



# Our Church Circular

February 2,  
2011 / 2 de  
febrero, 2011

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

JANUARY/FEBRUARY THEME: Season of Love: Christmas Day to Valentines Day  
TEMA DE ENERO/FEBRERO: Temporada de Amor: Día de la Navidad al Día de San Valentín

**10:15 am**  
Servicios en español

### Todos los domingos en diciembre

#### Alabanzas en Español

Vengan a unirse a nosotros para esta simple media hora de oración-meditación (sin sermón) a las 10:15 am en español en el salón de la chimenea. Creado para nosotros por los miembros conectados con nuestro Ministerio en Español, este servicio proporciona tiempo de culto y comunión en el lenguaje del alma para nuestros hispanoparlantes, junto con el íntimo abrazo alimentador que es tan significativo para algunos de nuestros oradores de inglés y español por igual. Una meditación atractiva que sirva como un preludio para el servicio de múltiples idiomas a las 11:00 am. ¡Las palabras son en español; los abrazos hablan universalmente!

### Every Sunday in December

#### Spanish Lauds

Come join us for this simple half-hour prayer-meditation service (without sermon) at 10:15 am in Spanish in the Fireside Room. Created for us by members connected with our Spanish Speaking Ministry, this service provides time for worship and fellowship in the language of the soul for our Spanish speakers, along with the intimate hug-full gathering that is so meaningful to some of our English and Spanish speakers alike. This engaging meditation serves as a prelude to the multi-lingual service at 11:00 am. The words are in Spanish; the hugs speak universally!

See page 2 for more SUNDAY SERVICES/SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO más en la página 5

**11:00 am**  
Services in English

### February 6 – 11:00 am

#### Love, Hate, and Compassion

Our esteemed guest, Abbot Jian-Hu, asks, "What is the boundary between love and hate?" When we all love "love" and hate "hate", we cannot eliminate "hate", and we do not experience the greatest love, what Buddhists call "unconditioned compassion." Unconditioned compassion is only possible, however, when the duality between love and hate disappears

**Worship Leader: Master Jian Hu, Abbot of the Zen Center of Sunnyvale**

**Worship Associate: Dena Dickinson**

#### Amor, Odio y Compasión

Nuestro estimado invitado, el Abad Jian-Hu, se pregunta "¿Cuál es el límite entre el amor y el odio?" Cuando todos amamos el "amor" y odiamos el "odio," no podemos eliminar el "odio," y no experimentan el más grande amor, lo que los budistas llamamos "compasión incondicionada." Compasión incondicionada sólo es posible, solo, cuando desaparece la dualidad entre el amor y el odio.

**Dirige: Master Jian Hu, Abbot of the Zen Center of Sunnyvale**

**Asociada de Culto: Dena Dickinson**

### February 13 – 11:00 am

#### Standing on the Foundation of Love

February 14 is National Standing on the Side of Love Day, and this will be our last service in the Season of Love series. Recognizing this, we will explore what it means to stand on a foundation of love. Can we use loving-kindness and love of life as the primary values from which we make moral decisions and discern how we wish to move in the world? What if we think of love as visible sparks of the Divine?

**Worship Leader: Marnie Singer**

**Worship Associate: Bill Bowman**

**Special music by Crystal Lanier and The Alegría Singers**

## SAVE THE DATES

**February 5**, Saturday, Service Is  
Our Prayer Church Cleanup Day,  
9am-2pm

**February 6**, Sunday, HUUmanist  
First Sunday Forum, Hattie Porter  
Hall, 10 am; UULM Health Care  
Forum, Fireside Room, 1 pm

**February 12**, Saturday, Partner  
Church Benefit Tea, Hattie Porter  
Hall 1-3 pm

**February 13**, Sunday, after church:  
Bake Sale; "Standing on the Side  
of Love" demonstration; "Reading  
the Five Gospels Along With Bob",  
Fireside Room, 6-8 pm

**February 27**, Sunday, Concert:  
Transylvania Traveling Music, Pre-  
sidio Quintet, 3-5 pm, Sanctuary

**February and March**, all Tuesdays,  
Improv Acting Class, Fireside  
Room 7:30-9:00 pm

**May 13-15**, PCD District Assembly,  
Newark, CA

**June 22-26**, UUA General Assembly,  
Charlotte, NC

**July 14-29 and July 21-August 4**,  
Partner Church Committee trips to  
Homoródszentmárton

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

**You make FUCSJ what it is! Whatever your talent and availability, there is an opportunity for you to serve. Contact Volunteer Coordinating Team members Liz Owen at [lowen@data-time.com](mailto:lowen@data-time.com) or Bob Miess at [bob@floweringenterprises.com](mailto:bob@floweringenterprises.com)**

# Lifespan Faith Development

## Nursery

### Birth through Four Years

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support each child in initiating play activities at the developmental level they manifest. Each week our paid staff members, Maria Elena Olvera and Sandra Soletto, provide a loving presence as they engage children in games, stories and crafts with seasonal and holiday themes throughout the year.

