

Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action



Kaleidoscope

January 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

We have two services each Sunday at 9:15 and 11:15 AM

This month's worship theme is POSSIBILITY

"Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare." — *Muhammad Ali*

Sunday, January 6

Rev. Julia Hamilton

"A Phoenix from the Flames"

Sometimes we seek out change and transformation in intentional, proactive ways (yoga retreat, anyone?), but sometimes we are pushed through fire and flood, and must find meaning on the other side. This Sunday is our annual Burning Bowl service—one year after the Thomas Fire and debris flow. In our ritual this year, let us honor moments of unwilling change and scatter the ashes of the past so that we can move forward into the possibilities waiting for us in the new year.

Chancel Choir will sing.

Sunday, January 13

Rev. Julia Hamilton

"In Praise of the Impossible"

"Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!" the Red Queen proclaimed to Alice during her adventures in Wonderland. But if we are seekers of truth, what can we possibly gain from believing in impossible things? Why spend time with the improbable, implausible, or unlikely?

Sunday, January 20

Rev. Julia Hamilton

"A Religion of Risk"

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, let us reflect on what it means to take risks in order to bring about the possibility of change.

Sunday, January 27

Rev. Julia Hamilton

"The Third Self: A Hunger for Eternity"

"Certainly there is within each of us a self that is neither a child, nor a servant of the hours. It is a third self, occasional in some of us, tyrant in others. This self is out of love with the ordinary; it is out of love with time. It has a hunger for eternity." — *Mary Oliver*



Board Corner

The Ends Are Coming!

Wait, . . . that can't be right! How could a small UU church in Santa Barbara know about the Ends before it happens?! Okay, the truth is we don't. And, it's not "the" Ends—they're *our* Ends. A survey about our Ends is coming!

The USSB board of trustees needs to know your opinion on how we, the USSB congregation, are fulfilling our Ends. And the only way to do that is to ask you! Why do we need to know how you feel? So we can ensure that the decisions made to steer this vibrant and active community into the future actually align with our agreed upon goals.

To garner your feedback, the board is developing a survey to collect your feedback on our Ends. Our goal is to have the survey available next spring. Then the board will share the results with the congregation at our next annual meeting, in June 2019.

To prepare yourself for the survey, please reflect on your experience at the Society in the context of our Ends. A large poster listing them hangs on the wall in Parish Hall. Ask yourself what our Ends mean to you and how the Society helps you fully live them. Talk to your fellow congregants about them. Can you see how the activities at the Society support our Ends, and thus, our mission?

Let's make this a fun and engaging way to determine how this Society is accomplishing our Ends. If you have any feedback or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out and talk to a board member. Thank you for being engaged and helping the board support this vibrant community!

Here are our six Ends:

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY, WE:

- Support each other in life and life's transitions with loving care, joy, celebration, and gratitude.
- Care for the earth and its rich web of life for current and future generations.

NURTURING WONDER, WE:

- Experience the transcendent that opens us to deep connection and life's mystery.
- Cultivate spiritual practices and engage in lifelong learning, utilizing our hearts and minds.

INSPIRING ACTION, WE:

- Shift the larger culture toward justice and compassion through bold individual and congregational endeavors.
- Welcome and connect with people across differences of ethnicity, class, sexual identity, religion, politics, and education.

KEITH STROHMAIER (BOARD PRESIDENT), CHRIS SHORB (VICE PRESIDENT), ONOLEE ZWICKE (SECRETARY), JACK RIEF (TREASURER), CRAIG BENNETT, MIKE GORODEZKY, MIKE RISTOW, CHERYL SNELL, & KIR ZECHER

District Assembly Registration Goes Live January 1

The keynote speaker for the 2019 PSW District Assembly has been announced and he has a few simple questions for every member of every UU community:

1. Are you engaging your congregants on the deepest and most meaningful levels possible?
2. Are you impacting their lives through your worship services to the point that they want to go out into the highways and byways to spread compassion, grace, and radical hospitality?
3. Are you ready to "upcycle" your community's worship?

If so, then you need to attend the 2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly, April 26-28, at the UU Church of Long Beach, California.

Donald Milton III, director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, will lead the keynote presentation, "Upcycling Church Music for Deeper Engagement." Together we will explore new ways of approaching hymns, music, readings, rituals, and sermons to make them more meaningful, impactful, and fully engaging.

Donald Milton III is the director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, the largest UU congregation in the Southeast. Milton runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the UU movement. He wrote a chapter on upcycling church music for the recently released book, *Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities*.



Donald Milton III

Registration for the 2019 PSW District Assembly will be available Tuesday, January 1.

