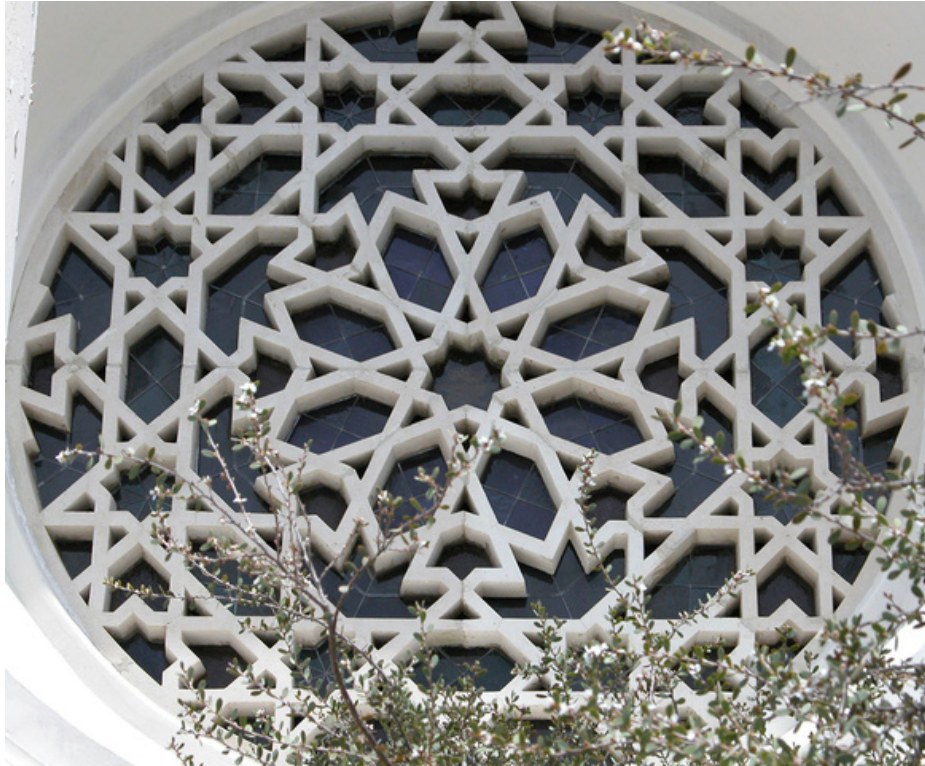


JANUARY 2024



KALEIDOSCOPE

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*Living with Integrity
Nurturing Wonder
Inspiring Action*

**Join us for Worship Services on:
January 7, 14, 21 and 28**

**Services at 10:00 AM
In-Person and Online**

Sanctuary Window Update



On December 10, 2023, this congregation voted to replace the Jefferson name on the window closest to the pulpit with that of **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper**.

On August 20, 2023, Rev. Colin Bossen, a visiting UU minister, offered us a sermon on her legacy. In it, we learned something of her

story, and her work as an abolitionist and advocate for women's rights. Having her join the other significant leaders in our evolving faith lifts up the contributions of people of color (POC) and our ongoing commitment to living our values.

You won't see Watkins Harper's name up there right away. The window names are painted and while a re-do seems like a relatively simple project, the leading on all the windows, especially the west-facing ones, needs to be replaced before any work can be done. (We will also need to determine just which combination of her names to use.

In the meantime, we will be working on a written history of how we came to this renaming - why we embarked upon it and how the process evolved - and where to preserve and commemorate it.

Rev. Bossen's sermon can be watched [here](#). The sermon begins around the 36 minute mark.

by Judy Farris, for the USSB Board of Trustees

Comments? Questions?

So Who Do You Call?

Hint: if you are at USSB, it's not Ghostbusters.

Notice a light not working? Anything else awry in and around our campus and its buildings? There are **USSB Maintenance Request Forms** in a wall file outside the office of our Director of Administration, Erin Wilson, to fill out and leave there. She will move along the information to the appropriate staff member or contract service provider for their attention. (Erin's office is in the hallway to the left of the kitchen in Parish Hall.)

Do you have suggestions, concerns, great ideas, feedback or appreciations? You can reach out to any member of the **Committee on Shared Ministry** (COSM): Nancy Beisser, Treasa McGettigan, Kate Mead, Susan Neufeldt, Gail Stichler and Deb Wolfe. One or more of them are out twice a month at a table after the Sunday Service.

