

*Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action*



# Kaleidoscope

July 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

[www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org)

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## Sundays in July Services at 10:00 AM

Sunday, July 2

Peter Hale, Worship Leader

### “Five Summer Stories”

We know each, not by facts and statistics, but by our stories. Those that are told about us and those we wish to share about ourselves. Come and hear a few tales from your fellow UUs Charla Bregante, Linda Liker, Marty Conoley, Craig Woodman, and Peter Hale as they share their experiences of summer.

Sunday, July 9

Matthew Griset, Music Director

### “Trekking Through Tunes: Finding Our UU Voice”

Our hymnals are full of untapped hymns and old favorites. Join us as we explore songs from UU origins and beyond!

Sunday, July 16

Rev. Julia Hamilton



Sunday, July 23

Rev. Julia Hamilton

### “The Question Box”

Asking a good question is an art form! Join us this Sunday for Rev. Julia’s annual “Question Box” service — no sermon, but instead a service constructed in the moment by the questions that you bring. What have you always wanted to ask a minister? What theological conundrums keep you up at night? What wonderings might we explore together? And yes — Rev. Julia will have some questions for you, too!

Sunday, July 30

Rev. Julia Hamilton

### Our Second “Summer of Pride” Service

# Summer of Pride 2023

There is no denying we are in perilous times. Even the most cursory glance at news headlines over the past couple of years has served as a wake-up call to anyone who identifies as gay, lesbian, trans, nonbinary — to anyone, in fact, who does not conform to rigid and intractable definitions of gender and gender expression. The LGBTQ+ community finds itself, once again, on the front lines of a culture war that gives every indication of having as one of its primary goals the erasure of anyone who differs from a cis-gendered heterosexual “norm.” We see this in the literally hundreds of bills recently passed by state legislatures, and we hear rumblings of it in bigoted pronouncements by Supreme Court justices as well as politicians seeking to raise their profiles among certain constituencies.

At this particularly fraught moment, the USSB Justice & Equity Team stepped forward to create a special series of worship services and other events that highlight our commitment to standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the LGBTQ+ community.

While it has been a tradition each August at USSB to hold a special service to coincide with Santa Barbara’s annual Pride festivities, this year is different with a designated service each month through the summer. As the political climate became more challenging and the LGBTQ+ community increasingly found itself the target of both legislative and street violence, the Justice & Equity Team saw an opportunity to celebrate and educate while at the same time stand united against the forces that aim to undo the progress made in the 54 years since the 1969 Stonewall riots ushered in a new era of rights for all people.

The series began with a lay-led service on June 25 that focused on the critical role that allies/advocates/accomplices play in this struggle for liberation. A community under siege cannot wage this battle on its own. Rather, it needs compassionate people of all persuasions to join in the struggle to preserve hard-won rights and to help protect the most vulnerable among us. The Justice and Equity Team hopes that members of our UU community took to heart the words and experiences of fellow congregants who shared their deeply personal reflections at the June 25 service and who have committed to standing proudly (and loudly) alongside their LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors.



At the second Summer of Pride service on July 30, Rev. Julia will be in the pulpit to share her inspiring words and continue the conversation begun on June 25. The series concludes on August 27 with our “traditional” annual Pride service that caps the month-long Santa Barbara City Pride festivities.

In addition to the three services, Justice & Equity is also hosting Drag Bingo with Cooper the Queen on July 21 that includes a congregational potluck, co-sponsored with the Membership Team; sponsoring a special Pride-focused Justice Café; and working with the Music Ministry and others to add our unique USSB voices and make our supportive presence felt at the annual City Pride Festival on August 26 in Chase Palm Park. Watch for exact dates, times, and calls for volunteers in your Friday email.

Even in the midst of these troubling times, there is much to celebrate. The Justice & Equity Team hopes that you will find our Summer of Pride 2023 informative, moving, and fun, inspiring you to action as allies/advocates/accomplices. (See accompanying article, “Straight for Equality,” on page 6.)

ELLEN BROIDY AND JOAN ARIEL  
FOR THE JUSTICE & EQUITY TEAM

# Children & Youth Religious Exploration

## Summer Sundays in CRE

Makerspace is up and running! A place for unbridled creativity and imagination for children of all ages, Makerspace is a hands-on alternative to screen time. Every week children will find a variety of art and “construction” materials, optional project ideas, games, books, free play, and popsicles! Join Janey and Christina following the Time for All Ages, June 11 – September 3. Loving childcare is available in Starr King for children under five.