## Children & Youth Classes

Children and youth in Pre-school (4 years) through high school join the community for the first part of worship at 11:00 am and then go to their respective classes until 12:30 pm.

### Pre K (4 years) through First Grade – *Creating Home*

Children participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association curriculum *Creating Home* for 15 Sundays (began September 19, 2010) this year.

### Second through Fourth Grades – *Moral Tales*

Children participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association curriculum *Moral Tales* for 15 Sundays (began September 19, 2010) this year.

Children from Pre-K through Fourth Grade are engaged in music with leaders Sally Cooperrider and Nayo Ulloa in May. The morning includes 30 minutes of singing and music using Orff percussion instruments and 30 minutes of yoga with Shirley Worth. On Celebration

Sundays, children will be together with the whole community in worship.

### Fifth Grade – *Neighboring Faiths*

This year-long curriculum helps youth learn about their own faith and other faith traditions through interactive experience such as field trips and interviews. These encounters with other religions are given meaning through periods of reflection and discussion about Unitarian Universalist and personal beliefs and values.

### Sixth through Eighth Grades – Junior High Youth Group

The junior high youth group meets on Sundays from 11:30-12:30 and learns about Unitarian Universalism by visiting congregations in our area. They organize monthly social activities on the first Friday of the month.

Class Coordinator: Pam Pell [johnpell@aol.com](mailto:johnpell@aol.com)

### Ninth through Twelfth Grades – Senior High Youth Group

The senior high youth group meets from 11:30 am-12:30 pm most Sundays. The group engages in discussions about issues most relevant to youth's lives and communities, plans social and service projects throughout the year, and participates in youth conferences in area UU churches under the auspices of the Pacific Central District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations and YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). The youth group's empowering philosophy educates youth to be leaders within the group, church community, and denomination.

Youth Group Advisors: V Kingsley, Greg Muller, Terra Woods-Taylor and Cordelia Willis

If you are interested in participating in any of the child, youth or adult classes or activities, please contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, 292-3858, ext.25 or [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org)

## Lifespan Faith Development Calendar

### February 6

Pre-K-First and Second-Fourth grade classes – Resume with the UUA curriculums, *Celebrating Home* and *Moral Tales*

Fifth grade – Discuss Temple visit, Hinduism wrap up

Sixth-Eighth grades – Visit another UU Congregation

Ninth-Twelfth grades – Hold regular meeting

### February 13

Pre-K-First and Second-Fourth grade classes – Use the UUA curriculums, *Celebrating Home* and *Moral Tales*

Fifth grade - Introduction to Buddhism

Sixth-Eighth grades – Social Justice Sunday – “Standing on the Side of Love” Day; Bake sale after church

Ninth-Twelfth grades – Hold regular meeting

### February 20

Pre-K-First and Second-Fourth grade classes – Use the UUA curriculums, *Celebrating Home* and *Moral Tales*

Fifth grade – Continuing discussion on Buddhism

Sixth-Eighth grades – Regular curriculum

Ninth-Twelfth grades – Hold regular meeting

## Book Discussion Group with Rev. Geoff Rimositis

### Mondays 7-8:30 pm, Classrooms 4-6

We will discuss the new book by former Unitarian Universalist President John Buehrens and Starr King School for the Ministry President and Professor of Theology, Rebecca Parker: *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century*. Meetings will be on Mondays April 4, May 2, and June 6.

You can read a review at: <http://www.examiner.com/unitarian-universalism-international/a-house-for-hope-the-promise-of-progressive-religion-for-the-21st-century-review>

The book can be purchased at: [http://www.amazon.com/House-Hope-Progressive-Religion-Twenty-First/dp/0807077380/ref=si\\_aps\\_sup?ie=UTF8&qid=1295991682&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/House-Hope-Progressive-Religion-Twenty-First/dp/0807077380/ref=si_aps_sup?ie=UTF8&qid=1295991682&sr=8-1)

RSVP to Rev. Geoff at [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org) or 408-292-3858, x25. And let him know if you need to borrow a copy.



# Partner Church News

## *Bring Your Friends and Family to a Tea!*

**Saturday, February 12, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Save the date for the *Annual Partner Church Benefit Tea* next month, February 12. All the donations will be used to benefit our church's trips this summer (yes, there are two!). We are traveling to our partner church in Homoródszentmárton, Romania, and over 40 folks have signed up so far. We are using the money to fund our Traveler Scholarships, especially for the youth, and also for the service project we will be doing in the village this summer.

For the Benefit Tea, we bring out our fancy china to use and delicious goodies to eat:



sandwiches, sausage rolls, strudel, and never ending carts of pastries and tea.

