly Greene developed a facility color palette, to help unify future improvements or maintenance activities.
- Supported Ken Ralph, Facilities Manager in implementation of the major maintenance projects that were budgeted for the year. These included completion of the kitchen renovation, new roofs over the administrative offices and kitchen, sanctuary sound system upgrades and replacement hearing assistance system, trim painting, replacement of Blake Lounge
deck surface and wall cap, replacement carpeting in reception offices and classrooms and replacing the garden fountain pump cover.

- Participated in a work-party to replace the Parsonage storage shed roof
- Kevin Peirik, Ken Ralph, Facilities Manager and Nancy Edmundson, Administrator developed a facilities reserve study. This study extended the 3 year plan we developed last year to include the remaining life and replacement cost of all our major facility systems. This work helps inform our congregation’s planning process. Bob Coleman added important input to this study as a painting contractor.
- Advising and implementing Parish Garden upgrades, within limited budget. Significant work on this project has been done by Martha Green.

Committee members are Bob Coleman, Martha Green, Bob Nelson, Gary Maxwell, Ken Kruger, Ed Bookin, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Steve Johnson, Kevin Peirik and George Solinas.

Our members have varied backgrounds including: gardening, carpentry, decorating, architectural design, art, building management, and painting. Men and women of any background, with a willingness to meaningfully contribute, are welcome to join the Committee.

Submitted by
Nancy Edmundson, Administrator

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING TASK GROUP**

The **Capital Campaign Planning Task Group** was appointed by the Board of Trustees in response to the Strategic Plan adopted by the Congregation at our Annual Meeting in June 2005.

The Strategic Plan suggested that improvements and changes to our buildings would be required to accommodate the expanded programming and related staff needed to implement the Plan, beyond the repairs and maintenance typically included in our annual budget. The Plan recognized that these might exceed the amount we could reasonably expect to finance through our annual pledges, and included consideration of a Capital Campaign as an implementation strategy.

The Capital Campaign Planning Task Group undertook the preliminary steps necessary to provide information for the Board of Trustees and the Congregation to begin consideration of a Capital Campaign. Facilities Manager Ken Ralph and Administrator Nancy Edmundson conducted a physical assessment of needed repairs and maintenance throughout our campus. Using this report, the Board of Trustees has included a portion of these repairs in each year’s budget, excluding any major maintenance.

Volunteer consultant to the CCPTG, Congregation member Kevin Pierik, working with Ken and Nancy, prepared a more extensive Capital Reserve Report which considered all of our facilities, identified the functional life of the major systems (heating/plumbing, roofing, carpeting, etc.), told us how soon we might expect to replace each of these, and estimated the associated costs. It is clear that we will have to make significant investments in our “physical plant” over the next few years.

To ensure that these upcoming major repairs are well coordinated and compatible with our future needs as a thriving and growing congregation, a subcommittee interviewed five architectural firms well qualified to work with us in this process. The subcommittee recommended that the Society engage Kruger Bensen Ziemer (KBZ), and the Board has hired KBZ for this effort. The CCPTG also recommended a Building Committee of Congregation members to work with KBZ, as a sounding board and avenue for
Congregational input, as a preliminary plan is developed for Congregational consideration. The results of their work to date was be presented at the Town Hall meeting on June 4, and future meetings will be held.

At the USSB Annual Meeting on June 11, 2006 the Congregation will decide if we should continue this planning and prioritizing work over the summer in preparation for a final Congregational vote this fall on a Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign Planning Task Group has completed its work, but there will be many opportunities for you all to be heard as the Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee pick up the next phases.

I appreciate the thoughtful participation of Beverly Appleton, Don Bushnell, Dick Jensen, Ted Stern, Suzanne Fairly Green, Kevin Pierik, Ken Ralph and Nancy Edmundson in the work of the group.

PATRICIA REILLY, Convener

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COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

The Committee on Shared Ministry has a dual purpose. First and most important, COSM serves as a means for the congregation to communicate with the ministerial team (currently Ken, Melitta, and Nancy). Second, we assist the ministers and administrator with whatever issues they need and want to discuss during the meeting.

Kathleen Boehm chaired COSM for 2005-06, and the following served as members for part or all of the year: Anita Blume and Ken Saxon (for a small part of the year), Mike Getto, Paul Kretschmer, JoAnn Magistad, Terry Nelson, and Susan Neufeldt. For 2006-07 Susan Neufeldt will serve as chair, and Mike Getto, Paul Kretschmer, JoAnn Magistad, and Terry Nelson will continue as members. COSM will add two more members. Members are appointed by the Board; COSM makes recommendations and welcomes volunteers.

Projects completed during the year: (1) Exit interviews with members who had resigned in the past year; (2) Interviews with members who indicated to canvassers that they wanted to communicate a concern; (3) Assistance in the transition when Anne Anderson left and Melitta Haslund joined the ministerial team.

For 2005-06, in addition to its regular duties, COSM will assist in whatever transition activities are needed.

Susan Neufeldt

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ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is a separate corporation, and its directors receive, hold, and administer bequests and gifts for the benefit of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. These are intended for long-term investment and for providing future cash payments to the Society, while preserving or increasing the assets of the Fund.

Any member or friend interested in the financial support of our Society is encouraged to make a contribution at any time and/or to include the Endowment in their estate plan and be welcomed into the Chalice Circle for recognition. A Planned Giving program, described elsewhere in this annual report, facilitates anyone interested in supporting our Society through its Endowment Fund and provides a variety of tax-advantaged means for contributing.

As of December 31, 2005, the value of the total assets of the Fund was $736,527 and the value of the working assets of the Fund was $732,748, up from $706,693 a year earlier. Working assets had a total
return of 6.8% in 2005, net of the approximately 6% distributed to the Society. As of March 31, 2006, the working assets were $774,228, up 5.63% from year-end 2005.

Since the Fund’s inception in 1983, it has received gifts and bequests of $485,083 (the Fund’s principal), including $3,892 in 2005. In 2005, the Fund distributed $42,042 to support the Society’s operating needs. These distributions were in the form of two semiannual payments to the Society, each equal to 3% of the average “working asset value” over the prior two years.

The Fund received payments of $5,000 on the Fund’s loan to the Society. Fund assets at year-end included a loan of $3,779 due from the Society. Subsequent to year end, the Society made its semi-annual payment to the Endowment of $2,500 on April 3, 2006, leaving a balance of $1,279 that will be fully repaid from the Endowment’s next semi-annual distribution on Sept. 30, 2006.

Assets are invested in a combination of Vanguard equity and bond index mutual funds. In order to take advantage of lower expenses, all, except the international fund, are Admiral Shares. As of March 31, 2006, the Funds’ working assets of $774,228 were invested as follows: Vanguard Money Market 2.7%, Vanguard Mid-cap Index Fund 23.7%, Vanguard 500 Index Fund 16.7%, Vanguard Total Bond Market Index 13.1%, Vanguard Asset Allocation Fund 13.3%, Vanguard Smallcap Index Fund 17% and Vanguard Total International Stock Index 13.5%. In the first quarter 2006, the year-to-date total return was 5.63%.

The combined efforts of our Endowment Board Members Anita Blume, Treasurer; Barbara Margerum, Secretary and Chris Butler, along with Administrator Nancy Edmundson are very much appreciated.

Ted Stern, President

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee made great strides this year in the improvement of communications between the committee and the board. This was achieved primarily by the addition of two board members to the finance committee. This improvement in communications was the single most important achievement of the finance committee this past fiscal year.

It is understandable that many of the members of the Society view financial matters with something less than eager anticipation. However, the life blood of the Society comes from our ability to fund all the valuable programs and provide the physical structures that make the Society possible. Without money, we wouldn’t exist. It is the responsibility of the finance committee to insure that monies are spent in accordance with our annual budget, provide the board with advance notice whenever unusual financial conditions arise, and monitor the overall fiscal health of the Society. Members of the finance committee take their charge seriously, and we attempt to provide the board with timely, accurate information to make the best possible decisions for all members of the Society.

The Society was recently blessed with a generous gift from the Cummins estate. This gift will provide the Society a substantial amount of money in perpetuity. A special task force was formed to make recommendations to the board for the disposition of this wonderful gift. Several members of the finance committee served on this task force.

Our membership has changed during the past year. Barbara Kane, who has been a very valuable asset to the committee, resigned due to the demands of her job. Roger Horton has rejoined the committee after a one-year hiatus due to term limits and Patricia Reilly, a board member and next year’s board president, has joined the finance committee. Kevin Pierik, a CPA, has also joined the committee. Other members are
Anita Blume, Martha Inman Lorch, George Potter and Chris Butler—chair. Our administrator attends all finance committee meetings and provides valuable input. Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 4:00 PM, usually in parish hall and are open to Society members.

George Potter’s second, three-year term will expire this summer, and I will be leaving the committee as our family is relocated outside the Santa Barbara area. Therefore, the committee will need to find new members and a new chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Butler, Chair

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Mack Stanton, Nancy Edmundson, Doug Thomas, Patrick McMaster, and Kevin Pierik

This has been a problem-plagued year for your IT Committee, who have (mostly) kept staff computer systems up and running, despite difficulties. Aside from chasing down glitches, viruses, worms, bugs and the like, your IT Committee has:

- Implemented a "blog"-based home page for our USSB web site, with weekly updates performed by our ever-more-capable Assistant Administrator, Carol Doose.
- Switched Internet providers from Verizon to Cox (and replaced the router at the same time).
- Begun planning and implementation necessary to move our web site and electronic lists to a new service provider.
- Replaced worn-out and blurry cathode-ray monitors with LCD displays, helping to keep our staff and volunteers’ eyesight healthy.
- Implemented a DVD-based data backup process, so that our precious church records will not vanish with the crash of a hard drive.
- Created two secure wireless "hotspots", one within Parish Hall and the other in Melitta's office.

