Sundays in September

The theme for September is "Possibility"

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.”
—George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

Sunday, September 5
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“New Year, New Possibilities”
On the Jewish calendar, sundown on September 6 marks the start of Rosh Hashanah and the celebration of the new year 5782. What does it mean to observe sacred time alongside a secular calendar?

Sunday, September 12
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“The Future is Fluid: Ingathering Sunday”
“Fluid dynamics” is one of the most complicated fields in physics. The movement of liquid is hard to map and predict, and we are just at the edge of our understanding of the powerful forces involved in a river flowing to the sea, or water wearing away a stone. Join us for Ingathering Sunday as we consider the power of a liquid community.

Note: We will not be doing our water ceremony at this time—hold onto that water until we are able to gather in-person (coming soon, we hope!).

Sunday, September 19
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“What Is, and What Might Be: The Fight for Reproductive Justice”
Access to reproductive healthcare, and the right of a pregnant person to choose between all their possible futures, is in jeopardy. This issue is fundamentally connected to our Unitarian Universalist ethics and values, which embrace both individual rights and collective care.

Sunday, September 26
“TBA”
Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance All-Call Meeting

Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 PM

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance All-Call Meeting on Thursday, September 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM!

This meeting will include:
- Information on how to support asylum-seekers at the Southern Border
- Updates on the ISA’s efforts to support DACA recipients
- Updates on state legislation
- Actions to support our immigrant neighbors as the eviction moratorium ends September 30

You can RSVP using this link:
http://www.tinyurl.com/ISAall-call-meeting

We look forward to seeing you on September 23.

DACA Campaign

In May 2021, the Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance (ISA) began a campaign to raise funds for 20 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applications and renewal fees. These funds would be used to cover the DACA fees for new and renewing DACA recipients through Immigrant Hope Santa Barbara (www.immigranthope.org) and IMPORTA Santa Barbara (www.importasb.org) so that they could gain temporary protected status and work permits to earn income for their households during a particularly challenging year.

We are pleased to share that we have exceeded this goal in a huge way. As of this writing, the ISA has raised funds for 53 DACA applicants from a host of faith communities and private donors. Thank you for your amazing generosity! To date, the ISA has used these funds to cover 13 DACA fees, and more requests are rolling in. On Friday, July 16, the DACA program was blocked by a Federal Judge in Texas—however, this stoppage only applies to new applications. In the meantime, DACA funds can continue to be used to support renewals (renewal is required every two years).

We will keep you updated as we learn more about next steps for DACA recipients. In the meantime, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given to support our neighbors in need during a challenging time. Your gift allows one of our neighbors in Santa Barbara County to live and work in our community without fear.

Border Support Campaign

On May 25, volunteers from the ISA and Drivers Lists filled up four vehicles with thousands of dollars’ worth of donations of nonperishable food, water, and hygiene supplies and made the trek to El Chaparral Camp in Tijuana, in partnership with the San Diego-based nonprofit Border Angels (www.borderangels.org). There, the volunteers witnessed just some of the immense need that we still see at our Southern Border. Anna Di Stefano wrote, “The population (at the one encampment we visited) fluctuates between 2,000 to 2,500 and almost half of the population are children. Tents are on top of each other and conditions seem inhumane.”

Since then, the lead volunteers have organized a Border Support Task Force to explore future opportunities to provide relief to our neighbors at the border in collaboration with other faith communities and organizations doing similar work. To simplify the partnerships and streamline the relief efforts, the group has decided to provide monetary support to the La Cobina shelter in Mexicali, a site supporting close to 200 asylum-seekers waiting to cross the border. Our partners in the Episcopal Church in Palm Desert will assist us with the relief logistics as we make another monetary gift in September. We will discuss this more at the next All-Call meeting, but if you would like to make a donation in the meantime, please visit www.sbact.org/border.

Daca march, 2017. Photo by Justin Lane.
Important Auction Dates

Donation Deadline: Thursday, September 30
Week of Bidding: Sunday, October 3 to Saturday, October 9
Celebration Event & Raffle: Saturday, October 9 at 5:00 PM

Taking Donations

Planning is underway for our 2021 USSB annual auction fundraiser. Our theme this year is ‘Bluegrass’ and our celebration event will include a live (virtual) bluegrass performance. Dust off your fiddles, tune your banjos, and get ready to celebrate in folksy style.

As with each annual fundraiser, the goal is to raise money to support the programs and actions of the Unitarian Society while providing opportunities for community and connection. Like last year, our auction will be held online, with bidding taking place over the course of a week.

We are soliciting donations now. All the fun and safe auction items inspired us last year, and we hope to continue this new tradition of creative offerings. Please read through the helpful Auction Donation FAQ (see below) for all the information you may need on donations.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few helping hands to assist us this year. If you would like to volunteer with a fun team on an exciting fundraiser, we would love your helping hand. Email Erin Wilson at erin@ussb.org to see what opportunities we have for you to participate.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing what creative ideas and opportunities for community and connection this congregation dreams up.