In addition, the COSM page on the USSB website, is found under the "[Community Life](#)" heading. It describes what sorts of things the Committee handles, has an online form to submit, and a link to a printable form that can be filled out at home and brought to the table on Sunday, put in the COSM envelope outside Rev. Julia's office (also in the hallway left of the kitchen), or mailed to USSB, Attn.: COSM.

Issues are discussed at a monthly COSM meeting and, where appropriate, shared with other USSB leadership, whether individuals, committees, or the Board of Trustees. (Note: COSM receives communications with regard to our Covenant of Healthy Relationships which are confidential and limited to the parties involved.)

And finally, there is a link to the monthly agenda of the **Board of Trustees** meeting in the weekly email the Friday before the meeting. If you see an item you'd like to comment upon, there is an Open Forum time at the beginning of the meeting where you can speak. Or if you'd just like to hear the discussion, you are welcome to listen to any part of the meeting except Executive session (infrequent) as an observer.

By Judy Farris, for the USSB Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER

We have much to look forward to in the coming year. Here's a taste of what will be happening in our lifespan RE programs in 2024.

Children's RE Programs

Our preschoolers will keep on lighting their Sunday morning chalice, enjoying a snack together, and exploring the endless opportunities for discovery and play at Starr King. Our younger elementary school class will continue their exploration of the ways integrity, wonder, and action show up in their lives, along with some special lessons along the way to connect them to larger congregation.

We would like to add a CRE class for 5th-7th graders to serve the needs of some of our older kids. In order for our religious exploration programs to grow and thrive, we need volunteers. Please contact Charla if you are willing to pitch in a couple of Sunday mornings a month to help enrich our programs for kids.

In the spring, we will offer **Our Whole Lives** (OWL), the UUA sexuality education curriculum, for some of our youngest kiddos. Information about parent information meetings and registration will be coming out next month. In the meantime, learn more about OWL here:
<https://www.uua.org/re/owl>



Questions about USSB RE Programs? Contact Director of RE charla Bergante charla@ussb.org

RSVP up until the day before charla@ussb.org

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER CONT.

Youth Programs

Our YoUUth Group will kick off 2024 with their service trip to the La Cobina migrant shelter in Mexicali in January. They will bring art supplies and games for the children of the shelter, and spend a day doing art, teaching capacitar self-care movements, and playing with the children, providing them with some much-needed attention and things to do.

YoUUth Group is open to 13-17-year-olds. They meet in Blake Lounge two Sundays a month from 4:00-5:30. Contact YG Coordinator, Christina Boardman for more information at christina@ussb.org.

On February 4 our 2024 Coming of Age cohort will begin their deep dive into creating meaning from their life stories, bonding with each other and this congregation, deepening their understanding of Unitarian Universalism, and defining their personal beliefs at this important stage in their lives. COA is for young teens age 13-14. Please contact Charla for more information.



Like children's RE, volunteers are the lifeblood of our programs. If you are interested in learning more about working with youth, please contact Charla charla@ussb.org. I'd love to talk to you.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CORNER CONT.

Adult RE Programs

We are pleased to report that both the Contemporary Issues Forum and Earth Advocates Film Series will be continuing in 2024 with some excellent programs. Watch your Friday emails for details about upcoming events from those groups.

If you are new to USSB and want to learn more about what we're all about, consider registering for the **Path to Membership** class on January 27 from 9:30 AM-12:30PM. Contact Angie Swanson-Kyriaco, our Outreach and Membership Coordinator at angie@ussb.org for more information.

Stay tuned for information about more Adult RE classes in the coming weeks and months. Are you interested in teaching an Adult RE class? I'd love to talk to you about how we can bring your idea to life! Contact me at charla@ussb.org with your ideas.

Coffee with the DRE

Would you like to know more about what it means to volunteer with our children or youth? Do you have an idea for an Adult RE class you'd like to talk about? Are you a parent wondering what's ahead for your child in RE? Do you have a teenager who might be interested in our youth group? I'm always happy to meet you for a cup of coffee or tea, in person or virtually. Send me an email charla@ussb.org and let's find a time to meet!

Connection Circles, a Practice of Loving Kindness

We all have a variety of circles in our lives, family, friends, people in our workplace, neighbors. Each of these groups of people enriches our lives

A **Connection Circle** is another circle, one in which we put other business aside, slow down and take time to listen carefully to each person. In sharing, I am given the gift of attention. I am known and accepted by the circle members. As I take time to listen and learn, I am filled with appreciation for the others and their different experience and perspectives. I am aware that we are wonderfully unique, and also that we are deeply alike. We don't have to earn or prove our value. Each of us is worthy, and worthy of attention.