Stalwart IT Committee member Mack Stanton continues to manage many day-to-day IT tasks, including coordinating and editing Kaleidoscope, management and troubleshooting of our many and varied electronic lists, and Overhead Projector Operator Extraordinaire.

Brad Edmundson, with occasional assistance from Will Allison, has entirely managed converting and posting all of Ken's written sermons to the USSB web site -- an enormous help!

We look forward to a year not filled with electronic crises.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Thomas, Chair

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Following the Congregation’s adoption of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for USSB at the June 2005 Annual Meeting, the Board of Stewards established a standing Long Range Planning Committee to maintain and implement the Strategic Plan. The LRPC was appointed by the Board in September 2005, and met at various times during the year.
The role of the LRPC was as follows:

- To assign responsibilities for implementing the 2005 Strategic Plan.
- To determine the resources needed to fully implement the plan.
- To coordinate with each lead person or committee to develop an implementation strategy for each measurable step.
- To track progress on each measurable step until fully implemented.
- To update the Strategic Plan on an annual basis.
- To make routine reports on progress to the Board of Stewards.

During the year, the LRPC worked closely with the Board to begin work on an assessment of the resources needed to implement all measurable steps in the plan, and to work on some of the more demanding goals in the Plan. These included a review of staffing needs, an assessment of the condition of our facilities and ways to improve their functionality, and initial planning for a Capital Campaign.

**Staffing Needs**

For staffing, a Staff Development Task Group was formed with Doug Thomas as chair, with a charge to describe a five-year staff plan that supports the realization of the goals in the Strategic Plan. The Group developed a set of recommendations, which at year-end were being considered by the Board and the Congregation. Some of the more important recommendations were to call an Associate Minister, add a half-time Director of Children's Religious Education, create a half-time Music Director position, and convert the Facilities Manager to full time. The Group also made recommendations about when these positions would be added, and they provided an estimate of the associated budget implications. No staffing decisions have been made. The Board and Long Range Planning Committee will use this report for future conversations with the congregation. *Staff Development Group – Doug Thomas (chair), Deb Karoff, Ken Collier, Joanne Nay and Ken Saxon.*

**Condition of Our Facilities**

During the year, our Facilities Manager (Ken Ralph) worked closely with Nancy Edmundson, Kevin Peirik, and others to identify immediate and essential repairs that need to be made to our facilities, and to develop a capital reserve study of all the facilities and equipment to be sure we can meet long-term maintenance needs. They also began work on a “Campus Enhancement Study”, and the potential need for more space and offices to accommodate additional staff. To help with this planning effort, the Board contracted with Kruger, Bensen, Ziemer (KBZ), Architects, to prepare a schematic design for presentation to the Congregation before deciding on whether to proceed with the Capital Campaign.

**Building Planning Committee**

In April 2006, the Board established a Building Planning Committee of Congregation members to work with the architect, and provide input and feedback as ideas are developed. This committee conducted focus groups with small groups from the Congregation to solicit ideas for the facilities improvements, and they reviewed the work progress of the architect as the schematic drawings were developed.

**Capital Campaign**

Patricia Reilly chaired the Capital Campaign Planning Committee. This committee was formed in response to one of the goals in the Strategic Plan which called for a Capital Campaign as a way to fund the work on facilities enhancement. The Committee selected UU consultant Larry Wheeler to help with this effort. *Capital Campaign Planning Committee – Patricia Reilly (chair), Don Bushnell, Beverly Appleton, Dick Jensen and Nancy Edmundson.*

**Strategic Financial Projections**

The Long Range Planning Committee took input from these various studies to develop a set of strategic financial projections to give an indication of what the operating and capital costs are expected to be over
the next five years if the Strategic Plan is fully implemented. The projections also include assumptions on membership growth and pledges to support the projections of anticipated revenue. These projections were presented to the Congregation prior to the Annual Meeting in June 2006.

The Long Range Planning Committee plans to conduct a thorough review of the Strategic Plan during 2006-07, and issue an update later in the year. The work of this committee and the work groups mentioned above is vital for the Board to be able to make informed decisions about our future. *Long Range Planning Committee—Ivor John (chair), Betty Noling, Nancy Edmundson, Doug Thomas*

Thanks to the many, many volunteers and staff who participated in this important Planning effort!

Respectfully submitted,
Ivor John, Chair

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**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Membership Committee purpose is to promote personal interactions among congregational members and friends. We hope to have fun getting to know and caring for each other, to complement and supplement the Pastoral Care process.

Please contact Bruce Hanna if you are interested in participating. Bruce Hanna was chair for ‘05-‘06 and will be chair for the ’06-‘07 year. Our focus for the next few years is described in the Strategic Plan.

The Committee made good progress on the year’s goals. Major events are shown below. My earnest thanks to the several members who supported these and other efforts, even though they are not all named here. Some “membership” pertinent events were shared with RE, even the Services Auction. The primary events and sponsors included:

- **New Member Gatherings**: (3 held Warnock’s, Bev Sheldon’s, and Collier-Anderson’s homes)
- **Neighborhood Groups**: coordinated by Joanie Jones (see report below)
- **Connecting Faire**: (Percy and Bruce coordinated; many people represented activities)
- **UCSB Arts and Lectures**: (Catherine Masi and Bruce facilitated gatherings)
- **Path to Membership**: (Bruce for Membership)

**Small Groups**

A developing area which poses great opportunity and challenge for the congregation is development of a systematic process for creating and sustaining Small Groups open to participation by anyone in the congregation. This initiative was identified through an Adult RE class facilitated by John Warnock and Bruce Hanna. New members Ross and Suzanne Beauchamps, and Don Bushnell as well as Minister Emeritus Lex Crane provided much background work and ideas for mounting coordinated programming within this area in the coming years. The emerging effort was noted in the Kaleidoscope and all are invited to participate. The Board and Program Council support the idea pending appropriate resources for the significant effort required to carry out the enterprise successfully. Hopefully some form of small scale pilot will be pursued next fall to gain experience and set appropriate congregation-wide expectations.

Report by Bruce Hanna

**Neighborhood Network Groups**

Over the past year an idea has come to fruition with the help of Society members who were interested in the Strategic Planning process around the topic of Membership and Pastoral Care. The idea was to have groups of UUs who live near one another join together four times per year to get to know each other better.
After a map of households of our Society members and friends was made by Joanie Jones and Joanne Nay, and the idea of Neighborhood gatherings of Unitarian Universalists and friends was floated, many members came forward and said they would help facilitate their neighborhood group, hold the list, and learn about activities that would help in the connecting process. Fifteen neighborhoods were defined mainly on geographical proximity of members and friends’ homes. Lists of neighborhood groups were created and updated for the volunteers and hosts by NN Coordinator, Joanie Jones. Address labels were created by our administrative assistant, Carol Doose, to help facilitate invitations to the potluck gatherings in the neighborhoods or at other convenient locations including Parish Hall, La Paz, Blake Lounge or at Live Oak UU Congregation.

The facilitators had one fall gathering, facilitated by Joanie Jones and Nancy Edmundson, to be introduced to the NN concept and to practice “getting to know you activities” for future neighborhood gatherings.

The purpose of our gatherings is to meet other UUs and connect in interesting ways several times per year, to have a neighborhood of UUs that you know. All attendees will get to know something new about each person who attends (not a cocktail party) and also help host gatherings. People will begin to identify members and friends who live around them and see one another after services, at events and UU adult educational programs. This is not the same as a small group ministry, with each individual having undivided attention to share on a theme for 5 minutes. Nor is it fundraising, stewardship or for immediate pastoral emergencies.

Many of our Unitarian Society members and friends have had an opportunity to experience their Neighborhood Network or be invited to attend a gathering.

Please join me in thanking again facilitators from Solvang to Carpinteria:

Joanie Jones, Neighborhood Network Coordinator

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is a group of six congregants who have been members for at least three years. Our job is to seek out congregation members who will be a good fit for the foreseeable work of the Board and ministerial search committees. We make our recommendation to the congregation, which then has the opportunity to formally select by vote the people we have nominated. Our current Board is a positive and dynamic group who are the right people at the right time. We hope to continue to get the right folks into the open positions and nominate a representative mix of members for the seven positions of the ministerial search committee when the time comes.

We have been asked to contribute to the Program Council in the same way. So, essentially we look for capable leaders to guide our beloved community. We are a known entity, and we are open to suggestions from anyone in the Congregation. We have a breadth of experience (most Nominating Committee members are former Board members) and we are connected to USSB in a variety of ways, but we don’t know everyone. We are always on the lookout for people interested in serving our Congregation in leadership positions.
We spend no money. We get together very rarely and do most of our work individually, while checking in on email. We get together to compile a list of potential candidates. We look at skill set, ability to work well with others, availability, diversity, etc. Then we say really glowing things about everyone on the list (that is the fun part). We establish an order, and individually begin asking people if they are willing to serve. This year has gone pretty well, although you all are a very busy group. Not having enough time is the number one reason people turn us down. Most everyone we asked really thought hard about whether it could be fitted in to their lives.

My husband, Doug, is of the opinion that everyone should serve on the Board at one time or another. I would say that perhaps it wouldn’t be a good fit for everyone. But if a Nominating Committee member asks you, know it is a compliment and consider it well, because it means that you, personally, would be the right person for the job.

Bruce Hanna   Colin Jones   Terry Nelson
Jo Saxon       Chuck Wolfe    Jody Thomas, Chair

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Jensen, Jody Thomas, Co-Chairs

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee met electronically this year. Members of the committee include Ross Beardsley, chair (through March, 2006), Melinda Staveley, Sally Hinton, Gary Welterlen, and Nancy Edmundson, Administrator.

The Personnel Committee role is primarily consultation and policy review and approval. Policy and procedure implementation is by Nancy Edmundson, Administrator. The committee convenes to review personnel issues or to consider the need for policy or revision of policy that will impact the human resource functions of the Society.