## YoUUtH Group marches for Pride

On June 24, members of our YoUUtH Group, their facilitators, and a couple of other hearty USSB souls headed over the hill with our USSB banner to march in the Santa Ynez Valley Pride Parade. It was a joyful event full of love and support for the LGBTQ+ community in the valley. YoUUtH Group will take a pause now as folks head off on summer vacations. They will lend their support at the Santa Barbara Pride Festival on August 26, and will resume regular meetings in September.

CHARLA BREGANTE  
DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION  
CHARLA@USSB.ORG



*Above and right:*  
Youth group members and facilitators at the Santa Ynez Valley Pride Parade.

*Below:*  
The Dalbey family.





# Earth Advocates Corner

Several members of the Unitarian Society concerned for the climate crisis and environmental sustainability have formed the USSB Earth Advocates committee.



We hope that you will participate with us to help us fulfill our mission and goals.

The mission of the USSB Earth Advocates is to educate, inspire and take actions toward ending the climate emergency and promoting ecological sustainability.

Our goals are to empower individuals within our congregation, change facilities and practices as needed, and advocate throughout the Santa Barbara community.

Each month in the *Kaleidoscope* we will share information on climate and sustainability issues from trusted resources such as provided below. In future articles and at our Sunday after-services table, we will also highlight effective actions that we can all take to mitigate the current climate emergency.

## Global Temperatures Are Surging

Global temperatures are likely to surge to record levels in the next five years, fueled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases and a naturally occurring El Niño event, according to a new update issued by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). There is a significant possibility that, in the next few years, global temperatures will surpass 1.5°C (2.7°F), above pre-industrial levels. This was the limit set by international scientists to prevent the most devastating impacts from climate change throughout the world.

Ventura County ranks as the fastest-warming county in the lower 48 states, with an average temperature increase of 2.6°C (4.7°F) since 1895. Despite thinking of ourselves as forerunners in the environmental arena, Santa Barbara County follows closely behind with an

average increase of 2.3°C (4.1°F). These high temperatures have resulted in more frequent and intense extreme weather events in our region: dangerous, record-breaking wildfires, droughts, and floods.

The good news is that multiple feasible and effective options are available now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change. Taking effective and equitable climate action now will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, but it will also provide wider benefits. But immediate action is called for. Scientists on a United Nations panel have issued this mandate:

**To prevent even greater destruction from extreme weather events we must reduce our emissions by almost 50% by the year 2030.**

**That means that each of us must reduce our carbon dioxide and methane emissions by about 50% in the next six-and-a-half years.**

We can start by cutting back on nonessential airline flights, and by driving fewer miles in gas-powered vehicles. We can swap out our gas appliances for electric ones (methane is the main component in natural gas). One important thing you can do right now is talk about this with family and friends. Taking ambitious action as soon as possible is essential to secure a livable sustainable future for all.

Earth Advocates invites you to check our Sunday table and future articles to learn what actions you can begin taking. For more information, please refer to our sources:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-temperatures-set-reach-new-records-next-five-years>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/climate-environment/climate-change-california/>

Questions? Contact Arianna Jansma at [ariannajansma@gmail.com](mailto:ariannajansma@gmail.com).



## All in the Family

Judy Farris is delighted to announce the arrival of Meridian Belle Penner (8 lbs. 5 oz., 19 1/2 inches), born June 16, 2023 at Cottage Hospital to Judy's daughter Katherine and son-in-law Alan. Meridian is baby sister to Madison, who is 4 3/4 years old.



## *July Outreach Offering*

### Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California (UUJMCA)

The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California (UUJMCA) seeks to develop skills of civic engagement and faith-rooted organizing so that UUs across California can educate, organize, and advocate for public policies that advance justice in our state, reflecting their UU purposes and principles. UUJMCA creates collaborative justice by connecting and using the powerful network of UUs in California through accountable relationships with our coalition partners to achieve the following organizing reality:



- California UUs have access to and participate in statewide justice education, advocacy, and witness that deepens their faith and changes life for the better in California
- California UU justice leaders are trained, effective, inspiring and connected

- California UU congregations have strong justice ministries
- California policy-makers and justice leaders value UUJMCA as a visible, credible partner in advancing justice in our state.

