



Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action

Kaleidoscope

July 2018

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

SUNDAYS IN JULY

**One 10:00 AM service every Sunday
from June 24 to September 3**

Sunday, July 1

Rev. Caitlin Cotter Coillberg

"Handprints On My Heart"

At the end of the musical *Wicked* the character Elphaba sings, "So let me say before we part, so much of me is made of what I learned from you—you'll be with me like a handprint on my heart." In this service, Rev. Caitlin will reflect on the ways being with us has changed her for good and all that she is grateful for her time here at the Unitarian Society—how we have left a handprint on her heart. Join us for a service of celebration, reflection, and goodbyes.

The service will be followed by a party of leave-taking.

Sunday, July 8

Ken Ryals and the USSB Music Ministry

"A Sound Legacy"

A special music service in honor of Mahlon Balderston, Organist Emeritus here at USSB. Let us reflect and celebrate the presence of music among us, and honor all that Mahlon has brought to our community for over 60 years! Sweet treats and a reception after the service.

Both choirs will sing.

Sunday, July 15

Rev. Ken Collier

"But You DO Believe in God. Don't You?"

We UU ministers get asked this all the time, and it is one of the hardest questions we have to answer. Why? Because a good answer requires a crash course in theology. That's what this sermon will be.

Summer Singers will sing.

Sunday, July 22

One service only at 10:00 AM

Worship Associate Ken Ralph

"Meaningful Lives in Difficult Times"

In this troubled and worrisome political environment it is easy to slip into despair. In order to keep this existential anxiety at bay, our task is to perceive our lives as meaningful in spite of the chaos all around us. How can we do this? Some find deepest meaning through the maintenance of close relationships. Others find meaning in acts of kindness to strangers. Still others find meaning in the battle to change conditions which cause suffering.

Join us as fellow congregants share some of the ways they've created meaning and purpose to carry them through difficult times.

Summer Singers will sing.

Sunday, July 29

Worship Associate Chuck Flacks

"Tapping the Source"

UU draws its inspiration from the seven principles. These principles are informed by six sources that are as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. This week, Chuck Flacks will invite the congregation to delve into personal experience as the source of one's faith. We will look at and search for authentic religious experience that is not easily explained through science or rationality. Have you ever been "touched by an angel" or experienced something beyond just awe? We will be reflecting on how these life changing experiences can bring us into all kinds of new adventures, including coming to church on Sunday.

Summer Singers will sing.

A Joyful Ordination

On Saturday June 2, 2018, USSB and our sister congregation Live Oak had the joy and privilege to ordain our own Lora Young to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Lora has been a member of USSB with her family for over ten years and completed her internship year at Live Oak. The service was joyful and filled with wonderful music from the choirs of both congregations. Lora especially loved the flowers on the chalice table for their bright and cheerful abundance. Lora extends a hearty and heartfelt thank you to the many hands helping to make the day so memorable!

So what's next for Lora? She is currently enjoying her work as a hospice chaplain at Serenity House and exploring all her options for ministry. So . . . more news to come as she "discerns and decides."



Rev. Lora Young



USSB Donations Help Buy Van for Sarah House

Dear Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara,

I am writing to give you an update on the "SB Gives!" online fundraising initiative that Sarah House participated in. Thanks to the gift that you so generously provided, we were able to replace our dilapidated van. We use the new van to take residents to medical appointments, to take people home after they have spent an entire day at the bedside of their loved ones, and to shop for food. The Sarah House logo is visible on the sides of the van as it travels community-wide to meet future residents.

Thank you so much for your much-needed donation!

GRATEFULLY,
SUSAN MURRAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SARAH HOUSE

A Musical Sabbatical

How very special it was to be able to take a break. As choral director, I could not ask for a more dedicated group of music makers than our choir and guest musicians, and yet when this sabbatical came around I was ready to not make music for a while!



At first I didn't know what to do with myself . . . it was startlingly wonderful and uncomfortable at the same time. I went to the beach, I made time for lunch dates and dinner get-togethers that never happen when I am in full motion. I made it through April and then the real time off started.