Members of the Personnel Committee have also served in the past year on position interview and performance review panels. Significant support was provided to Anne Anderson’s retirement process and the letter of agreement process for Melitta Haslund, Consulting Minister of Religious Education. Deb Karoff (past Personnel Committee member) has served on the Board appointed Staff Development Task Force.

The Administrator has consulted with the Personnel Committee via telephone and email on salary ranges, performance reviews, legal issues, negotiation of insurance benefit contracts and policy implementation.

The Committee would like to add an additional member or two for the coming year, and a new chair will need to be identified. Please contact Patricia Reilly, President-elect if you are interested.

Respectfully Submitted
Ross Beardsley, Chair

PLANNED GIVING ADVISORS

The year 2005-06 was a wonderful year for our Planned Giving program.

Our USSB program is aimed at helping all of our members and friends in three important ways:
- First to assist and encourage each of us to plan ahead and get our affairs in order by setting up a will and estate plan that will result in your remaining resources going to those that matter most to you and not to pay unnecessary taxes.
- Second, make a health care proxy that assigns a trusted person to make decisions for you if you become incapacitated.
- And then finally, the program encourages including those groups in your plans that matter a great deal to you and to leave a legacy to those groups, hopefully that includes this congregation.

On October 9 the Planned Giving Advisors held a Planned Giving Workshop on “end of life issues” after the service that was led by Dick Jensen and Mary Grimm. Topics included how to address concerns for end of life care, medical directives, Powers of Attorney, wills, trusts, and a general discussion on financial intentions.

In his November 6 in his sermon, “A Living Heritage”, Ken Collier recognized the most generous planned gift in the memory of the congregation. Laurie and Roy Cummins had designated USSB as the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust that will leave a rich on going annual gift in perpetuity. The annual proceeds will be distributed to the Endowment Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and to the Roy and Laurie Cummins special Memorial Fund.

This Heritage Sunday service also celebrated our Chalice Circle members. Mike Noling encouraged all members and friends to embrace the program and join Chalice Circle. Following the service, Chalice Circle members met at the Noling home for a recognition luncheon and good fellowship.

Then in the February 5 service, we celebrated Helen Gordon’s very generous gift of income property to USSB and Live Oak on her behalf and for the memory of beloved Cliff Gordon.

The some seventy current Chalice Circle members are listed with this report. All have wills, health care proxies and have found it possible to include the Unitarian Society or our Endowment in their estate plans. Significantly twenty members joined the Chalice Circle in the current year. The congregation thanked all for leaving a legacy for future generations of UUs.

We also recognized the Planned Giving Advisors who have volunteered to provide guidance to our members in arranging for living wills, health care proxies and planned giving programs. The Planned Giving Program is guided by Policy Guidelines and Principles approved by the Board. Advisors are appointed by the Board. They are eager to assist the congregation with information, guidance and referrals to attorneys who are expert in the field of estate planning. Planned Giving brochures and materials are available from the Administrator.

The Advisors share a common dream… that all our members and friends will have wills, health care proxies, and each of us will find something, however large or small, to put in that Estate plan to remember this congregation. We encourage all our members and friends to embrace this dream!

Planned Giving Advisors,
- Chris Casebeer
- Bill Crawford
- Anna DiStefano
- John Warnock
- Mary Grimm
- Bruce Hanna
- Ivor John
- Dick Jensen
- Colin Jones
- Barbara Kane
- Joan Livingston
- Jerry Martin
- Harriet Miller
- Ted Stern
- Doug Thomas
- Mike Noling, Chair
The Chalice Circle

Providing Strength and Stewardship to the Society For Generations to Come

CHALICE CIRCLE MEMBERS

Brian Andreas & Ellen Rockne
Billings Gift
Dorothy Boothe
Elizabeth Buell Gift
Larry & Fran Brundall
Don Bushnell
Chris Casebeer
Mary Chubb
Carnzu Clark
Ken Collier & Anne Anderson
Dick Cousineau
Lex & Ginny Crane
Laurie & Roy Cummins Estate
Jared Dawson & Kathleen Boehm
DeArriaz Estate
James DeJuren Estate
Anna DiStefano & Deb Karoff
Phyllis Dunn
Nancy & Alan Edmundson
Eichorn Estate
Peter Foot Estate

Benjamin Frank Estate
Mildred Frisbee Estate
Bob & Pat Fulmer
Margaret Getman Estate
Helen Gordon
Mary Grimm
Charles W. Hague Estate
Bruce Hanna
Roger & Eileen Horton
Richard & Bonnie Jensen
Jean & Ivor John
Colin & Joanie Jones
June Kelley
Joan Livingston
Julie Lopp
Al & Betty LoMele Gift
Steve Malott
Donald & Barbara Margerum
Harriet Miller
Paul and Joanne Nay
Bob & Marianne Nelson

Mike & Betty Noling
Northman Estate
Bob Pinkerton Estate
Peter & Ruth Pocock
George & Laurie Potter
Ken & Jo Saxon
Schmidhauser Gift
Julie Schneideman Estate
June Schuerch
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Sheehan Gift
Minna E Smith Trust
Jack & Judy Stapelmann
Ted & Kay Stern
Gladys Swackhamer Estate
Mary Lou Thompson Estate
Hal & Joanne Thornton
USSB Gifts
Linda Van Buren
John & Dorothy Warnock
Anonymous Gifts

If your name should appear on this list, please contact Nancy Edmundson, Administrator.
ROOM USE COMMITTEE

The Room Use Committee (RUC) formulates and oversees room use policy. We help set scheduling and fee priorities in consultation with staff. This year our membership included George Solinas, Bob Roan, Ken Ralph (staff), Nancy Edmundson (ex officio) and Allen Doyle, chair. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 8:15 AM. Allen will be stepping down as chair and Bob Roan has resigned. Other new members will be sought this summer. Nominations may be submitted to the chair or Nancy Edmundson.

This year USSB room use policy has been very helpful to groups with minimal financial resources who provide unique services to the Santa Barbara community. The Wilderness Youth Project utilizes our space approximately 3 times a month for trainings and meetings at minimal or no fees. The Naples Coalition, which provides stewardship for the coast east of Ellwood, hosted a major fundraiser in Parish Hall and the Garden, as well as informational meetings, at no cost. The “Naked Music” series supports local environmental and social justice groups and pays no rent for its monthly concerts in Parish Hall. The Academy of Healing Arts (AHA) has been granted free use of Jefferson Hall every afternoon as it successfully empowers “at risk” teens in our community. The Share the Word program gets free weekly use of one of our classrooms to provide peer counseling training to high school students on how to recognize and prevent domestic violence. The Mankind Project utilizes our space for reduced fees on a regular basis. Health Care for All is given space for an organizing meeting and speaker trainings. Advocacy Press of Girls Inc. will also use our facility later this month for a training workshop on issues of women’s economic justice. Many other one-time users have enjoyed the support of USSB through reduced rental fees.

Congregation events have first priority and generally have had adequate space and time slots. “Spiritual partnerships” continue successfully. These classes and events give free or reduced admission to members, thus broadening USSB programs. Our current Spiritual Partnership includes: Lark’s Yoga, Tuesday Night Sangha, Early Morning Exercise, and Toastmasters.

For the second straight year room use revenues increased by about $10,000 to approximately $60,000, and exceeded budget projections. (This does not include rent from the parsonage or Starr King day care. The board handles these matters directly.) Expenses directly related to room use were less than $5,000. Setting fees in a simple way will always be a challenge. Each rental is unique in duration, membership, ability to pay, relevance to USSB mission, and the age, gender or culture of participants, for example. Our staff continues to ably assist renters and evaluate their agreements. The RUC checks in when they have questions and gives them feedback.

Our new definition of “sponsored events” had mixed success. The idea is that all scheduling and oversight responsibilities (reservations, deposits, paid staff at large events) stay the same, while the proposing committee uses a “sponsorship budget” to offset room rental fees. The Music Committee has utilized this format effectively and sponsored over one dozen events. Social Justice Committee sponsored Electile Dysfunction, Veteran’s for Peace, and Dahr Jamail, for example.

Allen Doyle, Chair

SERVICES AUCTION

The services auction is a yearly event to help raise much-needed funds for the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. This year’s services auction was held November 5, 2005.
The theme of the 2005 auction was The Round-Up at USSB! The services auction incorporates a silent, big board and live auction with ongoing entertainment and food to liven up the evening and to create a social atmosphere for all. The services auction is also a time when the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara family can come together to support, encourage and help the efforts of our congregation.

This year’s services auction was a success due to everyone at the society. Without the donations, assistance and drive of each member of the congregation we would have not been able to set a new fundraising marker for the Society. The committee consisted of:

Percy Sales, Chair                       Bob Roan, Computer systems support
Donnis Galvan, Auction Acquisition       Cindy Young, Bookkeeping
Peter Hale, Big Board Auction            Bunnie Chapman, Chili Cook-Off
Ellen Rockne, Linda Williams, Entertainment Joanie Jones, Registration
Doug Thomas and Nancy Edmundson, MC      Carol Doose, Administrative Back-up

In addition, there are many people who helped with every aspect of the event.

The Auction Committee meets monthly starting in August. If you are interested in being on the committee or helping with the event, please contact Percy Sales at (805) 684-4910 or Nancy Edmundson, Administrator at (805) 965-4583. The 2006 Services Auction will have all the sparkle and wow of Las Vegas and we anticipate it being the largest services auction yet.

This year the services auction raised a net of $28,205, after spending $3,242 to produce this event. This is the most the services auction has ever brought in to the Society.

We look forward to producing and making the services auction event larger in coming years, and we are counting on everyone to help us attain our goals. Start thinking of what you can offer in this year. We look forward to Living La Vida Loca in November!