The *Eszterlanc Hungarian Dance Troupe* returns to entertain us, and our church members and friends have an opportunity to share their musical and vocal talents with us, including a few surprises.

It is a perfect time to share fellowship with those from our church and also bring neighbors, friends and family you have been meaning to introduce to the church. Please buy your tickets early; it really helps us plan.

If you are able to contribute food or a talent (or would like to volunteer someone else who is talented) please contact **Connie** at [Connie\\_Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com) or 408 206-2163. ●

## *Scrip Sales Fund-Raiser*

We are selling scrip to raise funds for FUCSJ and for the Partner Church Pilgrimage. We have committed to provide \$4500 of scholarship help for various folks traveling to Romania. Profit from scrip sales will be split into 25% going towards the

church general operating fund and 75% going towards the cost of the 2011 partner church pilgrimage.

You can buy scrip for your own use or sell it to friends and family. Scrip is like a gift card or gift certificate to a store. For example if you pay \$25 of scrip for Orchard Supply Hardware, you will receive a card that you can use to purchase \$25 worth of merchandise. Orchard Supply Hardware scrip will pay a 4% rebate to us. We can order scrip for over 300 merchants. These merchants carry most of the things we all normally purchase. Depending on the merchant, rebates will range from 1% to 50%. Unfortunately we do not carry Costco, Trader Joe's or Whole Foods.

For a list of merchants and order forms you can go to the church website: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/AboutUs/Fundraising/Scrip.html>

For more information, contact Crystal Isola, [cisola@gencisphoto.com](mailto:cisola@gencisphoto.com), 408 244-5288. ●

## *Transylvanian Traveling Music*

**Sunday, February 27, 3-5 pm**

The Partner Church Committee presents *The Presidio Quintet*, performing a concert of new and old music from central Europe, all rooted in traditional forms and styles. Pieces from Hungarian composers Bartok, Farkas, and Ligeti, Polish composer Kilar, and German composers Danzi and Klughardt, all working more or less explicitly from folk song, will bring some old world sounds to San Jose's historic sanctuary.

Proceeds will help with travel expenses for the travelers going to visit our partner church in Homoródszentmárton, Romania this summer.

*The Presidio Quintet*, based in San Francisco, formed in 2007, with principals from the Mill Valley Philharmonic. Today, members



include current and former musicians from Mill Valley Philharmonic and San Jose's Silicon Valley Symphony. The members include **Nance Becker** (flute), **Claudia Engel** (oboe), **Peter Krag** (clarinet), **Mary Jane Evans** (horn), and **Lisa Gerbracht** (bassoon).

Suggested donations: Adult: \$10-\$20, Student: \$5, Music Instructors: Free. For more information, contact Monty Low, [low.monty@gmail.com](mailto:low.monty@gmail.com) or 408 348-2778. ●

## *UU Partner Church Council Party – You are Invited!*

**Saturday, February 5, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

The UU Partner Church Council's Executive Board members are flying in from all over the U.S. to hold their Winter Board Retreat at Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, February 2-5.



The UUPCC Board is hosting a party on Saturday night – and you are invited! Wine and cheese, Eastern European folk dancing, and an informative presentation by the UUPCC Board. You'll meet lots of interesting UU's from around the U.S., Bay Area, and the world! You'll hear what's new and exciting in the world-wide UU partner church movement. This evening will be lots of fun! Come join the party – and help us give the UUPCC Executive Board and guests a warm welcome!

UUSM is located at 300 E. Santa Inez Avenue, San Mateo CA 94401. For car pooling information, contact [Connie\\_Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com) or 408 206 2163. ●



# Gifts of Service

by Genie Bernardini

## Donna Lenahan Helped Us Show We Care

As an interfaith minister, Donna Lenahan has contributed a great deal to our beloved community over her 5-year involvement. She has been the Pastoral Associate Coordinator during that time, which involved providing many resources and trainings to equip a team of volunteers to meet the pastoral needs of the congregation. And when she asked for volunteers, according to Deanna LaTorre, "Donna was always so grateful for a response, it was almost like she was receiving a precious gift when one offered help."



In addition, Donna has been a Worship Associate and has led numerous worship services in which she focused on her greatest interest,

the holy, the spiritual and mystical. Although she will be "easing into service at St. Mary's in Los Gatos," she has found our church to be "open, welcoming, democratic, flexible, caring and beautiful," and says that being a part of our church community has made her "more open and accepting."

Rev. Geoff praises her service in these words: "Donna has walked with many of us through the most difficult moments in our lives with unconditional love and a deep and abiding respect for each of us as individuals on our own unique spiritual paths. She has ministered well to us, and she will be missed."

