

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara



photo: Paul Nay

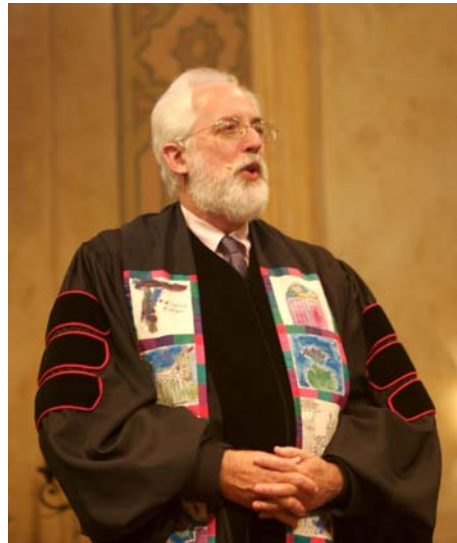


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art: Peikert Associates

2007 Annual Report



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, Office Hours 9-4 PM, M-F
965-6273 (FAX)
ussb@ussb.org

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (STEWARDS) OFFICERS – 2006/2007 FISCAL YEAR

President - Patricia Reilly
Vice-President - Sayre Macneil
Corporate Secretary - Ivor John
Treasurer – Anita Blume

MEMBERS

<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-07)		<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-08)		<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-09)	
Patricia Reilly	966-3985	Joanne Nay	682-3381	Sayre Macneil	965-1441
Ivor John	563-0389	Percy Sales	451-8647	Kathleen Boehm	687-6218
Aaron Brown	(deceased)	Beverly Hanna	967-4173	John Gilbert	448-6438
Virginia Barrett	967-0298	Gary Welterlen	682-5275	John Chere	684-7926

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<u>Term Expires</u> (6-10-07)	<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-07)	<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-08)	<u>Term Expires</u> (6-30-09)
Max Neufeldt	Jo Saxon	Chuck Wolfe	Carol Schwyzer
Ellen Yeomans			Betty Noling

STAFF		Phone Ext	Email Addresses
Parish Minister	Kenneth Collier	222	minister@ussb.org
Minister for Religious Education	Melitta Haslund	229	lifespan@ussb.org
Religious Education Assistant	Charla Bregante	227	re@ussb.org
Administrator	Nancy Edmundson	225	ussb@ussb.org
Administrative Assistant	Carol Doose	224	assistant@ussb.org
Facilities Manager	Ken Ralph	223	facilities@ussb.org
Custodian	Jaime Moreno	223	facilities@ussb.org
Organist	Mahlon Balderston	221	
Chancel Choir Director	Marilee Mouser		mjmouser2001@yahoo.com
Children’s Choir Director	Charla Bregante	227	re@ussb.org

·Please contact us by phone to be sure of availability before coming by.

·Front Office Hours 9AM – 4PM, Monday-Friday; Sunday 10AM-12 Noon
·Summer Office Hours 9 AM – 12 Noon, Monday-Friday; Sunday 10AM-12 Noon

BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Association-District Representative Contact Administrator 965-4583 x225	Long Range Planning Ivor John 563-0389
Audit Committee Mike Noling 969-0785	Membership Bruce Hanna 451-5414 John Chere 684-7926
Benefit Auction (Services Auction) Percy Sales 451-8647	Nominating Committee Betty Noling 969-0785
Building Project John Ledbetter 683-1055 Ken Ralph 965-4583 x223	Personnel Committee Gary Welterlen 682-5275
Building Planning Committee Ken Ralph 965-4583 x223 Dave Kujan 565-4628	Planned Giving Advisors Mike Noling 969-0785
Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) Susan Neufeldt 962-9344	Pledge Drive/Capital Campaign Roger Horton 962-5456 Beverly Appleton 682-0402
Endowment Board Ted Stern 969-0602	Room Use Allen Doyle 564-3525
Finance Committee John Gilbert 448-6438	Stewardship John Gilbert 448-6438
Information Technology Doug Thomas 963-2673	UU President's Roundtable Bruce Hanna 451-5414

PROGRAM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Percy Sales, Chair 451-8647

Brian Hansen	Percy Sales	Staff: Melitta Haslund
Shelley Purcilly	Gary Welterlen	Ken Collier
Birdie Newborn	Joanne Nay	Nancy Edmundson

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Dance Away Dorothy Holland 967-5241	Social Justice Coordinator Bill Foust 968-7000
Chautauqua Brian Hansen 684-7345 John Warnock 965-4235	Social Justice Committee Paul Nay 682-3381 Brian Hansen 684-7345
Kaleidoscope Newsletter Mack Stanton kaleidoscope@ussb.org	<i>Hunger Task Force—Mobile Food Pantry</i> Joanne Nay 682-3381
Esperanto Circle Dorothy Holland 967-5241	<i>Education Task Force</i> Barbara Margerum 969-5149
Library Lana Haskett 692-1115	<i>UU Service Committee</i> Barbara Sachs 563-0989
Lifespan Religious Education Rev. Melitta L. Haslund, Consulting Minister for Religious Education 965-4583 x229	Ministry for Earth "Green Team" Ivor John 563-0389
Adult Religious Education	The Alliance Phyllis Dunn 682-1052
Children's Religious Education Charla Bregante 965-4583 x227	Vespers Lucinda Eileen 415-6294
Coming of Age Kir Zecher 569-0960	Women Together Gun Dukes 566-6648
Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU Teen Group) Ellen Rockne 698-0883	Worship Arts
Neighborhood Groups Joanie Jones 683-1937	Flower Committee Pat Kruger 966-1906
Open Flame Joanie Jones 683-1937	Hearing Assistance Dorothy Holland 967-5241
Pastoral Care Coordinator Mary Grimm 682-7449	Music Committee John Warnock 965-4235
Seasoned Seekers Ginny Crane 682-3476	Adult Chancel Choir Marilee Mouser 571-1170
	Children's Choir Charla Bregante 965-4583 x227
	Worship Committee Peter Hale 963-0534

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA
Notified Agenda for Annual Meeting June 10, 2007
10:30 AM Sanctuary

1. Opening -- Patricia Reilly, Board of Trustees President
2. In Memoriam -- led by Rev. Kenneth Collier
3. Additions or Deletions from Agenda if one-third quorum present
4. Election of Board of Trustee members:
 - a. Slate Presentation and Candidate Remarks
 - i. Beverly Appleton Term ending 6-30-10
 - ii. Edward Bookin Term ending 6-30-10
 - iii. Gun Dukes Term ending 6-30-10
 - iv. Patricia Reilly Term ending 6-30-10
 - v. John Warnock Term ending 6-30-08
 - b. Nominations from the floor (if any) and Election of Trustees
5. Election of Ministerial Search Committee members:
 - a. Slate Presentation and Candidate Remarks
 - i. Anita Blume
 - ii. Bob Fulmer
 - iii. Mary Grimm
 - iv. Peter Hale
 - v. Bruce Hanna
 - vi. Dick Jensen
 - vii. Percy Sales
 - viii. Melinda Staveley
 - ix. Jody Thomas
 - b. Nominations from the floor (if any) and Election of Ministerial Search Committee
6. Election of Nominating Committee Members
 - a. Presentation of and remarks by eligible nominees
 - i. Ellen Yeomans Term ending 6-30-08
 - ii. Max Neufeldt Term ending 6-30-10
 - iii. Ivor John Term ending 6-30-10
 - b. Election of Nominating Committee members
7. Affirmation of Covenant and Core Values
8. Annual Fiscal Plan Presentation and Vote
9. Report re Capital Campaign
10. Reception, Discussion and Vote on Approval of Annual Reports
11. Presentation of UU Legislative Ministry Covenant and Vote
12. Installation of Board, Ministerial Search Committee and Nominating Committee
13. New Business (if any, only with 1/3 Quorum)
14. Closing -- Patricia Reilly
15. Adjournment

Quorum to conduct business: 1/5 x 466 = 93

Quorum to make additions or deletions from Agenda: 1/3 x 466 = 155

NOTES ON PROPOSED BUDGET 2007-2008

Operating Revenue

- **Pledge and Contributions Revenue** based upon current year projections and known commitments to current annual campaign. Contributions are plate collections to operating fund.
- **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.
- **Cummins Program Fund Revenue** is annual gift from the estate of Roy and Laurie Cummins designated by the board and congregation to support programming.
- **Investment Revenue** is from Endowment, and minor portion from savings interest.
- **Fundraising Revenue** is based upon current year projections and next year's plans. Service auction will be held in fall. Smaller fundraisers include Fashion Fling and Souper Sundays.
- **LREDA Grant** was a fixed amount received in 2005, 2006 & 2007 to assist congregation in attaining appropriate level of compensation for Religious Education Professional.
- **Cummins Contribution to Capital Needs** is annual gift from the estate of Roy and Laurie Cummins designated by the board and congregation to support capital needs.

Operating Expenses

- **Ministerial Search & Settlement** \$6,000 for Settlement expenses for Interim Minister; \$10,000 for Search expenses for next Parish Minister.
- **Staff Expense** includes adjustments in staff salaries and associated costs (taxes/pension) per Staff Development recommendations; increased hours ¼ time RE Assistant to ½ time, and 1/3 time clerical positions. Minimum adjustments for COLA. Includes projected increase in health insurance costs.
- **Administration Expense** includes cost of audit review, bookkeeping, office equipment leases, supplies and interest expense.
- **Facilities Expense** includes insurances for property and liability; self-funding for earthquake; regular maintenance, major maintenance, contract services for gardening and security, utilities, supplies, and organ maintenance. Earthquake coverage is self-funded in 2007-2008 at 2006-2007 premium rates (\$9,000) due to significant increase in premiums with decreased coverage related to recent California Earthquake Insurance crisis.
- **Supplements to Programs** Includes program supplies costs 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 reported on February 1, 2007 per UUA guidelines.
- **Interest Expense** is interest on Blake Roof Loans and cash flow line of credit.
- **Restricted Fund Expense** funds to restore available cash in savings for donor-restricted funds.
- **Capital Expenditure** major maintenance expenses budgeted in Facilities Expense.
- **Debt Repayment:** Principal repayment of Blake Roof loans. These will be fully repaid in 2010 under current financing.
- **Capital Campaign Consultants:** Related Architectural and Feasibility Consultation for Master Plan and Campaign Development. 2007-2008 costs will be accounted in separate Capital Campaign/Building Project budget that will be developed over the coming year.



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry ♦ California

www.uulmca.org

Covenant of Collaboration

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara wishes to collaborate with the UU Legislative Ministry, CA. We will join with the network of California UUs who are living out our faith by educating, organizing, and advocating for public policies that:

- uphold the worth and dignity of every person
- further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ensure use of the democratic process
- protect religious freedom, and
- promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence

Our congregation will:

- Provide annual input to UULM board as to the justice priorities that are important to our congregation and its members
- Make one or more UULM justice issues a part of our congregation's social justice ministry agenda
- Designate a UULM Team Leader(s) and support their work to:
 - foster UULM support, visibility, and involvement in our congregation
 - designate leader(s) to coordinate education and action on those UULM justice issues with which our congregation wishes to engage
- Encourage communication between UULM and our congregation
- Send an annual contribution (either from a special collection and/or budgeted item) to the UULM and/or the UULM Action Network (suggested share is $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 % of your annual budget)

UULM will:

- Engage UUs in justice work that is congruent with our principles, and that has broad based UU support.
- Create vehicles through which we may coordinate congregational justice/advocacy ministry across the state
- Establish working relationships between UUs and other allies (interfaith and secular)
- Foster the spiritual foundation of justice ministry,
 - Share and develop educational and worship materials,
- Host leadership training opportunities & lobby days
- Foster the engagement of young adult UUs
- Coordinate enhanced media visibility for UU values,
- Implement the tools of e-advocacy, and
- Build a loving network of support.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This has been a remarkable year for our Congregation and Board of Trustees. We have held the vision of the congregation as outlined in the Strategic Plan, re-adopted in June 2006, and worked diligently and enthusiastically to make that vision a reality.

Serving this year as stewards of the congregation were Patricia Reilly, President; Sayre Macneil, Vice-President; Ivor John, Secretary; Virginia Barrett, Kathleen Boehm, Aaron Brown, John Chere, John Gilbert, Beverly Hanna, Joanne Nay, Percy Sales, and Gary Welterlen. As the year drew to a close, we were saddened by the death of Aaron Brown, who inspired us with his strong spirit and quiet strength.

Four areas have been the main focus of the Congregation's energy and attention:

- Development and Adoption of a Facilities Master Plan

With the commitment and substantial creative energy of the Building Planning Committee, we identified our priority needs to maintain and renew our facilities. Through focus groups and three town meetings, we determined the improvements to be included in the Facilities Master Plan. This Plan will guide us in creating a campus to serve our growing needs as a congregation, and facilitate our work in the greater Santa Barbara community. The plan was adopted at a special congregational meeting on December 3, 2006.

- Establishing our Ministry for Earth Program

In addition to incorporating energy efficiency into our Facilities Master Plan, the congregation voted in its Covenant with the Earth to engage in an ongoing process of education concerning environmental stewardship, energy production and usage in relation to global warming. The USSB Green Team offered classes and discussions in our Lifespan Religious Education program as well as an Energy Film Festival that was well received by the community at large.

- Launching a Capital Campaign to fund our Facilities Master Plan

A Financial Fundraising Feasibility Study conducted by professional UUA consultants included personal interviews of 104 members and friends, representing a cross section of our USSB congregation. The results of the study gave us confidence to launch a campaign to raise \$2.0 million, with an 88% vote at the February 4 meeting. We are well on our way to meeting the goal!

