



Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action

# Kaleidoscope

November 2018

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

## SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

We have two services, at 9:15 and 11:15 AM

This month's worship theme is MEMORY.

### Sunday, November 4

Student Minister Nic Filzen

#### "I'm Gonna Let It Shine!"

Isn't it fascinating how the same week that Daylight Saving Time ends and adds what feels like so much more darkness to our days, Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights symbolizing the spiritual "good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance," begins? (And the midterm elections are also on Tuesday.) The transition from Daylight Saving Time to Diwali will either be a powerful symbol for the work we have done or for the work we will need to do. Janey Madlani and a few kids from RE will be offering a special reflection and presentation about Diwali.

*\*Soul Circles: Join Rev. Julia after the second service for a small-group discussion of our monthly theme, "Memory." Meet from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in Jefferson Hall.*

### Sunday, November 18

Rev. Julia Hamilton

#### "Encapsulating Gratitude: A Service of Thanksgiving"

When historians look back on this year, they may think that it was nothing but trouble. But we know that even in the midst of hard times there are always things to be grateful for. So we are building a time capsule, to set the record straight! Bring in things that make you hopeful, that fill you with gratitude, and let's celebrate the gifts of life together. We will have our annual "Breaking of the Bread," too.

*Chancel Choir will sing.*

### Sunday, November 11

Rev. Julia Hamilton

#### "VUCA: Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity"

"VUCA" is a trendy way to describe the world we are living in. On this Sunday after the election, let us gather to reflect on what it means to live in a VUCA world, and how we can best live and love in such "volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous" times.

*Chancel Choir will sing.*

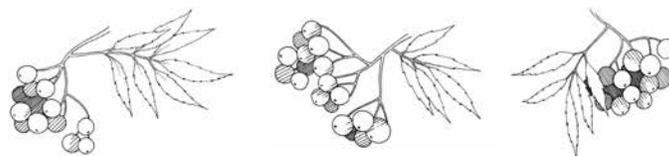
### Sunday, November 25

Worship Associate Koreen Pagano

#### "Feast of the Senses"

Kicking off the holiday season brings up a wellspring of memories tied to tradition, family, and events that shaped us. Join us in exploring how music, smells, and tastes hold some of the strongest ties connecting our present to our past.

*Women's Chorale will sing.*



# So You're Thinking of Becoming a Member

You've been happily visiting us for a while now and you're finally ready to explore membership at USSB. What's next? That's where our classes for people interested in becoming new members come in. We re-launched the New Member Journey classes (formerly known as the Newcomers Series) last month and we're excited to continue the series in November.

This month, mark your calendars for the new member orientation from 10:30 to 11:10 AM in classroom A, off Jefferson Courtyard. This basic class will allow people to introduce themselves and have a brief campus tour. **Sign up now by e-mailing: [maureen@ussb.org](mailto:maureen@ussb.org).**

Overall, the New Member Journey covers all the basic information you will need to understand both the perks and responsibilities that go along with USSB membership. The New Member Journey is a shortened, condensed version of our previous classes and takes place over just three

days: New Member Orientation (45 minutes, held monthly); Membership101 (3 hours, held quarterly); and the New Member Luncheon (2 hours, held biannually).

Whether you've been visiting us for four years or four services, you're welcome to join the New Member Journey classes at any time. At the end of the classes, you'll understand how becoming a member is a beautiful way to support the congregation, deepen your spiritual commitment, and grow your community. At the end of the New Member Journey classes, you will be welcomed into USSB as new member, before a Sunday service, and be invited to participate fully in all of our groups, committees, events, and more.

MAUREEN FOLEY CLAFFEY,  
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
[MAUREEN@USSB.ORG](mailto:MAUREEN@USSB.ORG)



## A Racial Justice Task Force

*What do I know about race and racism? What resources does my minister or congregation recommend that I can connect with?*

About a year ago I was asking myself those questions. I had an opportunity to join a one-time session with other UUs at our sister congregation, Live Oak UU, which led to more gatherings with a small group. I signed up for information from the group Showing Up for Racial Justice ([sbsurg.org](http://sbsurg.org)), which meets in Santa Barbara, sometimes in the Society's Jefferson Hall. It offers short courses, provides information to read, and encourages each person to explore their understanding and learn more when they're ready.

