



# Our Church Circular

May 4, 2011  
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4 de mayo, 2011

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Season of Freedom – April 25 to June 19 • Temporada de Libertad – 25 de abril al 19 de junio

**10:15 a.m.**

Servicios en español

### Todos los domingos – 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 prelude para el servicio de múltiples idiomas a las 11:00 am. ¡Las palabras son en español; los abrazos hablan universalmente!

### Every Sunday – 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!

**11:00 a.m.**

Services in English

**May 8**

### Nature and the Inter-dependent Web

“Reverence for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, supported by responsible stewardship of a sustainable environment.”

Rev. Tom Owen-Towle in his book *Theology Ablaze: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Unitarian Universalism* shares an expanded version of our seventh principle (above). “Many Unitarian Universalists contend that the seventh principle should be the first principle not the final one, since all our other principles emanate from this foundational commitment to being honorable stewards of the well-being of the cosmos,” writes Rev. Owen-Towle. Let us celebrate together Interdependence Day and Mother’s Day, and reflect on how each of us can be stewards of a blessed creation.

**Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis**

**Worship Associate: Bruce Halen**

### Naturaleza y la Red Interdependiente

“Reverencia por la red interdependiente de toda la existencia del cual somos una parte, apoyada por una administración responsable de un medio ambiente sostenible.”

El Rev. Tom Owen-Towle en su libro *Teología en Llamas: Celebrando el Quincuagésimo Aniversario del Unitarismo Universalista* comparte una versión ampliada de nuestro séptimo principio (arriba) de un compañero UU. “Muchos Unitarios Universalistas sostienen que el séptimo principio debe ser el primer principio, no el último, ya que todos nuestros otros principios emanan de este compromiso fundamental de ser honorables guardianes del bienestar del cosmos,” escribe el Reverendo Owen-Towle. Debemos celebrar juntos el día de la interdependencia y el día de la madre y reflexionar sobre cómo cada uno de nosotros podemos ser guardianes de una creación bendita.

**Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis**

**Worship Associate: Bruce Halen**

## SAVE THE DATES

**May 6, Friday**, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

**May 13-15, Friday-Sunday**, PCD District Assembly, Fremont, CA

**May 20, Friday**, 7:30-9:30 pm  
Chant and Drum Circle, FUCSJ

**May 21, Saturday** Memorial Service for V Kingsley, 1pm FUCSJ

**May 21, Saturday**, 8:00 pm, Opera Bravura Concert, Sanctuary

**May 22, Sunday**, 12:30 pm,  
Congregational Meeting to vote on budget, Sanctuary

**June 4, Saturday**, Service Is Our Prayer Day, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

**June 5, Sunday**, 3:00 pm Santa Cruz World Choir and Orchestra at FUCSJ

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

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

**October 14-16, Friday-Sunday**  
All-Church Retreat at the church ●

### 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)**

## An Invitation from Rev. Nancy and Rev. Geoff:

### Please Add Your Thoughts to Next Year's Worship Themes!

With the coming church year (2011-12), the First Unitarian Church of San José joins a wave of Unitarian Universalist congregations across the United States who are "nurturing their spirits and helping to heal the world" through a program called *Transformational Theme-Based Ministry*. We ministers want to hear your thoughts and questions on the themes for the coming year!

Our monthly themes for 2011-12 give us, across the generations, a shared starting point for talking about what matters most to each of us – our guiding principles, our sources of hope and vitality – with perspectives drawn from a variety of faiths and rooted in Unitarian Universalism. The themes reflect the life questions with which we human beings have wrestled throughout history. They provide resources to help us live with wisdom and integrity every day, through life's best times and through

its toughest challenges. And they help us develop the language and understanding needed to contribute significantly to the conversations about religion, ethics, and values that shape our country, our communities, and our culture.

To contribute your questions and thoughts, please read through the coming year's themes (below) with these questions in mind:

What questions do you have about each theme? How have you experienced or wrestled with this theme in your life? How does this theme relate to what is going on in the world around us? Do you have a story that illustrates this theme?

You might reflect on the three or four themes that speak to you most deeply, or you could write short responses for each one. **Jot down your responses** and e-mail them to Rev. Geoff at [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org). (E-mail is the preferred

method, if possible.) Or you can bring your thoughts to worship on Sunday, May 15, when there will be a brief time during the service for collecting your contributions. We need to have your responses by no later than Sunday, May 22.

May you find inspiration and encouragement in this process of touching your own deepest questions and thereby contributing to the life of our beloved community. Thank you! ●

### Transformational Themes for 2011 – 2012

September: Unity  
October: Death  
November: Gratitude / Wonder  
December: Hope  
January: Creation  
February: Love  
March: Brokenness  
April: Transformation / Resurrection  
May: Transcendence / Awe

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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### May 15

#### Navigating Freedom's Highway

In the struggle for liberation, the multiracial church is the best hope for ending racism in America. Moving forward and keeping on the journey in spite of the many obstacles is cause for celebration and learning. Rev. Kathy Huff, senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Oakland, shares what it means to minister with an intentional practice and mission to welcome diversity and end oppression.