- Preparing for Ministerial Transition

This was our sixth year of shared ministry with Rev. Ken Collier during which he has allowed us room to grow, and the congregation has shown an increasing commitment to active participation in creating and sustaining our beloved community of mutual caring and respect. We are capping this experience with a joyful celebration of Ken's retirement after 28 years of parish ministry.

Our Interim Minister Search Committee successfully concluded its work and the Board gratefully accepted its recommendation to engage Rev. Joy Atkinson to serve as our Interim Minister over the coming year.

We feted our Organist Emeritus Mahlon Balderston, who is retiring after 55 years of sharing his music and talent with our congregation and the community. Mahlon has promised to return as a guest musician.

Our efforts this year have been rewarded with success and great satisfaction, as well as growing spirit of community. We are grateful for the energy and dedication of so many members and friends and our tremendously talented and committed staff and Ministerial Team. On a personal note, I want to thank Nancy Edmundson for her strong support through the year.

Patricia Reilly, President, Board of Trustees

MINISTERIAL TEAM

We are definitely not tempted to say that it was a quiet year in Lake Wobegon. It was not. Our work this year has fallen out in two main categories. First, we have maintained our normal tasks of support and resource for the activities of the Society. This involved a great deal of energy and work that you are already familiar with. One difference that this year brought, though, is that we realized that with the necessary high level of participation by of the congregation in the Capital Campaign, it was not realistic to begin many new programs. It was sufficient for this year to maintain the high level of quality in our already existing programs. We think that this has been successful. For details, we refer you to reports from those activities elsewhere in this booklet.

Second, we have also been absorbed in the Capital Campaign and the work of transition; work that began last year with the retirement of Anne Anderson and the hiring of the Rev. Melitta Haslund.

The Capital Campaign is, as of this writing, on-going. It is truly remarkable that last year at this time we had neither a Facilities Master Plan nor an infrastructure for carrying out that Plan. In a year's time, the Plan was completed, the Capital Campaign was organized and is being carried out, and we are beginning to move into the final planning and permitting stage for carrying out Phase One of the Master Plan. An enormous amount of energy, dedication, and love from a lot of people was necessary for this to happen, and we salute everyone who gave so generously to the effort. It also absorbed a great deal of our time and creativity.

The transitions continue. As the Rev. Haslund became fully integrated into the Society, we began to turn our attention to the transition to a new Parish Minister and a new organist. This is work that will continue into next year and, at least in the case of the new Parish Minister, beyond. But the past is prologue, and so we look forward to this effort, knowing that the Society will rise ably and gracefully to the occasion.

We think that this has been an extraordinary year, and as tiring and challenging as it has been, its success speaks volumes for the health of our future. Two of us are looking forward to the arrival of our Interim Minister, the Rev. Joy Atkinson, in August to continue moving forward, and one of us looks forward to retirement, knowing that the Society is in good hands.

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

PARISH MINISTER'S REPORT

This is my last Annual report. That gives me pause. It's kind of melancholy writing this, knowing that it is my last one, not only here but anywhere. Between three years in seminary and 28 years as an ordained minister, I've given parish ministry 31 years of my life. By my lights that's a long time to be doing anything. It's time to turn my attention elsewhere in my life. For this last report, let me reflect a bit on this ministry we have shared. I hope no one will object my borrowing some from my final Board report, but some of the things I wanted to say to the Board, I also want to say to all of you.

I began my ministry at the Society in a difficult year for this nation. My first day was August 15, 2001. The next three and a half weeks were uneventful, though my sermon on August 26 may have been prophetic. It was about the terrible situation in the Middle East, and in the course of the sermon I said this: "Palestine, along with most of the Arab and Muslim world, has experienced nothing but disrespect,

dishonesty, and arrogance from the West for a very long time, and, predictably, the fruit of this is rage, distrust, and contempt.”

Two weeks after that sermon, on September 9, we had our first In-Gathering. September 10 was my day off, and then, on September 11, 2001, I came for my first day after my first In-Gathering. The Sunday after 9/11, I acknowledged deep and searing anger and asked what we can do in the face of such anger. How can we acknowledge our anger so that we can move beyond it? The following week being close to Yom Kippur, I preached about the need for forgiveness and atonement, saying at one point, “I choose the belief that there is nothing that is ultimately unforgivable, not even this evil and vile action, the belief that it remains possible to respond to evil with love and that none but myself can condemn me to live my life in despair.” And that is how we began. It set a pattern and a tone for our joint ministry.

Over my six years here, we have worked very hard together and have achieved remarkable results. We have healed; we have grown beyond division and rancor; we have embraced our future as a religious community; we have supported and upheld one another; and we stand eagerly and hopefully on the threshold of a new era for USSB. I have never even heard of a congregation that has been as willing and eager to work so hard and so consistently to achieve its goals and to realize its future. You are to be congratulated. As you have given the best of yourselves to the Society, you have drawn the best out of me, and I owe you deep gratitude for that.

This is not to say, of course, that everything is done and you can simply sit back and let the future dawn. There is still a lot to be done. For example, even though we are doing remarkably well in both our Annual and Capital Campaigns, there is still the project of carrying out the capital improvements and realizing the Strategic and Staff Development Plans. And, of course there is the project of letting go of my ministry and embracing that of my successors, both the Interim Minister, the Rev. Joy Atkinson, and my called successor, whoever that may eventually be. Emotionally, that project may be the most difficult of all, and yet it is clearly critical for the continued health of the Society.

When people talk about growth they typically turn their attention to growth in numbers, thinking that a growing church must necessarily have more and more members. This, though, is not necessarily true. Numbers are deceptively easy to see and therefore are seductive. The number of members a church has is, in fact, important but only for such things as planning. Far more important are growth in institutional stability, growth in the ability to carry the church’s ministry into the greater community, and growth in maturity as a religious community. If a congregation pays attention to these areas of growth and plans well, the demography of the community will take care of growth in numbers.

Let us take just a quick look at our real growth over these six years. Though the work is not yet finished, the Society has re-organized itself. Perhaps the most obvious example has been the creation of a Program Council. Six years ago there was no body responsible for overseeing the way we turned our vision into our action. Now there is. Our budget has grown by about 20% over these six years. We have written a new Mission and Vision Statement, and on the basis of that statement we have created a Strategic Five Year Plan, a Staff Development Plan, and a Facilities Master Plan, and we are engaged in a major Capital Campaign to realize the first phase of the Master Plan. Our institution is far more stable and mature than it was six years ago.

Six years ago, it was not at all unusual for the campus to be dark of an evening, with nothing happening here. Now, we use our facilities virtually every day and evening to carry our ministry into the community. Under the inspired leadership of our facilities manager, Ken Ralph, we have come to understand that our facilities are not just a bunch of buildings, but a resource that we can use to make Santa Barbara a better, safer, and more beautiful place. We have given away nearly \$100,000 to Social Justice causes, both in the

city and beyond, over these years, and we have re-organized our Social Justice work. We are carrying our ministry far beyond our walls.

Six years ago, the Society was a congregation that had begun to recover from about a decade of difficulty. There were still broken hearts, but we had our Covenant of Good Relations, and we had a commitment to use it. Use it we did, and that, among other things, has led to as deep a healing of the divisions and pain as I have ever seen in a congregation. When I watched people working together for the common good, who only a few years ago could hardly be in the same room together, I knew that the time of difficulty was behind us, and a future of cooperation and good will lies in front of us.

There is more to this, though. Our worship is consistently creative and profound, healing and renewing, challenging and compelling. Our religious education program feeds the hearts and minds of our children, our youth, and our adults. Our pastoral care program has increasingly brought comfort, help, compassion, and caring to those who need it. And our social justice program opens our souls to compassion for the brokenness that lies beyond the artificial boundaries of our walls. As a religious community, we have deepened and matured.

So I say that the Society has grown enormously in these six years. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. It is said that a healthy church never has enough money, because it is constantly finding—and inventing—more that it wants to do. Equally, a healthy and growing church never has enough volunteers, staff, or time, and for exactly the same reason. We are a healthy, growing congregation, and I leave you with a legacy and a vision of work and accomplishment.

There will always be more to be accomplished, and I can almost guarantee that you will not be bored in the coming years. But you now have something that you did not have when I came. You have confidence and maturity as an institution, and you have learned that if you would accomplish great things trust, not power, is the first step. Power without trust is a seductive demon that drinks the lifeblood from your heart before you even know it is there. But trust, the trust that is born of Love, tames this demon and transforms it first into a dream and then into a dream realized.

You have also learned the truth of something the great 19th century Universalist, Hosea Ballou, said: “If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good.” You have, perhaps, learned this the hard way, but you have learned it. You know that the important question is not “Who is right?” The important question is “Where is the Love?” If you can answer the latter, the former takes care of itself, but if you cannot answer the latter, there is no point even in asking the former.

And so the future is bright. Of course it is not a future into which I can lead you. My ministries have all been about planting fruit trees from which I will not harvest a single avocado, orange, or tangerine. This does not bother me, for my reward is not in the harvest but in seeing healthy trees being placed in the loving hands of dedicated gardeners. My reward at USSB is great indeed, for never have I seen such trees or such gardeners. I entrust these trees, then, gladly and willingly, to your care.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth W. Collier, Parish Minister

CONSULTING MINISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

As Consulting Minister for Religious Education my primary responsibilities are to guide and direct the Lifespan Religious Education Programs of our congregation. Please refer to my program reports further on in this publication. In addition, I participate in the overall life of the church by

- offering the Story for All Ages, joining the Rev. Ken Collier for the In-Gathering, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, COA and Bridging Sunday services, Baby Dedication and New Member Recognition ceremonies,
- submitting Melitta's Musings and Lifespan RE News for each Kaleidoscope,
- attending all Executive and Board meetings, Program Council, Committee on Shared Ministry, weekly Ministerial Team meetings and monthly retreats, weekly staff meetings,
- meeting monthly with our remarkable Pastoral Care and Social Justice Coordinators separately,
- offering increased pastoral care to members of the congregation,
- sending pastoral care cards to members in need,
- providing guidance for Seasoned Seekers for future programming,
- leading a retreat for the Alliance,
- supporting the incredible work done by our congregational leadership and staff to launch and follow-thru with the Capital Campaign and Gala event,
- marching for peace with our USSB banner (kindly held by Brian Hansen in soggy wet rain!)
- performing memorial services for the Brown family and attending social USSB events and fundraisers.
- I was especially pleased to be asked to offer three Sunday services throughout the year. My sermons were: "Can Politics Be Moral?" "Sabbath Sense," and "The Art of Trapeze Swinging and Transitions."
- I was delighted to offer the New UU class in conjunction with the Rev. Ken Collier, Nancy Edmundson, Bruce Hanna and John Chere three times this year and the Generation to Generation Mentor class with Ken Ralph.
- As it is vital to maintain strong collegial connections, I attended monthly Cluster Ministerial Association gatherings, quarterly Cluster LREDA gatherings, the President's Roundtable Discussions, and two UUMA retreats.

Overall, this has been a fabulous year! It is amazing to review the year and see the major work we have accomplished together! I want to thank the entire staff for working so well together. It is not always easy, given the enormity of the projects we have undertaken and the often complex nature of our activities on campus. Our commitment to clear communication, mutual respect and appreciation of our shared work (ministry) has created a strong foundation. I feel fortunate to work with the Rev. Ken Collier, Nancy Edmundson, Carol Doose, Ken Ralph, Mahlon Balderston, Jaime Moreno, and Marilee Mouser. I will miss the Rev. Ken Collier and look forward to working with the Rev. Joy Atkinson. Our Religious Education Assistant, Charla Bregante, has been exceedingly wonderful in making our Children's RE program flow so well. I will look forward to her becoming our ½ time RE Assistant next year, as she is a tremendous asset to our effort!

Most of all, I greatly enjoy serving you, the members and friends of the Unitarian Society. I look forward to another fascinating year!

With great faith in our future,
Rev. Melitta L. Haslund

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Some might say, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure!" *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.

This has been a rewarding year filled with challenges and accomplishments, and as the program year comes to a close I experience feelings of loss, sadness, celebration and anticipation. I have so loved working with Mahlon Balderston and Ken Collier, and will miss seeing them each day. Mahlon, I'll miss our daily "chocolate breaks" and our precious moments spent pondering world affairs, families and friends. Ken, your easy going and encouraging nature have been central to our collegial work together. I hope for the best of everything to both of you in your retirements. I look forward to continuing my work with Rev. Melitta Haslund, which enjoys a mutual level of professional admiration and support, and to developing a new team relationship with Rev. Joy Atkinson, Interim Minister.

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 know that the administrative staff feels affirmed and appreciated for our work; for this we thank you all.

The majority of administrative responsibilities fall into the following categories, all supported by significant volunteer efforts, whose detailed reports are on the pages that follow:

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 our Master Facility Plan development, Staff Development Plan, Combined Capital and Annual Campaigns, ministerial transitions, and sustaining our solid programming.

Planning: Our congregation's 2004-2005 Mission and Vision work and development of a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2005-2010 continues to direct staff well in prioritizing our energies and congregational resources. This is reflected in the work of task forces and committees on Staff Development, Long Range Planning, Building Planning, Master Plan Development, Financial Fundraising Feasibility Study, and our current Annual and Capital Campaign.

Program Development: Our adoption of the Strategic Plan continues to guide our Program Council in evaluating ongoing programs and developing future programs. Significant energy has been devoted this year to sustaining our Social Justice Programming and re-establishing our Social Justice Committee. This coming year I look forward to devoting additional time and resources to our membership services.

