

Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action



Kaleidoscope

March 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

Sundays in March

Services at 10:00 AM

This month's worship theme is *Vulnerability*.

“When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown up, we would no longer be vulnerable. But to grow up is to accept vulnerability. To be alive is to be vulnerable.” — *Madeleine L'Engle*

Sunday, March 5

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Looking Like a Fool”

The spring holidays of Mardi Gras and Purim (a Jewish holiday) are both celebrations of the carnival spirit, where the normal rules of polite behavior are turned upside-down. Costumes and foolishness are encouraged. As we reflect this month on our theme of “vulnerability,” why is it important to sometimes risk being seen as a fool? Fair warning: Some audience involvement may be required!

Daylight Saving Time Begins!

Sunday, March 12

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Sharpening Our Humanity
on the Cutting Edge of AI”

ChatGPT, Dall-E, the Bing Chatbot/aka “Sydney” — Artificial Intelligence is on the cusp of a major growth spurt. With so much potential and so much at risk, how do we navigate what it means to be human in the age of “AI”?

Sunday, March 19

Julica Hermann de la Fuente & Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Joy & Justice, Amen”

So many things are vying for our attention and energy. How do we manage it all? How do we find joy and satisfaction? How do we fit our commitment to justice among the many other things that need doing? Let's explore the possibility of sustainable and joyful liberation and transformation, in our lives and our communities.

Please join us for an exciting workshop on Saturday, March 18 with Julica. Please turn to page 4 for more information and to learn how to register.

Sunday, March 26

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Visible, Vulnerable & Valuable”

Join us for a service in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility, coming up on March 31st. As more and more states pass laws that criminalize gender-affirming health care and target transgender individuals of all ages, it is critical that we counteract this hateful rhetoric with love and solidarity, and a public affirmation of everyone's right to live with dignity and joy.

*Resources to support trans/non-binary+ UUs, and monthly online gatherings for support and community, can be found at: www.uua.org/lgbtq/transnb.

Shining Light on Generosity

As I type, I can hear the beeping sound of a scissor-lift being operated in the sanctuary, the clunking noises of pews being moved, and the whirl of drills operating. These are the joyful sounds of generosity. The sound of being able to say “yes” to a long-standing need because of the generosity of our congregation.

Let me explain . . .

This year USSB was the recipient of several generous, one-time gifts from congregation members. These members came to us with gifts over and above their annual pledges, wanting to invest their generosity in this community and its mission and vision.

Because of this generosity, we held a surplus in our income budget, and at the end of December your board of trustees approved using a portion of this surplus to contract with a local AV company to overhaul the lighting system in the sanctuary.

For years we have been fighting an old lighting system, needing to rent expensive equipment in order to change incandescent light bulbs, taping switches in



“off” position in order to avoid blowing (yet another) fuse, and making patchwork fixes to illuminate special services, like Christmas Eve.

Because of the generosity of these members, we were able to replace our old, band-aided system with a new LED lighting system, the first (and substantial) phase of a two-phased lighting plan. This new system gets us started and will allow us to eventually replace all the lights with LEDs in the future.

Financial generosity allows us to say “yes!” when a need arises. Your generosity gives us the flexibility to be able to respond to material needs in our congregation, and make improvements

to the facilities, programs, and worship services that would otherwise not be possible.

Many thanks to **Charlene Little, Larry Williams, Mark and Sally Hamilton, and Becky Blake** for their generous contributions. A portion of each of their gifts allowed us to meet this need, and the light of their generosity will be appreciated by those who enter our sanctuary for years to come.

ERIN WILSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
ERIN@USSB.ORG

Alliance March 3: Meet Charla Bregante

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 AT 2:00 PM IN PARISH HALL

Charla is back! On Friday, March 3 at 2:00 PM in Parish Hall, the Alliance will present our very own energetic, creative **Charla Bregante**, who has recently launched her new Adult Religious Exploration series, “Good Things Growing.” Please come to Parish Hall at 2:00 PM on Friday March 3 to find out what else she has in store for us. Bring your friends and neighbors! The Alliance program series is open to all members of USSB and the public.



Fashion Fling: Save the Date!

Ladies, start going through your closets because we’ve set the date for our Spring Fashion Fling: Friday, May 26 will be Girlfriends’ Night, and Saturday May 27 we’ll open up to the public.

Adult & Children's Religious Exploration

Justice Café

The USSB Justice and Equity Team is sponsoring a second meet-and-greet for people to connect around the issues they care about. This is an opportunity to build on the conversations began at the first Justice Café. If you missed that one, come see what all the fuss is about this month. Whether you have a project you're passionate about or just want to see what kind of good trouble other folks are getting into, you are welcome. The J & E team will provide coffee and light snacks. You provide your interest, ideas, and passion for positive change in the world. Sunday, March 26 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Parish Hall.