**Worship Leader: the Rev. Kathy Huff**

**Worship Associate: K'Ailsa Rowan**

#### Navegando por la carretera de la libertad

En la lucha por la liberación, la Iglesia multirracial es la mejor esperanza para terminar con el racismo en América. Avanzar y mantenerse en el viaje a pesar de los numerosos obstáculos que son motivo para la celebración y el aprendizaje. La Rev. Kathy Huff, Ministra Decana de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de Oakland, comparte lo que significa su ministerio con una

práctica intencional y la misión de bienvenida a la diversidad y el final de la opresión.

**Dirige: La Rev. Kathy Huff**

**Asociada de Culto: K'Ailsa Rowan**

### May 22

#### Coming-of-Age Sunday

"Roots hold me close. Wings set me free.

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me."

Our yearlong Coming of Age Program for youth in Grades 8-10 comes to its triumphant crescendo as our nine participating youth share their credos, "belief statements," with the congregation. With youth from seven congregations in the South Bay, they have participated in three themed retreats and hosted a fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank with their adult mentors. Add your spirit to the celebration and join us for this important milestone in the life of the church and in these young people's lives. Special guest Reverend Stephen Bigger and members of the Santa Cruz World Choir and Orchestra [www.santacruzworldchoir.com](http://www.santacruzworldchoir.com) will give us a preview of their June 5, 3 pm

concert in our sanctuary.

**Worship Leader: The Rev. Geoff Rimositis**

#### Domingo de la Mayoría de Edad

"Las raíces me mantienen cerca. Las alas me liberan. Espíritu de Vida, ven a mi, ven a mi".

Nuestro programa anual de la mayoría de edad para jóvenes del 8-10 grado llega en su triunfante crescendo mientras nuestros nueve jóvenes participantes comparten sus credos, "declaraciones de creencias," con la congregación. Junto con jóvenes de siete congregaciones del sur de la Bahía, han participado en tres retiros temáticos y organizaron una recaudación de fondos para el Segundo Banco de Alimentos con sus mentores adultos. Añadan su espíritu a la celebración y únase a nosotros en este importante hito en la vida de la Iglesia y en la vida de estos jóvenes. El invitado especial, el Rev. Stephen Bigger, y miembros del Coro y Orquesta del Mundo de Santa Cruz [www.santacruzworldchoir.com](http://www.santacruzworldchoir.com) nos ofrecerán un adelanto de su concierto en nuestro santuario el 5 de junio a las 3 pm.

**Dirige: El Rev. Geoff Rimositis** ●



First Unitarian Church of San José • 160 North Third St., San Jose, CA 95112 • (408) 292-3858 • [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org)

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# As we build the beloved community...

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

# Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad...

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

## *Sabbatical Snapshots (Vol. 2): “Choose Life!”*

One of my favorite passages from the Hebrew Scriptures comes toward the end of the Bible’s longest sermon (the book of Deuteronomy). After preaching for hours, laying out hundreds of rules for the people of Israel, Moses—exhausted, exhilarated—finally blurts out the Cliff Notes version. I hear his summary this way: “Listen up, people! It all boils down to this: you can act and think in ways that bring more love and life to yourself and the folks around you, or you can act and think in ways that are soul-killing and life-destroying for you and others. With every act, every thought—large or small—you can choose life or choose death. For your sake, for the sake of your children, for God’s sake: choose life! Choose life!”

Hear me, UUs! In these days of a gathering storm of socially conservative legislation, please know that this passage is not a slogan for anti-abortion activists; it is not about limiting a woman’s right to make choices about her own body, however difficult those choices may be. That is not the liberal religious reading of Deut. 30:19-20.

Rather, these words—“choose life!”—leapt to my mind when I heard the sad news of the death of our beloved **V Kingsley**, member, parent, and youth advisor in our community. If anyone ever embodied how to CHOOSE LIFE—how to love fiercely, and act courageously, and extend herself toward giving life and hope and joy to those around her, even in the face of her own pain and mortality—it was V. Her works of art, her leadership, her strong opinions, her passionate commitment to Unitarian Universalism, her wide web of friendships—all sprang from the same intention: to cherish life and to demonstrate her love for her family and friends, for her many communities, for this church and our youth. In the last months of V’s life, our community offered life-affirming gifts to V and her family, too. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who cooked and coordinated meals, offered encouraging words, listened and paid visits! V’s wife, Dani Hope, has asked me to come off sabbatical for a day in order to participate in the **Celebration of V’s Life on Saturday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m. in the FUCSJ sanctuary**, and I am deeply grateful to be there. Let us all gather on that day to honor V’s gifts, to support her family, and to be strengthened in our own abilities to choose life.