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, Campaign Committees, Endowment Board, Planned Giving Committee and Budget Development sub-committee, and Audit Committee 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 is directed by our Strategic Plan and associated financial forecasts.

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.

Facilities: The day-to-day maintenance, scheduling and security of our facilities and grounds, is no small task! All of these activities continued in addition to our Master Planning efforts.

Professional Development: This year I attended various workshops related to administration and human resources 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 ranging from best administrative practices based on congregation size, to professional ethics as a spiritual practice and appreciating what tangible and intangible compensation occur when our profession and spiritual calling meet.

Next year in addition to ensuring smooth and reliable administrative services, I look forward to contributing significantly to our Interim Ministry, concluding our capital campaign fundraising efforts, continuing our building project oversight, updating our strategic plan, supporting our ministerial search efforts, and offering increased support to membership development.

In my spare time in the UU world: as a volunteer, I have enjoyed contributing my time this year as a member of the PSWD Leadership Resources Council, PSWD Organizational Consultant, and USSB Services Auction Auctioneer. I appreciate the congregation's support in my unsuccessful campaign for a position on the UUA board of trustees, and look forward to serving the PSWD board as Vice-President beginning July 1, 2007.

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

Nancy Edmundson, Administrator

TREASURER'S REPORT

We successfully kept to the budget set by our budget committee, watching any variances and adjusting our spending accordingly throughout the year. Our administrator, Nancy Edmundson, along with our outside bookkeeping service, Cindy Young, with their close watch and accounting of our monies, make the treasurer's job easy.

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Channel Cluster, 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 occasionally host Cluster or PSWD conferences.

The position is currently open. Given absence of a lay representative, the Administrator currently directs communications and inquiries. Interested parties should make their interest known to the Program Council, Administrator or directly to the Board

Nancy Edmundson
Administrator

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board-appointed Audit Committee members for 2006-07 were Mike Noling, Chair, John Gilbert, Roger Horton, and Ted Stern.

In December 2006 the Committee met with audit partner, Tom Ridge of Larson & Ridge. The group reviewed, approved and submitted the 6-30-06 “review” financial statements to the Board. Every third year the Society conducts a full audit with financial statement “reviews” in the intervening years. The Committee discussed the additional systems and controls required for the upcoming Capital Campaign and directed the Administrator to work with the Finance Committee to implement them.

In April 2007 the Committee met and reviewed and discussed the Ridge proposals for the 6-30-08 Audit and the quarterly Capital Campaign procedures engagement beginning 7-1-07 and agreed to accept the proposals as distributed and recommended approval by the Board. The Committee reviewed, discussed, and approved the amended staff program report on the auditor’s 6-30-05 Management Letter and staff response for submission to the Board.

Copies of financial statements and Audit Committee minutes are available from the Administrator, Nancy Edmundson.

Charter Responsibilities of the Audit Committee

- Recommend to the full Board, the retention and termination of the independent auditor (retention and discharge of the independent auditor is a Board responsibility)
- Negotiate 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

Submitted by,
Mike Noling, Chair

BUILDING PLANNING & BUILDING PROJECT COMMITTEES

The USSB Facility Masterplan was not simply the brainchild of a team of hired architects, or a small group in the congregation. Instead it grew out of the USSB Strategic Plan and year-long dedicated work of the ***Building Planning Committee*** in conversation with the congregation and congregation leadership. The committee was charged and appointed by the Board of Trustees, and began work in early May 2006. The committee was chaired by Dave Kujan who diligently kept us “on track”. Each of the members made important contributions: Jody Thomas, John Ledbetter, Alex Cole, Gary Maxwell, Virginia Barrett, Andrew Bermond, Don Bushnell and Ken Ralph (staff). The meetings were frequent and intense.

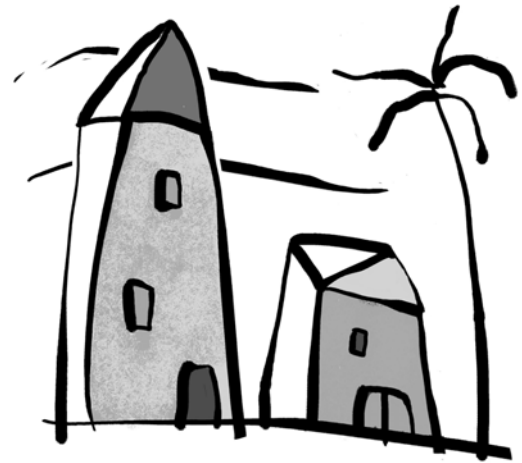
This Committee carefully studied the USSB Strategic Plan to see what our facilities needs would be in the years ahead. Several “focus groups” open to all members of the congregation with an average attendance of 65-70 participants, were held to hear how our facilities could better support our congregants’ values

and desires. Congregational input at these focus groups was instrumental and formative to the Master Plan Development. An extensive maintenance inventory was assembled, with the skilled support of Kevin Pierik, to illuminate the needs of our aging buildings. Seismic studies were conducted by Michael Krakower, a structural engineer specializing in historic structures. Then the committee began the truly difficult work of distilling all of this input into a cohesive set of priorities that the congregation could endorse. The results were masterful, and provided invaluable direction as we began consultations with our architect.

Those consultations were arduous. How does one translate the needs and desires of a congregation into concrete facility improvements? Nine times out of ten, a member of the committee would suggest an innovative idea, which shifted everyone's thinking (including our architects) and opened new ways of accomplishing our objectives. The process was dynamic, exciting and exhausting. Our architect, Don Ziemer of KBZ and Rob Fowler Landscape Design, translated this work into beautiful plans, but our work was not done. Construction costs had to be assigned to the various elements of the plan and priorities had to be determined. This was accomplished with the professional work of KBZ consultants. All of this information, shared with the congregation at Town Meetings, was instrumental to the congregation's voting to conduct a Fundraising Financial Feasibility Study, and led to the eventual vote of the congregation to establish funding priorities and to launch our current capital campaign.

Once the Masterplan was approved by the congregation, the conceptual phase of the Committee's work was done, but much more work remained. A **Building Project Committee** has been charged and appointed by the Board of Trustees to continue the work and transform our plans into reality. John Ledbetter, Gary Maxwell, Alex Cole and Ken Ralph have signed up for a "second tour of duty" with John as the new chairperson. Members of the new committee include George Solinas, Peter Hale, Mike Noling, Jared Dawson and Patrick Block and Patricia Reilly (Board representative), with Dick Jensen and Ted Stern, as consulting members. This past month the Board of Trustees determined, after careful consultation with KBZ, staff, and Building Committee members, to hire The Peikert Group Architects for the next phase of our project development. As they say, "The devil is in the details", and there are many details to work out. With the assistance of our hired consultants, hard working volunteers and careful communication with the congregation, we are confident that our plan will materialize on time, on budget and more beautiful than we could have imagined.

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Building & Grounds

CAMPAIGN, ANNUAL AND CAPITAL COMBINED

The purpose of the pledge drive for the fiscal year 2007-2008 was to educate and encourage generous and full-share giving in order to fund the staff, programs, and activities of our congregation. The Annual Campaign was combined with a Capital Campaign, the first one of its kind in 52 years. The purpose of the Capital Campaign, "It's Our Time" is to fund our Building Project between now and 2010. We want to maintain and improve the facilities that past members have provided for us and to be stewards of our buildings and grounds making our gift to the future.



Stewardship

Results achieved in this year's pledge campaign include an increase in giving by those members who have made their pledges. Additionally, more members are meeting or approaching a Full Share Gift. The Capital Campaign is progressing toward our goal and the results so far are encouraging.

This year our goal was to have an in-person stewardship visit, or to offer such a visit, with each member of our congregation. These visits build community, provide a way to foster sharing information about our Society, and help educate our members about our Combined Annual/Capital Campaign. There were two training workshops in March led by our consultant, Larry Wheeler, for the visiting stewards who conducted these visits.

There has been a lot of fun in these campaigns as well as hard work. There was a Chili Supper for leadership at the home of Beverly Hanna in January. There was an Advance Gifts Reception at the home of Ted and Kay Stern in March. There was a Gala Fellowship Event in April at the Rockwood Women's Club. The gala included a catered

dinner, signature cocktails, skits, dancing and a separate program for the children.

The Campaign Co-Chairs were Roger Horton and Beverly Appleton. The group of hard-working and talented Campaign Committee Chairs include: Leadership Gifts Co-Chairs Dick Jensen and Sally and Mark Hamilton, and General Gifts Co-Chairs Jody and Doug Thomas and Carol Schwyzer. Also making a huge contribution were Bruce Hanna as Communication Chair, Percy Sales as Events Chair, Chris Casebeer as Alumni Gifts Chair, Don Bushnell as Community Gifts Chair, Joanne Nay as Feasibility Study Committee Chair, John Chere as Follow-Up Chair, and Nancy Edmundson as Tracking Chair. In addition to the Committee Chairs, there were a large group of committee members and visiting stewards who made the campaign possible. Our consultant, Larry Wheeler, guided and helped us in too many ways to list. In addition, the Combined Annual/Capital Campaigns depended on our very special staff. The encouragement, ideas, dedication, and support from Nancy Edmundson and Carol Doose were extraordinary.

The combined campaign, with such enthusiastic and full participation by the congregation, is surely a testimony to our desire to maintain and build a thriving community with lots of activities and programs. Our Santa Barbara Unitarian Society is our beautiful spiritual home, and we have shown that we care deeply about it.

Beverly Appleton
Co-Chair

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.

Susan Neufeldt chaired COSM for 2006-07, and the following served as members for the year: Mike Getto, Jo Ann Magistad, Paul Kretschmer, Terry Nelson, Charles McCracken, Dorothy Warnock, and Deborah Wolfe. For 2007-2008 Susan Neufeldt will serve as chair, and new members will be selected to replace Mike Getto and Jo Ann Magistad. Members are appointed by the Board; COSM makes recommendations and welcomes volunteers.

Along with regular consultation and assistance to the ministerial team, COSM took on two large projects. First, they developed of the Covenant between the Congregation and the retiring minister for the current church year, in consultation with the Board; Paul Kretschmer, Susan Neufeldt, and Ivor John provided leadership. Second, COSM oversaw the retirement celebrations of Mahlon Balderston and Ken Collier. Congregation members Kay Stern and Phyllis Dunn chaired and organized Mahlon's celebration, and Pat Kruger and Terry Nelson chaired and organized Ken Collier's, with help from COSM members and congregation members. Kudos to all who were involved.

For 2007-2008, in addition to its regular duties, COSM will assist in whatever transition activities are needed.

Susan Neufeldt

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, 2006, the value of the total assets of the Fund was \$815,857, up from \$736,527 a year earlier. Fund assets had a total return of 13.8% in 2006, net of the approximately 6% distributed to the Society. As of March 31, 2007, Fund assets were \$836,880, up 2.6% from year-end 2006.

Since the Fund's inception in 1983, it has received gifts and bequests of \$505,511 (the Fund's principal), including \$20,428 in 2006. In 2006, the Fund distributed \$42,888 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.

During 2006 the Fund received \$3,779 from the Society to fully repay the remainder of the Swackhammer/Eichorn loan that had been made to the Society by the Fund.

Assets are invested in a combination of Vanguard equity and bond index mutual funds and the Ariel Fund, an environmentally friendly mutual fund. . In order to take advantage of lower expenses, all Vanguard funds, except the international fund, are Admiral Shares with particularly low fees. As of March 31, 2007, the Funds' assets of \$836,880 were invested as follows: Vanguard Money Market 2.9%, Vanguard Mid-cap Index Fund 19.3%, Vanguard 500 Index Fund 16.9%, Vanguard Total Bond Market

Index 12.4%, Vanguard Asset Allocation Fund 12.9%, Vanguard Smallcap Index Fund 16.6%, Vanguard Total International Stock Index 14.6% and Ariel Fund 4.4%.

The combined efforts of our Endowment Board Members Anita Blume, Treasurer; Barbara Margerum, Secretary and Bob Fulmer, along with Administrator Nancy Edmundson are very much appreciated. Members of this board are appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Society and may not serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms. Consequently, the last term of the current president will expire in January 2008. Parties interested in serving on this board should contact the Administrator.

Ted Stern, President

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to insure that monies are spent in accordance with the Society's annual budget, to provide the Board with advance notice and advice when unusual financial conditions arise, and to 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 committee drafted a new charge describing its duties and formalizing the operation of the Budget Planning group as a subcommittee of Finance. The Board approved this charge in December 2006. In addition to reviewing monthly financial reports and status, the Finance Committee provided input and recommendations to the Board on a wide range of matters during the year, including a midyear budget adjustment, handling of outstanding loans and of earthquake insurance and financial policies for the capital campaign that is now in full swing. Financial procedures and reporting for the capital campaign and building project are being organized under the committee's oversight, with the participation of campaign co-chairs Beverly Appleton and Roger Horton.

Beverly Appleton, Ken Saxon, and Ted Stern joined the committee in summer 2006. John Gilbert joined as chair and Board representative. Treasurer Anita Blume and Roger Horton were continuing members. Administrator Nancy Edmundson provides superb staff support to the committee and attends meetings as a non-voting member. The committee normally meets in Blake Lounge at 4:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to Society members.