And so we offer our deepest gratitude to you, Rev. Donna, and send you our best wishes on your continuing spiritual journey. ●

## Thank You for a Successful Service Auction

by Jan Theiss-Guffey

Wow, the big event has come and gone, and what fun it was! The sanctuary was festive in yellow tones, and Hattie Porter Hall looked beautiful in black and white. We had a great dinner - with lots of rice - and then **Dan Zulevic** kept everyone laughing and bidding for another hour or so. Thank you, Dan! Thank you to **Bob Owen** for the power point presentation of the auction items, and **Liz Owen** for being the teller. So many people helped make this auction a success!

First and foremost are **Christopher Frey** and **Jim Guffey**, who were my Data Team through this process. **Bev Harrison** met with Jim and Christopher several different times to walk them through the data management. **Gretchen Leavitt**, **Kelly Burnett**, **Genie Bernardini**, and **Mary Martin** contacted people who had donated items last year, to get the catalog rolling.

Thank you to the set-up crew, **Moria Merriweather**, **Pam Price**, and **Austa Falconer**. **Moria**, **Sally Cooperrider**, and **Jay Porter** helped with the actual silent auction itself. **Madeline Bodisco-Alexander** had the great idea to decoupage vases for the centerpieces; **Shawna Nixon** helped make them. **Colleen Cabot** was the creative brains behind the fun black and white table decorations, and **Pam Price** helped her set those up. **Deanna LaTorre** spent an afternoon helping me shop for food. Thank you to **Dee Howard** and **Karen Conrotto**, who collected money for the dinner.

Thank you to our cooks!! **Madeline Morrow** was the chef in charge of the kitchen crew: **Meredy Enders Halen**, **Dena Dickinson**, and **Don Rector** and his wife were the sous-chefs. **Dee Howard**, **Madeline Morrow**, **Barbara Grover**, and **Deanna LaTorre** made the desserts.

## Short Salutes

**Jan Theiss-Guffey**: "Thank you for putting so much work into the Service Auction, even to the point of cleaning up and washing dishes afterward! It is much appreciated." – *Dave Proulx*

**Anand Solest**: "The musical, organizational and spiritual gifts of Anand brought together the talents of many people to make the 2010 Light Returning Solstice Celebration a wonderful occasion for all who participated, including the many former members and visitors who were drawn to attend. Many thanks, Anand." – *Shirley Worth*

**Susan Burke-Diquisto**—"We are so fortunate to have an Office Manager who is unfailingly upbeat, efficient and dedicated, and such a joy to be around that volunteers are eager to answer her call!" – *Genie Bernardini*

If you would like to say thank you to someone in our congregation, please send your Salute to Genie at [geniebee@hotmail.com](mailto:geniebee@hotmail.com). You could be grateful for something as seemingly small as a reassuring smile or as big as a major service project. ●

I'll be forever grateful to **Joyce Miller** and **Dave Proulx** for signing up to help clean up. Many more people helped put away tables and chairs. On Sunday, Deanna LaTorre took the extra food over to Julian Street Inn. **Barbara Derbyshire** and **Deb Fenzel-Alexander** recorded the checks on the Sunday after. A special thank you goes to my dear **Jim Guffey**, who helped with whatever I needed during this process.

Thank you to everyone who donated services, and everyone who bought them. Get in touch with each other soon! If you haven't paid yet, don't forget to write "Service Auction" in the memo line! We only made about \$6000 this year, due to various factors. It was still a wonderful evening, and our service auction helps us all get to know each other better, which is a great thing! ●



## Request for the Newsletter on PAPER

Action is required! Because of church budget constraints, you must now confirm each year that you want to receive *Our Church Circular* on paper. To request a paper copy throughout the year 2011, please fill out this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This request is for continuing service (I'm a current subscriber)

\_\_\_\_\_ This request is for new service (I'm not presently on the mailing list)

An annual, voluntary donation is requested to help cover printing and mailing costs, which have risen to about \$50 per person per year. Please give what you can. Please make your check payable to the First Unitarian Church of San José, and note Newsletter Fund on the memo line.

Your donations of recyclable bottles and cans also help to fund printing of the newsletters and are gratefully accepted!

Return this request by March 1, 2011 to receive the paper version for the rest of the 2011 calendar year. The 2010 mailing list will be cleared of all names of those who do not return this request.

See the next column for our newsletter survey.

Gratefully,

Your Editors:

*Catherine Pelizzari, Rick Merrit, Shirley Worth*

The Program and Operations Council recommends using the email and web-based versions of the newsletter if possible to save money and environmental resources. If you do not currently get the newsletter via email, and would like to, please send an email message to [steve.carr@earthlink.net](mailto:steve.carr@earthlink.net).

**Mail to:** Newsletter Fund/Survey, First Unitarian Church of San José, 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112 ●

## Newsletter Survey

Please tell us how you use the newsletter, *Our Church Circular*, so we can provide the information you need and want.

