

Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action



Kaleidoscope

May 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

Sundays in May Services at 10:00 AM

Sunday, May 7

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Fearless Welcome”

These days, the message of “love your neighbor” and “welcome the stranger” seems to be drowned out by gunshots and fear. What would it take to learn to reach out to one another with a spirit of hospitality instead of hostility?

Sunday, May 14

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“House & Home: Not Up to Code”

There is a housing crisis in Santa Barbara – but it’s not just a problem of physical space and building codes. Having a place to call “home” is important for the spiritual wellbeing of every human. It’s time to update our community’s code of ethics on house and home!

Sunday, May 21

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Embracing the Inconvenience of Other People”

In her book, *On the Inconvenience of Other People*, scholar and cultural theorist Lauren Berlant said, “We cannot know each other without being inconvenient to each other.” At the same time, Berlant points to the exhaustion of modern life and our desire to live a life of ease. What does embracing inconvenience offer us, as we let go of “easy” and search for a life of meaning and purpose instead?

Sunday, May 28

Rabbi Daniel Brenner

This Sunday we welcome our special guest, Daniel Brenner, Assistant Rabbi at Congregation B’nai B’rith. Rabbi Brenner is passionate about interfaith collaboration and working together for a more compassionate and understanding world.



Meet the Next UUA President on May 20

The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the single candidate for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), will visit the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara to discuss theology and ethics, as well as support and credentialing for religious professionals. We are privileged to be the only West Coast venue for Dr. Betancourt to introduce herself in person.



The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

The President of the UUA is the primary public and spiritual leader of Unitarian Universalism, as well as the UUA's Chief Executive Officer. They are tasked with helping to lead our Association on a path to Beloved Community, in which people of diverse backgrounds, identities, and theological beliefs can thrive.

Following Dr. Betancourt's discussion, the USSB Alliance will host a reception in Parish Hall. You will have a chance to meet Dr. Betancourt along with congregants from all around our area. This will be an afternoon of strengthening our connection to the wider UU family.

This free event will take place at 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 20 in our sanctuary. If you wish to attend in person, you must register no later than May 17 at <http://uua.wufoo.com/forms/m1ql1u5b0ggwej3/>. No drop-ins allowed. The program will also be available to watch live online; login instructions will be emailed to you after you register at the link above.

Alliance Meeting Marc Chytilo

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

We are proud to present Marc Chytilo, a public interest environmental attorney, previously chief counsel for Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center. Since his arrival in Santa Barbara in 1987, he has advo-



cated for environmental protection and public's interest in hundreds of cases. These include preserving open space areas including the Douglas Family Preserve, Veronica Springs; and the San Marcos Foothills; preventing development on the Gaviota Coast; promoting alternative transportation; and, most recently, seeking to limit impacts of commercial cannabis operations to neighborhoods and businesses. He will give us the insider's view of this important work. Everyone who has an interest in our Santa Barbara environment can benefit from Marc's expertise.

SYLVIA ABUALY, ALLIANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Path to Membership Class May 18

Rev. Julia Hamilton will be leading our quarterly Path to Membership class on Thursday, May 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This educational, informational, and communal time is an enjoyable way to meet others and discover more about the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism and about the programs and services of the USSB. Explore questions such as what does membership involve? Why join? What does it mean to live a UU life?

Even if you're not sure about joining (or if you've joined already!), this is a no-pressure evening that will answer all your questions about the Unitarian Society, including some you didn't even know you had.

A light dinner will be provided, so please register in advance: <https://tinyurl.com/NewtoUSSB>

Childcare available with advance notice.



Adult & Children's Religious Exploration

Adult RE Opportunities in May Path to Membership

Thursday, May 18 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM in Blake Lounge

Are you new to the Unitarian Society? Or perhaps you've been here for a little while, but want to explore membership and meet some new people? This class is for you! Join Rev. Julia to dive into a little UU theology, learn a little UU history, share some of your own journey, and connect with others as we explore what it means to be a part of this congregation. This class can be structured to include folks online, so please let us know if you cannot be here in person. Contact eden@ussb.org or look for the sign-up sheet on Sunday morning to register for this class.

My Personal Theology

Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, June 11 from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Jefferson Hall

What do you say when someone asks you what Unitarian Universalists believe? What do you say when someone asks you what you believe? How do you reconcile the faith tradition (if any) you were raised in with your UU faith? And what about other faith traditions you identify with? Can you be a UU and something else too?

This two-part workshop offers you the space to thoughtfully unpack your beliefs and figure out what to keep, what to get rid of, and what you still might need for your lifelong search for truth and meaning. Facilitated by Nate Rich and Charla Bregante. Lunch included. Sign up in the garden on Sunday, or contact charla@ussb.org.