The Budget Planning Subcommittee met three times in early 2007. BPSC prepares estimates of expenses and revenues for input to the construction of the annual Society budget, but does not actually balance the budget (which is the Board's responsibility). BPSC also creates three-year budget projections to give the Board a somewhat longer view. This worked particularly smoothly this year in co-ordination with the Long Range Planning Committee, whose chair Ivor John was a member of BPSC. The other members were Nancy Edmundson (Administrator, non-voting), Susan Neufeldt, Patricia Reilly (Board President), Ken Saxon, and John Gilbert (chair). The BPSC presented its input to the Board in March; in May the Board approved a balanced budget for fiscal 2007-2008 (subject to congregational vote at the June annual meeting).

The new Chair expresses his thanks for hard work, well and enthusiastically done, to the committee members, to bookkeeper Cindy Young, and especially to Nancy Edmundson.

Respectfully submitted,
John R. Gilbert, Chair

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

This year, the IT committee was blessed by the energy and enthusiasm of the *USSB Nerds for Justice* – a group of talented teens, parents, and members-at-large, who donated time and money in order to upgrade the aging computer systems that USSB now relies upon so heavily. You may have seen them proudly wearing their colorful propeller-head caps some Sunday after services. These wonderful folks donated the funds needed to build new, high performance PCs, and then learned how to do so from technical guru Kevin Pierik. The result was a brand-spanking new state-of-the art server and 5 new PC workstations. IT Angel Cindy Young then stepped forward and pledged funds for the new server operating system and email groupware upgrade. We hope to have all the new machines installed and in use before the end of summer.

Aside from that, intrepid IT volunteer Mack Stanton continues to wear too many hats (but so far no propeller-head cap), in that he has acted as our primary Kaleidoscope editor for this past year, in addition to managing, massaging, cajoling and otherwise working wonders with the various electronic email lists that the Society depends upon, like umail.

And to complete the acknowledgements, we bow down in praise to longtime volunteer and Reflections list moderator Al Melkonian, for his tireless service to our society in administering the ever-interesting Reflections list.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Thomas, Chair

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

During the year, our Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) continued to monitor progress with the implementation of the Congregation's Five-Year Strategic Plan. The work of this committee is vital for the Board to make informed decisions about our future. Specifically the LRPC worked on the following activities this year:

- Coordinated with lay leaders and staff to implement each measurable step in the Strategic Plan.
- Tracked progress on each measurable step.
- Made routine reports on progress to the Board of Trustees, especially on staff development.

In the Fall of 2006, the LRP presented a Draft Staff Development Plan to the Congregation. Some of the more important staffing issues discussed were: whether to call an Associate Minister, add a half-time Director of Children's Religious Education, create a half-time Music Director position, and increase time for the Facilities Manager. The LRPC provided an estimate of the associated budget implications. There was lively discussion of this plan, but no action was taken. With the other major changes going on – including Ken Collier's retirement, the search for an interim minister, and the Capital Campaign – it was decided to defer any decisions on long-term staffing plans for at least a year.

Other major planning activities underway this year included the development of a Facilities Master Plan and the launching of a Capital Campaign. These activities are discussed elsewhere in the Annual Report.

No changes were made to the Strategic Plan itself, or the strategic financial projections. (These were developed in 2005-06 to give an indication of what the operating and capital costs are expected to be over the five-year period as the Strategic Plan is fully implemented.)

The Long Range Planning Committee plans to conduct a thorough review of the Strategic Plan during 2007-08, and to issue an update later in the year.

Thanks to the many volunteers and staff who participated in the planning effort during 2006-07!

Respectfully submitted,
Ivor John, Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bruce Hanna had agreed to serve as chair for '05-'07 but in '06 was recruited to chair Communications for the Capital Campaign and had to leave "Membership". Our fine staff and ministerial leadership team carried the load, with board member John Chere ex officio as Membership Chair. That said, our active but small minority of extroverts kept parties and service auction gatherings going and actually walked up to visitors on occasion. Still, a chair would stimulate committee functions for the '07-'08 year.

The Membership Committee promotes welcoming, assimilation, and personal interactions among members and friends...having fun getting to know and care for one another. Desired focus for the next few years is described in the USSB Strategic Plan.

The latest foray into rejuvenation of some form of congregation-wide Small Group membership gatherings was quiet in '06-'07, though some groups still survive from the effort Anne Anderson initiated a few years ago.

- Path to Membership - Our ministerial leadership team of Nancy Edmundson, Melitta Haslund and Ken Collier ran this series for the year.
- Sunday morning Hospitality, Welcoming Table, Superhosts, Coffee - Carol Doose oversees the invitations to members to fill these roles on Sundays.
- Radical Hospitality - John and Nancy ran a three-part workshop to revitalize membership. A report of the effort is available from Bruce Hanna or the office.
- Neighborhood Groups - Joanie Jones coordinated several zip code facilitators.
- Campaign "Membership" Contributions this year included keeping the congregation informed, involved and at times entertained as part of the campaign, as well as the one-on-one visits by visiting stewards.
- Chautauqua, adult RE and Services Auction held "membership" related activities. Earnest thanks to the several members who supported these efforts.
- Regular potlucks – Bev and Bruce Hanna and Barbara Margerum will organize several potlucks for the '07-'08 year as one ongoing membership contribution.

Contact Bruce Hanna, bphanna@cox.net, with your ideas for membership.

Report by Bruce Hanna

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is composed of six members, elected at the Annual Meeting. Each member is elected for a term of three years, two being elected each year. Any member who has signed the membership book at least three years prior to the commencement of the term, and is not a Trustee or an employee of the Society, is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, if they are elected at the Congregational Annual Meeting.

This year the Nominating Committee had the special obligation to nominate members of the Ministerial Search Committee, which took up much of our time. The Search Committee is to be "at least seven persons" to be nominated, and elected at the Annual Meeting. Because of the high interest in serving, we nominated nine members who will work during 2007 – 2008 to conduct the Search for a Ministerial

Candidate to replace retiring minister, Ken Collier. We also nominate members of the Board of Directors, depending on the vacancies created by the three-year terms, or resignations for other reasons. Generally, there are at least four Board positions open each year. We also nominate members of the Program Council.

We look for capable leaders to guide our beloved community. We welcome suggestions from the Congregation of nominees or self-nomination, and try to consider all qualified candidates for positions. We are always on the lookout for people interested in serving our Congregation in leadership positions.

We meet to compile a list of potential candidates. We look at skill set, ability to work well with others, availability, diversity, etc. We establish an order, and individually begin asking people if they are willing to serve. We are grateful that our membership is most often willing to accept the responsibility, if it is within their personal ability to accept. Sometimes people cannot serve this year, but indicate they are interested and willing to be considered next year. Because four of six nominating committee members continue on, we can maintain a record of those who are willing to serve in the future.

How about you?

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Noling, Chair
Max Neufeldt, Jo Saxon, Carol Schwyzer, Chuck Wolfe, Ellen Yeomans

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Since 2006-2007 was a year of relatively few changes in staff and minimal needs for consultation and policy changes, the Personnel Committee met periodically on point issues and for consultation with the board and the staff. With a year of change anticipated, the Board of Trustees selected Gary Welterlen, to reconstitute the personnel committee. Gary and Nancy Edmundson, Administrator, have met on a number of occasions and have developed a new working model for the committee so best to address the needs of several search committees, the long range planning committee, the nominating committee and the ministerial staff. To keep abreast of new regulations and policies Nancy has attended a human resource training program that includes access to HR Express for expert advice.

The Personnel Committee role will remain primarily consultation and policy review and approval. Policy and procedure implementation is by Nancy Edmundson, the Administrator. She 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. However, rather than a standing committee, members of a resource pool will be called upon to address specific needs and long term projects and will convene in small work groups and special projects 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.

The personnel resource pool includes, Beverly Appleton, Mike Hackett, Sally Hinton, Deb Karoff, Brian Olson and Gary Welterlen. The Committee would like to add an additional member or two for the coming year. Please contact Gary Welterlen, if you are interested in serving on special projects.

Respectfully Submitted
Gary Welterlen
Chair, Personnel Committee 2006-2007

PLANNED GIVING ADVISORS

The year 2006-07 was another excellent 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 our remaining resources going to those that matter most to us and to avoid unnecessary taxes.
- Second, make a health care proxy that assigns a trusted person to make decisions for us if we become incapacitated.
- And then finally, the program encourages including those groups in our plans that matter a great deal to us and to leave a legacy to those groups, hopefully including this congregation.

The Planned Giving Advisors met in September 2006 to develop plans for the 2006-07 year. The Advisors accepted Mary Grimm's invitation to participate at the Sunday Pastoral Care table in the garden

On October 8, the Planned Giving Advisors held a Workshop on "end of life planning process, estate planning, and planned giving" led by Dick Jensen, Mary Grimm, and Barbara Kane.

In his October 15 Heritage Sunday sermon, Ken Collier's theme was "Standing on the Shoulders of Ever Expanding Giants". This service also celebrated our Chalice Circle members. Mike Noling encouraged all members and friends to embrace the program and join Chalice Circle. He reminded the congregation that the Planned Giving program mission is to urge each of us to take care of ourselves and our loved ones by preparing a will and a health care proxy to be used in the event we become incapacitated.

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.

Following the service, Chalice Circle members met at Kay and Ted Stern's home for a recognition luncheon and fellowship.

In September 2006 we received a gift from the Ruth Adams estate and in March 2007 we learned that Marlene Neushul left a most generous bequest to USSB. These bequests followed gifts from the Roy and Laurie Cummins estate and Helen Gordon's gift to the Capital Campaign in 2005-06.

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!

The some sixty-five current Chalice Circle members are included in the list below. All have wills, health care proxies and have found it possible to include the Unitarian Society or our Endowment in their estate plans. The congregation thanks all for leaving a legacy for future generations of UUs.

Planned Giving Advisors

Mike Noling, Chair	Chris Casebeer	Bill Crawford	Joan Livingston
Anna DiStefano	Mary Grimm	Bruce Hanna	Ken Saxon
Dick Jensen	Colin Jones	Barbara Kane	Ted Stern
Jerry Martin	Harriet Miller	Patricia Reilly	John Warnock



The Chalice Circle

Providing Strength and Stewardship to the Society For Generations to Come

CHALICE CIRCLE MEMBERS

Ruth Adams Estate	Benjamin Frank Estate	Marlene Neushul Estate
Brian Andreas & Ellen Rockne	Mildred Frisbee Estate	Mike & Betty Noling
Billings Gift	Bob & Pat Fulmer	Northman Estate
Dorothy Boothe	Margaret Getman Estate	Bob Pinkerton Estate
Elizabeth Buell Gift	Ann Goff	Peter & Ruth Pocock
Larry & Fran Brundall	Helen Gordon	George & Laurie Potter
Don Bushnell	Mary Grimm	Ken & Jo Saxon
Chris Casebeer	Charles W. Hague Estate	Schmidhauser Gift
Mary Chubb	Ilse Hance	Julie Schneideman Estate
Carnzu Clark	Bruce Hanna	June Schuerch
Ken Collier & Anne Anderson	Roger & Eileen Horton	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Sheehan Gift
Dick Cousineau	Richard & Bonnie Jensen	Minna E Smith Trust
Lex & Ginny Crane	Jean & Ivor John	Jack & Judy Stapelmann
Laurie & Roy Cummins Estate	Colin & Joanie Jones	Ted & Kay Stern
Jared Dawson & Kathleen Boehm	June Kelley	Gladys Swackhamer Estate
DeArriaz Estate	Joan Livingston	Doug & Jody Thomas
James DeJuren Estate	Julie Lopp	Mary Lou Thompson Estate
Anna DiStefano & Deb Karoff	Al & Betty LoMele Gift	Hal & Jeanne Thornton
Phyllis Dunn	Steve Malott	USSB Gifts
Nancy & Alan Edmundson	Donald & Barbara Margerum	Linda Van Buren
Eichorn Estate	Harriet Miller	John & Dorothy Warnock
Peter Foot Estate	Paul and Joanne Nay	Anonymous Gifts
	Bob & Marianne Nelson	

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, and this was a smooth operating year. This year our committee included George Solinas, Ken Ralph (staff), Nancy Edmundson (ex officio) and Allen Doyle, chair. We met monthly through summer 2006, and switched to bimonthly meetings. With busy schedules, the capital campaign and campus design efforts underway, the RUC did not meet during winter 06-07. New members will be sought this summer. Nominations may be submitted to the chair or Nancy Edmundson.

The rooms were used nearly to capacity this year. Congregation events have first priority and generally 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. Room use revenues were about the same as the previous year, (approximately \$58,000), and exceeded budget projections. (This does not include rent from the parsonage or to Starr King Parent Child Workshop or ORCA School; the administrator board handles these matters at the direction of the board.) Expenses directly related to room use were less than \$2,000. With upcoming construction, room use projected revenues will decrease in late '08, and this is being planned for.

USSB room use policy helps groups with minimal financial resources that provide unique services to the Santa Barbara community. For example, we kicked off the fiscal year with *Risque Cabaret*, which was controversial in the community and congregation, and provided the congregation an opportunity to learn more about our Room Use Policies and examine our commitment to supporting diverse groups in our community. The Wilderness Youth Project used normally-unused rooms at minimal or no fees. The Academy of Healing Arts (AHA) use Jefferson Hall for free every afternoon as it successfully empowers "at risk" teens in our community. The Fund for Santa Barbara also meets on our campus, as does the group F.A.C.T., which advocates for mental health care in Santa Barbara, and the Naples Coalition, which provides stewardship for the coast east of Ellwood.