Thank you for your ongoing support,
The Services Auction Committee.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

During 2005-6, the Stewardship Committee of the Unitarian Society focused its attention on continuing to educate the congregation about the importance of generous pledging as well as the Full Share giving guidelines. Pledging is critical to our congregation, in that it represents approximately 70% of our annual revenue.

Thankfully, we have a passionate and enthusiastic membership, as well as terrific leaders and volunteers for our Stewardship effort. In planning the 2005-2006 Stewardship Campaign “Gratitude & Giving”, we benefited from the outstanding leadership of Barbara Margerum. Barbara did an extraordinary job inspiring all of us about what we can do to make our community even stronger.

Results achieved in this year’s pledge campaign included an increase in average and median pledge for our congregation as well as a record number of members and families pledging a Full Share gift or their intention to get to that level within three years. In addition, the Stewardship Committee hosted its first Full Share recognition dinner in February; a great time was had by all.
Another highlight was the first joint Membership/Stewardship event held for new members. John and Dorothy Warnock played host to this excellent event, which worked to improve and speed up the integration process of new members into the congregation. Thanks to John and to Bruce Hanna of the Membership Committee for making this great idea a reality.

All of our Stewardship activity this year was made possible by an outstanding group of volunteers on the Stewardship and Pledge Drive Committees. Some of the more active participants included Chris Appleton, Virginia Barrett, Don Bushnell, John Gilbert, Sally Hamilton, Bruce Hanna, Dick Jensen, Max Neufeldt, Susan Neufeldt, Ellen Rockne, Carol Schwyzer, Beverly Sheldon, John Warnock and Gary Welterlen. Thank you all!

In addition, the Pledge Drive and Stewardship Committees received extraordinary staff support. In particular, all this work and the results achieved would not have been possible without the great work of Nancy Edmundson and Carol Doose. Thank you both!

Please remember, Stewardship is the job of each of us. If we do a good job at this responsibility, we can continue providing an inviting and dynamic spiritual home for ourselves and our community.

Ken Saxon, Chair

PROGRAM COUNCIL REPORTS

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Working in coordination with the Board, the mission of the Program Council is to see that the needs of the USSB congregation are being met, by helping new programs get started, and by finding creative ways in which existing committees may work better.

The Program Council has had a very busy year, making sure that we stayed focus to the strategic plan and develop and support programs that are vital in meeting the needs of our congregation. One new program that the council has helped to develop is the Non-Partisan Voter Education Initiative, led by Mike Hackett. This new program ties in our Social Justice commitment to the larger community, empowers our members with information regarding politics and gives us the ability to network and work with other congregation in the Santa Barbara area.

The Program Council has helped to provide a myriad of support to such causes as Walk for Togetherness, UU Legislative Ministry, and the YRUU Conference, just to name a few. Additionally, the Program Council has been in support of several social justice initiatives and programs that the Society supports in a variety of ways. (see report page 39)
Spiritual Partnerships, and initiative of our Room Use Committee, enhances the USSB program offerings. Our current Spiritual Partnership includes: Lark’s Yoga, Tuesday Night Sangha, Early Morning Exercise, and Toastmasters.

The departure of our Social Justice coordinator, Barbara Sachs, has left Social Justice in need of revitalization. After extensive discussion with the Ministerial Team, the Program Council voted to re-establish the Social Justice position which the Ministerial Team is currently working on filling. Additionally, The Empowerment Program at the Society will focus on in-house groups such as the Mobile Food Pantry, The Education Task Force, Community Kitchen, Open Flame, The California UU Legislative Ministry, and the Non-Partisan Voter Education Initiative. This will help us better support our own congregation while filling the need of the members of our Society. We thank Barbara Sachs for her commitment to Social Justice.

New programs or ideas in the pipeline are Ministry for Earth, Social Justice Corner in the Kaleidoscope, and new programs that will entice and involve all members of our congregation. Continuing programs include Chautauqua, which had two wonderful shows this year, Amazing Grace and Morning’s at Seven and ARE classes that have some outstanding programs for adults to be involved with.

The Program Council looks forward to another year in 2006-2007. We look for your support of the programs at USSB and as always if you have something that you would like to start at the Society, visit us at one of our meetings or contact Percy Sales, Program Council Chair, at (805) 684-4910.

Program Council members are Ellen Rockne, Brian Hansen, Joanne Nay, Birdie Newborn and Percy Sales. Submitted by: Percy Sales

THE ALLIANCE

In 1876, some Santa Barbarans met in members’ homes to read sermons by leading Unitarian ministers of the day. Our Society was officially organized from this group.

Later the Alliance began, with its devotion to Unitarian values. Its objectives were:
- To raise money for Society necessities
- To gather for sociability and enjoyment

This tradition continues to the present.

Due to the existence of the Alliance, our Unitarian Society has been the recipient of many gifts: stained glass widows, pew cushions, chairs and tables, sanctuary lighting, hearing assistance, a piano bench, kitchen upgrades, etc.

We give generously to many non-profits in the community from the Community Kitchen to Veterans for Peace. Our White Elephant Sale provides the funds for these gifts. This past year we gave a total of $1,200.00 to ten non-profits.

A festive atmosphere with flowers and decorations mark our meetings on the first Friday of every month at 2:00 PM during the months of October to June. Stimulating speakers inform us on various subjects such as the environment, domestic violence, Santa Barbara history, etc. Speakers come from the community, as well as from our Society membership. Dues are $15.00.

All members and friends of the Unitarian Society are welcomed at our meetings by a devoted and excellent Board of Directors.

Phyllis Dunn, President
As we have from the beginning, the aim of Chautauqua has always been to provide enjoyable and meaningful family and arts events that reflect the four pillars of our society: Social Justice, Education, Worship, and Pastoral Care.

We try, as much as possible, to feature theatrical presentations that illustrate or ask questions about society and justice. Following the success of our previous fall Reader’s Theatre productions, Chautauqua opened the 2005-06 season with another Reader’s Theatre offering, an original script by Brian Hansen based on Vivian Gornick’s book, First, The Party, a collection of interviews of former Communist Party members, which explored the history of the movement and all the positives, negatives, enthusiasms and ambiguities of ordinary Party membership. Our cast of society members: George and Rita Solinas, Jacqueline Gist, Birdie Newborn, Norm Loukes, Brian Hansen and Linda Williams were directed by Brian Hansen, ably assisted by Lowell Dabbs, and performed the piece twice, first at a Sunday matinee, followed by a Sunday evening performance.

We followed up with our annual Spelling Bee, Pie Auction and Ice Cream Social, a (hopefully) educational evening for fun and families. This time, after our regular youth and adult events, we instituted Tag Team Spelling in an improvised wrestling ring. Our winning team for 2005 consisted of Birdie Newborn and Jacqueline Gist.

In January we celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. with Amazing Grace, another Reader’s Theatre performance, with a script compiled and adapted by Jaine Toth and directed by Meredith McMinn. Brian Hansen appeared as one of the readers, along with non-society members Jaine Toth, Rev, Charles Coffee, and Tenecia Gregory. The readers were supported by the gospel music of Mama’s Voices, under the direction of Peter Hernandez. The production played only one night in Parish Hall, to a capacity crowd, and was reprised later at the Santa Barbara Main Library for Rosa Parks’ Birthday.

In February we again co-hosted Poetry Café, assisting Laurie Potter, Mary Chubb, Sharon Harris, members of the Spontaneous Poets and other poetry lovers. John Douglas provided soft jazz piano accompaniment for the event for the second year in a row. We discovered once more how many talented writers we have in the society.

This season’s final event, and arguably its most ambitions, was a fully staged production of Paul Osborn’s heartwarming and true-to-life comedy Morning’s at Seven, directed by Brian Hansen and assisted by Jacqueline Gist. With the help of Brian Hansen and Max Neufeldt, Parish Hall was turned into the backyard of the Swansons and the Boltons, two sisters and their husbands who have lived next door to one another throughout their married lives, with grass, trees, stumps, picket fences and banging screen doors. John Chere and Linda Williams played the Swansons, Paul Nay and Jaine Toth, the Boltons; Bruce Hanna appeared as the Bolton’s unmarried son Homer, with Nancy Edmundson as his fiancée (of seven years) Myrtle Brown. Rounding out the cast were Anna Jensen as unmarried sister Aaronetta, who has lived with the Swansons for “about forty-five years” and Joanne Sears and John Warnock as fourth sister Esther and her husband David, who live down the street. Audiences saw a bit of themselves as well as friends and family members they remembered from their childhood in the everyday (and not-so-everyday) ups and downs of the characters in this gentle show.

As we do every year, we want to thank the members and staff of the Society who continue to support our efforts in every way. The Society is generous with money, space, time, and other resources. The income from Chautauqua events is used to support the events and productions themselves; this year we have a little
surplus and are planning to use it to purchase a portable lighting system (additional lights, light trees to support them, and dimmers) that can be used not only for Chautauqua events in Parish Hall but for other events both inside and outside the Society.

Our cadre of volunteers is very loyal, but there is always room for involvement in Chautauqua, either on the stage or behind the scenes, and we invite anyone who would like to get involved in any capacity to telephone us at 684-7345. Also, auditions and upcoming events are always announced in the events section of the Sunday Order of Service and in the Kaleidoscope. We will be planning our season for next year this summer and welcome any and all ideas and suggestions.

Brian Hansen and Linda Williams

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**DANCE-AWAY COMMITTEE**

On April 7, 2006, Dance Away celebrated its 28th anniversary as a USSB program. It consists of free-form dancing to continuous recorded contemporary music every Friday evening between 7:30 and 10:30 PM, and is designed to encourage creative movement, vigorous physical exercise and emotional release for people of all ages (including children and white-haired prancers). We furnish bottled water to our dancers; and moving to spontaneous drumming from 8:40 to 9:00 PM is still popular. Dance Away is alcohol- and smoke-free, and through its suggested $5 admission donation ($1 for accompanied children) it has contributed over $2,000 to the Society's general fund this past year, after paying its staff, which consists of a pool of 8 DJs, a Senior Manager (Mike Thornley), and two door-staff (the latter act as cashiers and checkers). We are grateful to our dedicated workers; without them DanceAway couldn't happen.