Good Things Growing

Tuesday, May 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Parish Hall

Join us in conversation with Katie Davis, chair of the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club. Learn about initiatives the local chapter is involved in, the good things growing out of their hard work, and what drew Katie to climate work in the first place. Katie was a 2022 Santa Barbara *Independent Local Hero* for her commitment to environmental issues in our community and beyond. We will be celebrating the finale of our first season of our Good Things Growing speaker series with wine and light hors d'oeuvres. Suggested donation \$10.



RE for Children and Youth

Easter Hunt for Justice Puts Faith into Action for Kids

Thanks to generous donations to our March collection plate, our CRE kids had \$400 to give to three worthy organizations at our annual Easter Hunt for Justice. Kids voted with their eggs to donate \$120 to **Storyteller Children's Center**, \$120 to **Los Padres Forest Watch**, and \$160 to the **Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute**.

We Raised Our Voices for Love in Pizza Church!

At our April Friday night family chapel, or "Pizza Church" as we like to call it, we lit our chalice, sang "This Little Light of Mine," and read the story "Love Is Powerful" by Heather Dean Brewer. Inspired by the main character in the story, we shouted, "Love is powerful!" as loudly as we could to spread the message outside our walls. Then kids took turns preaching that message from the pulpit. We learned that our voices matter. Our next Pizza Church is on Friday, May 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

YoUth Group Enjoys Pizza and Puppies

Our youth group spent a recent Friday evening enjoying pizza at dog-friendly Finney's Craffthouse. The star of the night was Boromir, a rescue pup recently adopted by one of our Youth Group members. YoUth Group Coordinator Christina Boardman also identified officers for the group to work on event planning and other business: YoUth Group President Emma Parent, Junior President Cassia Hamilton-Shive, and Treasurer Quinn Hartman. The group is preparing to launch a GoFundMe for a new kitchen for El Refugio migrant shelter in Mexicali.

USSB Love Team Helps Create a Safe Space for Our Transgender Neighbors

When the Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network (SBTAN) chose USSB to host their annual Day of Visibility event in April, we wanted to give the organizers peace of mind and allow them to focus their energy on creating a joyful event. Hence, the USSB Love Team was formed to welcome guests as they arrived and keep an eye out for unwelcome visitors. Thank you to **Mike Hackett, Chris Shorb, Nancy and Alan Edmundson, Joanie and Colin Jones, and Chuck Flacks** for joining the Love Team to help make this a safe and joyful event for the Santa Barbara transgender community. Lily from SBTAN said, "I can tell you that every person that I spoke to was so grateful for the community and the warmth and welcome. Thank you."

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

2023-2024 Board of Trustees and NomCom Slate of Candidates

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee for 2023-2024.

The Nominating Committee nominates the following candidates for the Board of Trustees:

- John Altman 2023-2026 three-year term
- Becky Blake 2023-2026 three-year term
- Buzz Moran 2023-2026 three-year term

The Nominating Committee has received 10 or more signatures in support of the following candidates for the Nominating Committee:

- Rachel Aarons 2023-2026 three-year term
- Susie DuPont 2023-2026 three-year term

This slate of candidates will stand for election in the June 2023 congregational annual meeting. Their profiles are available for your review below. On behalf of the congregation, I would like to recognize Kathleen Boehm, Julie Lopp, Jack Rief and Howard Wittausch of the Board of Trustees; and Ann Taves and Deb Karoff of the Nominating Committee, for their service. Thank you for your tireless work in contributing to the USSB community.

DEB KAROFF, CHAIR,
USSB NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Trustees Nominees

John Altman

I was born in Kewanee, Illinois, (the Hog Capitol of the World) and lived there until my parents had the very good idea of moving to Santa Barbara. I finished high school as a Don and took off for UC Berkeley where I graduated with a BA in English after four years of intermittent study and pretty much constant upheaval. I was shot at by police but they missed. I traveled around the US and lived in Cambridge, Mass., for a year before setting out on travels in Mexico and Central America. I lived in Mexico City for three years, teaching English and learning Spanish. I met my wife-to-be (a Mexican-American from East LA) in Mexico. We returned to the US, got married, and went to graduate school at San Francisco State. I earned an MA/TESL there and we moved to Southern California where I taught ESL in numerous adult schools and then at Cal State, LA.



I changed careers in 1987 and worked in the printing industry as a designer and production artist. For six years I was the shop steward of a “chapel” of the International Typographic Union/CWA Local 39521. I retired in 2013 and returned to Santa Barbara to care for my mother.