My question: is anyone else at the Society interested in connecting with others to deepen your understanding of race and racism? We might meet once, or do some ongoing investigation. We might reach out in the community to better understand ourselves and others.

You are invited to a "Should We Create a Racial Justice Task Force?" meeting on Sunday, November 11, at 12:30 PM in Parish Hall.

JOANIE JONES  
[JOANIESGARDEN@COX.NET](mailto:JOANIESGARDEN@COX.NET)

## After-Auction Sale Ends November 4

The auction is over but the after-auction sale is swinging into action, letting you purchase items and events that didn't sell out auction night. Visit [www.ussb.org/auction](http://www.ussb.org/auction) for an updated list of bargains! You may make your purchase in cash, check, or let us charge your card. Call the office at (805) 965-4583 to make your purchase, or visit the after-auction table on Sunday, November 4. Don't wait!

## Help Us Fill Our Time Capsule

We are making a time capsule—and we need your help! We are trying to preserve the things that give us hope and fill us with gratitude during these difficult times. We will assemble the capsule during our Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 18—but we will be collecting things all month! It could be as simple as a notecard with a few sentences about what gives you hope right now. It could be a photograph, a news clipping, a handmade object, or a small memento (nothing too big, please!). Bring it to Sunday services or drop it off in the office, just get your piece of the time capsule here by Sunday, November 18 to have it included in the box!

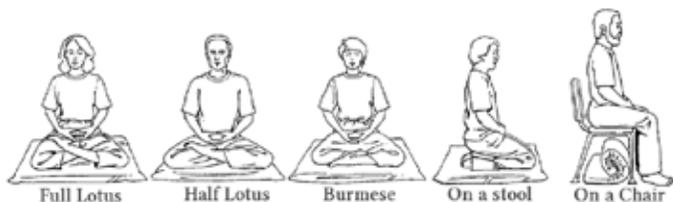
# Don't Just Do Something, Sit There!

There has been a lot of interest in finding ways to sustain our souls, and nothing has been more requested than more opportunities to practice meditation. If you are interested in meditation here at USSB, please contact our Director of Congregational Life, Maureen, and ask to be added to the meditation group!

## **A New Midweek Meditation Group Starts on November 7**

Join us Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 5:15 to 6:00 PM for a weekly opportunity to participate in a facilitated sitting meditation session. Sitting in contemplation has a long lineage in many faith traditions and can enrich any spiritual practice. Members of the USSB congregation and the public are invited to take time each week to sit and breathe and participate in various meditation styles.

If you're looking for more mindfulness or just a chance to take a brief midweek timeout, stop by. The group will be led, on a rotating basis, by Arianna Jansma, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Rev. Ken Collier, Maureen Claffey, and Nic Filzen.



After a 10-minute settling period and instructions on meditation for those interested, there will be two 15-minute sitting meditation periods, broken up with a brief break, when people can stretch or leave or join us. BYOC: Bring your own cushion, chair or other sitting tool, or there will be chairs and cushions here to sit on.

## **Solidarity and Compassion Project Coming to USSB!**

**Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Parish Hall**

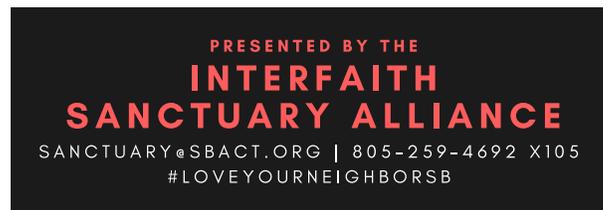
We are thrilled to be partnering with Radhule Wiener, who has been running the "Solidarity and Compassion Project" since 2016. This is a monthly gathering of guest speakers from the community, joining together to discuss ways of community healing during difficult times and to spend time in meditation and reflection. We bring together members of the leading faith traditions as well as a variety of thinkers, musicians, visionaries and activists to share how their individual traditions' and practices such as prayers, meditation, chants, and philosophies help us deal with uncertainty, anxiety, and fear during this challenging time in our country and our world.