Past USSB members Chuck and Lesley Champlin picked me up on their way home to Yuba City, and then they took me to the Grass Valley Unitarian church's auction night! How cool to see another smaller community working it all out; so much fun and a great meal as well. The next day, Lesley and Chuck were on their way to Reno so they were able to drop me off at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Lake Tahoe, just a few miles from the Nevada border.

This beautiful retreat center was exactly where I needed to be. The surrounding mountains still had white peaks and the lake was pristine in the most profound way.

The retreat was led by a worship design artist named Marcia McFee. I had heard her present at a UU Musicians Network conference and have been greatly influenced by her concepts for shaping multisensory worship. In her book, *Think Like a Film Maker/Sensory-Rich Worship De-*

sign for Unforgettable Messages, she interviews film score composers to help understand how they support and deepen the message and stories in movies. She then translates these ideas into tools that make worship design more meaningful and effective.

We at USSB are already using many of the cutting-edge techniques and formulas that Marcia teaches. In our work together, Rev. Julia and I and the worship arts team are looking at further innovations to worship that will make it even more relevant to our everyday lives, and that keeps this congregation's most solemn and holy interests in mind. We take these interests to heart and search for the most effective way to express them. Purpose is what makes us, as a community, effective in a tough world, and what we take from this place when we leave it helps us to create right action in our lives.

This sabbatical was timed so well. I feel like it has helped me to look to the future with more enthusiasm and with a new perspective on what is possible here at USSB. It's been a difficult time in my life, and intentional down time has been important. My heartfelt thanks to this community for their support during my time away and for allowing me to be a part of a musical life that is so full and vibrant. In a world where music is devalued by digital restraints, how we experience live music needs to be cherished. Live, in-the-moment music can be an opportunity to do more than passively listen, especially in worship. The mystical properties of music are tangible in a way that is beyond language and art. Music for worship can bring something that leaves the listener changed for the better. Because of this sabbatical I am changed for the better, and hope to reflect that change in the coming years.

KEN RYALS, CHORAL DIRECTOR
KEN@USSB.ORG



Woven Together

In the weeks leading up to services on Sunday, June 17, Ken Ryals made a special invitation to our congregation: "We would like to highlight all textile arts that help us to realize how we are all part of a community that is sewn, knitted, knotted, woven, and pieced together in one strong fabric of life." The congregation responded with homemade textiles galore! Handcrafted blankets, quilts, and hangings decorated our Sanctuary that day, while the music we sang spoke to the ways we are all woven together.



Matt Eardley demonstrates his loom for Bruce Daniels.



Darrolyn Fennelly with the quilt made for her 70th birthday last year by her daughter, Kate.



Rev. Julia Hamilton's wedding quilt.

The Hamiltons' Wedding Blanket

“A loom was set up at our 1982 wedding in Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens. Our guests wrote loving messages to us on strips of cloth and wove them into two blankets. These couch blankets warmed us for 26 years until we gave one of them to be part of the *chuppah* canopy over Julia and Adam at their wedding in 2008. More ribbons with loving messages were woven into their blanket. Now the blankets warm both of our homes—and hearts.”

Sally and Mark Hamilton, with Rev. Julia Hamilton



The Santa Barbara Quilt

The quilt was the vision of Barbara Maxwell, pictured below, when she was President of the Coastal Quilters. She had visited the state capital building in Sacramento and seen a display case there for each county in California. The case for Santa Barbara was empty. Barbara thought it should display something that represented our county.

Thus the idea of a quilt depicting scenes from Santa Barbara was born. The quilt was started in 1994 by 30 members of the Coastal Quilters Guild of Santa Barbara and Goleta. They spent 18 months designing and sewing it.

This is no ordinary quilt! At more than 49 square feet, it features scenes from Santa Barbara including the Fiesta parade, the mission, the Moreton Bay fig tree, the courthouse, and of course the Santa Ynez mountains. The pink building is the restaurant Something's Fishy, and the woman wearing the blue dress on a horse is Barbara's daughter, Petra, who rode in the Fiesta parade for four years; the horse, Brandy, was also theirs. The child next to the house is Bert, Barbara's son.