**My sabbatical continues to offer rich opportunities to practice “choosing life” in thought and action, through mountaintop experiences of blazing intensity, focus, and joy, through inevitable valleys of grief and loss, and through the plain old plateaus of ordinary days. Oh, friends, what a remarkable road to renewal I am traveling!**

**My two weeks of intensive cultural and language immersion**

## *Instantáneas Sabáticas (Vol. 2): “¡Elegir la Vida!”*

Uno de mis pasajes favoritos de las Escrituras Hebreas aparece hacia el final del sermón más largo de la Biblia (el libro del Deuteronomio). Después de predicar durante horas, poniendo cientos de reglas para el pueblo de Israel, Moisés—agotado, entusiasmado—finalmente revela la versión resumida. Escucho su resumen de esta manera: “Escuchen! Todo se reduce a esto: ustedes pueden actuar y pensar en formas que traigan más amor y vida a ustedes mismos y a las personas que les rodean, o pueden actuar y pensar en formas que matan el alma y destruyen la vida de ustedes y de otros. Con cada acto, cada pensamiento—grande o pequeño— pueden elegir la vida o la muerte. Por su bien, por el bien de sus hijos, por amor de Dios: ¡elijan la vida! ¡Elijan la vida!”

¡Escúchenme, UUs! En estos días en que se avecina una tormenta de reuniones de legislaciones sociales conservadoras, por favor, sepan que este pasaje no es un slogan de activistas contra el aborto; no es acerca de limitar los derechos de la mujer a tomar decisiones sobre su propio cuerpo, sin embargo han de ser decisiones difíciles. Esto no es la lectura religiosa liberal de Deut. 30:19-20.

En lugar de eso, estas palabras—“¡elegir la vida!”—saltaron a mi mente cuando escuché la triste noticia de la muerte de nuestra amada **V Kingsley**, miembro, madre de familia y asesora juvenil en nuestra comunidad. Si alguien alguna vez expreso cómo ELEGIR LA VIDA—cómo amar fervientemente, actuar con valentía y extenderse ella misma hacia dar vida, esperanza y alegría a aquellos alrededor de ella, incluso frente a su propio dolor y mortalidad—fue V. Sus obras de arte, su liderazgo, sus fuertes comentarios, su apasionado compromiso con el Unitario Universalismo, su amplia red de amistades—todo surgió a partir de la misma intención: apreciar la vida y demostrar su amor por su familia y amigos, por sus muchas comunidades, por esta iglesia y nuestros jóvenes. En los últimos meses de vida de V, nuestra comunidad le ofreció afirmativos regalos de vida a V y a su familia también. Mi más sincero agradecimiento a todos los que le cocinaron y coordinaron las comidas, le ofrecieron palabras alentadoras, la escucharon y la visitaron! La esposa de V, Dani Hope, me ha pedido que salga del tiempo sabático por un día a fin de participar en la **Celebración de Vida de V el sábado, 21 de mayo, a las 1:00 p.m. en el santuario de FUCSJ**, y estoy profundamente agradecida de estar allí. Reunámonos todos ese día para honrar los regalos de V, para apoyar a su familia y ser fortalecidos en nuestras propias capacidades para elegir la vida.

**Mi tiempo sabático me continúa ofreciendo** ricas oportunidades de practicar “elegir la vida” en pensamiento y acción,



in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, provided one of those mountaintop experiences. I lived and studied among a United Nations of ethnicities, faiths, and ages: from my host Mexican family (laughter-loving Seventh-Day Adventists) to my housemates and fellow Soléxico students—a young doctor-in-training from New Zealand (a nondenominational Christian seeker); a retired and recently



Dai (Brazil), Diane (Canada), and Rev. Nancy (USA) with their final class project: practicing “imperative” conjugations with an ad for our school!

widowed French Canadian (an adventurous Catholic); two young Turkish-Swiss women (Muslims who love to party); and two Brazilian women whose spirituality ranges from the Dalai Lama to agnosticism and more. Imagine the conversations around the dinner table and in the classroom! We puzzled over issues of justice and religion, family, politics, and soccer. I was blown away by the courage of folks who arrived with not a word of Spanish, yet plunged into the small classes and wide-ranging social life, and left Playa weeks later, able to converse. I loved discovering my own balance of action and reflection—the thrill of learning, the exploration of Mayan ruins and cenotes, the chance to swim with huge tortoises and bright-hued fish, the long hours lounging with books at the beach, the gentle greetings—“¡Hola! ¡Buen día!”—among strangers on the street, in the shops. Even through the inevitable discomfort and unfamiliarity, I could choose each day to turn my thoughts and actions in the direction of self-care and creative engagement. The pulse of life beat strong. Singing “Fuente de Amor”/“Spirit of Life” for my teachers and housemates, complete with the gestures that embody the words, I watched my new friends light up with joy and recognition, across all our diverse languages of faith. I realized: So this is what it feels like to be an “ambassador” of our faith: organic, inclusive, impactful, good!

**UUA Moderator Gini Courter, minister Rev. Wendy von Zirpolo, and I** are working with the administrators at Soléxico to create an affordable short-term program that would help prepare Unitarian Universalists for the Justice General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, in June 2012—and for life in our multicultural communities, too. Would some of you like to return with me to Playa del Carmen for a week or so next winter? Visit [www.solexico.com](http://www.solexico.com) for an introduction to the school.