Join us every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Admission is by donation and everyone is welcome. The Project was profiled in the recent issue of *Tricycle!* <https://tricycle.org/trikedaily/psycho-spiritual-town-hall/>



## **Nov 29 - Dec 2**

Join us in a faith community-led campaign of compassion supporting our immigrant neighbors in Santa Barbara County!



## **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR WEEKEND**



**Thur, Nov 29 5:30-6:30pm**

De La Guerra Plaza - Interfaith vigil in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors



**Fri, Nov 30 - Sun, Dec 2**

"Love Your Neighbor"-themed worship services. For a full list of participating faith communities, visit [www.loveyourneighborsb.org](http://www.loveyourneighborsb.org)



**Sun, Dec 2, 2pm-5pm**

Harding School, 1625 Robbins St - Love Your Neighbor Weekend Festival - food, music, dance, and speakers to celebrate Santa Barbara's rich immigrant community

## **want more info?**

SANCTUARY@SBACT.ORG | 805-259-4692 X105  
WWW.LOVEYOURNEIGHBORSB.ORG

# Why Should I Bring My Child on Sunday?

I love meeting people at USSB who were raised here in this church. They bring another level of depth to our congregation.

Last spring I met a woman who grew up in our church. She was returning with her two preschool children. At a family focus group she reported that she had been the only one of her gentile college friends that when invited to a Seder, had understood it. She knew what *Eid al Fatir* was. She had spent time thinking about The Big Questions because she was a Coming of Age graduate. She now wanted progressive liberal faith and religious literacy for her own children.

We hope to see your children form a deep connection to this faith and to our church. According to UUA data, youth who are active in their churches during their middle and high school years are 80% more likely to be Unitarian Universalists as adults.

I met with my counterpart at B'nai B'rith recently. We lamented together how sports, school, and dance has pulled youth away from faith development.

"I usually tell parents that while it's unclear if their kids will be professional soccer players as adults, it's pretty darn clear that they'll be Jewish!" she said.

Can we say that as UUs? The UUA reports that parents often try not to indoctrinate their children, to leave them free to determine their own truth. While this was once a noble aspiration, we may have taken it too far. One youth participant in one of the UUA's youth focus groups said, "adults are concerned about influencing what kids believe, but being influenced by other people is how we figure out what we believe; it's the only way it can happen."

Be a part of keeping our faith and our church vibrant. Please bring your youth to church regularly.

See you Sunday!

## Lifespan Religious Education Programming

### Upcoming Adult Programs

#### SOUL CIRCLE



This is a chance to take a deeper dive into our monthly theme with **Rev. Julia Hamilton**. The class will begin on Sunday, November 4 at 12:30 PM and will meet again on the first Sunday of each month in Jefferson Hall.

This month we will explore the theme of memory. How can we reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward? How can we reclaim what we have lost, for-

gotten, or been stripped of? How do our memories feel holy?

Join us for conversation and deep listening on November 4. Sack lunches are welcome. Sign up on Realm.

#### LOCAL AND GLOBAL RELIGIONS



Join USSB members **Dr. Nate Rich** and **Chris Shorb** as they take us on a journey, literally, through the global faiths that are represented right here in Santa Barbara. The group will visit local temples, mosques and churches as a together. We will discussing each faith both before and after the visit.

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 help us learn about the key faith groups represented here in Santa Barbara. The class begins on Sunday, November 11 at 12:30 PM in Jefferson Hall. Sign up on Realm.

#### Upcoming Children's Programs

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH**—In November our middle school youth will continue their exploration of the wisdom of the world's great religions by learning about Hinduism and then visiting the Vedanta Society in Montecito.

**PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH**—November will be spent with a focus on our theme of memory. Our classes will take a look at:

- Reclaiming an honest history;
- Remembering those who have gone before and the guidance they have for us today;
- Remembering and noticing all of life's gifts that lay all around us;
- Remembering our values in a world where buying stuff is more important than being good people.

#### December Save- the-Date

##### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

##### *Holiday Hoo Hah*

Friday, December 7 at 5:30 PM in Parish Hall—Food, live music, holiday mayhem, and more.