Is it therapy? No, it's more like loving kindness. Connection Circles are not intended as an intervention or a way to solve problems. But it is healing for me to step aside from the rush of my life, to be reminded that I belong, that we are connected. I am restored to my center.

As I go about my activities, I carry with me the sense of caring community and an inclination to goodwill.

A new ten-meeting session of Connection Circles is starting up in February. The themes for the next session are: Justice and Equity, Transformation, Interdependence, Pluralism, Renewal. Sign-ups begin January 7.

Watch the Friday emails and Sunday orders of service for the sign-up link or call Carol Schwyzer 805-886-0943 or Becky Blake 805-886-0132.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Contemporary Issues Forum

Wednesday, January 10, 2024
from 7:00-9:00 PM in Parish Hall
Admission: \$10



Black Women Leaders from Slavery to Today

Presented by Dr. Daina Ramey Berry
The Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts
at University of California Santa Barbara

Join us for a very special evening as we kick off our 2024 Contemporary Issues Forum Winter series with Dr. Daina Ramey Berry, an internationally recognized scholar on gender and slavery, and Black women history. Her most recent book, *A Black Women's History of the United States*, co-authored with Kali Nicole Gross, is an empowering testament of Black women's ability to build communities in the face of oppression, and their continued resistance to systemic racism and sexism.

Dr. Berry was recently appointed as the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at UCSB following a nationwide search. She has authored and edited six award-winning books and has been featured on PBS NewsHour, NBC, TLC, MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, National Geographic Explorer, and NPR. Her work has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Washington Post*, and *Huffington Post*.

Before joining UCSB she was the Oliver H. Racket regents Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at the University of Texas, Austin. Professor Berry completed her BA, MA, and PhD in African American Studies and U.S. History at the University of California Los Angeles.

Dr. Berry's [press kit](#) demonstrates the breadth of her many contributions to the study of slavery and the multitudes of its impact upon our history and contemporary culture. Her upcoming presentation on the impact and importance of the Black women today will be a defining event for the CIF program, and an important contribution to the congregation and broader community.

Bring a friend to help welcome this outstanding leader and scholar to USSB!

If you have questions about this event or upcoming Contemporary Issues Forum events, please contact Co-Directors Jack Eisenhauser jleisenhauer@gmail.com or John Warnock johnwarnock@gmail.co.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS CONT.



The New Realities of Recycling in Santa Barbara County

Most of us like to recycle. It is something that is relatively easy to do and it makes us feel good about doing our part to keep our planet clean and its ecosystems healthy. But there is more to recycling than most of us know, and, on top of that, recycling in Santa Barbara has changed. The good news is that there are many more items that can be recycled in our county - carpets, DVD's and CD's, tires, cooking oil, etc - but they cannot go in the blue bins. The bad news is that there are even fewer things that we can put in our blue bins.

First, let's address some common misconceptions. Santa Barbara County does not actually recycle anything (other than green waste). The County contracts with Marborg to collect potentially recyclable materials (plastics, glass, metals, etc.) which are then sold to various companies that engage in the true recycling process. The companies that actually do the recycling are usually not located in the US. The items to be processed must be bundled and shipped to these various locales where they are physically and/or chemically broken down and reformulated into 'recycled' products.

Virtually everything that goes into our blue bins gets shipped out of the country for processing. While we tend to think of recycling as a clean endeavor, the plastic bottle you put in your blue bin must be picked up by the trash men driving fossil-fuel-burning trucks, driven to the landfill, put on plastic-wrapped pallets, then shipped overseas in fossil-fuel-burning ships. All those fossil fuels further warm our planet.

Second, the triangular recycling logo we are all so familiar with... 3 arrows surrounding a number from 1 to 7... is very misleading. It seems to indicate that any plastic that displays that logo can be recycled.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS CONT.

Cont. The truth is that, in Santa Barbara County, only clean plastics with 1's and 2's are accepted in the blue bins. There are currently no markets for selling any of the 3 through 7 plastics, so items displaying the numbers 3 through 7 must go in the trash, not the recycle bins. And from your trash can, they go into the landfill at Tajiguas. Any plastic containers you purchase that are not 1's or 2's get driven to Tajiguas and buried in the ground. Deli containers, most restaurant take-out containers, cottage cheese and single-serving yoghurt containers, the packaging for prepackaged produce, dried fruit & nuts, etc. end up in our landfill.