The district assembly's theme will be "From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities."

Along with Milton's keynote presentation, there will be opportunities for worship, workshops, a youth con, social justice field trip, and plenty of chances to connect with UUs from throughout Southern California, Arizona, and Southern Nevada. Plan to be there: Friday, April 26 to Sunday, 28, 2019 in Long Beach!

VISIT PSWDUUA.ORG/EVENTS/DISTRICT-ASSEMBLY/ TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER ONLINE.



Women's Empowerment Fund

The Women's Empowerment Fund is alive and well and busy behind the scenes.

Our new WEF advisory board met on the day after the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. That event signaled dire warnings for women's rights in the future.

It also made it painfully clear that no matter how professional, articulate and reasonable a woman's testimony is, her voice will not be heard and will not be believed. Remember Anita Hill? Despite all the years of organized efforts on behalf of women, we may find ourselves catapulted back to the world of the fifties.

This is a wake-up call for all of us. We cannot sit by idly and watch our hard fought-for achievements be systematically destroyed by this new wave of chauvinism. We need a strong voice for those who identify as women right here in our UU community.

The Women's Empowerment Fund will continue to offer a yearly grant for a project proposed by a woman in our congregation that will benefit women and girls. Applications will open near the end of January. But it is not too



soon to begin thinking of ideas—new ways you might make an impact on the lives of women in our community and beyond.

We are also expanding our mandate to bring visibility to the WEF in our UU Society and to increase awareness of women's issues and the actions we can take to support them.

To this end, we plan to sponsor a *Women's Film Series* beginning in the winter of 2019. The first film will be held on *Sunday, February 10, at 6:30 PM in Jefferson Hall*. Mark the date! And stay tuned for the announcement of the first film.

In the future we hope to sponsor other women-oriented activities: for example a speaker's series. Join us! We welcome your ideas and participation in this process.

And please contact any of the Women's Empowerment Fund committee members if you'd like to be involved.

WEF Committee members: **Rachel Aarons, Sylvia Abualy, Joan Agress, Charla Bregante, Catherine Callahan, Nancy Edmundson, Suzanne Fairly, Gun Dukes, Sally Hamilton, Kate Mead, Carol Schwyzer, Melinda Staveley, Nancy Van Antwerp, Dorothy Warnock.**

January Outreach Offering: Hopi Service Trip

During the last week in March, a small group from our congregation will travel to the Hopi reservation in Arizona to visit with elders and provide much needed support. The money raised in January's outreach offering will go toward the supplies and fresh food that we will bring with us.

These trips, which we have been taking almost every other year since 2011, have become an important touchstone in our congregation's life. Although the work we do on the reservation is simple—fixing some of the elders' houses, delivering baskets of fresh food and supplies, learning more about the cultures and customs of our hosts—the deeper work is about tending the interdependent web. Because of what we have learned in Arizona, we have grown in our understanding of the history of indigenous peoples in the United States, including here in Santa Barbara. We go not on a mission to convert, but as people willing to put our hands and hearts into service, and



with the knowledge that we will walk away with more than we brought.

Please contact **Rev. Julia Hamilton** if you have any questions or are interested in participating in this trip, which will be from March 24-31. Space is limited! Youth accompanied by an adult family member are welcome to participate.

Membership

Everything New is New Again

In the this new year, I'm so excited to announce our first crop of new members: **Linda Beers, Jennifer Caves, Nancy Cuellar, Wade Anders Völk, Mary Foley, James Claffey, Chris Curry, and me!** Yes, this month I have the rare privilege of being both a new member and your Director of Congregational Life. I am so proud to be a part of this amazing group of folks and to represent you, through my work, to the larger community in Santa Barbara. (There may be some other additional new members, too, so stay tuned!)

This group of new members is a wonderful, diverse, and interesting group of people. Join me in welcoming them to our congregation in person and formally on January 20, 2019, when we celebrate them at the new member service and luncheon.



As we leave 2018 behind, I'm looking forward to more newness: more new members, new ways to engage with current congregants, and new ways to highlight USSB events and activities to the larger community. You are my best resource in helping tell people what USSB is all about and introducing new people to our community. This year, I'd like to schedule more conversations, events, and find new ways that allow USSB to cross-pollinate with the larger population and add to our already fascinating mix of people and interests. Feel free to send me any ideas you have to expand our reach, or if you'd like me to highlight something we're already doing.

MAUREEN FOLEY CLAFFEY
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
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January Congregational Vote to Approve Sale of Bequeathed Property

This month, the congregation will be asked to vote to pre-approve the sale of bequeathed land (located in Santa Maria) that the Society has had a small, non-controlling share of ownership in for almost 40 years.