SARA SAUTTER  
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
SARA@USSB.ORG

# Here's Booking at You

If you haven't checked out the USSB library lately, you're in for a surprise. The library is currently undergoing a transformation that will result in a well-curated collection of books with a renewed focus on all things Unitarian Universalist. As well, we're integrating the existing Religious Education library into the general library so we can have a one-stop-shop for our readers. We also hope to digitally catalog the library and have a digital check-out system, too.

The first step, undertaken by amazing USSB Library volunteer, Ellie Tuazon, was to discard some of the current books and to whittle down the collection to only books with some focus on UU themes or values or connection with our local congregation. (Thanks to everyone who took home some of the extra books at the giveaway last Sunday. And if you missed it, there will be another chance to pick up extra books on Sunday, November 4.)

The next step is for Sara Sautter, Interim Director of Lifespan Education, to move the existing RE library books into the newly-empty Parish Hall bookshelves. These are children's books and books on parenting and also books

that will be used for the ongoing RE classes. The RE library is now online at [www.librarycat.org/lib/USSB-RELIBRARY](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/USSB-RELIBRARY)

Eventually, we hope to use those tools for the entire UU library.

Thanks to Ellie and all the monthly library volunteers who've invested so much time over the years in keeping the library alive and giving USSB readers great books. We're excited to dust off the dust jackets and roll up our sleeves and give this long-time aspect of congregational life a face-lift. Eventually, we even hope to create a "book nook," including some comfy chairs and table lamps, and some signage and labels for the library itself. Stay tuned for a USSB library grand re-opening at some point next year!



Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or would like to donate time, materials, or resources for this library transformation.

MAUREN FOLEY CLAFFEY,  
DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
[MAUREN@USSB.ORG](mailto:MAUREN@USSB.ORG)

## Great Decisions Looks to 2019

The Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group will meet for its FOURTH year, starting on Wednesday, February 6! Everyone who is interested in exploring current issues relating to refugees and global migration, conflicts in the Middle East, the status of nuclear negotiations under Trump, populism rise in Europe, the China--U.S. trade war, cyber conflicts, the U.S. and its relationship with Mexico, and the state of American diplomacy will enjoy this new season of the Great Decisions program.

We use an excellent book published by the Foreign Policy Association. We gather in Parish Hall twice a month at 7:00 pm starting in February and running through May, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We begin each session by watching an excellent 30-minute DVD on the assigned subject. In most cases, a speaker will further discuss the issues raised in the reading and the DVD and lead a Q&A session which is always interesting. Our sessions usually have between 40 and 50 people attending but this new season may have larger turnouts since we expect to bring in UCSB and other experts to enrich the presentations.

To get the most from the program you will want to purchase the book. The first 60 people who sign up can purchase the book at a special discounted price of \$30, whereas if ordered from the publisher at [www.greatdecisions.org](http://www.greatdecisions.org) the cost will be about \$36. Even if you have to miss a few of the eight meetings we encourage you to sign up and reserve

a book since in the end it is all about building our community at USSB and enjoying learning from each other.

Do you have a friend who might be interested in USSB? This is an easy way to expose them to a nice group of folks who are interested in foreign relations and who enjoy talking about these challenging subjects. Your friend will get much more from the series if the written material has been read in advance of the meetings. The Q&A sessions are quite interesting because it is assumed that everyone has read the written material in advance of the meeting. So, there is homework!



If the timing doesn't fit your schedule another option is forming a Great Decisions group in your own home with friends and family who are interested in the topics. Thousands of folks throughout the country use the book and DVD for such informal discussions. The Great Decisions website has an excellent tutorial on setting up just such a small group in your home as well as many references to additional resources for further information.

If you have any questions, give me a call at (805) 965-4235 or contact me via email.

JOHN WARNOCK, PROJECT COORDINATOR  
[JOHNWARNOCK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOHNWARNOCK@GMAIL.COM)

# Slowing Down to Speed Up: A Brief Account of 8 Days in San Francisco During the Global Climate Action Summit

How I wish you could have been there for the events surrounding the Global Climate Action Summit in September. Governor Brown and other climate leaders convened the Summit as a vehicle to assess the progress being made on the climate front, and to inspire commitments at all levels to further reduce our carbon emissions. There were so many events and subject tracks to choose from, it was almost dizzying: women and climate; soil regeneration; rethinking economics to preserve the climate; racial justice and climate; youth and climate, to name a few.