### What do you read?

Indicate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is important and 5 is not important or not read.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly service listings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ministers' columns
- \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Education information
- \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Education event notices
- \_\_\_\_\_ Board minutes and reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Justice column
- \_\_\_\_\_ Upcoming events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Save the Dates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circling Around Column
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you read the newsletter?

\_\_\_\_\_ on paper \_\_\_\_\_ online

A computer is available where I/we can conveniently:

- \_\_\_\_\_ read the email-delivered version of the newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ access and log in to the church web site
- \_\_\_\_\_ download or read online the .pdf file version of the newsletter

Thanks for taking the time to fill in our survey!

**Mail to:** Newsletter Fund/Survey, First Unitarian Church of San José, 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112

If you prefer, you may respond to this survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VGGDT6F> ●

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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### Parados en la Base del Amor

El 14 de febrero es el Día Nacional de Estar del Lado del Amor, y será nuestro último servicio de la serie de la temporada del amor. Reconociendo esto, exploraremos lo que significa pararse sobre una base de amor. ¿Podemos utilizar la amorosa bondad y el amor de la vida como los principales valores con los cuales hacemos nuestras decisiones morales y discernir cómo deseamos movernos en el mundo? ¿Qué sucede si pensamos del amor como chispas visibles de lo divino?

**Dirige: Marnie Singer**

**Asociado de Culto: Bill Bowman**

**Con música especial de Crystal Lanier y los cantantes de la Alegría**

**February 20 – 11:00 am**

### What is Your Ministry in the World?

"If I am not for myself, who will be there for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?" (Rabbi Hillel) When we live out our values in our daily lives at home, work, and in the communities we live in and support, we are engaging in ministry. It is not only for the ordained. Each of us has our own calling to live a life of meaning and make it manifest in the world. We will hear from those who engage in a larger ministry outside our church doors.

**Worship Leader: Bob Miess**

### ¿Cuál es su Ministerio en el mundo?

"¿Si no estoy para mí mismo, quien estará ahí para mí? ¿Si no estoy para otros, que soy? ¿Y si no es ahora, cuando?" (Rabino Hillel) Cuando vivimos nuestros valores en nuestra vida cotidiana en el hogar, el trabajo y en las comunidades que las que vivimos y en el apoyo con el que estamos comprometidos en el Ministerio. Esto no es sólo para los ordenados. Cada uno de nosotros tenemos nuestro propio llamado a vivir una vida con significado y hacerlo manifiesto en el mundo. Escucharemos a aquellos quienes participan en un Ministerio más grande fuera de nuestras puertas de la iglesia.

**Dirige: Bob Miess ●**



## UU Hikers & Friends

By Joyce Miller

Here is the February hiking schedule. Be sure to call if you want to hike unless you are a regular, then let me know if you are not coming. Only big rain storms cancel hikes. In case of rain, call the morning of the hike to find out if we are changing the venue to the Stanford dish or if the hike is cancelled. My home phone is 408 730-1052 and cell is 570-7052. Use my cell phone after 7:30 am. All other times use my home phone. See you on the trails!

### Wednesday, February 2

Montebello Open Space, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

### Saturday, February 5

Joseph Grant County Park. 6.6 miles, moderate. (We could make it 9.8 miles if we want to by doing an additional loop.) This should be a beautiful winter hike with unrestricted views of the hills. Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capital and Alum Rock at 8:00am. 8:00 am.

### Wednesday, February 9

Windy Hill, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

### Saturday, February 12

Almaden Quicksilver, Mockingbird entrance, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am.

### Wednesday, February 16

Stevens Creek/Fremont Older, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at trailhead at 8:30 am. Directions to trail head: Take Foothill Expressway as though you were going to Rancho San Antonio. Don't turn off Foothill. Go about 1.5 miles to entrance to Stevens Creek Park on the left. You can see the parking lot below you as you go around a curve. Turn left and go straight ahead to the parking lot. There is a \$6 parking fee.



### Saturday, February 19

Calero County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am.

### Wednesday, February 23

Huddart County Park, 7 miles, moderate. We will do the longer hike up to Skyline. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

### Saturday, February 26

Alum Rock Park, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capital at Alum Rock at 8:00 am. ●

## Spotlight on Social Justice

The Social Justice Council blog appears on the Church Webpage at: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/socialjusticeblog/>. You can subscribe to the YahooGroup For Social Justice News & Events at: [sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). ●



### Upcoming Special Collection

On Sunday, February 13, the Special Collection will be for the Transgender Law Center and Project Outlet. ●

### FUCSJ's PACT Local Organizing Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 3, at 7:00 pm

Our PACT LOC meeting will be held in the Board/Conference Room. Please join our Local Organizing Committee for a meeting to plan our very own action. Many hands make light work. ●

### Contribution Statements Mailed

The POC reports that the statements of 2010 contributions to the church have been mailed. You should receive your statement the week of February 2 (this issue's publication date). If you do not receive it, contact the Office Manager, Susan Burke-Diquisto. Phone: (408) 292-3858 ext. 23. E-mail: [fucsj@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucsj@sanjoseuu.org). ●