After the quilt was finished in 1996, it was taken to an American Quilting Society show in Paducah, Kentucky, where it won an honorable mention in the group category. It was also displayed at the local Coastal Quilt show that year. The quilt was covered by a sheet on stage when at

a prearranged time Santa Barbara mayor Harriet Miller threw it off and revealed . . . the QUILT! A breathtaking moment!

The group tried to find out who was responsible for the county display cases in Sacramento, but all their leads were dead ends. They then approached Mayor Miller and asked to display the quilt at City Hall, and though Miller was for the project, the city never approved it.

Finally, in 1997, Santa Barbara congressman Walter Capps put it on display in his office in Washington DC. After Capps died suddenly in office soon after his election in 1997, his wife Lois took his place in the House where the quilt hung for nearly 20 years, serving as a backdrop for countless photographs.

In 2016, the quilt was returned to the Coastal Quilters for display at their "Harvest of Colors" quilt show in Santa Barbara. And now it lives in Barbara's home.



Barbara Maxwell



Diamond pattern quilt by Karen Harris.



Laraine Gray holds a quilt her mother made in the 1970s.

Library Corner

Summer is here and many of you are reading something interesting. If you want to share your books with the congregation when you're done, we would love for you to donate them to our library. Feel free to write a review for us as well.

Here are our reviews:

The Movie: Wild

This is the powerfully moving and emotionally resonant movie of Cheryl Strayed's memoir of her solo trek along the Pacific Crest Trail. Cheryl (played here by Reese Witherspoon) was overwhelmed by grief after losing her forty-five-year-old mother to cancer. In flashbacks we see her mother (Laura Dern) as a human sunbeam who radiates unconditional love for her children after leaving her abusive husband. The mother-daughter bond was so close, they were even attending the same college, both thrilled to be there.

Cheryl's life spirals downward. She begins cheating on her husband with numerous unsavory men and starts using heroin to numb her pain. The 1,100-mile trail begins in the Mojave Desert at the U.S.-Mexico border and ends in the Cascades on the Canadian border, and she embarks lugging the most unwieldy backpack, a novice on a journey from lost to found. We follow her through some of the most gorgeous scenery as she hums her favorite tunes and recites poetry to herself. At times she comes across other hikers, but she is definitely on her own adventure, an adventure which lifts the spirit and cleanses her soul.

When you watch this movie you actually feel as if you are on the journey with Cheryl. Both Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern are wonderful, and so is the supporting cast.

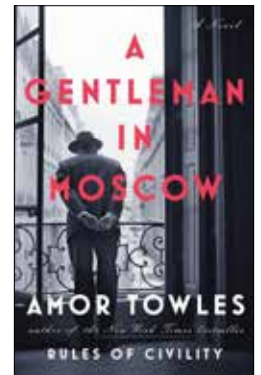
REVIEW BY ELLIE TUAZON



The Book: A Gentleman in Moscow By Amor Towles

"Our lives are steered by uncertainties, many of which are disruptive or even daunting; but that if we persevere and remain generous of heart, we may be granted a moment of supreme lucidity—a moment in which all that has happened to us suddenly comes into focus as a necessary course of events, even as we find ourselves on the threshold of a bold new life that we had been meant to lead all along."

The revolution of 1917 finds former aristocrat Count Alexander Rostov answering with humor, civility, and fearlessness before a tribunal which could have him shot. Because of a poem credited to him, as well as his poise before them, they condemn him instead to perpetual house arrest in the grand Metropol Hotel, a gilded relic like himself, an acronym in the shadow of the Kremlin, preserved by the Communists as a connection to the outside world.



His life severely limited and on the wrong side of history, he remains true to himself and manages to create a rich and meaningful life. Because of his refusal to hide what he is, we fear for him, knowing that he is always in danger. I found very satisfying his control of his situation, always cool-headed, ethical, civil—the aristocratic values he was raised with. He makes his life an oasis of civility and order amid the swirl of revolution and the chaotic course of history.

