

Living with Integrity, Nurturing Wonder, Inspiring Action



Kaleidoscope

September 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

www.ussb.org

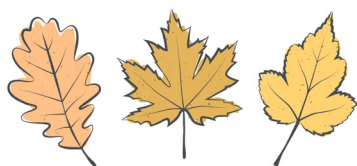
Sundays in September Services at 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 3

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Hot Labor Summer”

As the Hollywood Strike continues through Labor Day, what can this moment teach us about what counts as “labor” in today’s world? Rev. Julia has been speaking to friends on the picket line in Los Angeles and will share some of their reflections on the importance of this movement.



Sunday, September 17

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Days of Awe”

We are at the beginning of the Jewish High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah started at sundown last Friday, and Yom Kippur ends on September 25. In between are the “Days of Awe,” a time of renewal and repentance, where “awe” can refer to things that are both beautiful and terrible. Come and reflect on why “awe” is such an important spiritual practice, especially in regards to our relationship with the Earth in this time of climate crisis.

This is also our annual “Blessing of the Backpacks” to kick off our new year of programming for kids and youth — so bring your backpacks, bags, purses, satchels, and sacks! All ages are welcome to participate.

Sunday, September 10

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Ingathering 2023: Reclaiming Space”

In the center of California, a giant lake has reappeared after decades of absence: Tulare Lake, the largest body of freshwater west of the Mississippi. As we gather for our annual Water Ceremony, to refresh and recharge our spirits for the fall, what can we learn from the way Tulare Lake has reclaimed its place in the world?

Special note: Please bring some water with you to the service! Tap water, water from a special place, water from a creek or an ocean, or from your garden hose — you choose! Bring it in a Tupperware container, a repurposed pickle jar, a sippy cup — any little bottle of water will do!

Sunday, September 24

Rev. Julia Hamilton

“Remembering the Future”

“Can we develop the skill of remembering the future? Can we commit to build the community that will extend into a time that we only know by memory because it will outlast us? Memorize the compass points of the day yet to come: the truth, the love, the fire, the endless yes of the horizon.” — The Rev. Theresa I. Soto

Join us after the service in Parish Hall for a presentation and conversation with our Capital Campaign Consultant about what she has learned from her weekend spent with congregational leadership discussing the future of USSB!

Good News from Our 2022-23 Fiscal Year-End Finance Report

Upon calculating last fiscal year's earnings vs. what was budgeted, we had a bang-up year. Your finance committee is so happy to report what thrilled us:

- USSB broke our budgeted pledge income — we received just over our budgeted \$420,000. In 2021-22 we received \$370,000 — this is a \$50,000 increase in year-over-year pledging!
- Our non-pledge donations equaled \$54,000, well over our annual average
- Room use and wedding gross income was \$37,000 more than budgeted
- Art shows, Auction, and Fashion Fling fundraisers combined brought in \$35,000

As your fiscal stewards, we are so grateful for the generosity of our USSB congregants in volunteer work and donations. We look forward to carrying forward your steadfast support.

YOUR USSB FINANCE COMMITTEE

MIKE RISTOW, TREASURER

KATHLEEN BOEHM, JOE FIOR, KATE MEAD,
AND MAURICE WADA

Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership

Are you interested in exploring and strengthening your leadership skills? We are fortunate that we have so many committed and talented people at USSB who contribute their time, energy, and skills to creating a strong and healthy congregation. And we can always use more!

Harvest the Power is a UUA curriculum designed to identify leadership skills within a framework of intentional faith development. The program guides participants to develop leadership skills that cultivate a

“we” culture in UU congregations, with relationships and covenant at the center, rather than an “I” culture of autonomous individuals. The program helps participants recognize various leadership strengths and skills that can be useful in one’s personal, community, and/or professional work activities.



Harvest the Power will be taught by **Chuck Flacks**, **Deb Karoff**, and **Onolee Zwicke** on six Sundays following the service. Onolee, Chuck, and Deb have significant leadership experience both professionally and at USSB. Collectively, they have participated in and conducted leadership training activities in their professional work lives and community work, served as chairs of the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, search committees, and many USSB worship and programming activities.