### My home, your home, our home

Our own Roberto Padilla was published on the UUA web site last November -- a story worth a look, if you haven't already seen it! He asks, "Why do we expect others to feel at home when what's around them seems so different from what they are used to?" <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/172741.shtml> ●

### Sunday Forum: What Does Health Care Reform Mean to Me?

Sunday, February 6th at 1:00 pm, Fireside Room

Bring health care reform home to California with this informative presentation by Amy Petré-Hill from the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California (UULM) that will address these questions:

Why did UUs in California identify health care reform as their first legislative priority? How did UUs help to pass the new health care law, the first comprehensive social policy legislation to pass in 45 years? What are the provisions of the new law and how do they affect us? When do the different reforms go into effect? What can we do to implement the law here in California, and what work remains to be done to provide universal, quality health care for all?

### Relate the issues to UU Principles

Please join us and find out about the new Affordable Care Act that cuts through the political wrangling in the mainstream media, focusing on facts and UU values:

- How the U.S. for-profit health insurance system failed
  - How we can put our UU values into practice by advocating for health care reform
  - What we have achieved with federal health care reform
  - How we can implement and improve national health care reform here in California
- So mark your calendar, join us in the Fireside Room at 1 pm, and bring your questions! ●



### *Thoughts on reconciliation on Martin Luther King Day, 2011*

By Rev. William Chester McCall III

*This is a new column, a forum for anyone in or outside our local community to express thoughts and experiences related to Unitarian Universalism. If you have an idea for a column, contact Rick Merritt. We will run these columns as we have timely material and space available. In some of these columns, we plan to share parts of the sermons of guest ministers visiting our community during the sabbatical of our senior minister, Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones.*

Martin Luther King Jr., echoing the words of Theodore Parker, said, “The arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

It also bends towards reconciliation, forgiveness, and love — for there is no justice, there cannot be justice without reconciliation, forgiveness, and love.

This is a reality that is affirmed in all cultures and religions; Jewish, Pagan, Muslim, Christian, Humanist and even atheist embrace, affirm and promote the notion and ideals of justice, reconciliation, forgiveness and love.

#### **Our Seven Principles**

While justice and love are explicitly stated in the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist movement, I assert that forgiveness as well is captured in our seven principles given the words “acceptance of one another” because there cannot be acceptance without forgiveness.

I believe that all seven of our principles were shaped by our human need for reconciliation. Moreover, they exist for the purpose of reconciliation. Why else would there be a need to covenant to affirm and promote them?

We know in our consciousness and in the depth of our being that as a people and a species that share a ride on this bus called Earth, we do not affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person as a basic principle of our humanity.

Carter Heyward, in her article “Our Passion for Justice,” unveils for us the kind of love that was the foundation of the civil rights movement that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose whole understanding of justice was based upon what he called the

“love ethic.” Listen to these following statements based upon Carter Heyward’s article.

#### **The Love Ethic**

Love, like truth and beauty, is concrete. Love is active, effective, a matter of making a reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationship with one’s friends and enemies.

Love creates justice, here on Earth. To make love is to make justice. Love involves struggle, resistance, and risk.

The most compelling relationship demands hard work, patience and a willingness to endure tensions and anxiety in creating mutually empowering bonds. Love involves commitment.

Love is a choice—not simply, or necessarily, a rational choice. For me, love is the doorway to the “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life.”

Love is a willingness to be present to others without pretense or guile.

Love is a conversion to humanity—not away from humanity.

Love is a willingness to participate with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives.

Love is a choice to experience life, as a member of the human family rather than as an alien in the world or as a deity above the world, aloof and apart be it intentional or unintentional.

#### **Beloved Community**

I do not know about you, but as I hear these statements about love, I hear a comprehensive description of the “beloved community” or what I call



The Rev. William Chester McCall III

the “undivided human family” wherein lays our joy, our pain, our sorrow and our happiness.

Today is an opportunity to make that long-term commitment to seek your happiness by participating with others in the healing of a broken world and in the healing of broken lives brought about by the reality of the existence of racism and oppression in our homes, in our educational institutions and in our political organizations and religious communities.

Martin Luther King said that if you want to end the injustice in the world we have to first remove the injustice within our heart. If we want to end racism and oppression in the world, we must first end the racism and oppression in our hearts.