I joined USSB in October, 2019. I’ve learned a lot here and am glad to be a member of the Care Team and the Justice & Equity Team, while also ushering, singing in the Justice Choir and leading the Drumming Group. I’ve enjoyed putting my Spanish to work as a member of Drivers Listos and the Border Project of the Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance. I’ve gone on two trips to the border to support asylum seekers at the La Cobina shelter in Mexicali. I have helped to support a young LGBTQ+ family from Michoacan, fleeing cartel violence and homophobia. My friendship with those two brave women and their little girl has been one of the best things to happen to me.

My membership in the Unitarian Society has changed my life and led me to opportunities to serve others and live my values. I’m grateful to the Nominating Committee for offering this chance to serve our community as a member of the Board of Trustees. I’ll do my best to be worthy of it.

Becky Blake

I have lived most of my life in Southern California, but also spent time in the Washington, DC area (high school), Virginia (College of William & Mary), New Orleans (Tulane U. Graduate School of Social Work), and Maine (during my first marriage). In 1984, a few years after my divorce, I returned to California, settling in beautiful Santa Barbara. In 2000, after 12 years as colleagues and best friends, Burt and I married. We live in a condo near USSB and spend time with family living in Camarillo and LA.



I earned my bachelors degree with a concentration in experimental psychology and my masters in social work with a concentration in direct services to children and families in the mental health field. I worked in various settings: Child Protective Services, adoption, medical hospital, psychiatric inpatient, group homes, and mental health clinics. I primarily provided direct services, but also supervision, management and program development. My most recent employment was with Santa Barbara County Mental Health (now called Behavioral

Wellness) where I was a part of innovative children's programs, including a co-located collaborative with Probation, Child Protective Services and Public Health and an early identification and intervention program for at-risk transition-age youth. I retired in 2011.

I was brought up in the Presbyterian tradition. As an adult, I explored other churches and religious traditions. But shortly after moving here, I discovered Unitarian Universalism. I found UU fit perfectly with my interests and values. I attended services off and on at USSB until my retirement when I became "a regular" and ultimately a member in 2012. Sunday services and Connection Circles, both as a participant and facilitator, have been my cornerstones at USSB.

I have benefited from various Adult Education classes (including Circles of Trust, Courage to Search, Witnessing Whiteness, Build Your Own Theology). I have served as a coffee host, Freedom Warming Center team member, Women's Empowerment Fund committee member and Coming of Age mentor. During my "other" time, I take an ongoing current events class on Zoom through Emeritus College, read, walk/hike, bike, play piano, and travel. I am motivated by learning, serving, and making a better world. It is a great honor to be nominated to the Board of Trustees.

Buzz Moran

Originally, I am from Philadelphia, PA, graduating from Drexel University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, I moved to Orange County, CA, obtaining a Masters Degree from Cal State Long Beach. I have worked in the medical device industry my entire career, both in an R&D capacity and in corporate management, mainly in the areas of critical care diagnostics, diabetes, and hemodialysis. I am currently retired.

Marilyn Moran and I have been married for over 50 years, and have been Unitarian Universalists for over 40 years. In 1972, we moved to Bedford, MA. We joined the First Parish Unitarian Church in Bedford in the 1970s. At the First Parish, I was involved with the Social Responsibility Committee, the Religious Education Program, and the Worship Committee. Marilyn and I have three grown children who were christened at the Bedford UU Church. We now have three grandchildren.

While living in Bedford, I was elected and served on the School Board for four years, including one year as chairperson. I found this time extremely rewarding, and it gave me experience working on an elected board with serious responsibilities to the local community.



Marilyn and I moved to Santa Barbara in 1985. I retired fulltime in 2013. We have intermittently attended USSB over the last 25 years, and became members in 2021.

My main interests are outdoor activities and music, and I am currently a member of the USSB drumming group. As a member of the Board of Trustees, my main interest will be to nurture fellowship and work together to support and grow our loving USSB community.

Nominating Committee Nominees

Rachel Aarons

I am a transplant from Canada. That makes me an immigrant, eh? I grew up in Toronto in an upper middle-class Jewish "ghetto," the youngest of three children including a sister seven years older and a brother five years older. My parents started out very poor but by the time I was born, they had graduated to owning a house in a nice, almost exclusively Jewish neighborhood. We belonged to a reform, not orthodox, temple which the family attended only on major holidays. Somehow, I went all the way through 10 years of religious school, even becoming a student teacher, while my brother and sister were allowed to drop out early on. That was my religious beginning but I harbored a secret interest in those outside the fold. One summer I was a counsellor at a YMCA day camp. One night I snuck away to a basketball game with an Italian boy (although I was not allowed to go out with anyone not Jewish.) My crisis of faith came about when I made friends with a girl who was black while my parents were away in Florida (they spent the majority of their time away in Florida). When my father found out, I was forbidden to be friends with her on the grounds that I might meet a black man and want to date him. Outraged, I went to see the rabbi expecting to be validated that this was totally unacceptable and racist. The rabbi said: "honor your father." That was the end of religion for me. Of my two life partners, one was Catholic and the other was Protestant and both were white.