After all that negative information we have some good news to share. About a dozen of us UU's visited the ReSource center at the Tajiguas Landfill a couple of months ago for a very informative tour. We will be scheduling another trip in January. If you would like to attend, visit our courtyard table next month to sign up or contact Arianna Jansma.

Mark your calendars! The Earth Advocates will be sponsoring a presentation on February 4th in Parish Hall after the Sunday service. Hillary Allen from the Santa Barbara Department of Sustainability and Resilience will debunk common myths about recycling and enlighten us regarding the new rules for recycling in SB County.

For more information contact ariannajansma@gmail.com or visit lessismore.org

USSB Alliance Meeting

Friday, January 5 at 2:00 PM in Parish Hall

Over a century ago, women played a major creative role in the writing, directing, and producing of motion pictures. By the 1930s, however, the legacy of these pioneers had been erased. Why did women filmmakers flourish in the early years of cinema, and why were their contributions soon forgotten? Answers to these questions are especially timely given current media interest in the creative and commercial success of women filmmakers in Hollywood today.

Chuck Wolfe is Professor Emeritus of Film and Media Studies at UC-Santa Barbara and a long-time member of USSB.

USSB HAPPENINGS

Outreach Offerings The Congregation Component

One of the great joys of being a part of the USSB community is the opportunity to make concrete contributions to the good work of special projects and organizations that reflect and further our values in the world. Each week our congregation donates 25% of the Sunday plate collection to one of these special groups.

We support a different recipient each month, with several of the slots set aside for organizations we have committed to supporting on a permanent basis (UU Justice Ministry of California, LGBTQ Partners, Hunt for Justice), while recipients for the remaining months often respond to an immediate need or action. Not everyone knows, however, that the congregation directly nominates and votes on recipients for three months of the year. The chosen recipients are in place for 2 years, in this case, March, April, and May of 2024 and 2025.

The nominations process is simple and straightforward. It starts with thinking about projects or organizations you might like to nominate. These can be new recipients or groups we have supported in the past. Once you have identified a possible recipient, you need to submit the following:

1. Name of nominator (that's you!)
2. Nominator's contact info. (email, phone) – in case of questions
3. Official name of Project or Organization you are nominating as a recipient
4. Project or Organization website link (URL) or, if no website, organizational contact name, phone, email address
5. Is it a 501(c)(3) non-profit (for informational purposes only; not required)
6. General focus of the organization or project in one categorical word or short phrase. For example: Environment/Climate, Voting Rights, Children's Welfare
7. Describe the mission/goals/focus of the organization or project. Please feel free to use text from the organization's website or other written materials).
8. In your own words, provide a brief statement on how this organization or project supports/enhances UU goals and specifically the mission of USSB. Why do you think your fellow congregants should select for this organization or project?

You may respond to these 8 questions by completing the form which you will find linked from the [Outreach Offertory page](#) on the USSB website. Paper nomination forms will also be available in the garden starting in early January and voting will commence on February 1. Further information about the voting process will be forthcoming

USSB HAPPENINGS CONT.

An Invitation to Participate

A Message from the USSB Nominating Committee

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, usually of 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.

Or are you interested in being part of Nominating Committee? We are looking for new members to join us. Each year, two members complete their term and two new members join the committee in July. Let us know if you would like to be a candidate for Board or the Nominating Committee.

As the Nominating Committee gathers ideas and information, **we welcome your thoughts and suggestions**. The more we know, the more effective we can be. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact Deb Wolfe deborahwolfe541@gmail.com or Chris Shorb chrisshorb@gmail.com

The 2023-24 Nominating Committee,

Rachel Aarons, Susie DuPont, John Hartman, Chris Shorb, Deb Wolfe, and Onolee Zwicke

Sunday Zoom Hosts Needed

Have you been considering volunteering for USSB, but not quite sure the role? Consider being a Zoom Host for our Sunday Services!



Being a Zoom Host is easy, fun, and can be done from the comfort of your home. USSB staff takes care of all the technical pieces, so you don't have to worry about that. The Zoom Host engages with our online congregation in the chat by sharing links to upcoming events, visitor guestbook, outreach offering, etc. If interested in becoming a Zoom Host or you have any questions, please contact Outreach & Membership Coordinator Angie at angie@ussb.org

USSB HAPPENINGS CONT.