May this be the day when we each recommit our lives to the creation of the “undivided human family” and the freedom of all from all the forms of injustice, institutional racism, and oppression in the world. May it be so. *Delivered at FUCSJ on Jan. 16, 2011*

The entire sermon is available online at [http://www.uucpa.org/sermons\\_10/sermon100328.html](http://www.uucpa.org/sermons_10/sermon100328.html). ●



# Upcoming Events:

## Women's Alliance

**Thursday, February 3, 7:15,  
Fireside Room**

The "Woman's Alliance" is a place to share political and historical women's events and discussion. It is very different every month but always fun and lively! Please join us. Contact **Nancy Coleman** at 408 985 5778 or [nbc Coleman@gmail.com](mailto:nbc Coleman@gmail.com) for more information. ●

## Service Is Our Prayer Day

**Saturday, February 5, 9:00 am to  
2:00 pm at the church**

Please join us on Saturday, February 5, for our quarterly church work party. We'll have a simple shared lunch, provided, about noon. Everybody is welcome – there will be a lot to do. Please put this on your calendar! For more information, contact Patrick Meyer at [jpatrickmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:jpatrickmeyer@yahoo.com). ●

## First Sunday Forum

**February 6 at 10:00 am**

Must we open our minds until our brains fall out?" Join the friendly Forum folks in Hattie Porter Hall for this topic: are there limits to accepting or tolerating other's religious beliefs? When do we engage with the promulgator of religious ideas? What if the ideas are homophobic, racist, or militaristic? Facilitator: **Amy Baldwin**. Sponsored by the HUUmanists. ●

## Reading "The Five Gospels" Along With Bob

**Sunday, February 13, 6:00 to 8:00  
pm, Fireside Room**

New participants are always welcome, so whether you've been participating up to this point or not, please come join us in our next session discussing our readings from "The Five Gospels". For this session, we are reading pages 451 to 470 (through the end of the Gospel of John). Join us in the

Fireside Room. Questions? Contact Bob Miess at 408-781-7073 or [Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com](mailto:Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com) ●

## Standing on the Side of Love Demonstration

**Sunday, February 13, 12:30 pm**

Join the first annual group walk to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, and wear your yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" tee shirt. Standing in front of the library, we want our message visible!



Patrick Myers and Dena Dickinson model the teeshirts

After the February 13, 11:00 service, gather at the church to begin the walk. **Tamara Payne-Alex**, our Program Officer, will lead. She wants this event to become a yearly custom at the Valentine's Day themed service.

Wear your yellow tee shirt to church if you have one. If you don't, please join us, too. Bring a snack to eat on the way. Let's let San Jose know that we "Stand on the Side of Love." ●

## Valentines' Bake Sale!

**Sunday, February 13, Hattie Porter Hall**

Delight your sweet tooth and support our Junior High Youth as well as the Third Street Community Center by buying a yummy goodie or two or three during social hour. Come and buy a treat for your sweet! ●

## Interested in meeting new friends?

Circle Suppers offer an opportunity for members of the church community to get to know one another at casual pot luck suppers. Small groups

come together in a member's home to share food and conversation. Some people attend frequently and others come only occasionally.

If you are on the roster you will receive monthly invitations. You can sign up for that month or say "no, thanks." If you sign up, you will be assigned to a host home and asked to bring a dish to share - salad, entree, or dessert. Because these are small groups, the absence of one or two has a large impact. If you sign up for a supper, we hope you will honor that commitment to bring the assigned menu item and to participate in the evening's conversation.

If you want more information about these suppers, look for the table in Hattie Porter Hall during coffee hour on February 6 or send questions to [CircleSuppers@aol.com](mailto:CircleSuppers@aol.com).

If you would like to join the group and receive monthly mailings, send your name(s) and phone number. Ready to attend in February? The dates are Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20. Note which you prefer or if they are equally convenient. The deadline to sign up this month is Monday, February 7. ●

## Learn Improvisational Acting

**Tuesdays in February and March,  
Ramsden Fireside Room**

Theatre improvisation has tremendous power to liberate creativity, inspire confidence and build enthusiasm and playfulness.



Join a nine-week free improv class, 7:30-9:00 pm all Tuesdays in February and March in the Fireside Room. Led by Amy Baldwin. RSVP or ask for more information by emailing [ABaldwinBiz@aol.com](mailto:ABaldwinBiz@aol.com). ●





# CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones  
in the lives of the  
First Unitarian Community

## The all-new all-different Circling Around



by Torchy Hunter

I want to be up to date with you, so here's what we need: birthdays (especially those with zeros), parties of any kind, promotions, college destinations, anything that you diverse groups are doing is interesting to everyone else. "Tell Me Everything" when you see me at church, or e-mail me at [torchy.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:torchy.hunter@gmail.com).

### HISTORY, ANYONE? Somebody has a new job. Cryptic Comments. *Where should you be showing up?*

What a fun visitor we had the day after New Years! **Zsombor Zoltan**, who is none other than the grandson of a former minister of our partner church. The grandfather was minister there from 1912 to 1964, a period that includes two world wars. His own father was a displaced person in Germany until the Detroit UU agreed to sponsor the family to come to the US. He's a retired programmer from Michigan, who had been in Portland visiting his sister. How fun to meet such a connection!