The meditation group Sanctuary for Mindful Living rents the space weekly, and the men's group, Mankind Project, rents a classroom every week and has a few USSB members, Santa Barbara Improv. is a regular room user. Several twelve-step programs (e.g. AA & Al Anon) have returned, and use our classrooms at significantly reduced rates due to their low admission fee and critical life support role. The Patricia Henley Foundation will rent our space for summer theatre arts programs for at-risk youth. Sponsored events continue with the Music and Social Justice Committees. The Music Committee sponsored over one dozen events. Social Justice Committee sponsored several events as well. Our kitchen has generated income from several private caterers including our own Margaret Riesen.

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 4, 2006.

The theme of the 2006 auction was *Viva Las Vegas!* 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, as well as providing numerous social events for fellowship throughout the year.

This year 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
Donnis Galvan, Gary & Debbie Welterlen, Auction Acquisition
Peter Hale, Big Board Auction
Ellen Rockne, Linda Williams and Nancy Edmundson, Entertainment
Doug Thomas, MC
Carol Doose, Administrative Back-up
Ann Goff, Brochure Editing
Margaret Riesen, Food
Mark & Sally Hamilton, and Joanie & Colin Jones Auction Registration
Bob Roan, Computer Programming
Karen Mora, Accounting

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) 646-6478 or Nancy Edmundson, Administrator at (805) 965-4583. Expect the unexpected at 2007 Services Auction on November 3, when we will venture into the depths of *The Pirates of USSB*, we anticipate it being the largest services auction yet.

This year the services auction raised a net of \$25,667, after spending \$2,309 to produce this event. A great year for 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, and watch for donation forms in early September. We look forward to *Charting the Future of USSB* on November 3, 2007!

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

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 on focus to the strategic plan to develop and support programs that are vital in meeting the needs of our congregation. Additionally, the Program Council for most of the year also acted as the Social Justice Committee. In this transition period, the Program Council has been in support of several social justice initiatives and programs that the Society supports in a variety of ways.

New programs such as Ministry for Earth and Social Justice Corner in the Kaleidoscope are just some of the new programs that will entice and involve all members of our congregation. Continuing programs include Chautauqua and Adult RE classes that have some outstanding programs for adults to become involved.

The Program Council looks forward to another great year in 2007-2008. 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, contact one of our Program Council members.

Program Council members are Brian Hansen, Joanne Nay, Birdie Newborn, Shelley Purcilly, Percy Sales and Gary Welterlen.

Submitted by:
Percy Sales

THE ALLIANCE

Meeting and greeting old and new friends at festive Friday gatherings is an Alliance tradition. Stimulating programs that enriched our lives this year were: Sylvia Abualy (photography), "Life Chronicles", Anne Anderson (painter), Ellen Rockne and Mahlon Balderston (musicians) and many others.

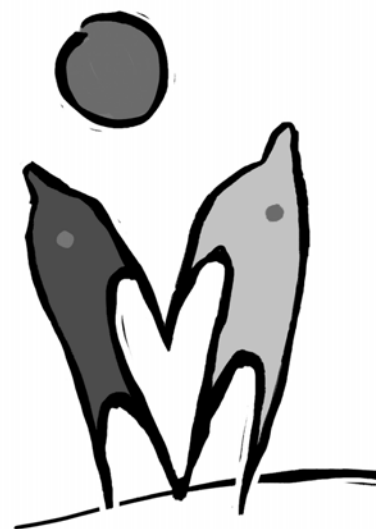
Since 1876 our organization has supported the UU Society with major (and minor) gifts, including stained glass windows, sanctuary lighting, kitchen upgrades and now \$20,000.00 for the Capital Campaign.

Locally, we have 1) honored Connie Clark with the UUWF Clara Barton Award for her lifetime service to our community, 2) sponsored two "Souper Sundays," bringing \$500.00 to the Society and 3) assisted in the retirement reception of Mahlon Balderston.

Nationally, the UUWF social justice projects in the USA and Africa received a \$500.00 grant from us.

Our business meetings are conducted by an outstanding and dedicated Board of Directors. (Dues are \$15.00.)

Open to all, we meet at 2 p.m. on the first Friday of the month (October-June). We welcome you.



The
Alliance

Phyllis Dunn, President

CHAUTAUQUA

This year in Chautauqua, thanks to the leadership of Don Bushnell, we began a series called the Chautauqua Speaker's Forum. The general theme was "Communication that Connects – Both Public and Private." Don obtained and hosted a variety of interesting and timely speakers on a variety of topics every other month or so on Wednesday evenings in Blake Lounge. Speakers and programs included:

September 13: *The Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback* with Dr. Charles Seashore, Chair of the Fielding Graduate University, HOD faculty.

November 8: *Santa Barbara News Press: Editorials, News, and Community Feedback* with Jerry Roberts, Editor.

January 10: *Creating Positive Dialogue that Transcends Community Conflict* with Dr. Barnett Pearce, professor at Fielding Graduate University and Co-author of *Moral Conflict: When Social Worlds Collide*.

February 21: *Strategic Planning for Life Partners* with Matthew Heim, Ph.D. and Kathleen Heim, authors of *A Visionary Strategy for Married Couples and Life Partners*.

May 16: *U.S. and Iran: Finding Common Ground* with Mateo Farzaneh, Middle East Historian and John Chere, First Secretary, U.S. Embassy, Tehran, Iran.

In January, Linda Williams, Sandy Grasso-Boyd, and Ellen Rockne co-hosted a “Karaoke Night,” something Chautauqua had sponsored once before, some years back. Carefully crafted solo performances gave way to raucous group singing as the night wore on and confidence grew, but the heartfelt performances were appreciated by all.

In February, Laurie Potter and other poets from the Society sponsored the annual Poetry Café, in which poets from inside and outside the Society are invited to read their original works. As always, the poetry was excellent and the audience appreciative.

Our single theatrical production this year was a staged reading of Dylan Thomas’s *Under Milk Wood*, directed by Brian Hansen, on the last two weekends in March. The all-society cast consisted of Mary Allen, John Chere, Mary Chubb, Marika Davidek, Marilynn Gruber, Brian Hansen, Paul Nay, George Potter, John Warnock, and Linda Williams. Some of our actors were Chautauqua veterans, and others were appearing with Chautauqua for the first time. As always, working intimately together on a shared project brought delightful exploration, new friendships, and joyful camaraderie, as well as a product we (and I think Dylan Thomas) could be proud of. Many thanks go to all who worked so many hours to make this production a reality.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara for the wonderful support it has given to the Chautauqua program these past six years. We have truly enjoyed the opportunity we have been given to produce events, and we hope the members of the Society have enjoyed them too.

Brian Hansen and Linda Williams

DANCE-AWAY COMMITTEE

On April 6, 2007, Dance Away celebrated its 29th anniversary as a USSB program. It consists of free-form dancing to continuous recorded contemporary music furnished by a pool of eight DJs 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 enthusiasts). We furnish bottled water to our dancers, and from 8:40 to 9:00 PM offer spontaneous drumming for dancing, when there are volunteers.

Dance Away is alcohol- and smoke-free, and through its suggested \$5 admission donation (\$1 for accompanied children), it has contributed over \$3,000 to the Society's general fund this past year, after paying its staff, which consists of eight DJs, a Senior Manager (Mike Thornley), and two door-staff (who act as cashiers and checkers). We are grateful for our dedicated workers, without whom DanceAway couldn't happen.

This past year DanceAway has attracted an average of 50 participants each week. Thanks to cooperation with USSB Facilities Manager Ken Ralph, DanceAway has happened every Friday during the past year. The few times when Parish Hall is in use Friday evening, we are scheduled in Jefferson Hall, which is smaller and requires paying for a sound system.

We have continued our efforts to strengthen reciprocal relations between USSB and DanceAway by inviting USSB members to attend free of charge, and by posting information about USSB events at each DanceAway. Decisions regarding Dance-Away policy and administration are made by the Dance-Away committee, which meets on the first Friday of each month from 6 to 7 PM. The committee currently consists of 2 USSB members (Dorothy Holland and Carol Preston) and three community members (Jim Bement, William Swan, and Kate Zeiss). Their faithful dedication is greatly appreciated. Dorothy Holland will continue as chair.

If you enjoy moving to music, we invite you to give DanceAway a try!

Dorothy Holland, Chair

ESPERANTO CIRCLE

The Esperanto Circle of Santa Barbara is dedicated to the teaching, use, and promotion of the international language Esperanto, which was created in 1887 to facilitate communication between individuals speaking different languages without giving anyone an unfair advantage. It has much in common with Unitarianism, including respect for the worth of every individual, and seeking harmony among all peoples.

Esperanto is based on European languages, but its grammar is streamlined and logical, making Esperanto much easier to learn than “natural” languages. Esperanto also has an extensive literature (original and translated) and a world-wide network of thousands of users in over 100 countries.

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. Our annual dues are \$5, which covers postage for our monthly newsletter.

At this year’s meetings we heard reports on vacation trips and Esperanto conventions attended by our members, and discussed such subjects as colors, favorite Esperanto books, and Esperanto and peace. We also played an Esperanto version of Bingo; and, during International Friendship Week, wrote postcards to Esperantists in Tychy (Poland), Yalta (Ukraine), and Lome (Togo). We also had an Esperanto exhibit at the main Santa Barbara library during August, and tabled on U.N. Day at City College. (The Universal Esperanto Association participates in the United Nations as a non-governmental organization.)

In honor of International Women’s Day March 8 we sent to a women’s peace organization in Hiroshima, Japan, six of 158 Esperanto peace messages received from 50 countries and viewed by 330 people.

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, Nancy Van Antwerp. It was a great loss to the newsletter team when Marlene passed away in February.

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

Printing, collating and folding: Suzanne Beauchamp, , Charles and Kathryn McCracken, Joanne and Paul Nay, Richard and Terri Nelson,

Labeling and mailing: Isabelle Burleigh, Louise Carty, Eileen Clark, Phyllis Dunn, Naomi Meyer, Marilyn Olsen.

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 and maintaining the library in Parish hall and responsibly choosing new books.

The Library Committee now meets on the fourth Sunday of every month at noon in La Paz lounge. We changed the meeting date to accommodate members who may want to attend Souper Sunday. 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. Richard Nelson and Michael Parker joined our committee this year. They are welcome additions. In December we had a potluck holiday party. Each member brought a gift-wrapped book 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 April this year. Our total sales for the 3 days were \$2,900.45. We had \$1,170.86 left in our account from last year. That plus this year's total sales gave us a grand total of \$4,071.31.

At our committee meeting in May, June reminded us that we had not elected a new Chair for several years. She nominated Lana who was unanimously elected.

Our goals for next year will be to work with the building committee on the refurbishing of Parish Hall; buy more documentary films; continue to buy books from the UU store and Beacon Press; and increase our sales at next year's book sale.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Society Board and the Minister in our ongoing mission. We are very thankful for the generous donations of books and movies by the members and the supportive donation of time and work from the staff.

Lana Haskett, Chair

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Religious Education~ A Centripetal Year

Our focus this year has been to bring the Religious Education families together to create stronger bonds of friendship and community. This has been and continues to be accomplished through a variety of methods: monthly RE Pizza Parties and RE Family Fun Nights, an on-going RE Council, special events such as the RE Family Hike and Picnic in Skofield Park and up Rattlesnake Canyon, an RE Open House in September, International Games in October, Secret Pals Program, the making of the USSB Children's "Peas and Justice Garden," Beach Clean-Up Day, Parent Participation Committees for special tasks, Secret Pals Program, UUltimate Frisbee, and quality Children's Worship Services in which we honored local UU Heroes or addressed Social Justice issues. Friendships and connections have been made and will help to strengthen our religious community throughout. We will continue much of this work next year.



Religious Education:

Children/Youth/Families

Religious Education Covenant

Our congregation began the year by making a Covenant with me, the Rev. Melitta L. Haslund, your Consulting Minister of Religious Education, as a condition for the third installment of the LREDA Grant the Society received under the able leadership of Anne Anderson. A successful program requires the combined efforts of me as a religious professional, the support of the parish minister, and the participation of the congregation. The covenant was developed from conversations among the representatives of the Committee on Shared Ministry, Program Council, the Board of Trustees, and the Ministerial Team. We held a special ceremony on September 17 to make official and celebrate new our covenant.

Children's RE Curricula

The curricula was selected by the RE Council and me, which was very well received by teaching teams and children alike. Teachers and the RE Council had originally planned to study Buddhism this spring, but feedback was so favorable, teachers expressed a desire to continue throughout the year. Each class focused on UU principles and history with age-appropriate curricula and pedagogy. We held two teacher trainings and two RE Teacher Appreciation Brunches. Teaching teams were very strong and communicated fairly well. Teachers went to extra lengths to provide stimulating, interesting and interactive lessons each week. We thank our RE Teachers: Joanne Nay, Patrick Block, Rosaleen Lancet, Carol Millar, Melissa Block, Janette Hope, the Rev. Bets Wienecke, Janis Connally, Anna Jensen, Terri Stelzer, Leo and Daniela Kostruba, Deb Karoff, Jo Saxon, Shelley Purcilly, Jean John, Astrid Nelson, Gretel Huglin-Ridge, Charlie Stelzer, Kir Zecher, Elizabeth Schwyzer, Sayre Macneil and Ellen Rockne!

All of the classes made treasures to sell at our auction in November. In January, the children voted to approve the Master Facilities Plan and many children contributed to the Capital Campaign from their own piggy banks!

The RE Council voted to approve the purchase of a blank journal for each child in which to record their religious, spiritual and theological development as they move through our program. When they reach the Coming of Age year, we will give it to them as a gift and record of their journey.