Ballots will be distributed and collected over three Sundays, from January 13 through January 27.

Board President Keith Strohmaier and Director of Administration Erin Wilson will be available to answer questions about this vote during Middle Hour on Sunday, January 20.

Some background information about the property and the pending sale:

- The Society was bequeathed a $\frac{1}{16}$ -share ownership of a parcel of land in Santa Maria by former member, George Northman. Mr. Northman left a portion of the property to the Society in a will dated 1968, and he passed away in 1977.
- The bequeathed property needed a great deal of work in order to be sold. The Northman family has controlling interest in the property, and has coordinated gaining the necessary approvals and pre-

paring the property for sale. The Society is included in discussions about the property, and received updates on its status. The final approval from the City of Santa Maria, clearing the way for the sale of the property, is pending for February 2019.

We are asking the congregation to approve this sale in accordance with our bylaws. According to Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, bylaw Real Property 17.3.2, "The Board may not sell or encumber any of the Society's real property nor contract to buy other real property without the prior approval of the Members."

The Society could receive around \$200,000 as its share from the sale of the property. Should the congregation not approve, funds will be forfeited and distributed amongst the other shareholders. Other shareholders of the property include The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, The Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, Starr King School for the Ministry, and Northman family members.

Our current policy for unrestricted bequests will apply to the proceeds of the sale.

ERIN WILSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
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KEITH STROHMAIER, BOARD CHAIR

What's New in Religious Education?

Children's Religious Education

BURNING BOWL CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel returns on Sunday, January 6 with a children's version of a favorite ritual, The Burning Bowl.

Children will explore the idea of leaving things behind for the New Year.

Children will begin in the Sanctuary and adjourn to Jefferson Hall after the Time for All Ages.



Adult Classes, January 2018

UU THEOLOGY 101

Led by Rev. Lora Young, with Interim Director of Lifespan Education Sara Sautter. Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in Parish Hall starting January 9.

Theology is traditionally thought of as the study of the nature of God and religious truth. In this class we consider theology broadly to include the study of belief and meaning. In **UU Theology 101**, we will explore a number of key



Rev. Lora Young

theologies and theologians from our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist heritages, as well as influences from other traditions. We will ask participants to engage with the views presented and offer their own considered viewpoints. From our expansion beyond our Christian roots, through humanism, process and liberation theology, the class invites participants into both a deeper knowledge of our liberal religious heritage and a more profound understanding of their own beliefs. Sign up on Realm.

Ongoing classes

LOCAL AND GLOBAL RELIGIONS

Led by Nate Rich and Chris Shorb, class continues every month on the third Sunday from 12:30 to 2:00 PM in Jefferson Hall, through April 21.

Our third Unitarian Universalist Source invites us to honor "the beliefs that come from the ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's great religions." This adult religious education class will meet to learn about the key faith groups represented here in Santa Barbara. The group will visit local temples, mosques, and churches together discussing each faith both before and after the visit. Sign up on Realm.

SOUL CIRCLES: A DEEP DIVE INTO OUR MONTHLY THEMES

Led by Rev. Julia Hamilton and the Worship Arts Team. Meets on the first Sunday of the month from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in Jefferson Hall.

Join us for a deeper conversation about our monthly themes with Rev. Julia Hamilton and other church leaders. We'll take a closer look at the theme, what the concept initially brings to mind, tools for unlocking new thinking and how to incorporate new understanding into our daily lives. Sign up on Realm.

MINDFUL HEART—SOLIDARITY AND COMPASSION PROJECT

Meets on the second Wednesday of every month in Parish Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

USSB is collaborating with Mindful Heart for a monthly interfaith conversation and meditation. Join us at for a thematic presentation from an engaged Buddhist perspective. Meditation will follow the presentation. Sign up on Realm.



SARA SAUTTER
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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Recently, the USSB board voted to recognize my ministry in the community by making me an Affiliated Community Minister, and a few weeks ago, during Sunday services, the congregation affirmed my affiliate status during Sunday worship. Thank you! It is a long and honored tradition in our faith to have ministers serving beyond the walls of the parish and I am happy to be serving in the very community in which I first heard my call to ministry.

As a UU minister working in the community, it is important that I have a spiritual home and a place to go to “be” in community with fellow UUs. This support helps me to stay grounded in our faith tradition and is required for me during the first three years of fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. As an affiliated community minister, I am not on staff and USSB has no financial obligations to me. Rather I am a minister working in the community and a member of USSB. By Julia’s invitation, I will lead services from time to time or teach a class, but when I do so, it is as a member of the congregation, not staff. Perhaps the best way to think of my role is that I am helping to spread the good news of our faith and values of love and justice in the wider community, and that it is out of the health and joy of this congregation that my work is sustained and deepened.

