Greetings! I am Kathleen Hogue, your new Director of Lifespan Religious Education. I was born in Ravenna, Ohio, and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. (Yes, the accent still lingers.) When I was 24 years old, I moved to Tucson, Arizona, with my husband, two children, and one on the way. I now live with my son, Jimmy, and we have two cats, Munchie and Stormy. I am a fisherman and I like to swim. Together, my son and I like to bowl and watch “Jeopardy.” We also like trying new restaurants. Poke is our favorite!

Unitarian Universalism and this work is truly my life! Through more than 20 years of experience with with congregations in Tucson and in Santa Monica, California, I have developed a commitment to and passion for nurturing Unitarian Universalist liberal religious values, identity, and spiritual growth within the congregation. For several years in Tucson, and for the past three years in Santa Monica, I have been in the role of Director of Lifespan Religious Education including implementing OWL for all age levels and small group ministry programs.

I graduated high school only ten years ago! Following that, I attended Pima Community College and the University of Arizona while living in Tucson with a major in psychology and a minor in Education. Currently, I am a candidate for the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Program. My journey on this road to “credentialing” status is almost complete, at which time I will seek “Master” level status.

My passions in this work are youth and young adult ministry, racial justice, multiculturalism, and acceptance. For me, youth ministry is especially important since it is the final journey on the road between childhood and adulthood. My vision is that we can help create strong leaders from the youth in our congregation who have a solid foundation in our beliefs and a passion for their heritage.

It is my hope to bring an overall vision and leadership to your congregation, including articulating the purposes, values, and core beliefs for all aspects of the Lifespan program, modeling these values and beliefs, and creating lifelong UUs who will make a positive difference in our community and in our world.

I am very excited to be able to come and work with you and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Please let me know what I can do to help you on your own search for truth and meaning. Let us journey together!

Kathleen Hogue, Director of Lifespan Religious Education kathleen@ussb.org

Religious Education is: “a shared, collaborative, and intentional spiritual journey of discovering what we each hold true in life through open hearts and open minds.”
WEF Grant Brings New Creativity to Girls Inc.

The Women's Empowerment Fund grant for 2019 was awarded to Dana Zurzolo for her summer arts and crafts program at Girls Inc. called the “Girls Freedom Project.” Dana has just reported back on the progress of her project to date and the energy and excitement is palpable as she describes not only the reactions of the girls but her own reactions as well.

For example, in regard to week one, Dana says: “The girls in attendance were very excited to be doing art and were even more excited when they got to make something they would take home.” Then she says: “I look forward to seeing them again next week. I loved being around their energy and seeing them think through the Freedom concept.”

Apparently the energy exuding from the group and their leader caught the attention of Kristina Webster, the Director of Programs for Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara, who wrote to Dana: “I stopped into the center today and was walking through the different classes and saw one group with some really cool bags that were painted on. I then learned that they had created the bags with you and that they had so much fun! I am so impressed with what they created and was so happy to see how proud they were of their creations. Thank you so much for providing this opportunity for our girls.”

This first week is only the beginning of a summer-long adventure. The program covers eight weeks including a variety of different projects with different themes involving participants of different ages and skills. The impact of this experience promises to be highly positive and life-affirming for all.

Like the director, we applaud Dana’s work and are grateful for the opportunities she is providing for these pre-teen and teenage girls. Thank you, Dana.

Rachel Aarons for the Women’s Empowerment Fund

Focus On:
Seventh Principle Action Network (SPAN)

The Seventh Principle Action Network (SPAN) of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara is a volunteer group chartered by USSB in 2012 and open to members who value a systems-based approach to climate and water, learning, and activism. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tells us that we have no more than eleven years to completely redirect the wheel of a crashing climate.

Safe, clean, renewable energy solutions are available and already at a price lower than fossil fuels. What is required is a massive movement within civil society across the globe that insists on an immediate, WWII-level of mobilization to counter the resistance of the fossil fuel industry, other corporations, and governments in their thrall.

In prioritizing our specific goals, SPAN is guided by the international climate action group www.350.org (begun by Bill McKibben together with seven students from Middlebury College) and similarly-focused local groups, particularly as they work to stop further fossil fuel infrastructure in our area. We do not subscribe to any ideas of a single silver bullet being capable of solving the problem of climate disruption.

We are especially inspired by Nobel Peace Prize nominee and teen climate activist Greta Thunberg (pictured above) and her ability to mobilize others through her public witness and laser-like clarity. We hope that you will consider joining SPAN and adding your own unique gifts, however modest you perhaps (mistakenly) assess them as being, to this supremely time-sensitive and infinitely important work.

Cheryl Snell
UUJMCA has been on the front lines of the immigration policy crisis playing out at the US-Mexico Border. Thousands of children have been separated from their families, and the situation is critical for the well-being of the young children being detained. As Unitarian Universalists we are called to uphold the worth and dignity of all. There is nothing that stands against those values more clearly than forcibly separating children from their parents. UUJMCA advocates direct action for awareness-raising, for witness, and for solidarity.

For more information, visit www.uujmca.org

Magazine Swap Table Coming Back
Thanks to five USSB member volunteers*, the Sunday magazine table will be back in September! If you have any recent periodicals to donate, please bring them to the reception office so that we can replenish the basket. Thank you!