Our resident sprite, **Anand Solest**, hopes for a new year full of surprises and dedication to the community. Kaiser thought so too, and just hired Anand and two others--very part time--with the title *Clinical Musician!* Right up there with make up your own job.

**Tim Blackwood** sent me some cryptic messages, and I'll print more of them next time. You never heard of Tim being cryptic before, right? He had great fun with goddaughters from Philly at Xmas. The 4-year-old is now walking around with their photo. Heart-stealers, those 4-year-olds. He also says he had a grand trip on an airship out of Moffet Field.

Those of you who missed the concert on Sunday with LaDoris Cordell and friends are forever missing an afternoon of amazing beauty. Voices like you almost couldn't imagine. The music was completely accessible and even **Bev Clifford** was blown away. Next time we tell you to go somewhere, do it.

*The Third Street Community Center*, those miracle workers under our very feet, have been augmented by volunteers: **Jen Castro**, along with sons **Alexander** and **Andrew**, **Carolyn Bowman** and daughter **Emma**, **Richard Gould**, **Julia Rodriguez**, **Carole** and **Bob Rostkowski**, **Bob** and **Liz Owen**, along with **Torchy Hunter**. We have been showing up help the kids get through their homework. The one-on-one service we do for these kids is immeasurably helpful, because it's the only time they get it. They need more volunteers. It's only 90 minutes. Please call up Third Street and do this. ●

## Faith Community Turns Out for Arizona Shooting Victims

From The Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice Newsletter

They came from many faith traditions – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist – for one cause: to remember Arizona Congresswoman **Gabrielle Giffords** and the other victims, dead and alive, of last week's Arizona shootings.

And the attendees at the Jan. 13 vigil – sponsored by the Working Partnerships USA and the Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice – heard one unifying message from speakers ranging from Congressman **Mike Honda** to WPUSA Executive Director **Cindy Chavez**: the inflamed American political discourse that contributed to the shootings harms everyone.

Also participating in the vigil, held at the First Unitarian Church in San Jose, were **the Rev. Geoff Rimositis** (Unitarian), **Abbot Shifu Jian Hu**, **Shifu Jian Du** and **Shifu Jian Nian** (Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale), **the Rev. Alan Jones** (Campbell United Methodist), **Jamie McCloud** (Santa Clara City Council), **Rabbi Dana Magat** (Temple Emanu-El), **Imam Alaeddin El-Bakri** (Muslim Community



**The Rev. Rebecca Kuiken**, the Interfaith Council director, at our church for the memorial gathering on January 13.

Center), **Father Jack Treacy** (Santa Clara University), **Steve Preminger** (Working Partnerships USA) and **the Rev. Rebecca Kuiken** of the Interfaith Council. ●





**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José**  
160 North Third Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

### Want to Receive the Newsletter?

To receive the newsletter on paper, fill out the form at this link:  
<http://sanjoseuu.org/form/index.php?sid=2> or call (408) 292-3858

To receive the newsletter via email: [fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org)  
or join the church's Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj/>

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

View this newsletter online in HTML or PDF format at:

<http://www.sanjoseuu.org/WhatsHappening/Newsletters.html>

### READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ?

Contact Rev. Geoff, [grimosis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimosis@sanjoseuu.org)

### For Pastoral Care

**Our community strives to offer compassion, companionship, healing, and joy to all its members.** Our pastoral care coordinators can help you find the listening ear or helping hands that you may need in difficult times. For pastoral care in English, please contact our lay Pastoral Associate Coordinator, **Rev. Donna Lenahan:** (home) 408-354-9024; (cell) 408-204-6565; e-mail: [djenahan@aol.com](mailto:djenahan@aol.com).

### Contacting the Ministers

**Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** and **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** feel honored to serve this congregation, and we cherish your trust! Here is how reach us:  
**Nancy:** Nancy is on Sabbatical until July, 2011. Meanwhile, please contact  
**Geoff:** (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; (cell)408-309-7796; e-mail: [grimosis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimosis@sanjoseuu.org).

### Cuidado Pastoral

**Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros.** Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran necesitar en épocas difíciles. Para el cuidado pastoral en inglés, por favor, comuníquese con nuestra Coordinadora Laica Asociada en Cuidado Pastoral, **la Rev. Donna Lenahan:** (casa) 408-354-9024; (celular) 408-204-6565; e-mail: [djenahan@aol.com](mailto:djenahan@aol.com).

### Contactando a los Ministros

**La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** y **El Rev. Geoff Rimositis** se sienten honrados de servir a esta congregación y apreciamos su confianza! Aquí esta como puede contactarnos:  
**Nancy:** Nancy está en su tiempo sabático hasta junio de 2011. **Geoff:** (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; (cell)408-309-7796; e-mail: [grimosis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimosis@sanjoseuu.org).

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*Thanks for all the work you do and care you put into the newsletter.*

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