The prose of this novel itself reflects the cultivated world of Rostov's mind, and for that is a pleasure to read.

Too often ideas are presented disembodied and abstracted. Our sermons and self-help books are filled with them. Ideas are more powerful when embedded in storytelling. The power of the novel to "humanize us" could not be better experienced than this sweep of history seen through the eyes of Alexander Rostov.

REVIEW BY TOM MOORE

July Outreach Offering: The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)

As we all know, recent changes in US immigration policy have resulted in refugee children being separated from their parents at the US-Mexican border. The human suffering caused by the splintering of families and isolation of children as young as two years of age has deeply concerned many Americans, and we as Unitarians believe the practice must be stopped.

A recent National Public Radio report said, “Pediatricians and immigrant advocates are warning that separating migrant children from their families can cause ‘toxic stress’ that disrupts a child’s brain development and harms long-term health.”

The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) is at the front lines of this issue along the international border in Texas. What better cause to support with our Outreach Offering for July?

RAICES Legal Representation, Education, and Advocacy Fund (LEAF)

In a 13-day period this May, 658 children were separated from their parents at the border. As hundreds of children are being taken away from their parents at the border,

RAICES received word in mid-June that federal funding to represent unaccompanied children in court is ending. Representation is often the last line of safety for vulnerable children.

RAICES has also started a Family Reunification Bond Fund—helping get parents out of jail so they can be reunited with their children. Raising funds for bonds is one of the best ways to increase someone’s chances in immigration court. Their case is much more likely to be successful if they are not in jail—and in this instance, it means they can be reunited with their family.

Please give as generously as you can to Outreach Offerings in July to support the RAICES. Our collective contribution may help reunite families and provide comfort to people seeking safety and justice in the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.RAICETEXAS.ORG.



New Advisory Board for WEF

The Women’s Empowerment Fund is pleased to announce the creation of an advisory board of USSB women.

Founding Members

- Sally Hamilton
- Carol Schwyzer
- Suzanne Fairly
- Nancy Van Antwerp
- Charla Bregante
- Melinda Staveley
- Dorothy Warnock
- Catherine Callahan
- Joan Agress
- Kate Mead
- Nancy Edmundson



I am happy to welcome a slate of such powerful and impressive women as a support network for the Women’s Empowerment Fund.

RACHEL AARONS, CHAIR
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT FUND

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

Summer Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM
Nursery & Children's Care: Sunday 9:30 AM to noon in Starr King
Summer hours: the office is open Sunday mornings and Monday to Thursday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Deadline for the August issue: *Monday, July 18*
Email: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

Ongoing Events at USSB

USSB Women's Group

JULY 9 AND JULY 23 AT 1:30 PM IN LA PAZ LOUNGE

USSB Women's Group, which meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, focuses on general interest subjects and activities of interest to women. We have a variable format, including topical discussions, speakers, group book readings, and open topic meetings. Healthy snacks will be provided. Newcomers welcomed! Contact **Karen Bradstreet** for more information.

Vegan Potluck

SUNDAY, JULY 1 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.

Quantum Field Theory & Consciousness

Affinity Group

NO MEETING IN JULY

QFT will return on August 20 at 7:15 PM in Blake Lounge.

Book Discussion Group

TUESDAY, JULY 17 AT 7:00 PM IN LA PAZ LOUNGE.

Contact **Al Melkonian** for more information.

Potluck Game Night

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 6:00 TO 9:00 PM IN PARISH HALL

What could be more UU than board games and a potluck dinner? Bring a dish to share and your own tableware. All are welcome!

Alliance

MEETINGS WILL RETURN IN OCTOBER

Join us the first Friday of each month from October to June for a stimulating presentation and the tea which follows. All are welcome: USSB congregants, friends, neighbors, men and women of all ages.

Science Night

TAKING A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER

Science Night will pick up again on the third Tuesday in September in Blake Lounge. We look forward to seeing you then.