Children's Worship Services

* September: Cooperative and International Games! Special Guest, Scott Cleare taught interactive games to parents and children.

* October: El Dia De Los Muertos Ceremony and Celebration: An altar was made in honor of our beloved dead, a ceremony was performed and fun was had during the party!

* November: Children Making a Difference in the World: Children of all ages selected to write letters to our president. Months later, we received one single and very general reply to "The Fourth Grade Class" from President Bush, with a glossy 8 1/2 X 11 inch photo of him and Laura Bush. When our 3rd and 4th grade class wrote letters to our Mayor Marty Blum, they received prompt, individualized letters which spoke directly to their concerns and ideas.

* December: *Intergenerational Holiday Craft Party!* Numerous adults, children and COA youth helped to make this fabulous and mightily creative event possible!

* January: *Justice Everyday.* How can we speak up when we see something unjust like racism, mean behavior, bullying, etc?

* February: *Valentines and Medical Supplies to Haitian Refugees.* We made heart-felt cards and packed boxes of medical supplies to be brought to the Dominican Republic in March by Sarah Eckhart, daughter of Mary Ellen Hoffman and a student at Tufts University.

* March: *USSB Children's Peas and Justice Garden.* We planted more vegetables, painted a sign and made Guest Books for Mahlon and Ken's retirement services.

* April: *Local UU Hero: The Rev. Ken Collier* brought his stories and memorabilia from his life as a minister to share with our children.

* May: *Self Expression: The Making of Improvisational Music.* Special guest speaker, Rebecca Kleinmann, taught our children about musical improvisation as it relates to self expression and spirituality. We made a special gift for the Rev. Ken Collier as well.

* June: *Celebrating our RE Teachers!* Back and foot rubs were enjoyed by our teachers along with the Appreciation Brunch for one and all.

Summer Sundays

Last summer, the *UU World* highlighted our summer Sunday program, which is an innovative one, involving adults from our congregation who share a particular passion of their own with our children in an interactive worship service. All themes are tied into our UU Principles. The children learned about making labyrinths, masks, maps, African drumming, community and much more! Our upcoming Summer Sunday Program is already complete—with many new and wonderful themes! Children are to begin their Sunday morning in Jefferson Hall at 10:30 AM.

Intergenerational Services

Children participated in the Gathering of the Waters, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Sunday services. Families lit the chalice, youth read opening words and younger children helped to distribute and collect UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes and Flower Communion flowers.

Coming of Age

This was a very full and rewarding COA year! We ended up having a core group of six youth who saw the program through the entire year, with five others electing to spend their Sunday mornings at volleyball tournaments. Our COA facilitators were the very able: Kir Zecher, Elizabeth Schwyzer and Sayre Macneil. They went for trust walks in Alice Keck Park, on two camping trips, one Vision Quest in the wilderness, to our UU camp called deBenneville Pines, hosted one weekend retreat with Live Oak's COA youth, participated in the Halloween party, Holiday Craft party, and Easter Egg Hunt, hosted a Souper Sunday, sold environmentally friendly light bulbs, volunteered at a Mexican orphanage and raised around \$1,600 to donate to that orphanage! In addition, they each had wonderful mentors: Allen Doyle, Bunnie Chapman, Ken Ralph, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Kevin Pierik, and Sayre Macneil. Ken Ralph and Rev. Melitta Haslund held a Mentor Class with a leader from the Wilderness Youth Project as a guest speaker.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

I am grateful to Ellen Rockne for her steady presence and availability to our youth as their facilitator. She offered her home to the youth for over a year. They are now meeting in Blake Lounge and would like to meet each week, instead of twice a month! We have a solid group of 10 – 15 youth. This year's COA youth have been invited to join them in May. My idea is to make a conscious bridge from COA to YRUU—so our program continues smoothly as our youth mature. I would love to offer a Sunday morning RE class that would hold their interest. The structure has been purposefully left open, in accordance with the youths' desire to have unstructured time to be together. They watched Gore's *Inconvenient Truth* and are beginning to ask for more curricula regarding Ministry for Earth. We sincerely thank Ellen for her incredible devotion to this group and welcome Kir Zecher for the coming year as the primary facilitator.



Religious
Education:
Adult

Adult Religious Education

We have been very fortunate to have such a wide variety and rich programming and classes for the year, given the fact that much of our attention has largely been on the Capital Campaign preparation. We have offered 19 courses, 9 films, 3 workshops, 5 speaker's forums, 1 play, 13 concerts, 3 weekly opportunities for spiritual practice, neighborhood groups, one poetry café, and countless groups which include Vespers, the Alliance, Seasoned Seekers, Women Together, men's groups, Esperanto, DanceAway, small group ministry and more!

I have held our 2nd Annual Adult RE Teacher Dinner in the spring to thank the many facilitators. My aim, of course, is to thank everyone on behalf of the congregation for their time and effort, as well to begin plans for the coming year. It is to the credit of the many talented and wise members that we can offer such a diverse program. I appreciate volunteers who have helped to copy, fold and "cup" our Adult RE Brochures throughout the year!!

With great faith in our future,
Rev. Melitta L. Haslund

MINISTRY FOR EARTH

This year our Ministry for Earth program began with meetings to develop program ideas and to establish a core leadership group. The discussions explored the nexus between environmental and social justice issues on the local and global scales.

Showing Al Gore's documentary "Inconvenient Truth" was the highlight of our Fall program. Following the movie, we discussed actions we can take personally and collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Then, in the Spring, we hosted an "Energy Film Festival", which was organized in partnership with the Sierra Club.

Ministry for Earth was also embraced in worship, notably in the Vespers services, and in a special Earth Day service, which celebrated the cycle of life of the Earth's glaciers. Other Ministry for Earth activities included:

- Leading a "Covenant for the Earth" congregational vote
- Participation in the UULMCA Petition on Global Warming
- Providing input on the "green" elements of the Facilities Master Plan
- Developing a Clean Energy Fund which may be used to raise money for energy projects at USSB
- Participation in the Interfaith Booth at the Earth Day Celebration at the County Courthouse

Finally, this report pays tribute to Aaron Brown, one of our Ministry for Earth founders at USSB. Aaron was an outspoken voice for environmental justice, and his passing in May was a great sadness. We honor his memory and appreciate his dedication to our Ministry for Earth program.

Ministry for Earth "Green Team" - Ivor John, Lucinda Eileen, Betty Noling, Jody and Doug Thomas, Joanne Nay, Thia LaMarche – and many others!

Ivor John

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK GROUPS

For over a year our Society members have been invited to Neighborhood Gatherings with other UUs. The idea was to have groups of UUs who live near one another meet socially three or four times per year to get better acquainted.

The thirteen neighborhoods are defined mainly on the geographical proximity of members' and friends' homes. Lists of neighborhood groups were created and updated for the volunteer facilitators and hosts by NN Coordinator, Joanie Jones. Address labels were available from 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 share their successful ideas and gatherings at an annual gathering at Joanie Jones the NN Coordinator's home.

The purpose of our UU Neighborhood 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 share in co-hosting 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. Other topics have also come up such as Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness. Several of our members are trained on that topic.

A Neighborhood Network 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.

Thanks to the following new and continuing NN facilitators and all our participants from Solvang to Carpinteria:

Larry Bishop (LOUUC), Solvang/Santa Ynez/Lompoc,

Bill Foust, Goleta; JoAnn Magistad, Patterson 93111 area;

Kathleen Boehm, 154/Foothill; Claire Chytilo, Joanne Nay, San Roque-Mission Canyon; Dick Cousineau, Las Positas to Mission; Alex Cole, Mike Getto, 93103 and north; Nancy Alexander, Santa Barbara in town; Beverly Appleton, Westside; Anita Blume and Ken Ralph, Mesa; Bonnie Jensen, host, Carrillo & City College; Dale Zurawski, Montecito; John Chere & George Delury, Carpinteria.

Joanie Jones, Neighborhood Network Coordinator

OPEN FLAME COMMITTEE

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 Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian &/or Transsexual and Straight communities of Santa Barbara on an ongoing basis.

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

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 welcoming 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.

On October 8, 2006 we submitted a Letter to the Editor signed by over 100 members of USSB which stated that we were deeply saddened and disappointed by the action of the California First Appellate District Court of Appeal in its failure to uphold equality and justice for all as evidenced in its recent ruling against civil marriage equality for same-sex couples. Both of our ministers, Ken and Melitta signed the letter for publication in the News Press Letters column.

In February we organized one potluck dinner, named “4x4x4 Gathering” 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 advocated and encouraged the Social Justice Committee and Board to send a letter to Mark Leno on behalf of USSB in support of his bill AB 43, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. We also asked that they sign the Interfaith “Friend of the Court,” Amicus Brief, in

connection with the California Supreme Court's hearing of a case to determine whether it is a violation of the California Constitution to deny same sex couples access to civil marriage.

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. Rainbow stickers are available. These are for your nametag 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 or in the office during weekdays.

We invite you to help host a future "Cottage Conversation on Marriage Equality" which we hope to sponsor - more later in the Kaleidoscope.

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

Joanie Jones and the Open Flame Committee

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is all about members helping each other in times of need. A ride to the doctor or to church, a casserole, or a trip to the grocery store – these are some of the tasks that Pastoral Care volunteers do for those in need. These activities are coordinated by the Pastoral Care Coordinator, who responds to the requests that come in and finds a volunteer to provide the needed help.

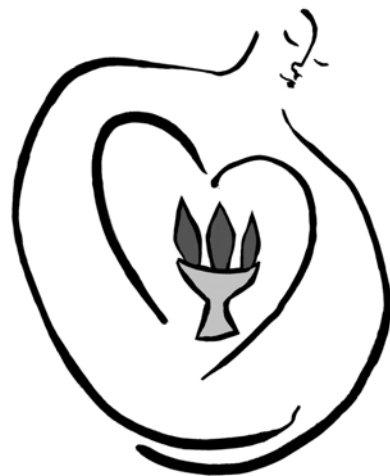
The Pastoral Care Coordinator also meets with the Ministerial Team regularly to maintain a database of members and friends who are in need of pastoral care.

We also maintain a Resources Index that provides information about community services. This is available in the office during the week and on the Pastoral Care Table in the garden on Sunday.

Accomplishments this year include:

- Providing meals, rides, sermon tapes, and other services as requested
- Visits to hospital and nursing homes as appropriate.
- Staffing an information table in the Garden each Sunday
- Meeting with the Pastoral Care Associates
- Planning and helping to facilitate a Tea and Transitions meeting so members can learn about our transitional period and have questions answered.

A heartfelt thank you to Patricia Martin, who makes it her special project to send out friendly cards to members and friends in time of joy or sorrow.



Pastoral
Care

Thanks also to the Pastoral Care Associates who kept in touch with some of our frail elders, and to many volunteers who provided caring, long-term support for one of our families, and were readily available to respond to one-time needs as well.

So many members of this congregation provide pastoral care regularly without being a part of any program or committee. There are many caring networks operating all of the time among and between members. Thank you to every single one of you who has extended a helping hand to another during this past year. We are indeed a caring congregation!

Mary Grimm, Pastoral Care Coordinator

SEASONED SEEKERS

The purpose of UU Seasoned Seekers (UUSS) is to bring together retirees for monthly discussions, on topics of interest led by invited speakers. Retirees and friends on the South Coast from the two local UU congregations, namely the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara and the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Goleta, comprise the mailing list.

Seasoned Seekers was named by Chuck Bliss, founder of UUSS along with Shirley Sayre, who defined its purpose and status as: “Seasoned by age and experience and constantly seeking knowledge, truth, wisdom, as we share our goals as seekers.”

UUSS met the last Tuesday of the month (except December, June, July, August) at 3 to 4:30 PM, alternating between Vista Del Monte and Valle Verde Retirement Communities. Attendance varied from 25 to 40.

We want to again thank each of the speakers who prepared and presented engaging and informative afternoons. Programs for the year were:

Sep. 2	Peter Hale:	<i>Honoring Our Ancestors</i>
Oct. 31	Rev. Erika Hewitt:	<i>Meditative Practices</i>
Nov. 28	Ken Ralph:	<i>Coming of Age, Helping 13 Year Olds Join the Adult Search for Meaning</i>
Jan 30	Don Bushnell:	<i>Living and Thriving with Chaos: Change as a Source of Renewal</i>
Feb 27	Rev. Ken Collier:	<i>What Next? The Future for Himself, for USSB, and Unitarian Universalism</i>
Mar 27	Joan Levy:	<i>How Curiosity and an Adult Education Class has Changed Lives, Including My Own</i>
Apr 24	Ken Saxon:	<i>Philanthropy, Santa Barbara Style!</i>
May 29	Betty Noling & Kelley Neumann:	<i>The Community Environmental Council's Mission for the County — “Fossil Free by 2033”</i>

The meeting notices appeared in USSB’s Kaleidoscope, Order of Service, Reflections, and Live Oak’s Leaflet and Leaf of the Week. Cards were sent to members and friends without email.

The facilitating team for UUSS was led by Martha Green, chair. The group felt an irreplaceable loss with the illness and death of Martha in March. She was much loved by all who knew her. The Planning Committee members were Joan Levy & Ginny Crane (publicity), Betty Newcomb (Valle Verde set up), Louise Barrow (Vista set up), Betty LoMele, and Lex Crane. The USSB staff and Adult RE support was indispensable.

With the able assistance of Melitta Haslund, USSB's ARE, the Planning Committee has met to outline next year's programs. The planners are: Budge and Jane George (Live Oak), Ginny and Lex Crane, Joan Levy, Sara Maust, Betty Newcomb, and Shirley Sayre.