Harvest the Power will be offered on Sundays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM on the following dates: October 1, October 15, October 29, November 12, November 19, and December 3. All meetings are in-person and will take place in Blake Lounge.

Registration will occur through Realm — look for a congregational email after Labor Day that will include a link to register. Questions? Feel free to talk to Deb, Onolee, or Chuck.



Are you a member or friend of USSB who identifies as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color)? Did you know there is a nationwide community of BIPOC Unitarian Universalists who connect for support, encouragement, and spiritual growth? It’s called DRUUMM: Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries! You can read their latest newsletter here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I3VHytJiDfpxCmowbfLT6cHN7m7S3n3-/view>

Our August DRUUMM Beat Newsletter is available to read and share with your community. To our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color DRUUMM members — please reach out if you have an idea for an article or artwork you’d like to contribute. For our White UU Allies for Racial Equity, we appreciate your help forwarding this to BIPOC in your congregation or organization who may not yet be connected with us.

To learn more, visit <https://www.uuare.org/>

USSB Annual Auction – Your Help is Needed!

One of the most beloved congregational events of the year — and one of the most fun ways to get involved — is coming up on Saturday, October 21: our Annual Auction!

Our auction is a social and fundraising event which raises funds to support our congregation's mission and vision. Parties, events, games, outings, and services are donated to the congregation and placed for bid at the auction and fill the social calendars of members and friends throughout the year.

We are in need of a team of folks to assist in the planning and implementation of our auction this year. This is a great opportunity for new and seasoned members

alike to get involved to raise important funds toward our mission — and have fun while you're at it!

Are you a natural cheerleader? Are you great with decorations? Can you help congregants dream up their auction item donations? Do you like event planning? We have space for all skill sets to contribute to this year's event. If you are interested in joining this year's auction team — we've got a role for you!

Please complete the Auction Interest Form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TWmIK7zyPdSz8ry2rRJwdKUPCBwYxfMpJuyIH3Tuxj4/edit> to get involved, or email **Erin Wilson** at erin@ussb.org to find out more. Let's get this party started!

A vertical poster with a dark maroon background. At the top, in gold capital letters, it says "EARLY (ONLINE) BIDDING OPENS OCTOBER 18TH". In the top right corner, there is a gold circle containing the text "SAVE THE DATE!" in dark maroon. The center of the poster features a large, textured orange pumpkin. Overlaid on the pumpkin is the text "USSB AUCTION: FALL FEST & COSTUME PARTY" in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below the pumpkin, the date "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21" and the time "3PM-6PM" are written in white capital letters. At the bottom of the poster, in gold capital letters, it says "CELEBRATE FALL - BID ON WONDERFUL ITEMS - SUPPORT USSB", followed by "COSTUME CONTEST - GAMES & PRIZES - DRINKS & TREATS". The bottom section contains the text "UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA", "1535 SANTA BARBARA ST", and "WWW.USSB.ORG/AUCTION" in gold capital letters.

EARLY (ONLINE) BIDDING OPENS OCTOBER 18TH

SAVE THE DATE!

**USSB AUCTION:
FALL
FEST &
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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
3PM-6PM**

CELEBRATE FALL - BID ON WONDERFUL ITEMS - SUPPORT USSB
COSTUME CONTEST - GAMES & PRIZES - DRINKS & TREATS

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA
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Electrify Your Life . . . Starting in Your Kitchen

One of the most important actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions is to choose 100% renewable electricity for our home, then switch to all-electric appliances. Gas-burning appliances, including ranges and cook tops, release methane gas into the environment. The emissions they produce each year in the US are roughly equivalent to the emissions of 500,000 cars. Gas stoves also emit dangerous levels of toxic air pollutants that can trigger health problems.



Afraid to lose the responsiveness of gas stove tops if you switch to electric?

The new electric ranges are just as responsive as gas. Consumer Reports found that electric ranges outperformed gas ranges in boiling, simmering, and broiling.

Interested in the latest electric range technology?