With mountaintop experiences, we often wish we could linger in that territory of intense insight, but in truth we are called to come down off the mountain, back to the valleys and plateaus of our lives—bringing with us the new ways of being we have learned in the heights. Back on the plateau, I now seek out those life-giving elements of balance and of challenge that I found in Mexico. Back on

a través remarcables experiencias de intensidad resplandeciente, enfoque y alegría, a través de valles inevitables de dolor y pérdida y de las viejas mesetas de los días normales. ¡Ay, amigos, qué notable camino de renovación estoy recorriendo!

**Mis dos semanas de intensiva inmersión cultural y lingüística** en Playa del Carmen, México, me proporcionaron una de esas experiencias cumbre. Viví y estudié entre una ONU de etnias, religiones y edades: desde mi anfitriona familia mexicana (adventistas del séptimo día amantes de la risa) a mis compañeros de casa y mis compañeros de Soléxico, un joven médico en formación de Nueva Zelanda (un buscador cristiano sin denominación); un francés canadiense jubilado y recientemente viudo (un católico aventurero); dos jóvenes turco suizas (musulmanas que les gusta la fiesta); y dos mujeres brasileñas cuya espiritualidad oscila entre el Dalai Lama y el agnosticismo y más.

¡Imaginen las conversaciones alrededor de la mesa y en el aula! Nos quedamos perplejos en cuestiones de justicia y religión, la familia, la política y el fútbol. Yo estaba anonadada por la valentía de la gente que llegó sin una palabra de español, aunque sumergidos en clases pequeñas y amplia vida social y que dejaron Playa semanas más tarde, siendo capaces de conversar. Me encantó descubrir mi equilibrio de acción y reflexión—la emoción del aprendizaje, la exploración de las ruinas mayas y de los cenotes, la oportunidad de nadar con enormes tortugas y peces de diversos matices brillantes, las largas horas reposando con los libros en la playa—los saludos suaves—“Hola! ¡Buen día!”—entre extraños en la calle, en las tiendas. Incluso a través de la inevitable incomodidad y falta de familiaridad, pude elegir cada día virar mis pensamientos y acciones en la dirección de autocuidado y compromiso creativo. El pulso de la vida golpea fuerte. Cantando “Fuente de Amor”/“Spirit of Life” para mis profesores y compañeros de casa, complementados con los gestos que materializan las palabras, vi a mis nuevos amigos iluminarse de alegría y reconocimiento, a través de todos nuestros diversos idiomas de fe. Me di cuenta: Esto es lo que se siente al ser una “Embajadora” de nuestra fe: ¡orgánica, incluyente, impactante, buena!

**La moderadora UUA, Gini Courter, la Ministra Rev. Wendy von Zirpolo y yo** estamos trabajando con los administradores de Soléxico para crear un programa accesible a corto plazo que ayudaría a preparar Unitarios Universalistas de Justicia de la Asamblea General en Phoenix, Arizona, en junio de 2012—y de por vida en nuestras comunidades multiculturales, también. ¿Algunos de ustedes quisieran volver conmigo a Playa del Carmen por una semana más o menos el próximo invierno? Visiten [www.solexico.com](http://www.solexico.com) para una introducción de la escuela.

Con experiencias cumbre, nosotros a menudo deseamos poder persistir en ese territorio de intensa perspicacia, pero en realidad estamos llamados a bajar de la montaña, de vuelta a los valles y a las mesetas de nuestras vidas— trayendo con nosotros las nuevas formas de ser que hemos aprendido en las alturas. De regreso a la meseta, busco ahora esos elementos dadores de vida, de equilibrio y desafío que encontré en México. De regreso a la meseta, estoy abierta cada día a servir como una embajadora Unitaria Universalista,



the plateau, I am open each day to serving as a Unitarian Universalist ambassador, simply through my way of being in the world.

My last two months of sabbatical include more travel, more conferences, more connections with new and old friends. As I turn toward home, I am getting ready for our pilgrimage to Hungary and Romania in July, and I am focusing on practical preparation for our years to come at the First Unitarian Church of San José. Please see the invitation to contribute to worship themes for the coming year, elsewhere in this newsletter. And will I see some of you at General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina, in June?

**Finally, my beloved community, I am bursting with curiosity: How is it with your soul?** Does the idea of being a UU ambassador intrigue you, shock you, entice you, worry you? How are you already embodying that Spirit of Life, that “Fuente de Amor”—the source, the fountain of Love? What choices are you making, every day, toward life or toward death? Who inspires you to live more abundantly, and how can you follow their example today?

“Listen up, people!” Moses came down from the mountaintop to say. “It’s up to you! For your sake, for the sake of your children, for God’s sake: choose life!”

With great warmth and affection,

Nancy

## 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 Yahoo Group For Social Justice News & Events at: [sjsju-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sjsju-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).



by John Burk, POC Social Justice Representative

## Sunday, May 8 Special Collection

The Special Collection for May 8th will go towards People Acting in Community Together (PACT).