Since I share the belief that climate disruption is above all a moral issue, I attended events that leaned toward the growing faith-community movement. As a result, I spent considerable time at Grace Episcopal Cathedral for an interfaith service and workshops, as well as a day at Spirit Rock Meditation Center.

The eight days of events began felicitously in a park near the start of the pre-Summit Climate March. There, at the park, a mindfulness circle gathered on an unusually beautiful day, the warm early morning sun enfolding practitioners from numerous traditions in gentle light as they sat in meditation for 45 minutes. After the bell sounded a final time, many hundreds more joined us at the park for an interfaith service.



*Governor Jerry Brown*

The bishop of Grace Episcopal Cathedral was among the speakers. Members of various faith communities, such as a large contingent from Palo Alto United Church of Christ, wore identifying tee shirts. I saw a few “Standing On the Side of Love” shirts as well. Friendly smiles abounded.

After the interfaith service, it was time to begin the main event of the day: the march. My companion and I took a

place with the group from 350 Santa Barbara (350.org), an international group with a multitude of affiliates throughout the world working to raise political will for a safe climate. The number 350 signifies a safe number of carbon parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere. We are currently

around 410 ppm. Members of 350SB carried a striking banner that they had painted at an art workshop in Santa Barbara that evoked our iconic mountains and shore. We filed in with blocks and blocks of other affinity groups and slowly made our way from the Embarcadero to the Civic Center. The march itself was a colorful, festive, upbeat event calling on delegates to the Summit to act boldly to meet the urgency and severity of the climate crisis. At the end of the march, many of the more than 30,000 participants helped to paint the world's



*Thousands of people gathered to march down Market Street to the Civic Center.*

largest street mural—a series of giant mandalas in front of the San Francisco Civic Center.

It was a wonderful march—by far the largest climate march in California history—and one that was essential. At the large interfaith service at Grace Episcopal Cathedral on September 12, representatives of various world religions (such as Patriarch Bartholomew, head of the Greek Orthodox church) spoke with great power about climate change and inequality. An ineffably beautiful voice chanted *om shanti* from the Hindu tradition; a haunting lone cello accompanied an elegiac ballet while paper “petals” or “ice flakes” floated downward from the great height of the cathedral interior.

I attended a formal listening ceremony, a *Tanaloa* dialogue, which is a technique from Fiji that was practiced during the talks that led to the Paris Climate Agreement. People described the



*Grace Cathedral*

ill effects that extraction industries and the burning of fossil fuels had brought upon their communities and the people they love.

As I listened to the participants in the UN Climate Negotiations Nation Role-Playing workshop, I began to question how to break out of our artificial spheres of interest. I also saw presentations on experimental technology to counteract the climate crisis; speakers who were struggling to define and enhance climate justice brought the focus back to human dignity and worth.

The day-long Climate Finance Summit provided practical tips: alumni writing letters to the University of California, or contacting asset managers, to insist that they divest their institutions from fossil fuels, or writing to financial institutions urging that they stop lending money for new fossil fuel infrastructure. I was proud that our endowment fund at USSB divested from fossil fuels years ago.

As part of the interfaith service at Grace Cathedral, people world-wide were invited to commit to reducing their personal carbon footprint through diet, home energy use, and transportation. The findings of ever more authoritative sources advocating plant-based diets as one of the most helpful things to do for the climate in our culture has led me to set an intention to increase my number of meat-free and dairy-free meals.

One of the less widely mentioned but really valuable long-term responses to climate disruption both on a personal and societal level might be to begin or deepen a meditation practice. Evidence for the strengthening and clarifying power of mindfulness practice continues to grow and offer hope for better outcomes to difficulties of every kind. We can be grateful that Governor Brown studied Buddhism years ago and spent many years practicing meditation. I am delighted to learn that there are increasing opportunities to practice meditation at USSB (See page 2.) I so hope that our decision makers will be practicing mindfulness along with us.