Induction ranges use magnetic coils to cook your food. The cooking surface remains cool to the touch. These electric alternatives heat quickly and efficiently while providing performance comparable to a gas burner. You might save up to 30% on your energy bill compared to traditional electric stove tops. However, you may need to replace some pots and pans. If you haven't had an electric range before, you also might need to do a one-time upgrade to install an electric outlet for your new range.

Non-induction smooth-top electric ranges do not heat as quickly or evenly as induction ranges, and their surfaces can be hotter. They are also less expensive, but the gap is narrowing. The surfaces of both types are easier to clean than gas ranges.

Rebates are coming!

The Inflation Reduction Act includes income-based incentives through the Home Energy Rebates program

(for households below 150% area median income). They will be available through the California Energy Commission, which expects the rebates to be available in 2024.

Not ready to make the switch yet?

Consider a portable induction cook top. These come in a variety of sizes and power levels. Instant Pots are also a great addition to your kitchen, and can be used to pressure cook, as well as also do slow cooking, rice cooking, steaming, warming, and more. Electric kettles are also a quick way to heat water.

For more information, see:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/appliances/inflation-reduction-act-and-new-electric-appliance-rebates-a3460144904/>

<https://www.consumerreports.org/appliances/ranges/gas-or-electric-range-which-is-better-a1142956590/>

<https://www.cnet.com/home/kitchen-and-household/induction-vs-electric-cooktops-which-is-right-for-you-in-2021/>

*Interested in volunteering with the Earth Advocates?
Contact Arianna at ariannajansma@gmail.com.*



Personal Blessing

"Thank you to **Kathleen Boehm** and **Gail Fairburn** for your loving help."
— from Julie Lopp

Visit www.ussb.org/personalblessing to make your own Personal Blessing donation.

Religious Exploration Fall Programs Ready to Launch!

Beginning in September in Adult RE

Connection Circles, Beloved Conversations, Contemporary Issues Forum, and EarthFest Celebration potlucks are all off and running this month. Watch your Friday emails for details and reminders.

Coming in October in Adult RE

Look for more information in the coming weeks about the Earth Advocates Environmental Film Series and the UUA Harvest the Power leadership development program. Both are set to launch in October. Keep an eye out for another Justice Café as well!

Do you have an idea for a class or workshop you'd like to facilitate? Contact Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration **Charla Bregante** at charla@ussb.org for an Adult RE Program application.



Fixing Capitalism to Save Democracy

An evening with Dr. Richard Flacks & Dr. Richard Appelbaum
Wednesday, September 13, 7:00-9:00 PM



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
1535 Santa Barbara Street

Children's RE Kickoff Carnival September 17

It's been awhile since we've launched our Children's Religious Exploration Program with a carnival. This seemed like a good year to bring back this fun way to start the church year. We'll have a bounce house, games, pizza and sno-cones to welcome the kids back. While the kids bounce and play, parents will gather in Jefferson Hall for an orientation from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Do you have friends who are curious about what you and your kids do here at the Unitarian Society? This is a good day to invite them to come along and find out.

Register for childcare and children's RE online at:
<https://forms.gle/wsbiPijZVCyVs3rD8>

Important Dates in CRE

- 9/10 at 10:00 AM: Multigenerational Ingathering Service
- 9/15 at 6:00 PM: Pizza Church in Parish Hall
- 9/17 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM: CRE Kickoff Carnival & Parent Orientation
- 9/27 to 10/1: RE Campout at Lopez Lake



THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA CHILDREN'S RE KICKOFF CARNIVAL

& BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

pizza & sno cones

New Afternoon Time for YoUUth Group: First Meeting September 17!

Teens can sleep in on Sunday mornings! YoUUth Group will meet on the first and third Sundays of most months from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in Blake Lounge. We have a few ideas bubbling for the group this year, including monthly social activities, brunch breaks, serving on a Warming Center meal team, an interfaith service trip with Trinity Episcopal youth to Mexicali, and maybe



a UU Youth Con in Ventura in the Spring! We can't have a youth group without youth, though, so mark your calendar for Sunday, September 17 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in Blake Lounge. Parents are invited to a concurrent parent orientation in Jefferson Hall. Bring your friends! Register for YoUUth Group online at: <https://forms.gle/kwHSMnSAKzVeLwMK9>

5 Reasons Why You Should Volunteer With Our Children or Youth

1. Because our children and youth are TERRIFIC people!
2. Because we ALWAYS need two adults in the room with children and youth.
3. Because you DON'T have to do any lesson planning! Just show up.
4. Because you ONLY have to sign up for ONE Sunday a month!
5. Because our children and youth are the FUTURE of our congregation and our faith tradition.