## Inspiring Book Study Group

**First and third Sundays, 1:00 pm**

All are welcome to discuss the book *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History Is Restoring Grace, Justice, and Beauty to the World* by **Paul Hawken**. A leading environmentalist started noticing that many working on the most salient issues of the day were part of a larger social movement not bound by ideology. As ecologists and biologists know, systems achieve stability and health through diversity. So no matter what your interests are, this is the group for you! Used copies of the book are available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) at \$3.73 – Look Inside and Google Books Preview are available.

simplemente a través de mi manera de ser en el mundo.

Los dos últimos dos meses de mi tiempo sabático, incluyen más viajes, más conferencias, más conexiones con nuevos y viejos amigos. Mientras volteo hacia casa, me estoy preparando para nuestra peregrinación a Hungría y Rumanía en julio, y me enfoco en una preparación práctica para los próximos años en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José. Por favor, vean la invitación para contribuir con los temas de culto para el próximo año en otras partes de este boletín. ¿Y verá a algunos de ustedes en la Asamblea General en Charlotte, Carolina del Norte, en junio?

**Por último, mí querida comunidad, me llena de curiosidad saber: ¿cómo esta su alma?** ¿Hacerse la idea de ser un embajador UU les intriga, les sobresalta, les atrae, les preocupa? ¿Cómo están ya expresando ese Espíritu de Vida, esa “Fuente de Amor”—la fuente, la fuente del Amor? ¿Qué elecciones están haciendo, cada día, hacia la vida o hacia la muerte? ¿Quién les inspira a vivir más abundante, y cómo pueden seguir su ejemplo hoy?

“Escuchen, gente!” Moisés bajó de la cima de la montaña para decir. “Todo depende de ustedes! Por su bien, por el bien de sus hijos, por amor de Dios: elijan la vida!”

Con gran afecto y calidez,

Nancy

*A Sabbatical Scrapbook* by the Sabbatical Steering Committee (Frank Bosche, Norma Alicia Lopez, Roberto Padilla, Geoff Rimositis, Patrick Smiley, Claire Wagner, Marla Scharf)

Rev. Nancy’s Sabbatical has been a time of growth and Rchange for all of us, both as individuals and as a congregation. It’s not easy to step back into the “moving stream,” that is, the lives of 300 or so people, but we’ve devised a way to help Nancy catch up on our news. We’re going to create a return-from-sabbatical scrapbook with your answers to these questions:

What is one thing you would like Nancy to know about your life during the Sabbatical months (starting December 25)? Can you lift up one thing that has happened in our church community during the Sabbatical months that is really cool, meaningful, important, or inspiring?

Write your answers on a 4 x 6 card or piece of paper and give it to **Claire Wagner**, or send an email to [cwagner21@gmail.com](mailto:cwagner21@gmail.com). (If you can’t find Claire to receive your written response, please give it to Rev. Geoff.) If you or your children prefer to draw a picture, we can scan that, too. We’d love to hear from everyone. All answers will be kept confidential by Rev. Nancy and our committee.

The deadline for submissions is June 1. We’ll compile your thoughts into a booklet for Nancy to read as she transitions back into ministry to our beloved community. We look forward to hearing from each and every one of you!



# 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 Preschool (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 Fifth Grades

Music and Yoga with leaders Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth, May 8 and 15.

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

This group will combine their regular program and preparation for Coming of Age on May 22. 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. Youth Group Advisors: Terra Woods-Taylor and Cordelia Willis

If you are interested in participating in any of the children, 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

### May 7

Saturday, Coming of Age Youth/Family Meeting, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

### May 8

Pre-K-First Grade: Music and Yoga with Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth

Second-Fourth Grades: Music and Yoga with Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth

Fifth Grade: Music & Yoga with Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth

Sixth-Eighth Grades: Making music with Sally Cooperrider

Ninth-Twelfth Grades: Regular meeting, 11:30-12:30

### May 15

Pre-K-First Grade: Music and Yoga with Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth

Second-Fourth Grades: Music and Yoga with Sally Cooperrider and Shirley Worth

Fifth grade: Last Class—Wrap-up and Celebration!

Sixth-Eighth grades: Last Class of the Year: Music with Sally Cooperrider and a party!

Ninth-Twelfth grades: Regular meeting 11:30-12:30

Coming of Age: Mentors and Youth meet 12:45-2:00 pm - Credo Writing

### May 21

Saturday, Coming of Age Rehearsal, 10:00 am-noon, Sanctuary

### May 21

Saturday, 1:00 pm, Celebration of V Kingsley's Life, Sanctuary

### May 22

**Sunday, no classes – Coming of Age Sunday – 5:00-8:00 pm, Coming of Age Celebration Dinner**

*Massages raise funds for pilgrimage!*

Ken McCain of Renovo Integrative Massage & Renewal in Los Altos is offering an introductory discount to FUCSJ members and attendees, and is donating profits to the FUCSJ pilgrimage scholarship fund. Contact Ken at (408) 368-1590 or [mccain4@hotmail.com](mailto:mccain4@hotmail.com)

*Thank You,  
Greg Muller!*

We celebrate Greg Muller's new job in Bakersfield as an Emergency Responder but mourn that he will be moving away from us. Greg, who grew up in the church, came back as a young adult and has served as one of our senior high advisors. Thanks, Greg, for your service. You will be sorely missed. We wish you all the best in your new position. ●

## Pastoral Care in the Church

If you have a pastoral care need you are always welcome to contact the Reverend Geoff



Rimositis, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org) or 408-309-7796, who serves as lead minister for pastoral care.