FWC 2023-2024 Season: Join the Hospitality Team!



The predictions are for another wet winter, and that means our neighbors without shelter need a safe, warm place to sleep and a hot meal to get them through the night. So we are asking you – yes, you! – to volunteer to join a Hospitality Team for the Warming Center. [Sign up online here!](#)

USSB is on-call for several weeks over the course of the winter, in a rotation schedule with other downtown churches. Volunteering means joining one of the teams that will cook and serve the meal for each of our on-call nights (“the Monday night team”, for example). Click the [sign-up link](#) for more details. We also need a Team Leader for each night who will help coordinate their team’s shopping and cooking. In addition, we need special Christmas Eve and Thanksgiving volunteers for these holiday nights.

If this is your first time [signing up](#) – welcome! You will join a team of experienced and trained volunteers! If you are a returning volunteer – thank you! We look forward to working together again. Friends and family are more than welcome to join you in this project – spread the word! You don’t have to be a member of the Unitarian Society to participate.

If you have any questions, please [contact Linda Beers](#), our volunteer Hospitality Team Coordinator this year. We look forward to working with you in support of the Warming Centers this year!

If you want to know more about the history of the Freedom Warming Centers, including how they got their name, you can read about it here: ussb.org/justice/fwc

JANUARY OUTREACH OFFERING



Our January outreach offering will be shared with Sumi Nungwa an organization whose mission is to provide food, clothing, medical supplies, and firewood to Navajo & Hopi elders seeking to maintain their traditional lifestyle on their reservations. This is a way to build bridges between cultures and to encourage Hopi & Navajo artists to continue to produce their unique, traditional arts & crafts.

For a number of years, members of our congregation, including youth representatives, have travelled to a Hopi Reservation in Arizona on a service work trip, co-sponsored by Sumi Nungwa, the congregation, and the trip participants. A similar trip is scheduled for later this spring.

Service projects have involved roofing hogans and homes, cleaning up and recycling trash, building traditional stone bread ovens, and taking on other projects for the elders and their families. More importantly, Sumi Nungwa observes, "[Visitors] have learned about the Hopi and Navajo cultures and spent time with the people. Interacting with the Native people is as important as learning to fix a roof."

Please give as generously as you can to support our elder Hopi and Navajo neighbors. To learn more about Sumi Nungwa, please visit www.suminungwa.org.

Sumi Nungwa is a non-profit 501(c)(3). To have 100% of your donation go to the organization, please write your check out to *Sumi Nungwa* and we'll forward it to them.



PERSONAL BLESSINGS

ABOUT PERSONAL BLESSINGS

There are so many occasions when there is a desire to say “Thank You” or “Bless You” for some kindness, or a wish to acknowledge a birth or the passing of a loved one. At this time of year, the holidays invite expressions of gratitude.

Birthday party invitations often say “NO gifts please!” And yet a desire may linger to acknowledge the event, or do something.

Personal Blessings are a unique way to honor an individual or a special event, a way to celebrate the season, or a “Just because...” at the same time providing important financial support to our cherished community at USSB.

Donation envelopes are available in the USSB reception office, in the Narthex on Sundays, or use our online form at www.ussb.org/personal blessing.

On receipt of your gift,

- USSB will contact you and confirm that the gift has been received and clarify with you anything that may be needed for acknowledging your gift. For online submissions, you will receive a confirmation email.
- Your honoree will receive a card from a Personal Blessing volunteer announcing your gift.
- All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Personal Blessings will be featured in the monthly Kaleidoscope.

Thank You!



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Heather Levin, Accompanist

Gwendolyn Kilfoyle, Justie Choir Lead justicechoir@ussb.org

Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

The office is open Sunday mornings and Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Email ussb@ussb.org, or call (805) 965-4583

Deadline for the February 2024 Kaleidoscope issue: **Monday, January 22 by 5:00 PM** Email: kaleidoscope@ussb.org or angie@ussb.org

Join us Sundays at 10:00 am on Zoom or Facebook,
or use your phone to dial in and hear the service live.

Call 1-669-900-6833, and then enter meeting ID 960 0363 8223# and you will be able to listen to the service on your phone. You may call in starting at 9:55 AM.

Zoom and Facebook links are sent out in the Friday email, in a special Sunday morning email, and are always available on our website, www.ussb.org.

Contact our office at ussb@ussb.org if you'd like to be added to our email list.

Can't be with us when we're live Sunday morning? View past services at www.ussb.org/worship/archive.