Decisions regarding DanceAway policy and administration are made by the DanceAway committee, which meets on the first Friday of each month from 6 to 7 PM. This year two of our members resigned (USSB members Birdie Newborn, after 5 years, and Jean John, after 2 1/2 years). The committee currently consists of 2 USSB members (Dorothy Holland and Carol Preston) and 3 community members (Jim Bement, William Swan, and Kate Zeiss). Their faithful dedication is greatly appreciated. Dorothy will continue as chair.

DanceAway attracts between 30 and 60 participants each week. Thanks to cooperation with USSB (especially Facilities Manager Ken Ralph), DanceAway has happened every Friday during the past year! When Parish Hall is in use, we are scheduled in Jefferson Hall, which is smaller and requires paying for a sound system. That happened only 12 times this past year. On December 9, we had a benefit for hurricane relief.

We have continued our efforts to strengthen reciprocal relations between USSB and DanceAway by inviting USSB members to attend free of charge, and by making information about USSB events available at DanceAway. If you enjoy moving to music, we invite you to give DanceAway a try!

Dorothy Holland, Chair

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**ESPERANTO CIRCLE**

The Esperanto Circle of Santa Barbara is dedicated to the teaching, use, and promotion of the international language Esperanto, which was created 119 years ago to facilitate communication between individuals speaking different languages without giving anyone an unfair advantage. Esperanto is based on European languages, but its grammar is streamlined and logical, making the language much easier to learn. Esperanto also has an extensive literature (original and translated) and a world-wide network of thousands of users in over 100 countries. It has many things in common with Unitarianism, including respect for the worth of every individual, and seeking harmony among all peoples.
Our meetings are held from 2:30 to 4:30 PM the 2nd Saturday of the month in LaPaz Lounge. They are conducted in Esperanto, but visitors are welcome, and translations are made when needed. At this year's meetings we heard reports on Esperanto conventions and discussed vacations abroad, favorite Esperanto books, family year-end holidays, and colors. We also listened to an Esperanto translation of a children's story written and illustrated by one of our members. During International Friendship week in February we sent postcards to Esperanto clubs in Tychy (Poland) and Yalta (Ukraine). Annual dues are $5, which covers postage for our monthly newsletter.

On February 14, fellow Unitarian Mayor Marty Blum, on behalf of the Santa Barbara City Council, presented us with a Proclamation declaring the last week in February International Friendship Week in Santa Barbara. We also had a table on U.N. Day at City College.

Our major project this year was helping to establish an Esperanto correspondence course in Africa by sending an Esperanto textbook and tape, plus money for the purchase of tape-recorders and blank tapes, and for copying tapes and textbooks. This material has been distributed to Togo, Ghana, Burundia, Nigeria, the Kongo, Benin, and Malavia.

Esperanto is a great tool for personal contact with other cultures through travel, correspondence, and literature. If this appeals to you, we invite you to attend our meetings and/or start learning Esperanto via a local class, correspondence course, or the net.

Dorothy Holland, Coordinator

KALEIDOSCOPE

Our Society’s biweekly newsletter, Kaleidoscope, results from the combined efforts of many dedicated people. There are the countless staff and congregation members who submit the articles and announcements; the layout editors who gather, organize, copy-edit, and prepare the final masters (and see to email and web site postings); the office staff and volunteers who proof and run off the 500 or so copies on our in-house machinery; and the volunteers who see to the labeling and mailing. Volunteers this past year have included the following.

Editing and layout: Marlene Neushul, Mack Stanton, and Nancy Van Antwerp.

Proof-reading and final copy editing: Anne Johnson, Joanie Jones, June Kelley, Paul Nay, David Smallwood.


Anyone interested in helping with these activities is invited to call the office.

Mack Stanton
LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The USSB Library Committee had another successful year in fulfilling our mission to promote reading among the members of the congregation by facilitating the borrowing of books with the maintaining of the library in Parish hall and the responsible choosing of new books.

The Library Committee meets on the third Sunday of every month at 12PM in La Paz lounge. A person may join the committee by attending a meeting and stating an interest in becoming a member. Current members are: Lesley Alexander, Isabelle Burleigh, Louise Carty, Eileen Clark, Mary Chubb, Michael Forster, Mike Getto, Sharon Harris, Lana Haskett(chair), June Kelley(Co-Chair), Mary Ann Macintosh, Nancy Palke, Alan & Cynthia Smith, Margaret Vangelisti, Shirley Wolfe. Bert Shaw, a long time member moved to Florida in July of last year.

In December we had a potluck holiday party. Each member brought a book wrapped as a gift to the library. Then we each opened one gift. It was lots of fun and the library received more books!

Our annual book sale, which is our only source of funding, was held in March this year. We received fewer donations of books this year. Our total sales, $2,483.90, were down from last year. We had $1,577.07 left in our account from last year. That plus this years total sales gave us a grand total of $4,060.97. Our Saturday sales and attendance stayed high. Based on our records it appears that we have consistently made less money when the sale has been held in March instead of April. I booked next year’s sale in April. We donated $200 to the children’s RE library.

Our goals for next year will be to create more space for shelving movies and books; buy more documentary films; continue to buy books from the UU store and Beacon Press; and increase our sales at next years book sale.

We are grateful for the continued support of the church board and the minister in our ongoing mission. We are thankful for the generous donations of books and movies by the congregation and the supportive donation of time and work from the church staff members.

Lana Haskett, Chair

OPEN FLAME COMMITTEE

Formed approximately three years ago, we are a committee of four: Joanie Jones, facilitator, Ross Beardsley, Birdie Newborn and Percy Sales. We welcome new members. We meet in LaPaz Lounge as needed to facilitate panel discussions, celebrations and other events at USSB and in the SB community. You may call any of us and ask to join.

Our mission is to encourage social equality by recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, by creating a truly “Welcoming Congregation” that embraces both the BGL&/or T and straight communities of Santa Barbara on an ongoing basis.

Vision Statement (internal & external)

- To encourage USSB (the Society) to be an active force in the Santa Barbara community in promoting social equality.
- To be genuinely welcomeing to the BGL &/or T of the Santa Barbara community within and outside the Society.
• To be a referral resource to other community alliances for the BGL &/or T communities
• To promote ongoing positive information and images for the BGL &/or T communities.

In the past year each spring we have organized potluck dinners, named “4x4x4 Gatherings” within our congregation in order for GLBTs and straights to get to know one another. These have been successful and provided a new social community building activity for our straight, in the closet, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender members and friends.

Our committee participated in the press conference at the Society to support UU Jennifer Schumaker’s Walk for Togetherness this spring and hosted her during her Santa Barbara and Goleta walks and stay.

We celebrate the talents and energy our committee members and staff have in creating new activities within our congregation.

June 2004 our congregation voted to be an official “Welcoming Congregation” of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our administrative staff have rainbow stickers available for nametags to show continuing support of our activities to be welcoming to all people. Please ask for a rainbow sticker at the Welcoming Table on Sunday.

We invite you to join in future “Cottage Conversations on Marriage Equality” which we hope to sponsor.

We welcome your participation in classes, in potlucks and in the Open Flame Committee. Your ideas and energy will be celebrated.

Joanie Jones and the Open Flame Committee

PASTORAL CARE

The primary duties of the Coordinator are to respond to referrals and requests for help that come to the church office and to work with a pool of volunteers so that these needs are met. The Pastoral Care Coordinator also meets with the Ministerial Team regularly to maintain a database of members and friends who are in need of pastoral care.

Accomplishments this year include:
- Providing meals, rides, sermon tapes, and other services as requested
- Staffing an information table in the Garden each Sunday
- Meeting with the Pastoral Care Associates
- Working with Adult RE in presenting the Living Well, Dying Well class
- Developing and facilitating a workshop on Our Changing Needs

A special thanks this year to Joanie Jones, who has spearheaded the Neighborhood Connections groups. These groups help our members get to know each other better so that is easier to ask for and offer help when needed.
Once again, Patricia Martin has sent out cards to members in times of illness, sorrow and joy, and Joanie Jones has prepared the All in the Family column for the newsletter. A big thank you to each of them!

Thanks also to all of the Pastoral Care Associates who kept in touch with people during the year, visited them, and provided a variety of special services.

And, thank you to each and every one in the congregation who has reached out to a friend in and helped during a time of need. I believe that we are indeed a very caring community!

Mary Grimm, Pastoral Care Coordinator

SEASONED SEEKERS

“It was a good thing” you would doubtless agree had you been a part of the lively group who enjoyed this past year’s speakers. We again want to thank each of them for their efforts on our behalf for the entertaining, and informative afternoons they provided us. The year’s program was:

- Sept. – “How Nice to See You Again” party and anticipating the coming year.
- Nov. – Bill Boyd, “Providing Displaced Persons and Damaged Homes with Supplies”  
  Susan Neufeldt, “What I Learned from Disaster Mental Health Services” (Katrina)
- Jan. – Brian Hansen, “Dionysus and Darwin”
- Feb. – Brian Andreas, “On Creativity”
- Mar. – George Delury, “A Seeker’s Guidepost”
- Apr. – Don Young, “What’s New in the Universe”
- May – Melitta Haslund, “Prisons and People”
- June – Kathleen Brewster, “450 Years of Santa Barbara History”

JOIN the group, regularly about 30 to 40 people. It meets the:
- last Tuesday of every month except December
- alternating between Vista del Monte and Valle Verde public rooms
- time: 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Meeting notices appear in the Order of Service; Kaleidoscope; on “Reflections” (email); Live Oaks programs. Cards will be mailed to members and friends without email.