Also, you can always contact any of our trained pastoral care associates if you have a pastoral need:

Kelly Burnett, [kelly@kellybur.com](mailto:kelly@kellybur.com)

Dena Dickinson, [dickiden@comcast.net](mailto:dickiden@comcast.net)

Deb Fenzel-Alexander, [sdsalex@comcast.net](mailto:sdsalex@comcast.net)

Carol Greene, [seagreene1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seagreene1@sbcglobal.net)

Joyce Miller, [j408miller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j408miller@sbcglobal.net)

Ellie Pedraza, [elliepedraza@yahoo.com](mailto:elliepedraza@yahoo.com)

Shirley Worth, [shirley@worth.org](mailto:shirley@worth.org)

Shirley Worth coordinates the Caring Hands Volunteers, who provide food, rides or other assistance to members when needed. If you would like to be a part of the church's Caring Hands Network please email Shirley at [shirley@worth.org](mailto:shirley@worth.org).

And you are always welcome to stop by the Pastoral Care Table after church in Hattie Porter Hall and light a candle for yourself or someone who is your heart that day. The Pastoral Associate volunteer at the table is there to talk, listen, meditate or pray with you. ●



# Upcoming Events

## *All Hands on Deck for the Budget Process*

**Budget hearings May 8 and May 15**

**Congregational meeting on May 22**

Our church moves forward with all of us involved. To be a vibrant faith community, members must contribute, and then, in accordance with our Unitarian Universalist fifth principle that calls for “the use of democratic process within our congregations,” we together agree on how to spend our money. The Program and Operations Council is working to create a budget that the Board of Directors can approve. This budget will be distributed to all members via e-mail. You are urged to attend one of the budget hearings after Sunday worship on May 8 and May 15. These meetings will allow extensive question and answers.

**We need every member to attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 22** after the 11:00 am worship and a light lunch. At this meeting we will vote on our budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. We will also be recognizing some outstanding volunteers with awards. ●

## *Circle Suppers*

**Saturday/Sunday evenings, monthly**

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. Hopefully, you will meet someone new each time you come to a Circle Supper. 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 or send questions to [CircleSuppers@aol.com](mailto:CircleSuppers@aol.com). If you would like to join the group and receive monthly emails, send your name(s) and phone number. Ready to attend in May? The dates are Saturday, 5/21 and Sunday, 5/22. Tell me which you prefer or if they are equally convenient. The deadline to sign up this month is Monday, May 9. ●

## *Women's Alliance*

**Thursday, May 12 (not 5), 7:15 pm**

The Women's Alliance will meet on the second Thursday in May (NOTE DATE CHANGE) in the Fireside Room from 7:15 to 9:15pm. We will be planning our lay-led service this summer and discussing plans for next fall's meetings. This will be our last meeting until fall. All are welcome. Contact **Nancy Coleman** at 408 985 5778 or [nbcoleman@gmail.com](mailto:nbcoleman@gmail.com) for further information. ●

## *UU hikers and friends*

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, May 4** – Huddart County Park, 7 miles, moderate. We will do the longer hike up to Skyline. Meet at PageMill/280 at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, May 7** – Sunol Regional Park, McGuire Peaks trail, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capital and Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

**Wednesday, May 11** – Montebello/Grizzly Flat

## *HUUMANIST Group Meeting*

**Monday, May 16, 7:00-8:30 pm**

*Fundamentalism's Relation to the Liberalization of Life in the Modern Era* is **Professor Jason Smick's** topic for the HUUMANIST Group's May 16 meeting. Our guest is a lecturer in religious studies at Santa Clara University and is on the board of directors of the Humanist Community of Silicon Valley. See <http://www.scu.edu/cas/religiousstudies/smick.cfm> for more background. He has agreed to meet with us for dinner at Flames across from MLK Jr. Library at 5:30 pm. As usual the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room. Please RSVP to [tjb@timblackwood.com](mailto:tjb@timblackwood.com) if you will attend one or both activities. ●

## *New Small Group Ministry Sessions starting*

**Sunday, May 8, 3:15 pm**

A new small group is starting from the beginning sessions. There is a limited number of seats so please RSVP to **John Burk** at [mus6@aceweb.com](mailto:mus6@aceweb.com) or 259-3781. ●

car shuttle hike, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at the US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, May 14** – Sierra Azule, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am.

**Wednesday, May 18** – Huddart County Park, 7 miles. This is the longer hike up to Skyline. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, May 21** – Big Basin Berry Falls hike, 11 miles, moderate. This is a long and beautiful hike. It is not too hard, just long. Plan to get back around 4:00 pm. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:00 am.