Good Things Growing: Learn about Juneteenth with Jordan Killebrew

March 21 marks our third "Good Things Growing" speaker event at USSB, highlighting the good work going on in the Santa Barbara area in social justice, the arts, the environment, cultural diversity, and more.

Join us this month in a conversation with community organizer and co-founder of Juneteenth Santa Barbara, **Jordan Killebrew**. Learn the history of Juneteenth, and how Juneteenth Santa Barbara honors that history. March 21, 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Parish Hall. Suggested donation is \$10.

If you would like more information about Good Things Growing, or have a suggestion for a speaker, contact **Chuck Flacks** at chuck.flacks@gmail.com or our DRE at charla@ussb.org.

USSB Hopi Service Trip

On March 27, three youth and eight adults from USSB (including our minister and DRE) will head off to the Hopi tribal lands in northeastern Arizona for a week. Over the years, USSB has built a relationship with the Hopi, made possible through the skilled guidance of **Cheryl Marzec**, a UU from Salt Lake City, Utah. This will be our sixth congregational trip to Hopi. On this trip, we will demolish an old bread oven, repair and paint an outhouse, and deliver food boxes to Hopi elders. We will also enjoy traditional foods, learn about Hopi traditions and art, and meet many wonderful people. We will finish our week with an Easter party, where we will help with an egg hunt and activities for children.

There are several ways you can support this service trip to Hopi. Attend the Youth Group sponsored Brunch Break on March 12 (half of the proceeds go to the Hopi trip), purchase raffle tickets to win chances to own a

beautiful traditional Hopi bowl created by master potter **Dee Setalla**. We also have Navajo and Hopi jewelry and other crafts for sale during coffee hour this month. And of course you can always just make a donation to this worthy cause. Your contributions support this work and our relationship with the people of Hopi.



Pizza Church, Brown Bag Picnic & Pajama Sunday!

Winter storms have pushed the launch of Pizza Church back a week, but we are ready. On Friday, March 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, RE families are invited to Parish Hall for an evening of family and community. We will share a meal, enjoy a chalice lighting and story in the sanctuary, and explore ways we can practice our UU faith at home. What better way to begin than by making a family chalice to take home. We ask for a \$10 donation per family to cover dinner.

On Sunday, March 5, families are invited to pack a lunch before they head to church in the morning and stay for playtime and conversation in the Starr King playground after the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other RE families in a relaxed, unstructured environment. And, finally, March 19 is our third Pajama Sunday! Don't get dressed, kids! Just roll out of bed, grab your favorite stuffed animal, and enjoy breakfast in your CRE class.

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

Where Do We Go From Here? An Anti-Racism Workshop

Saturday, March 18

9:45 AM to 2:30 PM in Jefferson Hall

Lunch and childcare provided

Join us for this joint project of the UU Church of Ventura and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with our neighboring UUs, and you won't want to miss working with our presenter, **Julica Hermann de la Fuente**, who is a dynamic, warm, and engaging leader in our UU movement. You can read more about Julica below.

So, what is this workshop all about? Over the past five years Unitarian Universalists have once again been taking a closer look at the ways that cultural practices in our denomination still reflect historical and institutional patterns of racism and white supremacy culture. This interactive workshop will provide an opportunity to feel and think together about racism in our denomination and our current opportunities and challenges. Together we will look at the frameworks that we are currently engaging in Unitarian Universalism to close the gap between the values we espouse and the values we practice with regard to anti-racism. We will consider some anti-racism tools, and how they can help us in this faith formation journey. Join us for an authentic exploration of the work we need to do to continue to bend the arc toward justice in our congregations and in our communities.

Coffee, tea, snacks, and lunch will be provided. We are asking for a \$15 contribution to cover the cost of food, but no one will be turned away from the table.

