Sundays in November

The theme for November is “History”

“To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves.”
— Alice Walker

Sunday, November 7
Dr. Tania Israel & Rev. Julia Hamilton
“Bridging the Political Divide with Integrity and Grace”

As country, communities, families, and friends struggle with political polarization, human connections have become strained or ruptured. How might such divisiveness hinder spiritual aspirations, and how can humility and compassion guide us to navigating political conflict with integrity and grace?

Dr. Tania Israel is a Professor of Counseling Psychology at UCSB, an engaged member of the Santa Barbara community, and author of Beyond Your Bubble: How to Connect Across the Political Divide, Skills and Strategies for Conversations That Work, and co-host of the Buddhist podcast “Prajna Sparks.”

Sunday, November 14
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“The Parker Window and the Moral Arc of the Universe”

Since we hung the Black Lives Matter banner outside our building, we’ve gotten some feedback from the community. Some positive, some...not. But this banner is just the latest incarnation of our long commitment to racial justice. Join us in re-examining our history as we create our future.

*This is part of a year-long series inspired by the names on the windows in our sanctuary. This Sunday will include Rev. Theodore Parker (1810-1860), third window on the left.

Sunday, November 21
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“Gratitude”

Join us for our annual service of joy and gratitude as we give thanks for all that sustains us.

Sunday, November 28
Devon Nelson & Peter Hale
“Circle of Friends”

As we participate in the life of our congregation — its joys and concerns, its events and its role in the greater community — we may forget that it is made up of individuals who have their own joys and concerns and need help on their journey. In this service, members of the Care Team will share their experiences and motivation in volunteering to serve people personally with attention and respect.
Warming Center Volunteer Signups 2021–22

Winter (and hopefully more rain) is on its way, and that means that on cold and wet nights there will be people who need shelter. So we are asking you – yes, you! – to volunteer to join a Hospitality Team for the Warming Center.

Volunteering means selecting at least one night of the week to join team to be “on-call” to provide a meal. There is a team leader for each night who will help coordinate their team’s shopping, cooking, and packing of the meals.

We are still taking COVID safety precautions, which means our operations will be a little different from years past. Instead of our usual "buffet" style meal, volunteers will prepare and pack the food into individual containers and have it hot and ready for the Warming Center staff to distribute to guests. Team members will use masks and gloves during food preparation and observe any other necessary safety protocols while in the kitchen or around other people. We will all stay safe while providing this important service.

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. And many thanks to our team leaders, who we couldn’t do without!

Although we are assigned five on-call weeks between November 15 and April 1, we only activate if the weather forecast calls for 50% chance of rain or a temperature of 35 or below. We usually get a 48 hour notice. Our on-call weeks are:

- December 5–11
- December 19–25 *You can sign up for special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day teams, too!
- January 16–22
- February 13–19
- March 13–18

When we are activated, the team in charge of that night is set in motion. Teams are in charge of the following:

1. Preparing a simple, hot, and filling meal that can feed 60 people. (We’ve got recipes!)
2. Packing up the meal in individual portions to distribute to our guests the night we are activated.
3. Cleaning up the kitchen after cooking and packing the meal.

We look forward to working with you in support of the Warming Centers this year! If you have any questions, please contact Mike Gorodezky, Warming Center volunteer coordinator: mgorodezky@gmail.com.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Julia, Mike Gorodezky, and the Freedom Warming Center staff
Who Are Your UU Heroes?

What do the oldest National Park Ranger in the U.S., the inventor of the World Wide Web, and the co-founder of the first gay pride parade have in common? They are all UnitarianUniversalists!

Last month I read a story in the New York Times about Betty Reid Soskin. At 100 years old, she is the oldest National Park Ranger serving the United States today, assigned to the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA. Before becoming a ranger at age 85, Soskin was a civil rights activist, a field representative for California State Assemblywomen Dion Aroner and Loni Hancock, and a songwriter, among other things. It was only when I stumbled upon her Wikipedia page that I discovered Betty Reid Soskin was also an active member in the Mount Diablo UU Church and the Black Caucus of the UUA!

I wanted our CRE kids to learn Soskin’s amazing story and thought, wouldn’t it be fun if she had her own trading card? And then I thought, wouldn’t it be fun if we had a whole bunch of UU trading cards for kids to collect? And so an idea was born.

At our October Family Chapel, families went home with a Betty Reid Soskin trading card and a binder to start a UU trading card collection. Since that first card, we have added Egbert Ethelred Brown (the first black man ordained a Unitarian minister), poet, e.e. Cummings, Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the WWW), and USSB’s own Ellen Broidy (co-founder of the first gay pride parade in the US).

November’s worship theme is Holding History. We’ll be ramping up our trading card production this month and could use your help! Who are your UU heroes, both inside and outside our congregation? Email your favorites to charla@ussb.org and we’ll start growing our collection together. Can’t think of anyone? Check out this list, you might be surprised who you find! https://tinyurl.com/UUList

And don’t worry, there will be opportunities for adults to get in on the collecting fun soon!

Children’s RE classes are in person on Sundays at 10:00 AM!

RE teachers Christina Boardman and Janey Madlani lead our kids in RE classes that explore the same monthly theme as the adults. Kids from preschool to seventh grade are invited to our in-person, outdoor children’s RE program Sundays at 10:00 AM. Find the link to enroll you children in the Friday email or on the USSB website.