Want to learn how you can connect with the younger generation? Contact DRE Charla Bregante at charla@ussb.org.

Let's Go Camping!

RE CAMPOUT, SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1, LOPEZ LAKE

Last September, members from four intrepid families headed up to Arroyo Grande for our first ever RE campout at Lopez Lake. We had a great time. Older kids and adults kayaked on the lake while younger kids rode a parent-powered swan paddleboat. We had visits from wild turkeys and deer in our campsite, shared a delicious dinner together, then ran for cover in a surprise rainstorm! We enjoyed fireless s'mores, a pancake breakfast, and a Sunday morning chalice lighting. We hope you'll join us this year. The RE campout is open to families with children or youth. We'll be talking about details in our upcoming parent orientations, but if you have any questions in the meantime, contact charla@ussb.org. RSVP for the campout by September 10 online at: <https://forms.gle/ssEhf7LoXC4pbM4M9>

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



Floral Curious?

We on the Flower Committee are determined there will be a chancel table arrangement each Sunday. However, our numbers are few and we are in a stage of life that takes us away some weeks. We invite you to find out about our resources, as well as learn



what it is like to prepare some beauty for Sunday worship.

I would love to meet anyone who would try their hand at an arrangement. I will be by your side the whole way. Call or text me to make a time to get together, you can find my number in Realm or in the office.

KATHLEEN BOEHM

EarthFest Potluck Sept. 3

EarthFest Celebrations has its first potluck gathering on Sunday, September 3 in Parish Hall following the congregational service. This is a special time to join together to celebrate and give thanks for the diversity, abundance, and resilience of our beautiful Planet Earth. Too often we hear about the pains and hardships that Mother Earth is enduring — but too rarely are we given the opportunity to show our gratitude and thankfulness for the astounding bounties and generosity that Mother Earth bestows every day. As expressed in the UUA Seventh Principle: "We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Come join us in festively celebrating this beautiful place that we call "home" — our Mother Earth!

We plan on hosting a potluck on the first Sunday of each month. For more information or offering to volunteer to help out contact **James McMath** at (805) 770-7630; jameslmcmath@msn.com.



September Outreach Offering League of Women Voters Santa Barbara

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is our outreach offering recipient for September, under the "Voting Rights" umbrella.

The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. The League empowers voters and defends democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels. The Santa Barbara League was founded in 1938, just 18 years after women received the right to vote. Over the years and in the present day, the local League has counted among its members and leadership many community advocates and leaders, including many members of our own congregation.

Acknowledging that the suffrage movement did not include all — women and men of color were excluded — League volunteers work furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion in issues of local importance, such as housing, the environment, and criminal justice reform. LWVSB often collaborates with other community organizations on issues of mutual concern.

At all levels, the League is committed to "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy." In election years, LWVSB's voter service teams are involved in registering new voters and efforts to get out the vote. They help inform voters about candidates and ballot measures by organizing forums, distributing Easy Voter Guides prepared by the State League, and collecting election information for our monthly newsletter, the Channel Voter.

The Santa Barbara League is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer organization with membership open to everyone age 16 and older. A statement from the National League explains their mission: "We envision a democracy where every person has the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy."

More information is at <https://lwvsantabarbara.org>, or see USSB members and League Membership Team members **Joanie Jones** and **Gail Fairburn**.



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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Rev. Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister, julia@ussb.org
Erin Wilson, Director of Administration, erin@ussb.org
Charla Bregante, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, charla@ussb.org
Christina Boardman, Religious Education Coordinator, christina@ussb.org
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Alfonso Trejos, Media Specialist, alfonso@ussb.org
Heather Levin, Accompanist
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 October issue: Monday, September 25
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.