—Your USSB Auction Team

USSB Virtual Auction Donation FAQ

Thank you for donating to our virtual auction! Connection is more important than ever right now and we hope these creative auction events will not only be a safe way to be together but a fun and uplifting part of being in community during this challenging time. The following are some helpful FAQs and links to assist you in dreaming up your offering!

What types of items should I donate?

Unlike last year, this year small gatherings and outdoor events can be donated. We encourage small groups of vaccinated individuals to hold events (outdoors whenever possible), and many fun and safe auction events and gatherings can come from that. Some examples:

- Small outdoor events, such as:
  - Guided nature hike;
  - Outdoor movies;
  - Backyard fire pit and libations;
  - Group bike ride;
  - Sunset beach walk.

- Online events, such as:
  - Zoom interactive arts & crafts class (share your crafty talents);
  - Film night (share your favorite film and host a discussion);
  - Travel slideshows (show off your photos of past travels);
  - Interactive cooking class;
  - Wine tasting and conversation (bonus of not having to arrange for post-event safe transportation!);
  - Indoor or outdoor scavenger hunts.

- Services, such as:
  - Gardening;
  - Virtual tutoring or instrumental lessons;
  - No-host pool use (open up your yard space for a member or family to use);
  - Homemade desserts;
  - Cook and deliver a dinner for two.

If there are tangible goods as part of my donation, how does that work?

If you are offering tangible goods (like homemade fudge or art supplies kit, for example) as part of your donation, you should arrange with the bidders for safe delivery of items to/from their home or, alternately, you may offer a window of time where bidders can pick up items at your doorstep or another pre-arranged location.

I would like to offer a virtual event, but need technical support. Do you offer that?

Yes! We are here to help. We have a church Zoom account from which you are welcome to host your virtual
event. Staff can also assist you in all the technical aspects of your donation and, if needed, we can locate a Tech Host to help make your event run smoothly.

When should I offer my event?

We are keeping a virtual calendar of auction events, which can be found at https://tinyurl.com/USSBauctioncalendar2021. Please refer to this calendar when determining your auction date/time, to confirm it does not compete with another fabulous event.

I’m stuck—can someone help me brainstorm some ideas?

Absolutely! Contact a member of our auction team and we are happy to think through some ideas with you.

Okay, I’m ready! How do I submit my donation?

Virtually, of course! :-) To submit your auction donation offering, please visit our designated auction web page: www.auctria.com/auction/USSB2021. Detailed instructions for submitting your donations are included on the web page. If you need assistance in submitting your donation, please let our office know by contacting eden@ussb.org

Sign-ups Coming Soon for Fall Connection Circles

September is sign-up time for fall Connection Circles. Participation in a Connection Circle builds trust and community. Circles will meet twice a month from October through January for sharing on a theme. Each facilitated meeting runs an hour and a half.

You can read about Connection Circles here. https://ussb.org/community/get-involved/.

We will of course continue to make safety a priority.

Don’t miss out! Watch the Friday email bulletins for schedule and sign-ups.

Carol Schwyzer

All in the Family

“His name is Levi Spencer Aarons. He was born six weeks early but is thriving at home now. Up until now, he has never cried—really!—not even once. He gets so much cuddling and skin-to-skin touching from his mom, Sara, and his dad, Kieran. Their beagle, Luigi, chills nearby. Grammy Rachel is so proud!”

—Rachel Aarons

Personal Blessings

In appreciation of: Kathleen Boehm
From: Anonymous

In appreciation of: Trudi Straede—“Thank you for all you do!”
From: Julie Lopp

Personal Blessings are a unique way to honor an individual or a special event, while at the same time providing financial support to our cherished community at USSB.

To give a Personal Blessing, use our online form at www.ussb.org/personalblessing.
RE Corner
Adjusting Our Sails

“She stood in the storm and when the wind did not blow her way, she adjusted her sails.”

— Elizabeth Edwards

We are not where I thought we would be this September. Like many of you, I imagined that we would be moving away from mask mandates and social distancing. I imagined more hugging and singing. I imagined seeing more smiles.

But here we are. The winds have shifted and we are adjusting our sails. We are a community of love. And in that love we can find resilience. Together we can navigate storms and rest in the safe harbor of our beloved USSB community.

I am looking forward to many opportunities to gather in Religious Education, both in person and virtually. Here are a few things to look forward to:

Children’s RE Fall Enrollment is here!

It’s not too early to register. We will kick off the church year with a Family Ingathering Service on September 12 at 10:00 AM. CRE classes will begin September 19 at 10:00 AM. Find the link to enroll your children in the Friday email or on the USSB website. Can’t find it? Email Charla at charla@ussb.org and I’ll happily share it.