The facilitating team for Seasoned Seekers (we couldn’t do without this dependable, willing bunch) has been Joan Levy (publicity), committee members Lex and Ginny Crane, Betty LoMele and Betty Newcomb. Adult RE and church staff gives splendid support.

Some history of this group: Originally, it was a bringing together of seniors in retirement communities and the community at large, mainly as a discussion group. The emphasis has evolved to challenging speakers from among us or wherever we capture a good one, with questions and discussion following. The group was named by Chuck Bliss UUSS – Unitarian Universalist Seasoned Seekers. This defines the purpose and status of the group. “Seasoned by age and experience and constantly seeking knowledge, truth, wisdom, as we share our church’s goals.” That quote from our past chairman, who chaired so well, Shirley Sayre.

It has been a good year. All we need is your continued participation and enthusiasm. There is no charge to belong. Come join us and bring a friend!

Martha Green, Chairman
The Social Justice Program distinguished itself by whole-hearted congregational education, financial donations, and action. Our Program Council (see report page 31) has taken the need to re-organize and strategize for Social Justice Programming seriously.

Our program of Social Justice Outreach Collections continues to grow, and reflects material commitment from our congregation to this healing ministry.

Contributions in this fiscal year totaled an inspiring $36,515 and were designated as outlined below:

**USSB 2005-2006 Outreach Contributions**

**Disaster Relief Related**
- American Red Cross (YRUU Car Wash) $ 485
- Direct Relief International $ 3,162
- UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief $15,626
- Mercy Corps (Blankets for Pakistan) $ 2,051
- UUSC Pakistan Relief $ 3,568

**UUSC**
- James Luther Adams ($1 per member) $ 506
- Guest At Your Table/UUSC memberships $ 2,270
- Holiday Card Sales $ 272

**UU Legislative Ministry**
- UU Legislative Ministry of California $ 1,000
- Student Intern Grant $ 2,000

**Local Empowerment Projects**
- Domestic Violence Solutions $ 1,275
- SB Family Care Center $ 727
- Westside Neighborhood Clinic $ 715
- Community Environmental Council $ 636
- Willbridge SafeHaven for Mentally Ill $ 508
- Heal the Ocean $ 714
- Pastors for Peace (June 25 collection)

We worked in tandem with the Alliance to support the local empowerment efforts.

For Domestic Violence Partners, we donated furnishings, have been given a truck, moved furniture and decorations to an apartment, moved it out, then re-decorated it for a new victim of violence who began a new life entering a non-violent world. We also sponsored multiple room use for this organization. Many thanks to Sally Hamilton and Chris Casebeer.
Our members worked on a holiday event in December for WillBridge Safe Haven for the Homeless Mentally Ill collecting $870, lighting up Parish Hall as a Winter Wonderland and attending a successful auction and dinner. Kudos to Ellen Rockne and Donnis Galvan.

A team of Fair Trade Coffee sellers led by Susan Neufeldt has been thriving.

Mike Hackett continues to develop a new program on Non-Partisan Interfaith Voter Action Initiative.

Another new community initiative involves members of our congregation. A test project conceived and incubated by Roger Horton is a program of mentors for Santa Barbara High School incoming freshman. The trial group of 12 mentors includes 6 USSB members. The vision of the program is for each incoming freshman (eventual total of 600) to have a trained mentor to help them and their families create a 4 year goal and set a plan to meet it. This program is targeted to the underserved freshman and their families that may not understand options that exist after high school, and how to make good choices in high school to keep their options available. USSB is making a critical difference with our initial volunteers and providing space for mentor training. Stay tuned!

Our on-going Task Forces include Mobile Food Pantry, Community Kitchen, and Reading Partner Task Force, HIPPY (The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters). Our chefs cooked meals for Transition House, along with Life Oak congregants.

Events this year, sponsored by facilities use, included a visit from the Cindy Sheehan bus on its trip to the Texas vacation Bush residence; the Pastors for Peace dinner for the courageous group collecting computers and medical supplies for Cuba; the standing room only film on the Bush election, “Electile Dysfunction.” The Voter Action Initiative organized by Mike Hackett held a forum featuring George Regas on the limits of political activity that can be done by religious groups. The Room Use Committee report on page 29 outlines even more use of our facilities for Social Justice activities.

The series “Africa 101,” raised the consciousness of 40 congregants about goals for reducing poverty and illness; and visions of greening, sustainability and democracy in Africa. We gathered over 60 signatures on a Congressional petition, protesting genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

The Politics of Conscience Book Club has been meeting regularly examining current political issues.

Those who attended Social Justice and Chautauqua performances of Amazing Grace were astounded by their richness of content and soul. USSB Social Justice committee sponsorship also allowed this production to continue with an additional performance in the community at a critical time.


Our interfaith work has included projects with Clergy and Laity United; meetings and events including a Blood Drive with the Interfaith Initiative of Santa Barbara.

In response to the Hurricane Katrina, the minister and I met with the mayor and several African American congregations in Santa Barbara. We donated $400 to the Greater Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church of Biloxi which was destroyed during the flood.
On May 1, many members of the congregation, carrying our Santa Barbara Unitarian banner, walked with 15,000 people for immigrant rights. On the previous Sunday, we were proud to host a panel asking the question, “Immigration – How is it Affecting Santa Barbara?” Later that week, our Social Justice Committee voted to become part of “The Alliance for Immigrant Rights.”

Our minister resonates with social justice by example, traveling to the hurricane area in the Gulf, giving sermons on social justice and counseling our parish on an individual basis.

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait for a single moment before starting to improve the world* – Anne Frank

Barbara Sachs, Social Justice Coordinator

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE**

The Affordable Housing Task Force has not been active during 2005-2006.

Joanne Nay serves on the South County Committee Housing Trust Fund as USSB’s Affordable Housing Task Force representative. The HTF envisions community housing that is affordable to local workers and residents and is integrally linked to a vision for healthy, diverse economically and environmentally sustainable communities in the South Coast. The HTF has funded a construction loan for a 62-unit El Carrillo affordable rental housing project for homeless and disabled persons. Below-market financing committed by Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Sachs Foundation, MidState Bank and Montecito Bank and Trust will fund eligible affordable housing projects for site acquisition, predevelopment expenses, project construction, and bridge financing.

HFT will host an upcoming Workforce Housing Summit in North County in the fall of 2006.

If anyone is interested in attending meetings and trying to achieve a mix of housing in Santa Barbara, please contact Joanne Nay, 682-3381

Joanne Nay, Chair

**EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

In an ongoing effort to support and strengthen the public schools in our community, the Education Task Force has worked to encourage and help our members become Reading Partners in the classroom. Working largely at the 2nd and 3rd grade level, the Reading Partners take their direction from the classroom teacher, with the goal of improving students' fluency and comprehension. We currently have a presence in four to five schools.

Plans are underway to promote and expand the program in the Fall. No special skill or training is required, only the willingness to give an hour or so per week and a desire to help a child learn to read. All the tutors report on how rewarding it is to work with these children, and the teachers we work with have been both appreciative and impressed with the impact on the children.

Members interested in knowing more about the program, how they can help and which schools we are working with should contact Barbara Margerum, Chair of the Education Task Force, preferably by email at barbaramargerum@cox.net

Barbara Margerum, Chair
The Hunger Task Force (Mobile Food Pantry) continues to help to alleviate hunger in Santa Barbara by distributing food from the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County on first and third Saturdays, from about 9:00 to 10:30 AM, at the Westside Boys and Girls Club, 602 Anapamu. About sixty families come on Saturdays to pick up food. The largest group is Mexican, with a large contingent of Ukrainians and others from the neighborhood. Some of the neighborhood people pitch in to help with setting up tables and unloading the truck for which they receive priority in line.

This spring, the Food Bank staff used the money from a Sunday plate collection to repair the delivery truck, which had no third gear. We appreciate all the work behind the scenes, including that of the Food Bank, which kept this program running during the last four years. The two intense hours on a Saturday morning go by very quickly, and afterwards the recognition that over 2000 pounds of food have been distributed to a needy community is heartwarming.

We have four teams which are posted on the USSB website under "Mobile Food Pantry." Each team of volunteers comes once every two months. The four team leaders who alternate Saturdays are Brian Hansen, Joanne Nay, John Warnock, and Bart Woolery. Ed Bookin shares the driving with Brian Hansen. Many members and friends have helped, and about 20 members currently help. However, the number of UU's is dropping and more people are needed, particularly as Brian Hansen is following a dream and leaving for a semester.

To participate contact the Church office or come by the Boys and Girls Club on the first or third Saturday morning where your help is welcomed.

Joanne Nay, Chair

UNITARIAN UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

There are two Unitarian Universal Service Committee Human Rights Forums each year, held at the Throop Memorial Church in Pasadena. The conference programs included important discussions on a variety of timely social justice issues.

Through our holiday card sales and “Guest at Your Table” we have raised money for UUSC noted on page 42. We also have an impressive number of our members supporting UUSC beyond disaster relief. Official UUSC members in our congregation are up to 95; and affiliated members (meaning you sent money directly, not to disaster relief) has increased to 273.

In the coming year the UUSB might consider regular small group meetings to further discuss these important topics and how we can implement change. I would like to mentor a new person to move into the position of UU Service Committee Chair.

Nancy M. Broyles, UUSC Chair

WOMEN TOGETHER

Women Together is a gathering of women who meet the second Friday of each month at 6:30 in La Paz Lounge. We check-in by sharing what has been happening in our lives. We enjoy potluck meals or snacks. Members or outside speakers present the programs followed by discussions. Acknowledging that all of us are amazingly busy and to share the work more evenly, as of 2006, we are experimenting having the
Program Coordinator, Announcement Maker, and Phoners do the work for six months, then rotate in new people.