UUJMCA justice initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental Justice
- Economic Justice
- Healthcare Access
- Immigrant Justice
- Queer Rights
- Racial Justice
- Voting Rights
- Women's Rights

Visit <https://uujmca.org> for more information, including opportunities to get involved. And please give generously this month; contributions to the UUJMCA directly support UU faith in action.



**10 Things You Can Do  
to Be an Ally to People Who Are LGBTQ+  
in Your Faith Community**

**Looking for simple ways to start being amore engaged and active ally in your faith community?  
Try using a few of these suggestions to build your ally skills and start creating change.**

1. **Learn.** Research and understand your faith community's position on the issues that affect people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) such as relationship recognition, non-discrimination, and the ordination of openly LGBTQ+ clergy.
2. **Become a resource.** Learn more about welcoming and affirming resources for your faith tradition and share them with others. Provide books or movies about the intersection of faith and LGBTQ+ issues for the congregation library.
3. **Educate others.** Let your faith community know about which companies, community groups, and charitable organizations are inclusive of people who are LGBTQ+...and which ones aren't.
4. **Encourage participation.** Personally invite people who are LGBTQ+ to services and/or events at your place of worship and ask them to share their stories with others in your faith community.
5. **Speak up.** When people speak negatively about people who LGBTQ+ be the one who raises an objection. Remind people that everyone should be treated with respect and kindness.
6. **Tell your story.** Do what you can to share with others in your faith tradition why you're an ally. Tell a story about acceptance and love for all people, including people who are LGBTQ+.
7. **Have a discussion.** Meet with faith leaders, share why you think your community needs to be more welcoming and affirming for people who are LGBTQ+, and provide suggestions on how to achieve that goal.
8. **Host an event.** Show a film, host a panel presentation, or invite a guest speaker to get a new perspective and follow it with a group discussion.
9. **Consider change.** Support organizational policies at the local and institutional level that promote diversity, inclusion, and equality, and encourage others to do the same.
10. **Make the ask.** Request that faith leaders of your tradition perform commitment ceremonies and wedding ceremonies for LGBTQ+ couples.

**Don't forget to visit [straightforequality.org](http://straightforequality.org) and read the *guide to being a straight ally* and *the guide to being a trans ally*. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @S4Equality and Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/S4Equality](https://facebook.com/S4Equality).**

**Channel Cluster Retreat**  
at  
**Camp deBenneville Pines**

***Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1, 2023***

<https://bit.ly/ClusterRetreatRegistration2023>



Several UU congregations in the greater Ventura County area are retreating together at the UU Pacific Southwest Service Area's beautiful camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. ([www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)). This is your opportunity to relax, hike, meditate, play games, enjoy nature and participate in other activities that may be organized by fellow campers, all in the company of members of neighboring congregations.

In addition to campers, we are looking for volunteers to conduct workshops, children activities and other programs that would interest our fellow campers.

Registration includes meals: Friday Dinner - Sunday GrabNGo Lunch. For an extra fee campers are welcome to come up on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, however no meals will be served until Friday evening.

Fees start at \$190 per adult, \$145 for youth, \$125 for children 3+yrs.  
Scholarships available!

For more information: <https://bit.ly/ClusterRetreatEvent2023>

For registration: <https://bit.ly/ClusterRetreatRegistration2023>  
contact one of the following people:

David Barker (dean), [davidabarker@gmail.com](mailto:davidabarker@gmail.com), 805-415-4919  
Annie Barker (registrar), [anniezbarker@gmail.com](mailto:anniezbarker@gmail.com), 805-415-4918  
Sharon Damerell (programs), [sharon.damerell@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.damerell@gmail.com), 319-383-8629



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Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

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The office is open Sunday mornings and Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Email [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org), or call (805) 965-4583

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Deadline for the August issue: Monday, July 24  
Email: [Kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto:Kaleidoscope@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](http://www.ussb.org).

Contact our office at [ussb@ussb.org](mailto: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? Every Sunday we post the video of that day's service on [www.ussb.org/worship/archive](http://www.ussb.org/worship/archive).