On the last day I joined a special day for healing the planet at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Marin County. There we heard from Joanna Macy, Buddhist systems thinker, teacher, and author of *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In without Going Crazy*; tree-protector and author Julia Butterfly Hill; Anam Thubten, a locally-based Tibetan Rinpoche of enormous presence; Spirit Rock founder Jack Kornfield,

*The march itself was a colorful, festive, upbeat event calling on delegates to the Summit to act boldly to meet the urgency and severity of the climate crisis.*

who read a remarkable poem about following the leadership capacity of young people such as Emma Gonzalez, the activist and survivor of the Parkland School shooting; and Christiana Figueres, the architect of the Paris Climate Agreement who shared her conviction that the pledges made at the Summit for carbon neutrality by 500 corporations (to be followed by their suppliers) will create the conditions necessary for the next UN climate conference.

Our return trip to Santa Barbara made the urgency of the Summit even more personal. We were bused home after our train was delayed for seven hours because of damage near Redding from the calamitous phenomenon of a “whirling” forest fire.

It is widely agreed that we have an extremely short time to change course. The October 2018 Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on 1.5 Degree Centigrade Temperature Increase shows the unprecedented magnitude of change required of us.

My deep hope is that more people with a background in complex living systems, including those with an indigenous perspective on caring for life, will lead the way in the



*Jack Kornfield, founder of Spirit Rock Meditation Center*

search for the best, safest, and most equitable and humane responses to climate disruption. As for companions and guides to accompany us through what is now completely uncharted territory, I feel grateful that among those touchstones we have our long history of denominational justice work and the seven Unitarian Universalist principles, the last (encompassing the rest) being “respect for the interconnected web of all existence, of which we are a part.”



CHERYL SNELL

## USSB Board of Trustees Votes to Change Unrestricted Bequest Designation Policy

At the September 25 meeting, the board of trustees approved a revision of the designation policy for unrestricted bequests. The new policy is:

The board of trustees shall designate the first \$40,000 of any unrestricted bequest received by the Society as follows:

- 25% as miscellaneous income to USSB operating budget
- 75% as board-designated contribution to the USSB endowment.

Any remaining unrestricted bequest amount shall be designated at the discretion of the board of trustees for non-operational use. This policy shall be reviewed in three years.

One change in this new policy is that the board will now decide on the best use of a portion of large unrestricted bequests received by the Society. The new policy also increases the maximum designation to operating from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and includes a review of the policy in three years.

The board of trustees approved this change because the Society has unaddressed financial priorities, like debt from the capital campaign, that did not exist when the 2003 policy was put into practice. The new policy improves the board's ability to balance whatever financial priorities exist when an unrestricted bequest is received.

If you have any questions, contact board president Keith Strohmaier at sbkeithrs@yahoo.com.

IN SERVICE, KEITH STROHMAIER, PRESIDENT,  
USSB BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Invitation to Participate

Each year at the annual meeting in June, you are presented with a slate of candidates for the board of trustees. We have nine board members who represent all of us in setting policy and guiding the congregation in collaboration with the congregation. The slate, normally three candidates each year, is created by the nominating committee which works throughout the year to find candidates who can best represent the whole congregation, can work cooperatively in a team, and bring needed skills and experience.

As the nominating committee gathers ideas and information, please feel free to talk to any committee member, as we welcome your thoughts and suggestions. The more we know the more effective we can be.

We look forward to hearing from you.

THE 2018-2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
JOHN HARTMAN (CHAIR), NATE RICH,  
CAROL SCHWYZER, GAIL STICHLER,  
MELINDA STAVELEY, AND BART WOOLERY

## Showers of Blessing Thanks, and a Request

The Showers of Blessing, the portable shower program for houseless people, is grateful to the USSB members of who have volunteered to do laundry once a month. We need only **three more volunteers** for these locations:

- Third Monday of the month at St. Michael's in Isla Vista, pick up time is 4:45 PM
- Fourth Tuesdays at the Salvation Army on Chapala, pick up time is 8:45 AM
- Fourth Thursdays at Our Lady of Sorrows, pick up time is 6:30 PM

Please contact Sally Hamilton at sallyshamilton@gmail.com if you are interested. You may also volunteer to be a substitute.

We are also looking for people who will facilitate during the shower sessions. These people act as friendly hosts and quickly spritz the showers after each use.