Ginny Crane

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Prior to January 14, 2007 (when the new Social Justice Committee was set up) and continuing, there had been no lack of social justice activities at USSB:

– Volunteers, including Anne Anderson, Kathleen Boehm, Nancy Broyles, George Delury, Nick Ferrara, Mike Getto, Paul and Joanne Nay, Birdie Newborn, Rita Solinas, and especially Bill Foust, staffed the Social Justice Table in the garden every Sunday, as they still do. Some of the topics promoted have been single-payer healthcare for all, domestic violence awareness and solutions, the UU Legislative Ministry of California (UULM-CA) on UN support, and global warming, Willbridge, Foodbank, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the ACLU, Habitat for Humanity, Planned Parenthood, protests against the troop surge in Iraq.

– Monthly social justice offerings benefiting affordable housing, health care, and other causes. Especially spectacular was the donation of more than \$10,000 to the Foodbank to buy holiday turkeys so the organization would not have to disappoint anyone; part of it a \$5,000 challenge from an anonymous friend of USSB, and the rest an over-matching response from Society members.

– Maintaining the level of giving to the UUSC as a James Luther Adams chapter, and by individual contributions, selling UUSC holiday cards, and RE families collecting funds in the Guest at our Table boxes.

– Social justice themed sermons, including Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday.

– Close cooperation with religious education director Melitta Haslund, evident in both adult religious education, Truth and Justice courses in earth ministry, non-violent communication, etc., and children's religious education actions: Souper Sundays, the Justice and Peas garden, writing letters of concern to President Bush, gathering medicine to send to the Dominican Republic, and the Coming of Age Mexico Mission trip taking needed supplies to a Mexican orphanage.

– Supporting World AIDS day 12/1/06 and the Roe Anniversary event 1/22/07.

– Kaleidoscope articles related to social justice; e.g., ministers' commentaries, Mobile Food Pantry, tutoring students, etc.

– The continuing Mobile Food Pantry operation bringing Foodbank supplies to dozens of families twice a month.

– Making meeting rooms available at reduced fees for social justice-related-functions, e.g., recovery programs, Health Care for All, and serving as a gathering place for community social justice activities in general.

– The recognition of Nancy Broyles by our Society, and George and Rita Solinas by Casa de la Raza, for their long service in social justice.



Social Justice/
UU Service
Committee

- Co-sponsoring two UN Association symposia.
- Participating in interfaith coalitions, e.g., CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice).
- Voter education in accordance with UU principles.
- New member and visitor referrals in community service and social justice.

At a special meeting January 14, 2007, the Social Justice Committee was reconstituted, co-chaired by Paul Nay and (successively) Nick Ferrara, Brian Hansen, and Mike Hackett. Some of the committee’s activities since then have been:

- Approving Barbara Sachs to be our contact with the UUSC.
- Nick Ferrara bringing the city’s attention to drug and prostitution activities at “The Wall” (the day laborer hiring area on Yanonali), resulting in more police patrolling of the area.
- Supporting marriage equality and health care reform legislation.
- Increased interest in and volunteering for the high school mentoring program.
- Presenting, in the Kaleidoscope, the UULM Covenant for voting at the annual meeting.
- Taking responsibility from the Program Council for handling outside applications to use USSB facilities for social-justice-related functions.
- Co-hosting, along with the Live Oak Congregation and the Barbareño Band of the Chumash Nation, a dramatic special meeting in Parish Hall of representatives from tribes from across North America to learn the current state of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Getting signatures on petitions of resistance to the ongoing genocide in Darfur and collaborating with the Worship Committee, in a special lay-led, UUSC-inspired Sunday program, “Drumbeat for Darfur”.

Paul Hawken estimates in his latest book, *Blessed Unrest*, that the social justice / environmental sustainability movement, a movement with no name, comprises, worldwide, a million organizations containing tens of millions of people – the greatest movement in human history. And our society is part of it.

Bill Foust, Social Justice Coordinator

USSB Outreach Contributions

In the past 12 months the congregation has generously contributed a total of \$23,368 to outside organizations through our monthly dedicated offerings.

June 2006	Pastors For Peace	\$223
July 2006	UU Legislative Ministry of CA	\$453
August 2006	Direct Relief International (ongoing Gulf Coast)	\$763
September 2006	El Carrillo Adopt a Room; SB Housing Authority	\$1,951
October 2006	Health Care for All	\$952
November 2006	UUSC (cards; James Luther Adams; General Relief)	\$2,203
December 2006	SB Foodbank	\$10,621
January 2007	UUSC Guest at Your Table	\$822
February 2007	Domestic Violence Solutions	\$1,275
March 2007	UUSC Drumbeat for Darfur	\$1,931
April 2007	Community Environmental Council	\$635
May 2007	Tijuana Christian Mission Orphanage (Coming of Age Collection and Souper Sunday)	\$1,539

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.

A meeting and lunch held in January to recruit new Reading Partners resulted in two new volunteers, but that is woefully short of what we could be doing. This Fall a concerted effort to recruit new volunteers will include a Kaleidoscope article and an on-going table in the courtyard to explain and recruit new helpers. No special skill or training is required only an hour or so per week and a desire to help a child learn to read. All the tutors report 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

HUNGER TASK FORCE

The most exciting, uplifting effort to combat hunger in Santa Barbara this past year was a challenge set by a friend of USSB. The Foodbank did not have enough turkeys to pass out at Thanksgiving, and this friend did not want this to happen at Christmas. She challenged the Society to match her commitment of \$5000, and we surpassed that amount with contributions given at the Christmas services. Jim Mangis came to both services one Sunday to thank us for our efforts.

The Hunger Task Force (Mobile Food Pantry) alleviates hunger in Santa Barbara by distributing food from the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County on first and third Saturdays, from about 9:00 to 11:00 AM, at the Westside Boys and Girls Club, 602 Anapamu. About 60 families come on Saturdays to pick up food. The largest group is Mexican, plus a large contingent of Ukrainians and others from the neighborhood.

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. Many members and friends have helped. Some of the neighborhood people help with setting up tables and unloading the truck. These folks receive priority in line.

We need another team leader as Brian Hansen is moving.

We appreciate all the work behind the scenes including that of the Foodbank, which has kept this program running during the last seven years. The two intense hours on a Saturday morning go by very quickly. Afterwards the recognition that over 2000 pounds of food have been distributed to a needy community is heartwarming.

To participate, contact Joanne Nay at 682-3381 or come by the Boys and Girls Club on the first or third Saturday morning. Your help is welcomed.

Joanne Nay, Chair

UNITARIAN UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront the unjust power structure and mobilize to challenge oppressive policies.

The Congregation participated to the U.U.S.C. by contributing a whopping \$2,270 in 2007 to the Guest at Your Table bringing together families in a shared commitment to global justice. (This includes individual memberships.) An additional \$1,260 was donated for general relief. At holiday time, members bought Holiday Cards to send to friends and family contributing \$438 to UUSC.

In March, at the Drumbeat for Darfur service, Anna Akot told her story of life in Sudan. We signed petitions pressing legislators and the President to use their influence to end the genocide in the region. Our plate contribution was \$2,051.25.

U.U.S.C. is pressing global social justice issues such as labor rights, equitable access to water and, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, we have defended civil liberties and democratic processes that have been eroded. For example, our “Stop Torture Permanently Campaign” is working to end United States-sponsored torture.

Presently there are 80 members of the U.U.S.C (which is 17% of our Society). We hope this year more of the congregation will become members of U.U.S.C. In addition USSB is a James Luther Adams Congregation, contributing \$1 per member to the UUSC.

Nancy Broyles has worked as the U.U.S.C. representative for many, many years. The congregation honors her shining candle and gives her many, many thanks.

Barbara Sachs, a newly lit replacement, UUSC Chair

WOMEN TOGETHER

Women Together is a gathering of women who meet the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in La Paz Lounge. Membership fluctuates as members attend when they have time and interest in the program topic. The program for each meeting is listed in the Kaleidoscope and the Order of Service.

We enjoy potluck meals or snacks. After the meal, we check in by sharing what has been happening in our lives since the last meeting attended.

Members or outside speakers present the programs followed by discussions. This past year, we have enjoyed congregation member Sylvia Abualy speak about her start in photography and a slide show of her work. Member Teriana Casebeer took us to Cuba through her books and pictures and stories for her life before moving to Santa Barbara. We all enjoyed Lolly Quackenbush’s workshop on Frustration, how to identify it and how to conquer it. The December meeting was full of sharing of holiday memories and decorations. Mary Chase and Anna Campbell put together a wonderful program for January about the Role of Senses in our lives, full of sensational experiments. Special Valentine memories were shared in February, followed by a grand chocolate tasting arranged by Katherine Griffin in March. In April, we shared what we had learned about our neighbor garden, Alice Keck Park Botanical Garden. May’s program was a combination with the Fashion Fling, an opportunity to sort out our closets and share what we were not using with our fellow Unitarians.

We have been experimenting with having the Program Coordinator serve for six months, and then rotate in new people. In this manner, we hope to keep the program going without undue burdens on a few members.

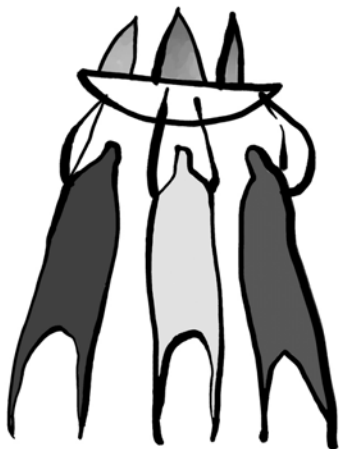
We have had the pleasure of getting to know many new members of the congregation who have shared their experiences with us. We have also been able to support members of long standing with our listening and caring.

Respectfully submitted,
Gun M. Dukes

WORSHIP ARTS

ADULT CHOIR

Chancel Choir, Ensemble, and Sunday Singers



Music &
Worship

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 p.m. 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. During the past year, we invited the Children’s Chorus to sing with us, presenting joint anthems, which everyone enjoyed. 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 Summer Singers meet about every other week during the Summer worship services. This group is open to anyone who likes to sing and to all ages (the ability to read words is helpful!). We meet on the Sunday mornings we sing in order to learn the anthems, hymns, and a brief introductory statement (the introit). This is a great opportunity for families to sing together and to experience the joy of singing with others. Because this group does not have a weekly evening rehearsal, the music is simpler and tends to emphasize folk and popular literature.

This summer we will primarily be focusing on the music from the new UUA hymnal, *Singing the Journey*. We will continue to invite young artists in to share their talents during the services when the Choir is not singing.

The Choir was honored to participate in the retirement celebration of our beloved, longtime, organist, Mahlon Balderston. We wish him well in his retirement.

If you have any questions, contact Marilee at 571-1170 or Mjmouser2001@yahoo.com or our Choir President, Tim Pettit.

Marilee Mouser, Director

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir is open to all RE children ages five and older. No audition or previous musical experience is required. The goals of Children's Choir are to provide a welcoming environment for children to share their love of music with the congregation and to expose them to Unitarian Universalist principles and values through music and service participation. Rehearsals are every Sunday from 10:00 – 10:30 in Jefferson Hall. The choir met under the direction of Charla Bregante.

The Children's Choir had a core group of about fifteen children. The choir enjoyed an increase in the number of boys this year, with five attending regularly by the end of the year. Ages of children ranged from five to twelve, with the heaviest concentration in the seven to nine year range.

The choir performed in the sanctuary on eight occasions. They also sang regularly during the monthly children's worship services in Jefferson Hall. The Children's Choir sang with the Adult Choir three times during the winter holiday season. The children always enjoy singing with the adults, and are welcomed by director Marilee Mouser. Other highlights of the year included a powerful performance with accompaniment by the local group "Dancing Drum" and the creation of a Family Choir to sing during the Mothers' Day service. We celebrated our hard work with two choir breakfasts this year.

The major obstacle for Children's Choir is regular attendance. Families are busy and the number of children attending rehearsals varies from week to week. The increase in boys this year was a positive sign. Hopefully we will attract even more in the coming year, as well as more older children.

A goal for next year is building choir identity through choosing a name for the group and wearing robes or other coordinated attire when singing in the sanctuary. Additional plans include writing a song together, organizing a holiday caroling party, and inviting parents and other family members to sing two or three times a year in a Family Choir.

Children's Choir continues to be a positive addition to RE. It is rewarding to watch children gain confidence in their singing over the year. I appreciate all of the help I received from choir parents during the year, as well as the enthusiasm of the children. I look forward to next year.

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 many of the materials used. The Flower Committee expenses are not supported by the Operating Budget.

The committee usually meets once a year to establish the schedule for the following year. 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, Donniss Galvan, Dee Gronbeck, Pat Kruger, Mary Medbery and Anne Pedersen. We welcome new members to the committee. Please contact Pat Kruger, 966-1906 you would enjoy arranging flowers in the Sanctuary for our Sunday services.

Pat Kruger, Convener

HEARING ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

This year at each Sunday-morning worship service, as many as a dozen people with hearing problems have used our assistive-listening devices (ALD's), which consist of individual FM radio receivers tuned to the sanctuary microphone frequencies. The late Lawrence Kaupp donated twelve receivers in 1989, and a subsequent set of 12 was acquired in December 2005.

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 volunteer at Alliance meetings in Parish Hall and at memorial services in the sanctuary.