I am currently working in our community as a chaplain for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care. This work is both demanding and meaningful for me it is an honor to walk with my patients and their families as they come to terms with end of life issues.

I am grateful for the many helping hands at USSB that supported me along the long road to fellowship and ordination as a UU minister—your kindness, support, and wisdom has been critical to my development as a minister and I hope to make you proud. I look forward to sharing Sundays in the pews with you and wish you the very best in the year to come.

REV. LORA YOUNG

Library Corner

Your library committee is going to try something new this year.

We realize that you may not be able to come to church on a Sunday when the library is open, so with permission from Maureen Claffey, our Director of Congregational Life, and our wonderful office manager, Eden Kennedy, we will make books available to members even when the library is closed.

For those of you who want to obtain reading material during the week we have asked Eden to assist you. She will unlock the cabinets for you and ask you to fill out the card. A library committee member will fill in the due date later. There are no fines, but we do ask that you return books within a reasonable time.

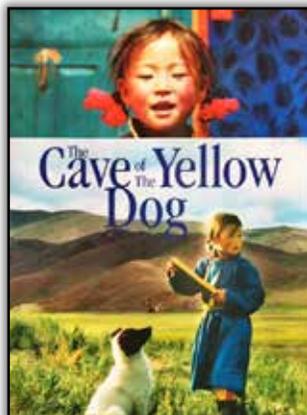
This is for books only, not DVDs. Let’s give it a try!

The Cave of the Yellow Dog

The Cave of the Yellow Dog is a Mongolian/German film from 2005 written and directed by Byambasuren Davaa, who lived with the Batchuluuns, a real nomadic family in Mongolia. He let things unfold naturally to create this thoughtful and beautiful film.

The older daughter finds a dog in a cave, and despite her father’s objections, it becomes her best friend.

We follow the members of the family as they go about their everyday lives. The father rides his motorcycle to the nearby city to sell his sheepskins after wolves kill two of



his sheep. The mother tends to homemaking chores as the little ones play. The older daughter, on horseback, takes the sheep out to pasture, gets into danger, and learns an important lesson.

It’s a gentle story about the limitations of life, accepting responsibility, and cooperation. At the end we watch as the family disassembles their yurt in their summer tract and haul everything away in wagons, including their windmill, because it’s time to move on. But the father does not want to take the dog. We won’t spoil the end!

ELLIE TUAZON

Ongoing Events at USSB

Alliance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 2:00 PM IN PARISH HALL

You are invited to hear **Chet Work**, Executive Director of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County for the past four years. Please come to learn about the Santa Barbara Land Trust, and note that although Alliance normally meets on the first Friday of each month, Friday, January 11 is the *second* Friday in January. Bring healthy appetizers and your questions for Chet about the goals and work of the Land Trust.



Chet Work

Vegan Potluck

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 5:00 PM IN BLAKE LOUNGE

Please bring a plant-based, vegan dish that serves 10-12 people, and bring utensils, dishes, cups, and napkins. Email **Cathy Albanese** to RSVP, and for more information visit www.ussb.org/community-life/monthly-vegan-potluck.

USSB Women's Group

After a holiday hiatus, the women's group will return some time in January. Contact **Karolyn Renard** for more information.

Solidarity and Compassion Project

WEDS., JANUARY 9 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. We are thrilled to be partnering with **Radhule Wieniger** and **Michael Kearney** of Mindful Heart Programs, who have been running the Solidarity and Compassion Project since 2016.

Book Discussion Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 7:00 PM IN LA PAZ LOUNGE.

Contact **Al Melkonian** for more information.

Quantum Field Theory & Consciousness

MONDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 7:15 PM IN BLAKE LOUNGE

Beginners QFT&C meets the third Monday of the month, and gathers at 7:00 PM to start at 7:15 in Blake Lounge.

Weekly Meditation

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:15 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Find more mindfulness, or just a brief midweek timeout. After a 10-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**, **Rev. Julia Hamilton**, **Rev. Ken Collier**, **Maureen Claffey**, and **Nic Filzen**.



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Heather Levin, Accompanist
Mahlon Balderston, Organist Emeritus
Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

Sunday Worship Services are at 9:15 and 11:15 AM
Sunday Nursery & Children's Care: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM in Starr King
The office is open Sunday mornings and Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Deadline for the February issue: *Monday, January 21*
Email: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org



2019