Thank you very much to these generous USSB volunteers: **Melinda Staveley, Patricia Reilly Stark, Lark and Howard Ruffner, Susie DuPont, Hod and Laraine Gray, Gun Dukes, Regina Fletcher, Kate Mead, Judy Fontana**, and, of course, **Ken Ralph** (the Showers Executive Director), **Anita Blume** (bookkeeper), **Linda Liker** (treasurer), **Angela Karmis** (manager), and **Wade Volk** (assistant manager). Our congregation can be proud of this contribution to the people in our community who need shower access.

SALLY HAMILTON  
SALLYSHAMILTON@GMAIL.COM

## All in the Family

On September 27, USSB member Judy Farris's daughter, Katherine, gave birth to a baby girl, Madison Shea Penner, and Judy is now a grandmother!



*Madison Shea Penner*

# Library Corner

On a recent visit to the Museum of Natural History, my friends and I were treated to a tour of their library. This is a wonderful resource available to anyone who is a member of the museum.

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful fall weather and have an interesting book to read.

Here are our reviews:

## The Movie: Freedomland

Julianne Moore stars as Brenda, the distraught mother who is in the emergency room with bloodied hands, telling her story of having her car hijacked while her four-year-old son is in the back seat. She describes the kidnapper as a young black male, and this sets off a massive police search in a nearby housing project, where Brenda actually volunteers with children.

Police Detective Lorenzo Council (Samuel L. Jackson) who takes Brenda's initial statement in the ER, suspects that she is holding something back. As her story begins to unravel, riots ensue and accusations of police brutality grow rampant.

Desperate to find the little boy, Lorenzo enlists the aid of a volunteer group which helps search for missing children. As they look for the child, the chilling truth leads to a shocking ending.

This movie is based on the novel *Freedomland* by Richard Price. The movie was released in 2006. I found it both riveting and disturbing.

REVIEWED BY ELLIE TUAZON



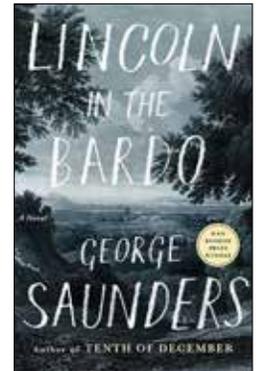
## The Book: Lincoln in the Bardo By George Saunders

A reviewer called it “a polyphonic symphony of a novel about restless souls adrift in the afterlife.” But *Lincoln in the Bardo* is based on a night visit Lincoln made 1862 to Washington Cemetery to the body of his 11-year-old son Willie, a true event. Seized in grief by the loss of his son and the immense tragedy of the Civil War which was just beginning, he is unaware of the panoply of souls swarming about the cemetery, otherworldly characters that are dead but unable to let go of life.

The format is unusual, a series of passages, many from letters and historical sources, but many others from the carnivalesque spirits themselves who immediately take an interest in this ungainly sad man who would come in the night to hold his dead son. These spirits take bizarre forms, each according to the hang-up that prevents him or her from “moving on.” Each passage is a shift in mood, point of view, and subject matter. The result is “by turns bawdy, poetic and unsettling,” from deeply sad to hilarious.

The book received the Booker Prize for fiction. It is being hailed as pertinent to the times with its moving portrayal of Abraham Lincoln as transcending the fear and division of the times with love even as his sadness increased, “a quiet, confident generosity of spirit.” It contrasts sharply with our present leader.

REVIEWED BY TOM MOORE



## Free Book Giveaway!

The library is undergoing some major changes, as the Children's Religious Education resource material will be housed in the section formerly occupied by the fiction area. We have culled the whole library and many books are available for you to take. On **Sunday, November 4**, you may pick up as many books as you'd like. Visit the library in Parish Hall during Middle Hour, from 10:15 to 11:15 AM, to see the selection of fiction, nonfiction, and more.

See "Here's Booking at You!" on page 5 for more information.

# November Outreach Offering: Wilderness Youth Project

**W**ilderness Youth Project envisions teaching the next generation of children to be peaceful, respectful and confident stewards of our world. We are grateful for the support of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara: we have always felt strong alignment with Unitarian Universalist principles, and we believe that the work we do to connect children with nature creates respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We believe that all children need nature: not just the ones with parents who appreciate nature, and not just those from a certain socio-economic class, culture, or set of abilities. That's why we rely on the support of our generous community to provide scholarships to most of our participants.