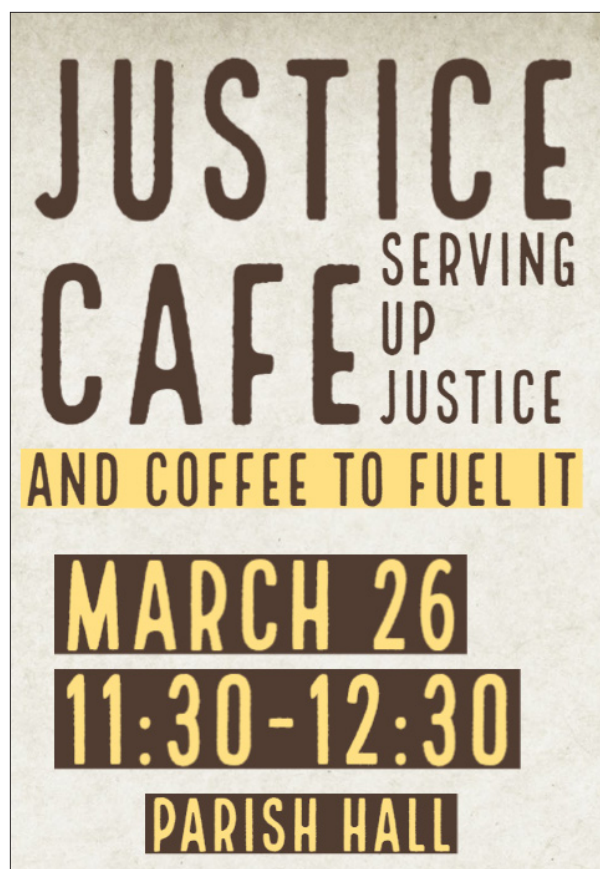
Childcare is available with advance registration.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER: Julica Hermann de la Fuente is a coach, trainer, and facilitator for liberation, transformation, and justice, and is currently completing her path toward ordination in Unitarian Universalism. Born and raised in Mexico City, she first became committed to social justice when she came to the United States for college. Since then, Julica has been an anti-racism/anti-oppression educator and trainer in a variety of capacities over the past three decades. In addition to a Lay Community Ministry degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School, she also holds an MSW from the University of Michigan and is certified as a master life coach. Julica stubbornly believes that liberation is found at the intersection of joy and justice. When not on shift for the resistance, you will find her playing with fabric,



planning her week-long costume extravaganza for Halloween, looking for more excuses to frost fancy cakes, and reading optimistic sci-fi and fantasy possibilities of a just and equitable universe.

Register on Realm, or use this QR code:



Passover Seder: Celebrating Freedom and Social Justice

Wednesday, April 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in Parish Hall

A significant part of our Judeo-Christian heritage, this joyous event is an opportunity for families and friends to gather and enjoy great food and wine in a celebration of spring and of freedom as we retell the traditional story of the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. This story speaks particularly well to us as Unitarian Universalists. It reminds us of our struggle for freedom and social justice in this country and for people around the world. In addition to the serious significance of Passover, there's fun for all ages—the telling of a great story, music and singing, games for children, and a celebration of our community spirit. Everyone participates!

You are invited to prepare a brief reading, a poem, song, dance, or art that expresses your own sense of freedom and social justice or the joy of spring and hope for a good rain year. Submit your ideas on or before Sunday, March 26.

Many hands make light work! To volunteer or help in the preparation, contact **Nancy Beisser** at (805) 563-2360; beissers@becmail.net.

Admission is \$20.00 for adults, \$5.00 for youth 14-18, children under 14 are free (maximum \$45/family) – OR – contribute a traditional Passover dish (recipes provided).

Sign up on Realm or in the garden during coffee hour to volunteer or reserve your seat(s). Reserve early: space is limited for this fun and meaningful intergenerational event.

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, April 3.





NEW DATE: March 3

Pizza Church!

DINNER, WORSHIP SERVICE, AND FUN FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Friday Evening
6:00-8:00 PM
Parish Hall**

make a family chalice together!

\$10 per family. RSVP by March 1 charla@ussb.org

March Outreach Offering: Hunt for Justice

Each year, we make our traditional Easter egg hunt, The Hunt for Justice, a “faith in action” family project. Our Outreach Offering for March will collect money to fund three local organizations selected by our children. Children will vote for their favorite charities before the hunt, which takes place on Easter Sunday, April 9. Children will be able to donate different amounts of money to the charities of their choice, based on how many eggs they find.



Parents, you are encouraged have a conversation with your children about causes they care about and where they would like to donate the money collected by our congregation for the Hunt.

If you would like to donate to this fund, please make out your check to USSB and write “Hunt for Justice” in the memo line. Or visit ussb.org/give to donate online.



Good Things Growing

A speaker series honoring the good work going on around us all the time in the Santa Barbara community



JORDAN KILLEBREW

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER & COFOUNDER
OF JUNETEENTH SANTA BARBARA

**WHY I
JUNETEENTH?**

In conversation about the importance of Juneteenth in his life and in the Santa Barbara community

MARCH 21, 7:00-9:00 PM
PARISH HALL

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA
1535 SANTA BARBARA STREET

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

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

Deadline for the April issue: Monday, March 27
Email: 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.

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? Every Sunday we post the video of that day's service on www.ussb.org/worship/archive.