The 2005-2006 programs have included Our Favorite Books, What’s On Your Mind?, Carolyn Sutherland’s Uses of Medical Intuition, the Brinkmann’s 47 Day RV Caravan through select parts of Mexico, nutritionist Dale Figtree’s How To Stay Mentally and Physically Active, and Dr. Beverly Schydlowsky’s The Best Is Yet To Come about how to live our later years.

The names of those whose presence has graced our meetings and who have served so generously are too numerous to list. We are grateful to each and every one.

Respectfully submitted
Mary C. Reese-Upton

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**WORSHIP ARTS**

**ADULT CHOIR**

Chancel Choir, Ensemble, and Sunday Singers

The Chancel Choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. The Choir sings twice monthly for the 10:30 Sunday service and rehearses Thursday evenings, 7–8:30 PM in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Choir performs the finest of choral literature, including the classics of the mainstream choral repertoire (Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms), as well as more contemporary songs, including folk and gospel music. During the past year, we have sung folk music from American, African, Native American, and Spanish traditions. We also sing sacred music from Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish traditions, balanced by a healthy amount of secular music. On occasion, we are able to use the instrumental talents of our congregation members or hire professional musicians to accompany us. Although most of the Choir’s repertoire is for mixed chorus, occasionally the women and men split to sing music written especially for them. Last year, the men (well, anyone who could sing in the tenor or bass range!) sang a barbershop number, and this is something I would like to do again. This year the women sang a well-known English madrigal. No audition is necessary to join the Choir; music-reading skills are not required (though yours will improve). We invite you to come in any Thursday evening to try us out!

The Ensemble is a group of singers who enjoy performing unaccompanied music (or a capella, literally “in the church”). Nearly all early sacred music was a capella; much of the choral literature by 20th-century composers is also a capella. This group has performed plainchant and medieval songs in a variety of languages; motets and madrigals by the Renaissance composers Josquin, Palestrina, Byrd, and Gibbons; early American music by William Billings; part-songs by the 19th-century English composer Elgar and a motet based on chant by the French composer Durufle; and 20th-century music by Daley, Fissinger, and Ives, as well as jazz arrangements by Bobby McFerrin and Steve Zegree.

The Sunday Singers meet occasionally during the year and about every other week during the Summer. This group is open to anyone who likes to sing and to all ages (the ability to read
CHILDREN’S CHOIR

The Children’s Choir is open to children ages five and older. There is no audition or previous musical experience required. The Children’s Choir provides a relaxed environment for children who love to sing to share their voices with the congregation. This past year the choir met under the direction of Charla Bregante.

The Children’s Choir had a core group of about twelve children this past year. Other children attended on a sporadic basis. Rehearsals were every Sunday from 10:00 – 10:30 in Jefferson Hall. Choir was open to all RE Children. There were no Youth or Teen Choirs this year.

With the exception of two dedicated boys, the choir was largely made up of young girls. The average age of the children was eight. We had two very devoted five year olds (and occasionally a three year old!) and two eleven year olds on either end of the age spectrum.

The Children’s Choir performed in the sanctuary on seven occasions this year. On four of those occasions the children performed with the adult choir. Many of the children expressed that these were their favorite times singing in the sanctuary. Marilee Mouser and the Adult Choir have been very open to singing with the children. We look forward to working with them in the coming year. In the second half of the year, the Children’s Choir began performing during the Children’s Worship Services in Jefferson Hall each month as well. Their music was a welcome addition to these services.

Time continues to be a major obstacle in growing the membership of the Children’s Choir. The 10:00 AM time slot continues to be the most convenient for families but busy schedules during the week sometimes find families opting for an extra half an hour at home on Sunday mornings. I would like to find ways to increase weekly attendance and to attract more boys and older elementary school aged children to the choir.

Overall, the Children’s Choir was an enjoyable experience for all involved. The children were quick to learn songs and were animated performers. As a new Choir Director, I learned many valuable lessons working with them. It has been a joy to work with this talented group of children.

Charla Bregante, Children’s Choir Director

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee's primary responsibility is to provide the Chancel Table floral arrangement in the Sanctuary for Sunday Services. Members of the congregation occasionally request that the flower arrangement on a particular Sunday be a memorial for a deceased loved one or in celebration of a special
event such as a wedding or anniversary. There is a requested donation to the Flower Committee of $25 to $50 toward expenses. The fund allows for purchase of flowers, vases, floral foam, Christmas decorations, etc. Committee members frequently raid their own, neighbors’ and friends' gardens and fields for most of the materials used. The Flower Committee expenses are not supported by the Operating Budget.

The committee usually meets only once a year for a lunch meeting in someone's home to establish the schedule for the following year, September through August. In 2005 we decided to make fresh flowers a year round display, rather than using a summer silk arrangement. USSB office coordinates the wedding schedule with the committee's schedule. Each member signs up to arrange flowers 5 or 6 times per year plus decorating for the Christmas season. If a member has a conflict with the schedule they ask another member to exchange dates with them and notify the office of the change. The Sanctuary is reserved Saturdays from 10 AM to noon for arranging flowers. If there are scheduling conflicts with this time the office notifies the person scheduled and arranges an appropriate time.

The USSB staff is very helpful and accommodating to the Flower Committee. Ken Ralph and Jaime Moreno have been generous with their time in transporting materials from cars, basement and wherever to the Sanctuary and creating equipment for the committee's use. We are very appreciative of their service as we are of Nancy Edmundson’s and Carol Doose's assistance.

Members of the Flower Committee are Kathleen Boehm, Marika Davidek, Nancy de L'Arbre, Donnis Galvan, Dee Gronbeck, Pat Kruger, Judy Macneil and Mary Medbery. Martha Green joins the committee during the Christmas season to create decorations for the Sanctuary.

Pat Kruger, Convener

HEARING ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Each Sunday as many as a dozen people with hearing problems have used our assistive-listening devices (ALDs) during worship services. The original set of 12 receivers, donated by the late Lawrence Kaupp in 1989, and a subsequent set of 12, was beginning to need replacement. So in December of last year USSB Facilities Manager Ken Ralph, in cooperation with Hearing-Assistance Committee member Al Melkonian, purchased a new set, which are now supplementing the older ones. Special thanks to Hal Thornton, who generously donated to this project! At present, both systems can be used in the sanctuary.

The members of the Hearing-Assistance Committee distribute these receivers at both Sunday-morning services to all who request them. (This includes not only our hard-of-hearing attendees but also an occasional R.E. volunteer, since the service can be heard in other nearby buildings through our equipment.) Committee members also offer our equipment at Alliance meetings in Parish Hall and memorial services in the sanctuary.

Many thanks to the following, who have served during the past year: Janet Brinckmann (our newest member), Carnzu (Conny) Clark (who is now enjoying a much-deserved "sabbatical"), Gerald (Jerry) Floyd, Dorothy Holland, JoAnn Magistad, and Al Melkonian. And special appreciation to Shirley Sayre a former volunteer, who served during one memorial service, and to Al Melkonian, who has not only covered almost all the 9 AM services but also trouble-shoots our equipment. And, we are indebted to Steve Johnson, Brian Olson, and Jaime Moreno, who set the controls which activate our ALD's in the sanctuary and Parish Hall.

Our committee meetings are held the first Sunday of every other month at 10:45 AM in the workroom, and are open to anyone interested. This is when volunteers sign up for specific Sundays. Volunteers are on duty about 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after each service.
New volunteers are always welcome. They apprentice with an experienced volunteer for a Sunday or two, and then sign up only for Sundays convenient for them. Right now, we are especially in need of someone who can cover an occasional early service between 9 and 10 AM.

Dorothy Holland, Chair
(Formerly Dorothy Holland-Kaupp)

MUSIC COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for the Music Committee which has presented monthly concerts and coordinated musicians to perform on selected Sunday mornings. Member Ellen Rockne has sung at nearly all of the early services on Sunday, and she and Marilee Mouser have collaborated in duets as well as leading the planning of new programs. Last summer, we presented talented students from the Music Academy of the West on several Sundays, and Marilee Mouser led a new choir of “Summer Singers”.

The concerts this year offered an interesting variety of music which included: two opera programs, the Don Brinegar Singers from Los Angeles, outstanding pianists, Natasha Kislenko, Zeynep Ucbasaran, Wojciech Kocyan, and Betty Oberacker, Trio West, the trio of Music Academy alumnae, Robert Boyd in two flamenco programs, an organ recital featuring Mahlon Balderston, Emma Lou Diemer and David Gell, and Dauri Kennedy in a rocking gospel program. On June, 25th we will have violist Sarah Carsman in a string program.

The committee members were John Warnock, Mahlon Balderston, Marilee Mouser, Laurie and George Potter, Dick Cousineau, Ellen Rockne, Phyllis Dunn, Dorothy Warnock, Hubert Schwyzner, Steve and Carlene Young. John Warnock will again serve as chairman next year.

A new program was launched whereby musicians are offered the facilities rent free, agreeing in exchange to perform at a Sunday service. This support of musicians is widely appreciated in the community. Next year we will continue with our collaborative efforts with the UCSB Music Department, Arts & Letters at UCSB, Santa Barbara Music Club and the Music Academy of the West. Anyone interested in helping with the concerts and our program planning is invited to join the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Warnock, Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Every passing year is one of transition and growth. 2006 was no different. We welcomed new members Zora de Michel and George Delury. Unfortunately, George had to resign from the Committee due to prior commitments at the Society. He culminated his association with us by bringing guest speaker Barbara Coombs-Lee, author of the successfully implemented Oregon bill on Assisted Suicide, to Santa Barbara to both participate in the services on May 28th 2006 and offer a seminar on Death and Dying as a Path to Wholeness. Thank you George, we'll miss you!

Continuing members are Jody Thomas, Donnis Galvan, Linda Williams, Ellen Rockne, Detty Peikert, MJ Wells, Peter Hale as Chairperson and Senior Minister Ken Collier.