Many thanks to the following, who have served during the past year: Betty Beckwith (our newest member), Janet Brinckmann, Gerald (Jerry) Floyd, Dorothy Holland, JoAnn Magistad, and Al Melkonian. And special appreciation to Al Melkonian, who has not only covered almost all the 9 AM services but also trouble-shoots our equipment. We are also indebted to Facilities Manager Ken Ralph, who keeps us supplied with fresh batteries and technical support, and to Steve Johnson, Brian Olson, and Jaime Moreno, who set the controls that activate our ALD's in the sanctuary and Parish Hall.

On the first Sunday of every other month, volunteers sign up for specific Sundays and 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 for Sundays convenient for them. This is indeed a personally rewarding service!

Dorothy Holland (aka Dorothy Holland-Kaupp)
Chair, Hearing Assistance Committee

MUSIC COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for the Music Committee, which has presented monthly concerts, and collaborated with UCSB Music Affiliates and the Santa Barbara Music Club in their fund raising concerts. Last summer we again presented talented students from the Music Academy of the West on several Sundays, and Marilee Mouser led a choir of “Summer Singers” which will be continued for the 2007 summer.

The concerts this year offered an interesting variety of music which included: the Don Brinegar Singers from Los Angeles, outstanding pianists, Daria Rabotkina, Zeynep Ucbasaran, and Woyciech Kocyan, singers Shaun Theis, Carol Ann Manzi and Dauri Kennedy in a rocking gospel program, and Celtic harpist, Jeanne Martin. Jazz flutist and vocalist Rebecca Kleinmann and her ensemble presented a wonderful Brazilian Choro concert, and Bruce Goldish brought his guitar and original folksongs to our Sanctuary. Our final concert will feature James Connelly and his Gove County String Quartet. We are busy planning the program for next year that will include outstanding violinist Nina Bodnar and violist, Helen Callus.

The committee enjoyed working with Mahlon Balderston in presenting the wonderful service in his honor on May 6th. The music and all the tributes to this wonderful musician showed the depth of the love and affection we all have for this remarkable organist, who has served the Society for nearly 55 years! There are plenty of the CDs that record Mahlon playing his original compositions. Don’t miss adding one to your personal collection. Mahlon has agreed that all sales proceeds will go to a special music fund that we have named in his honor.

The committee members were John Warnock, Mahlon Balderston, Marilee Mouser, Laurie and George Potter, Dick Cousineau, Ellen Rockne, Phyllis Dunn, Dorothy Warnock, Edward Bookin, 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

This past year we modified our mission statement to better reflect the broader scope of our activities. We now promote and demonstrate Shared Ministry within our congregation and the greater community. Prior to this change, we viewed our function as simply providing alternative Sunday services when the Senior Minister was absent. We now realize that the opportunity exists to engage all members of the Society in Ministry and this has become our priority for the coming year.

We welcomed new members Jean John, Ken Saxon and Patrick Block and will miss our wonderful Linda Williams, who will be moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico in June.

Continuing members are Jody Thomas, Donnis Galvan, Ellen Rockne, Detty Peikert and Peter Hale. A new Chairperson will be chosen this summer, as Jody and Peter will be serving on the Ministerial Search Committee.

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 UUs.

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..

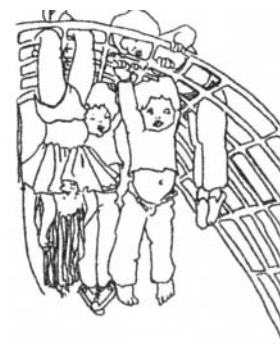
Peter Hale, Chair



FACILITY PARTNERS

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-six families, and a total of seventy-two children. We also provided three full scholarships and four work exchange options. In addition, we continued the tradition of making a \$500.00 donation to a non-profit organization in Santa Barbara.

We have made a concentrated effort over the last four years to be a more inclusive program. This year, we served eight children with different needs and provided additional support. We continued to provide a translator to assist with simultaneous Spanish translation of the parent education evening meeting. This has allowed 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. Native languages: 113 English, 18 Spanish, 3 German, 1 Mandarin, 3 French, 1 Italian.

This year twenty-six families from various backgrounds/experiences were invited to an “invitation only” dinner. The purpose of the meeting was to allow them to provide the staff and board of directors the opportunity to check in with them, as well as to obtain feedback that might be helpful in making SK a more inclusive program for their family and other families of similar background. This evening meeting was facilitated by a bilingual parent with expertise in facilitating discussions and forums of this nature. We also had a translator so that the meeting would flow smoothly. A survey of various aspects of our program will also be completed by the entire membership in hopes of obtaining suggestions and ideas for improving our inclusive program.

Parent curriculum

This year, the SK community benefited from a rich and diverse parent education program. Topics discussed included parent education, child development, holiday sing-along, father’s only meeting, art appreciation, general supervision, storytelling, sensory integration, relationships, organic food, compassionate communication and a discussion on issues related to raising boys facilitated by Michael Thompson at Crane School. This year we also planned a fall retreat for the board and committee chairs that provided a warm welcome and initial training on leadership development.

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 continued with traditional activities such as our Harvest Feast, candle making activity, Chinese New Year, May Day Celebration, and marveling over the life cycle of butterflies, chicks and silkworms.

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 grace by the USSB community. We are ecstatic about the new environment. We began the New Year with a fresh start after a very busy summer remodeling the children’s bathroom and the kitchen at SK. The flooring, lighting and all cabinets were replaced and the whole interior received a fresh coat of paint. The total project cost \$124,000. John Lyon was the contractor and also a former SK parent who overlooked the whole project. We are indebted to the former SK parents who had a vision, took initiative in the planning and fundraising efforts which have resulted in a wonderful environment for future students.

Community

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

Student Interns

Three students from the community received training this year at SK. Our goal is to provide support and assist new teachers and those interested in learning more about our philosophy and also provide opportunities to have “hands on” experience in working with parents and their children. Through practical experience and observation, students gain an understanding of how children learn through a rich and exciting environment.

Farewell to Ken Collier

SK wishes to extend a farewell to Ken and Anne. I vividly recall their first visit to SK. It was refreshing to observe their appreciation and understanding of the value of parent child cooperatives. Their continued support was appreciated. We wish you and your family health and happiness during the years to come.

Special thanks to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara for your ongoing generosity and for this beautiful and natural environment which 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 2007-2008 school year. Please contact us at 966-1325 for information or enrollment.

Yolanda Medina Garcia, Director
Starr King Parent Child Workshop

ORCA SCHOOL

Orca School is a California registered private school with 32 students, currently in grades 1,2,4,5 and 6. We have been renting Jefferson Hall and other rooms from USSB for eight years. You have possibly noticed our artwork on the walls in Jefferson Hall or the other classrooms. We have staged plays in Parish Hall and cooked in the Blake Lounge kitchen. We use the Jefferson lawn for recess and lunch now and then, and we’ve created a beautiful 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 four 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 four consecutive years at Orca School and have moved on to junior high with flying colors. We look for ways to connect with USSB; we welcome visitors, and are deeply appreciative of our home here.

Rob Harrington, Director Orca School

FAREWELL SONGS

Our congregation recognized the career accomplishments and gifts to our congregation's ministry of Rev. Kenneth Collier and Mahlon Balderston, organist on the occasion of their retirements. The following adapted lyrics were gifted in song by Ellen Rockne at retirement celebrations on May 6 and June 3, 2007.

Thank you, Our Dear Minister

Thank you, our Dear Minister, your kind and gentle ways
Bring to us a light that does illuminate our days.

For your steadfast care and faith in us, in gratitude we pause;
You took our call--a gift to all--our Buddhist Santa Clause!

Your poetry, so beautifully, will echo down the years.
(And echoes of your singing hymns may bring us all to tears!)

Ken, as you walk your teaching path, with lovely Anne beside,
In sun or rain or winter snow, in peace and joy abide.

You'll carry us, we'll carry you; so it will always be.
The Love we've shared will lift us up; we'll remember tenderly.

Thank you, from us all.

Gentle Mahlon

You have played for us, gentle Mahlon,
Strong and pure, the music from your heart.
When we call and beg for an encore,
Don't forget how we loved you from the start!

Oh, you bring us joy, dashing Mahlon,
Can you hear our deep collective sigh?
As we sadly ask one another,
Who can play better Sousa in July?

For we ever carry with us
All the beauty, all the gifts you share.
As your music rings down the ages,
May you know, through and through, how much we care.

Soon the days will be yours for the taking;
You can do damned well what e'er you choose!
You'll be on an ocean liner somewhere,
While back home we'll be weeping in the pews.

And we ever carry with us
All the times you take our breath away.
As your music rings in our memory,
We give thanks for your brilliance every day.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Total Membership: June 10, 2006 513 June 8, 2007 460

New Members 20

Tammy Shorb	Glen Morris	Cat Robson	Robert Baird
Chris Shorb	Melitta Haslund	Karin Nelson	Marilyn Gruber
Nicholas Ferrera	Gretta Reineck	Rick Hibbs	Charles Parry
Andrew Knox	Carol Millar	Maren Henle	Janice Chelini
Doug Reid	Bart Millar	Thia LaMarche	Damon Boykin

Resignations 34

Allison Coleman	Edith Johnson	Keith Dalzell	Robert Hemke
Angela Vanderford	Eral Unipan	Lauren Nelson	Ruth Robinson
Bert Shaw	Georgia Ann Hodnett	Lei Zhang	Shelly Baer
Betsy Northrop	James Stoicheff	Linda Flegal	Stu Flegal
Bill Bonds	Jean Muller	Lora Collins	Susan Lee Shapiro
Carol Gilmore	John Cutsinger	Martha Inman Lorch	Victoria Valente
Carolyn Price	Kat Lawton	Mary Ann MacIntosh	Zora DiMichele
Cathy Walker	Katherine deBruynkops	Mead Northrup	
Chris Butler	Kathy Cutsinger	Mortimer Andron	

Removed 25

Andrea Lawrence	Dimitri Proshkin	Laurie Anderson	Orlando Herrera
Annette Holdman	Donna Lawrence	Margaret Opper	Rhonda LaRue
Autum Brook	Elizabeth Jones	Margot Collin	Susan Keller
Carl Magagnosc	Eric Tolle	Marla Murphy	Teri Long
Carol Cowan	Janette Carr	Mathew Long	Virginia Khun
Catherine Masi	Kathy Herrera	Myron Shapero	Dina Nelson

Deaths - Members 14

Aaron Brown	Fred Hackett	Laurie Zimmer	Ralph Luce
Art Mankin	George Delury	Marlene Neushul	Richard Raymond
Betty LoMele	Hubert Schwyzer	Martha Green	
Charles Parry	Larry Brundall	Ralph Collins	

Deaths - Friends

Morris Newman	Chris Gronbeck	Maxine Sasso
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Weddings

Amber Kaminsky & Andrew Bermond	Beverly Sheldon & Bruce Hanna
Candace Black & Scott Hanna	Michelle Robertson & Keith Steele

Graduating Seniors

Emma Allison	Jeremy Casebeer	Nick Hill
Nick Scozzaro	Sophia Blevitt-Bradley	

USSB Calendar 2006-2007

(Year in Review)

September 10	Ingathering Water Ceremony
September 17	Resume Two Worship Services
	Children's RE Classes Begin
September 30	PSWD Embracing Diversity Workshop
October 8	Secret Pals Begins
October 15	Heritage Sunday
October 22	Congregational Town Meeting
October 29	Halloween Party
	Congregational Town Meeting
November 4	Services Auction
November 5	Secret Pals Luncheon
November 8	Chautauqua: Science Night
November 12	Congregational Town Meeting
November 19	Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service
	New Member Recognition Ceremony
	Congregation Town Meeting & Souper Sunday
November 29	Chautauqua: Speaker's Forum
December 3	Congregational Special Meeting & Vote
December 10	Intergenerational Craft Holiday Fair
December 24	Intergenerational A Child's Christmas in Whales Morning Service
	Intergenerational Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January 10	Chautauqua: Speaker's Forum
January 14	Congregational Town Meeting
January 19	RE Family Fun Night
January 21	Congregational Town Meeting & Souper Sunday
January 28	Congregational Town Meeting
February 4	Congregational Special Meeting & Vote
February 10	Chautauqua: Poetry Cafe
March 3	Capital Campaign Visiting Steward Training
March 4	Worship; Bets Wieneke, Ministerial Settlement Representative
	Town Meeting; Understanding the Ministerial Search Process
March 17	Capital Campaign Visiting Steward Training
March 23, 24, 25	Chautauqua Play: <i>Under Milk Wood</i>
March 25	Capital Campaign Advanced Gift Reception
March 30, 31	Chautauqua Play: <i>Under Milk Wood</i>
April 1	Chautauqua Play: <i>Under Milk Wood</i>
April 8	Intergenerational Flower Communion Service
April 14	Congregational Gala Campaign Kickoff
April 15	Commitment Sunday
April 18	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
April 27	RE Family Fun Night
April 27-29	Pacific Southwest District Assembly
May 6	Mahlon Balderston Retirement Celebration Service
May 13	Child Dedication Service
	New Member Recognition Ceremony
	Children's RE Classes end
May 20	Coming of Age
May 27	One Worship Service Begins
June 3	Congregation Town Meeting
	RE Teacher Appreciation Brunch
	Ken Collier Retirement Celebration Service
June 10	Congregation Annual Meeting
	Congregation Celebration
June 10	Congregation Annual Meeting
	Congregation Celebration
June 17	Young Adult Bridging Ceremony
June 20-24	UUA General Assembly, Portland, OR

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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.

Welcome



We seek spiritual growth in a welcoming and caring community.