My father thought that university was wasted on women but finally relented and let me go on condition that I take a typing course because he could not conceive of the possibility that I would ever support myself as a professional. In my high school yearbook, I wrote that I wanted to be a "professional student" and I pretty much achieved that goal. I got a doctorate in Philosophy and taught at the University of Toronto for several years. Then I decided to change fields and went back to

Nominee biographies continue on the next page

get a Masters in Social Work. I have been a therapist for over 45 years and currently specialize in trauma therapy. The work is heavy but helping people gives meaning to my life. I can't imagine myself being fully retired.

My biggest contribution to the Unitarian Society has been through founding the Women's Empowerment Project. It started with a grant to fund a project to help women and girls and morphed into a Women's Film Series and a Women's Speaker Series. It ended with the pandemic. I remain involved and active in women's political organizations in the community.

What I love about the Unitarian Society is the people. Overwhelmingly, they are genuinely good people and the values of this organization speak to me. I would be happy to help identify members qualified to lead our community by serving on the nominating committee.

Susan DuPont

I am pleased and honored to be considered for the Nominating Committee.

I joined USSB in 2011 and through the years have enjoyed volunteering in a variety of capacities: I have been a board member, provided stewardship leadership, served on the membership committee, participated in children's programs, prepared food for the Warming Center, facilitated and participated in Connection Circles, ushered for Sunday services, and helped out in the office. It has been both fun and rewarding.



I grew up in a farming town in southern Ohio and was religiously schooled in a small Quaker church. After graduating from Ohio State University, I taught high school English and Speech and Drama, and then focused on raising our son and daughter while performing some of the office duties in my husband's practice. During that time I was an active volunteer in the schools and community and later became a development director at a school. In this period we became acquainted with Unitarian-Universalism through our attendance at the Unitarian Universalist Church in our neighborhood.

Wayne and I are both happily retired now and enjoy reading, gardening, baking, biking, walking. Our family, our friends, our puppy.

I am a part of USSB because of the mission and principles, and our people. If elected to the Nominating Committee I will be mindful of the love and care necessary to help our congregation move forward.

Personal Blessing

Thank you to **Sarah Lucas** for the gorgeous, joyful flowers inside our courtyard.

— *Anonymous*

To give a Personal Blessing, use our online form at www.ussb.org/personalblessing.



WWW.LOVEYOURNEIGHBORSB.ORG

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
WEEK**

Apr 27 - May 7



Thur, Apr 27 - Sun, Apr 30

"Love Your Neighbor"-themed worship services. For a list of participating faith communities, visit loveyourneighborsb.org.



Thur, May 4 - Sun, May 7

Media Campaign - Post a #loveyourneighborsb message and help us share action items



Thur, May 4, 5:30-6:30pm

@ De La Guerra Plaza

Interfaith Vigil - speakers and a call to action in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors

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

May Outreach Offering

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society

For over 50 years our Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) has been protecting area bird life and habitat, and connecting people with birds through education, conservation, and science. Education initiatives include Eyes in the Sky, a community education outreach program that presents five native birds of prey, rehabilitated from injuries, to children and adults throughout the greater Santa Barbara area. The birds' unique stories of survival educate about the impact of human actions on wildlife. Eyes in the Sky presents programs in classrooms, camps, after-school programs, retirement communities, and at community events.

The SBAS Conservation/Science Committee acts locally to advocate for strong protections for birds and bird habitat, with an emphasis on riparian areas and regional open spaces. They meet with local officials



and provide expert knowledge, thorough analysis, and public comment, and community outreach to protect Santa Barbara area bird life. Other community science initiatives include the Breeding Bird Study and nest box monitoring. SBAS also offers bird walks and field trips, monthly evening programs, and the opportunity to contribute to research through the annual Christmas Bird Count. For children, they offer an annual Winter Bird Count for Kids.

If you are interested in learning more about the importance of birds, please watch their two short films, *Why Are Birds Important?* and *How to Start Birding* at www.santabarbaraaudubon.org/learning-resources. To learn more about Santa Barbara Audubon Society, including how to get involved, go to www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or talk to USSB member Kathleen Boehm.



Good Things Growing

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

***A conversation with Katie Davis,
Chair of the local Sierra Club Chapter***



**MAY 16, 7:00-9:00 PM
PARISH HALL**



Learn about the good work the local Sierra Club chapter is engaged in from 2022 SB Independent local hero, Katie Davis



A PROGRAM OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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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, or call (805) 965-4583

Deadline for the June issue: Tuesday, May 23
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.