* Ann Taves, Dorothy Warnock, Joe Fior, Lynn & Richard Dow
A year ago, when I first started working here, I marveled at the natural light flooding into the office spaces and the thriving ferns, roses, and trees. The Sanctuary evolved every time I walked into the space, depending on the light and the time of day: mysteriously dim or brilliantly multi-colored or moody and candle-lit. And all of you: new, fresh faces and personalities to see for the first time. Now, a year later, I’m still learning names, but that feeling of pure originality has faded some, like a shiny stone scratched over with light sandpaper. I can remember the new-ness, but the ability to experience the pure moment of novelty is gone.

Because I believe there are insights we explore as a beginner that are impossible to ascertain after months or years of experience, I want to challenge you to see USSB afresh. I’ve found six photos of USSB objects and locales that I think everyone here should know about it, either for joy or safety. The first person to correctly identify what and where all six photos are will win a small prize! (Bring this completed photo pages to me at the Front Office or email the answers to: maureen@ussb.org). Even for a few moments, I invite you to open your eyes and see the world anew.

Maureen Foley Claffey,  
Director of Congregational Life  
maureen@ussb.org

Have a Look Around: Fun and Safety Scavenger Hunt

What:  
Where:

What:  
Where:

What:  
Where:

What:  
Where:

What:  
Where:

What:  
Where:
Library Corner

On a recent library Sunday one of our members said to us, “I read in the Kaleidoscope that you are not going to have DVDs anymore.” So we want to assure all you movie fans that the films are here to stay. However, we will no longer post reviews. We will be happy to assist you with your selections.

On another note: when returning books and movies, please do so when the office is open or the library is set up. If we’re closed, just take your products back to your car until you can safely drop them off.

Here is our book review:

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman

Our story takes us to Australia, 1926, when Tom Sherbourne returns home from the WW1 front in France. Tom takes the job of lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day’s journey from the coast by boat. There the lonely life appeals to him, and he has the solitude to reflect on the horrors of the past war, which took the lives of many of his friends.

On a trip back to the mainland, Tom meets Isabel, a lovely and spirited young woman. They fall in love and marry, and Tom brings her to the isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season. Shore leave is granted every other year, if that.

Years later, after two miscarriages and a stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby’s cries in the wind. She and Tom find that a small boat has washed up on the shore with a dead man and a tiny living baby in it. Isabel decides that the baby is a gift from God and wants to keep her, but Tom wants to report the man and infant immediately. Isabel persuades him to wait.

Two years later when they take little Lucy to the mainland, their decision to keep the baby has devastating results. As I was reading this book I kept wishing that these two people would make better choices.

This is Stedman’s first novel, published in 2012. It continues to be on the Goodreads “Best Books of the Decade” list.

Ongoing Events at USSB

Solidarity and Compassion Project
Weds., August 14 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Join us every second Wednesday of the month when we come together to discuss ways of community healing during traumatic times and to spend time in meditation and reflection. We take on a different topic each month, with diverse guests for the panel discussion: thinkers, faith leaders, scholars, musicians, visionaries, artists, and activists share their work as we all learn how to deal with uncertainty and fear during this challenging time in our country and our world. All are welcome—no meditation experience necessary.

Vegan Potluck
Sunday, August 18 at 5:00 pm in Blake Lounge
Our USSB monthly vegan potluck is a safe space in which to explore the pleasures of a completely plant-based meal. People with all eating styles are warmly welcomed. The commitment for participation is to contribute food that is totally plant-based, i.e., totally vegan. You are invited to share a vegan community meal and exchange ideas about plant-based eating. Please bring a plant-based, vegan dish that serves 10-12 people, and bring utensils, dishes, cups, and napkins. Email Cathy Albanese to RSVP. For more information visit www.ussb.org/community-life/monthly-vegan-potluck.

Quantum Field Theory & Consciousness
Monday, August 19 at 7:00 pm in Blake Lounge
Beginners QFT&C meets the third Monday of the month and gathers at 7:00 pm for starting at 7:15 in Blake Lounge. Videos and discussion will focus on how the laws of physics imply we are all one.

Book Discussion Group
Tuesday, August 20 at 7:00 pm in La Paz Lounge
Contact Al Melkonian for more information.

Weekly Meditation
Every Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary (or Parish Courtyard)—Find more mindfulness, or just a brief midweek timeout. After a five-minute settling period and introduction, we’ll have two 15-minute sitting meditation periods, with a brief break for people to stretch, come in, or leave. Bring your own cushion or other sitting tool, or chairs and cushions will be provided. The group is led, on a rotating basis, by Arianna Jansma, Maureen Claffey, and Cheryl Snell.

Yoga Classes with Monica
Meeting August 14, 19, 21 and 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in Jefferson Hall—Open to all! This yoga is a gentle, restorative, healing experience. Focus is on holding poses, core movement, and breathing meditation, with care to protect the low back and neck. Drop in and give it a try!
Summer Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 AM
Summer Sunday Nursery & Children’s Care: 9:30 to 11:30 AM in Starr King
Summer Office Hours: Sunday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to noon.

Deadline for the September issue: Monday, August 19
Email: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org