USSB Journaling Hour
Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom

October 5–November 16, adults and teens are invited to join a devoted group of writers for an hour each week dedicated to personal journaling. Writers of all levels are welcome. An optional writing prompt will be offered and then we turn off our cameras and just write together.

CRE Parent Circle on Zoom
Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 PM

Get to know other CRE parents and strengthen the connections you already have. We are stronger and better parents when we are in a community of mutual support. Join the CRE Parent Circle on the first Wednesday of each month.

Why Were We (U)Us?
A Young Adult Zoom Group
Sunday, November 14 at 6:00 PM PST

This group of young adult (18–28 year old) Zoomers gather to reflect on how their lives have changed since they were in YRUU and what role Unitarian Universalism plays in their lives today. There is also plenty of time set aside for catching up, game playing, and other social activities. Join Why Were We (U)Us? on the second Sunday of each month.

In Faith,
Charla Bregante
Director of Religious Education
charla@ussb.org
Greetings USSB Members!

I am very excited to be joining USSB as your new Facility and Events Coordinator, and happy to be working in the same job that my husband, Greg Otero, did so admirably for the last eight years. One of the reasons I am so pleased is the because of the fantastic staff here at USSB, especially given their thoughtful and conscientious approach to the Covid crisis and shutdown.

Prior to Covid, I worked for seven years as the Tennis Clubhouse and Membership Manager at the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club. During the last year and a half, I have become certified as a life coach and now run a small online coaching practice that will compliment my Facility and Event Coordinator job perfectly!

I have many years of event management experience in a variety of jobs, including working at the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF) as their volunteer event manager when Greg and I lived in Boise, Idaho. It was at BUUF that I became a part of their Green Sanctuary Committee and led a course in “Voluntary Simplicity,” all of which helped cement my passion for sustainable living, home renovation, and organization. From those committees and that experience, Greg and I went on to found and run the Idaho Green Expo, a large annual community and green business event for which I was the program director for six years. That experience led me to adopt a “simplify your life” approach to my life, and in my work as a coach.

I am a mother to three adult children, and during the height of Covid became a grandmother for the first time, which has added an incredible new dimension to my life.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to me if you see me on campus, or contact me for any of your event needs now that we are getting back to gathering in person again!

Joanie Bear
USSB Facility & Events Coordinator
joanie@ussb.org

Goodbye & Thank You

Well, well, well; eight years sure pass by fast when viewed in the rear view mirror. I have reached that point in my life when it’s time to retire, and I plan on going down that path with gusto! But before I leave, I just wanted to say goodbye to all of you that I know and who I have worked with over these years. And I also want to say a special “thank you” to the USSB board, to Julia, to my co-workers, and mostly to Erin Wilson, who have all made working for the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara an absolute pleasure.

I have been self-employed most of my life in various undertakings, and the autonomy and trust that Erin placed in me at this job made me feel like I was still self-employed. Or perhaps more accurately, I felt that I was a valued and trusted part of a team and not just an employee logging hours. And when the pandemic hit, the support that I and the entire staff received from USSB was truly remarkable, and I will be forever grateful for that loyalty!

You should all be proud, as I’m sure you are, to be associated with the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. I was proud as heck to work for you all!

So, there it is; I certainly hope to see you around town over the coming years. And hopefully, we’ll be able to exchange handshakes and hugs, and see each other’s smiling faces once again!

Until then!

Greg Otero
USSB Facilities Use Coordinator
For the past 60 years, Camp de Benneville Pines has been a mountain sanctuary for the 50 UU congregations in the Pacific Southwest District. After being closed for 18 months, Camp de Benneville Pines reopened in October and began welcoming campers back to the pines!

This month’s reopening is a “soft” one; the camp is not yet back to the usual operation of welcoming a year-round community of campers of all ages for three- to seven-day camp and retreat sessions. Camp de Benneville still needs our support to make that a reality.

Camp supporters have banded together to create a challenge campaign to help Camp de Benneville meet its ongoing financial needs and to celebrate the 60th anniversary. They have pledged to match up to $175,000 before December 31, 2021, so our congregation’s Outreach Offering gift to Camp de Benneville will be doubled. The camp’s executive director expresses deep gratitude for the outpouring of love and support the camp has received through this challenging time.

Please contribute as generously as you are able to the Camp de Benneville Pines’ 2020/2021 Share Your Love Campaign. Your donation will help ensure that this beloved camp will remain open for current and future generations of youth and adult campers.

To learn more about Camp de Benneville Pines, please visit their website: www.uucamp.org.

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Personal Blessing

*In memory of: Carol Wada, sister of Maurice Wada*  
*From: Barbra Ortiz*

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

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All in the Family

Sylvia Louda, who was a USSB member for 20 years, died on September 2. Sylvia was born in Boston and moved to Carpinteria in the 1970s with her husband, where they raised their children and lived in an avocado orchard in Gobernador Canyon. She will be missed for her active mind and her generous spirit.
Sunday services livestream at 10:00 AM
Join us on Zoom or Facebook, or use your phone to dial in and hear the service live.

To listen to the service on your phone, call 1-669-900-6833 and then enter the Sunday services meeting ID: 960 0363 8223#

You may call in starting five minutes before the service begins.

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

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? We archive every service video on our YouTube channel and on our website at www.ussb.org/worship/archive.