Although often inviting outside speakers and visiting Ministers to participate in our services, we also draw heavily from our own Congregation to share their knowledge and life experiences. We craft our gatherings as opportunities to hear differing points of view, ideas that challenge conventional wisdom and the spiritual journeys that we have undertaken to become UU’s.
A large portion of our worship experience is beautiful music. And for this we have to again thank our hard-working Music Committee, John Warnock, Choir Director Marilee Mouser, soprano Ellen Rockne and organist Mahlon Balderston.

Peter Hale, Chair

STARR KING PARENT-CHILD WORKSHOP

Starr King Parent-Child Workshop (SK) has had a very successful year, thanks to Santa Barbara Community College, Continuing Education Division and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. We maintain our commitment to fulfill the original mission established by founder Sarah Foot, to provide opportunities for parents to develop parenting and leadership skills while also learning of the importance of community involvement and advocacy to bring about positive societal changes, all while providing children with a healthy, safe and stimulating learning environment.

*population served and available assistance*

This year we served sixty-seven families, and a total of seventy-four children. We also provided four full or partial scholarships and six work exchange options. In addition, this year SK gave a $500.00 donation to an educational fund for a child whose mother was part of the Starr King community.

We have made a concentrated effort over the last four years to be a more inclusive program. This year, we have several children with different needs. In addition, this year we have made a financial commitment to provide a translator to assist with simultaneous Spanish translation of the parent education evening meeting. This has allowed five to six families the opportunity to fully participate, contribute to and benefit from the learning experience. We have found that English-only speaking families have also benefited from the translation in that there is a heightened awareness and appreciation of the benefits and challenges of a truly diverse program.

*parent curriculum*

This year, the SK community benefited from a rich and diverse parent education program. Topics discussed included: anti-bias curriculum, child development, children and sports, family traditions/celebrations, holiday sing-along, father’s only meeting, art appreciation, general supervision, literature appreciation, addressing anger in ourselves and our children, sensory integration, making marriage work, and child nutrition with guest speaker, Francie White.
children’s curriculum
Starr King continues to benefit from a committed group of parents who govern and maintain all aspects of the children’s curriculum. This year we created a parent education meeting designed to familiarize parents with the resources at SK. We did this early in the year in an attempt to make parents aware of all the activity and program choices they have available on their workday. In addition, this year we reorganized the indoor space to make it less cluttered and more appealing for children. This reorganization also assisted one of our mobility-challenged students. In a wonderful example of the collaborative nature of our community at 1525 Santa Barbara Street, the ORCA School invited the children to watch their school play, James and the Giant Peach. It was a big hit with the children.

annual rummage sale
This annual event not only yields approximately a third of our annual operating budget, but also equally as valuable, is the bonding experience that families gain while planning and carrying out this event. We take pride in assisting families in our community and utilizing good environmental practices in the recycling of goods. The USSB membership can also be proud of supporting this much-anticipated community event. We are particularly appreciative of the space adjustments and other issues that are handled with such grace by the USSB community.

long term lease and remodel
We are pleased that this document has been signed. This lease will allow us to move forward with the remodel. We anticipate that the construction for the remodel of the kitchen and bathroom in the SK proper will begin in mid June and completed before we begin in September.

community
Families at SK took part in a number of community events this year including: our annual campout, an evening at SOHO, and Souper Sunday and Connecting Faire – two events that USSB sponsors and which SK supported this year. In addition, May Day and the Dia de Los Ninos are other events in which we gather together to celebrate community.

We experienced great loss this year with the sudden death of one of our parents Renay Ramsay Mayell. Renay was an integral part of the Starr King community – her presence was widely felt at SK from the kitchen, as chair of the Social Committee and as a frequent knitter at the parent education meetings. While sudden and very tragic, it was important that families were notified in a timely manner. It was also critical that the family had the support they needed. I contacted Hospice and asked that a counselor be present at the school for Renay’s husband and daughter as well as other parents.

The parent education component includes information and discussions about many issues relating to family life including death and dying. When confronted with Renay’s death, we had books, resources in place and an understanding of how important it was to respect the family’s beliefs and wishes, regardless of our own. Imagine all sixty-nine families affected by this experience who now have information and confidence to share their knowledge with family, friends and co-workers in the future?

Special thanks to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara for your ongoing generosity and for this wonderfully beautiful and natural environment that we use to enrich the lives of so many families. We appreciate the collaboration and continued success in achieving our mutual goals. I hope you all have a pleasant and safe summer and look forward to another productive 2006-2007 school year. Please contact Kate Vesper at 964-7579 for information or enrollment.

Yolanda Medina Garcia, Director
Starr King Parent Child Workshop
Orca School is a California registered private school with 27 students, currently in grades 4, 5 and 6. We have been renting Jefferson Hall and other rooms from USSB for six years. You have possibly noticed our artwork on the walls in Jefferson Hall or Classroom C. We have staged plays in Parish Hall and cooked in the Blake Lounge Kitchen. We use the Jefferson Hall lawn for recess and lunch now and then, and we've recently created a garden behind the Blake Building. We used some of the bricks to build a small sidewalk linking the sanctuary to Jefferson Hall.

We have a lively curriculum, Waldorf-inspired, which means we integrate the arts into all of our academic subjects. Music, painting, woodworking and knitting are just a few of the many hands on classes we have every week. Twice a week we enjoy hiking, biking and ocean sports in the Santa Barbara vicinity. Our three full time teachers are able to bring excellence to the academics and also meet the children in a heartfelt way. Some students have already completed 4 consecutive years at Orca School and have moved on to junior high with flying colors. Next year we will begin a new initiative with Kindergarten and Grades one and two, in addition to our grades 5, 6 and 7. We welcome visitors and are deeply appreciative of our home at USSB.

Rob Harrington, Director Orca School
## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

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<th>Membership Types</th>
<th>June 30, 2005</th>
<th>June 10, 2006</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td>517</td>
<td>520</td>
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### New Members

- Kate Buenau
- Debra Stanfield
- Susan Owens
- Andrew Rogers
- Bermond
- John Novembre
- Hannah Stewart
- James Stoicheff
- Susan Lee Shapiro
- Michael Conners

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<tr>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Carlene Van Pelt</th>
<th>Stephan N. Young</th>
<th>Delysia Gronbeck</th>
<th>Charles Parry</th>
<th>Dimitri Proshkin</th>
<th>Patrick Block</th>
<th>Melissa Block</th>
<th>Sylvelin Edgerton</th>
<th>Harlen Pedersen</th>
<th>Lei Zhang</th>
<th>Leaf Monroe</th>
<th>Hana Goldstone</th>
<th>Matt Wood man</th>
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### Reinstated Members

- Shelley Purcilly
- Elizabeth Schwyzer

### Resignations

- Annie Topete
- Doris Baer
- Shirley Kent
- Eric Torbet
- Joan & Pat McMasters
- Barbara Kelley – moved

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<tr>
<th>Resignations</th>
<th>Sari Zalcberg</th>
<th>Phil Hogan</th>
<th>Marybeth Lynch - moved</th>
<th>Christine Cote</th>
<th>Barbara Sanchez</th>
<th>Carol Ann Cole</th>
<th>Melissa Kehl - moved</th>
<th>Asia Eichmiller</th>
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### Removed

- Holly Mangels

### Deaths - Members

- Donald Bridgeman
- Kurt Pilgram
- Jane Elliot
- Berniece Wake

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<tr>
<th>Deaths - Members</th>
<th>Ann Curiel</th>
<th>Al Paarmann</th>
<th>Ruth Adams</th>
<th>Miles Robinson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Bridgeman</td>
<td>June Bristow</td>
<td>Dorothy Shea</td>
<td>Martha Eaton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Pilgram</td>
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<td>Jane Elliot</td>
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<td>Berniece Wake</td>
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### Deaths –Friends

- Irving Maust

### Weddings

- Sara Corley and Matt Jones

### Graduating Seniors

- Gabe Andreas
- Athena Brown
- Chandra Brown

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<th>Graduating Seniors</th>
<th>Brian Doose</th>
<th>Remy Galvan-Hale</th>
<th>Daniel Ricchiazzi</th>
<th>Jordan Thomas</th>
<th>Sebastian Vollering</th>
<th>Nicholas Woolery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabe Andreas</td>
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<td>Athena Brown</td>
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<td>Chandra Brown</td>
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### Births & Adoptions

- Ilana Marie Morgan: July 12, 2005
- Anthony Beardsley-Sales ·
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<td>Water Ingathering Ceremony</td>
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<td>Return to Two Services; 9 AM &amp; 10:30 AM</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>PSWD Workshop: Policy Governance, Canoga Park</td>
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<td>Chautauqua: Spelling Bee</td>
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<td>USSB Connecting Faire</td>
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<td>October 28-29</td>
<td>Starr King Rummage Sale</td>
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<td>PSWD Workshop: Small Group Ministry, Santa Monica</td>
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<td>RE Halloween Party</td>
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<td>RE Secret Pals Luncheon</td>
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<td>Chautauqua: Reader’s Theater</td>
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<td>December 11</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
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Core Values of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

1. The mutuality of caring and responsibility that sustains this community.
2. Respecting differences of belief, lifestyle and sexual identity.
3. Welcoming everyone into the life and work of this congregation.
4. Ritual and celebration that invite the sacred into our daily lives, and which unite us in good times and in difficult times.
5. Working for peace and social justice.
6. Lifelong learning and growth as individuals and as a community.

Covenant of Good Relations

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

1. Be receptive, listening with care and compassion.
2. Be truthful, speaking with care and compassion. Speak directly to any person(s) with whom I have a concern.
3. Be committed to the group as a whole, honoring our long history as a congregation within the Unitarian Universalist tradition.
4. Expect that there will be differences among us and accept and care for one another despite those differences.
5. Remain engaged with gentleness and respect when times are uncertain, participate in the process, and do my part to sustain this Covenant.
6. Honor my responsibility for upholding the spiritual values, traditions and rituals of our community.