**Wednesday, May 25** – Windy Hill, 7 miles, moderate. This is the longer hike. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, May 28** – Wunderlich County Park, 10 miles, moderate. I plan to do the long hike up to Skyline, but if anyone wants to do shorter hike we can adjust car pooling to accommodate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am. ●



## District Assembly Almost Here!

### May 13-15 Fremont

Come join 400 UU's from across the Pacific Central District as we celebrate the consolidation of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America into our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations! The Rev. **Mark Morrison-Reed** and the Rev. **William Schulz** will be with us as our featured speakers as we consider what is transient and what is permanent in today's Unitarian Universalism.

Regular Registration opens April 30: \$95.00!

Later Registration, Deadline May 9: \$105.00!

Note that on Sunday, May 15 (9:00 am), the UU Legislative Ministry will present "Immigration and Marriage Equality - Supporting All Families" with **Rodrigo Garcia, Judy Rickard, and Rev. Lindi Ramsden**.

For more information, please contact District Administrator **Chuck Rosene** at: (510) 530-1437 or [pcd@pcd-uua.org](mailto:pcd@pcd-uua.org), or see the District Assembly website at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2011/index.htm>. ●

## UU Church of Palo Alto Singles Group Event

### May 20, 7:00 pm, Palo Alto

Join our growing group for a potluck dinner and a movie on Friday, May 20, in the Palo Alto UU Church Fireside Room at 7:00 pm. BYOB, a dish to share and serving utensil, and your own plate/silverware/glass. Please also bring a list of your dish's ingredients for people with sensitivities.

Our "Fireside Theater" has a nice, big, 40-inch TV screen. We will be showing the outstanding 1935 Marx Brothers comedy *A Night at the Opera*.

Bring your friends, whether they're UUs or not. Childcare is available



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with one week's notice -- please email [childcare@uucpa.org](mailto:childcare@uucpa.org) to reserve. If you plan to come on May 20, please send email to [singles@uucpa.org](mailto:singles@uucpa.org) to let us know what type of dish you're bringing.

You can sign up for the UUCPA Singles Group mailing list at: <http://lists.uucpa.org/mailman/listinfo/singles>. ●

## Love, Lust, Revenge, and Death Saturday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

One of the most fun events our church will host this year through our venue rental program will



be an opera concert (with costumes and supertitles!) **Opera Bravura** presents opera, musical theatre, and music of the "Golden Age of Hollywood," all at a very affordable cost. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained by calling (408) 673-7228 or at their website: <http://www.operabravura.org>. ●

## Memorial Service for V Kingsley

### Saturday, May 21, 1:00 pm

A memorial service for V Kingsley will be held Saturday, May 21 at 1:00 pm at First Unitarian Church of San Jose. In lieu of flowers, V asked for contributions to her son Parker's College Fund (see <http://tinyurl.com/V-Kingsley>). Cards and correspondence can be sent to Dani Hope at 5495 Jackson Way, Felton, CA 95018. ●



## Music Box Upcoming Music Events at FUCSJ

Don't miss these quality performances that feed the restless soul and support the music programs of our church!

- ◆ **Alegria Singers church choir rehearsals** at 7:30 pm each Wednesday. All voices are welcome from shy beginners to experienced singers.
- ◆ Friday, May 6: **Dances of Universal Peace** at 8:00 pm on (first Friday of every month)
- ◆ Thursday, May 19 **Candlelight Labyrinth Walk with live music** at 6:30 pm (third Thursday of each month)

In addition, join us for the following musical events:

- ◆ Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm, **Love, Lust, Revenge & Death – An Opera Concert in Costume presented by Opera Bravura** (See story at left)
- ◆ Sunday June 5, 3:00 pm at FUCSJ, **Lights on the Horizon: The Santa Cruz World Choir and Orchestra** – Join us for this spirited musical performance by a fun, multi-generational vocal group and orchestra that entertain and energize Northern California audiences. The ensemble will perform ancient to modern music from India, Ireland, Mongolia, Republic of Georgia, Scandinavia, and compositions by Director Stephen Bigger. This is a great opportunity to enjoy an eclectic sampling of world music performed by bright lights of the Santa Cruz music scene. Suggested \$5-\$15 donation to support music at FUCSJ. Please RSVP to [pattyjeaton@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjeaton@gmail.com).
- ◆ Friday, May 20, 7:30-9:30 pm, **Rhythm and Rhyme: Getting into the Groove: a chant/drum circle**. Join us for a chant and drum circle hosted by Anand Solest. All singers and drummers are welcome. Suggested \$5-\$15 donation to support music at FUCSJ. Please RSVP to [2solest@gmail.com](mailto:2solest@gmail.com).
- ◆ **Sacred Singing for Vocal Development:** Anand is offering a series of classes 7:45-9 pm on Monday nights on May 2, 16, June 13 and 20. Fees for the series of four classes are \$30-60 on a sliding scale. Registration required.  
Contact Anand Solest at [2solest@gmail.com](mailto:2solest@gmail.com) or 510-796-5529 for more information on these events or to share information on other music events at FUCSJ. ●



# CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones  
in the lives of the  
First Unitarian Community

## The all-new all-different Circling Around

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 [torchyhunter@gmail.com](mailto:torchyhunter@gmail.com).



by Torchy Hunter

A huge number of infants (our kids have always been advanced) is graduating. **PARTIES IN HPH.** Where's Frank? **Trips to the Hinterland to observe the Hinters.** Shameless Commerce Announcements!