Wilderness Youth Project provides the essential (and, sadly, often missing) ingredient of nature in childhood. Equally importantly, our nature exploration takes place in small groups of 12 students with three adults. We also teach principles of peacemaking and celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every

single member of our community, and adhere to a commitment to justice, equity and compassion in our relations to one another and to the plants and animals that surround us.

Wilderness Youth Project is building a Bridge to Nature for the children in Santa Barbara who are

least likely to access time outdoors. Various estimates suggest that kids today spend something like five to seven minutes of unstructured time outdoors each day. We know that's not enough, so we have created partnerships with

schools and other community groups to go find the children who need us most and get them outdoors and in touch with the nature world... and with themselves.

Jose, one of our fourth graders, made the drawing above after his first expedition to Lizard's Mouth with Wilderness Youth Project. Together, we will inspire more young people to this feeling!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.WYP.ORG](http://WWW.WYP.ORG)



## Song & Silence: Taizé Style

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

For anyone who needs a break, a breath, a chance to go deep into the quiet within: give yourself the gift of a Taizé-style service. This is a candle-lit evening of meditative singing, a few reflective words, and deep, nourishing silence. The songs are easy for everyone to learn and no singing talent is needed, and the Sanctuary is transformed with a warm and welcoming glow as the early darkness settles around us and peace settles within us. All are welcome. Childcare will be available upon request.



# Alliance in November and December

**O**n November 2 at 2:00 PM in Parish Hall, our very own **Donnie Nair** has written a memoir, *My Life: So Far, So Good*. She will present inspiring vignettes from the book about growing up female in the twentieth century. On her mother's side: fourth-generation Unitarian. On her father's side: a grandfather who was a strict Norwegian immigrant preacher. A marriage of 63 years, with generations of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; plus a career in real estate, and much, much more. She says that even when "it wasn't wonderful, it was interesting." Come and hear the memories and be inspired. Bring a friend.



*Donnie Nair*

**On December 7 at 2:00 PM in Parish Hall**, Alliance presents a Hanukkah celebration! Claire, Julie, and Nancy are preparing a Hanukkah party to help us balance the excesses of Christmas. Come ready to play games and sing while you learn the history of this tradition. Join us Friday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. in Parish Hall.

Alliance meets on 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. Your contribution of some goodies to share makes our tea a delicious afternoon treat. We look forward to welcoming you.

## Ongoing Events at USSB

### *Vegan Potluck*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 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](http://www.ussb.org/community-life/monthly-vegan-potluck).

### *USSB Women's Group*

**MONDAYS NOVEMBER 12 AND 26, 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 and newcomers welcomed! Contact **Karen Bradstreet** for more information.

### *Quantum Field Theory & Consciousness Affinity Group*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:15 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 will explain string theory, cultural belief systems, and the Gaia hypothesis.

### *Book Discussion Group*

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 7:00 PM IN LA PAZ LOUNGE.**  
Contact **Al Melkonian** for more information.

### *Science Night*

Science Night has ended. Thanks to everyone who has participated over the years.

—Rick Hibbs, Max & Susan Neufeldt

### *Potluck Game Night*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 6:00 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!

### *Vegan Film Night*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 6:30 PM IN BLAKE LOUNGE**  
Our November film is *Got the Facts on Milk?* (aka "The Milk Documentary"). The film is an award-winning feature documentary that questions conventional wisdom on the health benefits of milk and dairy products. Addressing myth, truth, and all in between, the film is sometimes whimsical and funny. But it is also a riveting exposé that provokes serious thought about this everyday staple. In so doing, the film joins the late Dr. Benjamin Spock, MD, who in the last edition of his famous baby book recommended soy and other plant-derived milks over cow's milk for children.

## The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Jon Diaz, Sexton, [jon@ussb.org](mailto:jon@ussb.org)  
Heather Levin, Accompanist  
Mahlon Balderston, Organist Emeritus  
Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

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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 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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Deadline for the December issue: *Monday, November 19*  
Email: [Kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto:Kaleidoscope@ussb.org)