CRE Parent Circle, Wednesday, September 1 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Get your questions about our Fall Children’s RE program answered in this first monthly RE Parent and Guardian Circle. More importantly, 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. Watch your email for the zoom link.

Children’s Ingathering!

Sunday, September 12 at 10:00 AM in the Jefferson Courtyard. We look forward to the day when we can hold multigenerational services in the sanctuary, but in the meantime children and parents are invited to join Charla, Janey and Christina in Jefferson Courtyard for a Family Ingathering Service, including time to play in the Cardboard Arcade!

Would you like to spend a couple of Sundays a month with our youngest UUs?

Sign up to be a CRE Journey Guide. Journey Guides play an important role in creating a safe and welcoming experience for all children on Sunday mornings. They are not responsible for curriculum planning or teaching. See the Friday email for a link to sign up or email Charla at charla@ussb.org.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for eighth and ninth graders begins Sunday, September 12 at 11:30 AM.

OWL is one of the most important programs we offer to children and youth. It can be life-saving. It is also the rare program where we do not invite drop-ins. Youth must be pre-registered to join and parents must attend an orientation. Please contact Charla at charla@ussb.org if you would like to enroll your child but missed the August 29 parent orientation.

Young Adult Zoom Group Sunday, September 12 at 6:00 PM PST.

I had the opportunity to meet with a group of former YRUUers this summer. They are spread out around the country now, but were looking for a way to stay connected. The idea of a monthly zoom group was born! If you are 18-28 and would like to join this great group of UUs, contact Charla at charla@ussb.org to sign up for text reminders and zoom invitations.

Stay tuned for information about Adult Religious Education in the coming weeks!

In Faith,
Charla Bregante
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
charla@ussb.org
In September, the Outreach Offering will support our collaboration with the Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance in providing concrete assistance to asylum seekers facing harsh conditions on our southern border.

Last May, two USSB members went to the unofficial encampment at the El Chaparral border crossing in Tijuana and saw with their own eyes the human toll of current US border policies. Thousands of individuals and families are living there, in crowded and dangerous conditions, as they await their turn to legally enter the United States. Anna DiStefano and Deb Karoff brought supplies collected from the USSB and Santa Barbara community; they delivered these items with love, and the painful awareness that what they had to offer was but a drop in an ocean of need.

Recent court action has revived the 2018 Migrant Protection Protocols that required individuals seeking asylum to “remain in Mexico” for the duration of their process. This will increase the number of families forced to stay in Tijuana, and other border cities, with no government assistance.

For more information about organizations working to care for our neighbors at the border, please visit:
Border Angels: www.borderangels.org
Santa Barbara Alliance for Community Transformation (SBACT): sbact.org
Music Director Wanted

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara (USSB) seeks a creative Music Director with strong musical and interpersonal skills who can work with a broad range of musical talents and interests. The Music Director develops and implements a comprehensive music program for worship and other events in the life of USSB and the community. Under the general supervision of the Lead Minister, the primary responsibility of the Music Director is to organize and direct the USSB Choirs in worship and rehearsals, provide music for religious services and collaborate with the Minister, pianist, and Worship Arts Team on the selection of music and guest artists.

The position is 50% part-time, (approximately 20 hours per week) with pro-rated benefits. Evening work hours are required for choral rehearsals and Sunday is a regular workday.

The ideal candidate will be creative, collaborative and find joy in working with a socially-conscious and energetic congregation. USSB values a diverse workforce; people with disabilities, people of color, and those who identify as L/G/B/T/Q are strongly encouraged to apply.

Apply by September 20, 2021. Further information: https://ussb.org/music
Emergence Art Show Brings Out UU Artists

UU artists showed their work in Parish Courtyard on Saturday, August 14. The show, entitled "Emergence," organized by USSB member Dana Zurzolo, was originally meant to celebrate both the end of COVID-19 restrictions and the creativity of local UU visual artists. Though COVID remains with us, the event still allowed members, friends, and the community to socialize safely. Artists donated a portion of their sales to USSB and to Live Oak, everyone enjoyed a sunny day outside, and all look forward to fully emerging with another art show next summer.

Top: Sally Hamilton
Center row: Mary Grimm; Astrid Nelson
Bottom row: Sarah Carr; Lesley Grogan; Marika Davidek.
Photo of Sarah Carr by Dana Zurzolo. All other photos this page by Sarah Carr.
Top row: Richard and Lynn Dow; Joanie Jones shops at Dana Zurzolo's table; Laraine Gray
Center row: Marie Arnold; Stuart Brandt and Bruce Daniels; Susan Dempsay
Bottom row: Browsing in the courtyard; Bruce Daniels
Browsing photo by Jon Diaz. All other photos by Sarah Carr.
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.