Usually your earnest reporter has to badger people in HPH for news. Not Easter Sunday. People did not exactly line up but even Carol Low, who has always told me she doesn't know anything new, old, or otherwise, excitedly came to me and said, "Torchy I have news!" Nearly dropped my donut hole. **Tommy Low** has graduated from DigiPen Institute of Technology, with a degree in Real Time Interactive Simulation, (video game design and development), and immediately got a job at Nintendo, or gamer heaven. I am so old that I remember when people got degrees in English, History, and Math.

**Audrey Saunders** is getting a Masters in Statistics at CSU East Bay (Cal State Hayward). I examined her for signs of insanity or demonic possession, which she seems to lack, but I was offered a clue when she said she is living in a townhouse in Fremont where her (female) roommate leaves science experiments in the sink (one involving a liver), while she uses a Magic Marker and writes proofs all over their windows. Instead of curtains?

**Shirley Worth's** stepdaughter is scheduled to graduate from Western Kentucky in Psychology in December, and she'll be on to grad school. **Emma Strong**, daughter of our congregant **Rob Strong**, is graduating from Smith College in Massachusetts in May, an Economics major, and has been accepted to the Santa Clara University School of Law.

**Tamara and Michael Payne-Alex's** daughter **Kalaya** is having her sixteenth birthday party in a familiar

place: Hattie Porter Hall! My beloved **Ervin Barrios** has finally come home from San Francisco, which drove him out with cold weather. **Rick Merritt** and **Tracy Avent** and a friend are going to be playing music on Saturday, May 7, from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Campbell Coffee Roasting Co. Go see them!

While on a trip visiting Santa Fe and Albuquerque, **Frank Farris** attended a UU service in Boulder, where he met **Sam Fenzel-Alexander** helping in the service. Frank is taking a leave of absence from Santa Clara to go teach at Carleton College in (o god) Minnesota. Said he'll teach geometry and symmetry (a real subject?). If you want to see examples of Franks' creativity in symmetry, go to [www.spoonflower.com/frankfarris](http://www.spoonflower.com/frankfarris). There you can see his designs that are used to print fabric!

Instead of going to Italy for archaeology this year, we're making a much more glamorous choice: Springfield, MO. Hey, it's **Brad Pitt's** home town, the gateway to Branson and the Ozarks! It is also where my son holds my grandchildren hostage and the eldest is graduating from high

school. College choice imminent, but not one of the big name schools, maybe because they don't give much importance to little Christian schools in Springfield. Oh, well. But we get to see them. And the natives.

My flower making business is appearing to have success. They are currently being retailed in all the shops of Alta, and those of Mollie B in Berkeley, where you can pay retail prices for them, but from me you pay wholesale.

Correction: one of the editors (surely not me) got **Barbara Derbyshire's** cell phone number wrong in the last issue. Here's what she says about that: "My cell is 355-4131, not 335 as written in your blurb. However, I'd always much rather deal with email than any phone so the preferred suggestion would be to write me at [CircleSuppers@aol.com](mailto:CircleSuppers@aol.com)." So do you have that, now? Correct her cell number but don't call her.

White Light Corner: **Gene Martin** has come through all the nastiness and is recovering at home. Me (**Torchy**), I've lost two 45-year friends in the last six weeks. ●

### Spring Scrip Tips!

**Tip No. 1** — Two South Bay Safeway stores sell gas: one in Campbell and one in Morgan Hill. In those areas, you can use your Safeway scrip for food, *and* the cheapest gas in the Bay Area and the church will receive a 4% rebate. (Contact **Monty Low** to find out how to receive a 10 cent per gallon discount on Safeway gas.)

**Tip No. 2** — Consider giving scrip to your favorite graduate! We have scrip for department stores, sports stores, online stores and more. For a list of merchants and order forms you can go to the church website: [tinyurl.com/fucsjscrip](http://tinyurl.com/fucsjscrip).

Profit from scrip sales will be split, 25% to the church general operating fund and 75% to the 2011 partner church pilgrimage. For more information, contact: **Crystal Isola**, [cisola@genesishphoto.com](mailto:cisola@genesishphoto.com), (408) 244-52 ●





## 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:

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or join the church's Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj/>

Next issue deadline:

3:00 pm Wednesday May 11, 2011

Next issue assembly:

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Next issue mailing:

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

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[WhatsHappening/Newsletters.html](http://www.sanjoseuu.org/WhatsHappening/Newsletters.html)

### 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. Please contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

### 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** is on Sabbatical until July, 2011. Meanwhile, please contact **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; (cell)408-309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@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, por favor, comuníquese con el Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

### 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** 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: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

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

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

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

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