

Our Church Circular

First Unitarian Church of San Jose * October 19, 2011 * 19 octubre 2011
160 N. Third Street, San José, CA 95112 * (408) 292-3858 * sanjoseuu.com

October theme: Death ♦ Tema de octubre: La muerte



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

10:15 a.m.
Servicios en español

Todos los domingos – Alabanzas en Español

Media Hora de Reunión del Pequeño Grupo del Ministerio Multicultural. Venga a unirse a nosotros para este servicio simple de oración-meditación de media hora (sin sermón) a las 10:15 a.m. en una mezcla de inglés y español en la sala Fireside Ramsden. Accesible e incluyente para todos, este servicio ofrece tiempo para cantar, meditar y reflexionar en un pequeño grupo en preparación para el servicio de las 11:00 am.

Every Sunday – Alabanzas (Spanish Lauds)

A half-hour multicultural Small Group Ministry gathering. Come join us for this simple prayer-meditation service (without sermon) held in a mixture of English and Spanish in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Accessible and welcoming to all, this service provides time to sing, meditate, and reflect in a small group in preparation for the service at 11:00 am.

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 l.owen@data-time.com or Bob Miess at bob@floweringenterprises.com

11:00 a.m.
Services in English

October 23 ♦ 23 de octubre

The Dark Night of the Soul: How We Live Through Dark Nights and Short Days

Whether it's the season's changing balance of light and dark, the pressures of the holidays, or a deeper ongoing depression, the soul may face its own "death" at this time of year. How can we best companion each other through the "dark night of the soul"?

Worship Leader: The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associates: Frank Bosche and Judy Ross

La Oscura Noche del Alma: Cómo Vivimos a Través de las Oscuras Noches y los Días Cortos

Ya sea la temporada de cambiar el equilibrio de luz y oscuridad, las presiones de los días festivos o una profunda depresión continua, el alma puede enfrentarse a su propia "muerte" en esta época del año. ¿Cómo podemos acompañarnos mejor mutuamente a través de la "noche oscura del alma?"

Dirige: La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Frank Bosche y Judy Ross

October 30 ♦ 30 de octubre

Day of the Dead / Día de los Muertos

Celebration Sunday: Intergenerational Service!

Please bring photos, mementos, or flowers in honor of your loved ones (people or pets) who have died, and place them on our colorful altar before the service. Children, youth, and adults share brief vivid memories; then we all have a chance to bring that person or pet to life by sharing with a neighbor. What did your loved one like to eat, to wear? What did they look like? What's your favorite memory of a special time with this person or pet? We'll conclude by gathering into the heart of the labyrinth all who have lost a beloved in the last three years and singing our comfort to them. Come celebrate this FUCSJ High Holy Day with us! Translation into Spanish available. **If you can join the team creating the altar, please contact Colleen Cabot ASAP: colleencabot@earthlink.net.**

Worship Leaders: The Revs. Nancy Palmer Jones and. Geoff Rimosis

Worship Associate: Ervin Barrios

Día de la Muertes

Por favor traigan fotos, recuerdos o flores en honor de sus seres queridos (personas o mascotas) que han muerto y colóquelos en nuestro colorido altar antes el servicio. Niños, jóvenes y adultos compartan breves recuerdos vívidos; entonces todos tenemos una oportunidad para traer a esa persona

Save These Dates!

- ♦ **October 20, Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm**, Spiritual Realization and Fulfilled Living Class, Sanctuary
- ♦ **October 29, Saturday, 9:30 am-4:00 pm**, Immigration as a Moral Issue, Mt. Diablo UU Church
- ♦ **October 30, Sunday, 1:00-3:00 pm**, Presentation: The Rights of Mother Earth, Ramsden Fireside Room
- ♦ **November 3, Thursday, 11:30 am-1:30 pm**, PACT fundraiser luncheon, Wyndam Hotel, San Jose
- ♦ **November 3, Thursday, 7:15 pm**, Women's Alliance Meeting, Ramsden Fireside Room
- ♦ **November 6, Sunday, 9:00-10:30 am**, School for Compassion class with Rev. Geoff, downstairs classrooms
- ♦ **November 6, Sunday, 10:00-11:50 am**, First Sunday Forum, Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ **November 6, Sunday, 12:45-2:00 pm**, PACT report and discussion, Ramsden Fireside Room
- ♦ **November 6, Sunday, 2:00-4:30 pm**, Jane Austen Dances, Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ **November 12, Saturday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm** Service is Our Prayer All Church Work Party, at church
- ♦ **November 13, 1:00-2:30 pm, Sunday**, School for Compassion class with Rev. Nancy, Ramsden Fireside Room
- ♦ **November 13, Sunday, 2:45-4:45 pm**, Book Discussion Group: *From Jesus to Christianity* with Bob Miess, Ramsden Fireside Room
- ♦ **November 19, Saturday, 4:30 pm**, New and improved Service Auction and Gift Faire ●

Lifespan Faith Development

Programs for all ages

Children and youth attend the first part of the service at 11:00 am, and then are sung out to their morning program. Classes last until 12:30 pm. Parents please pick up your children in the nursery and in the PreK-1 class. All other students will be dismissed to rejoin their parents in Hattie Porter Hall.

Nursery: Birth through three years

Location: Lower Level Nursery
Childcare Staff: Maria Elena Olvera, and Sandra Sotelo

PreK-Grade 1: Love Surrounds Us

This program explores UU principles in the context of beloved community including family/home, school and neighborhood. (lower level, room 4)
Lead Teacher: Gautam Biswas, Assistant: Rodrigo Machuca

Grades 2-5: Faithful Journeys

Children explore how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions. (lower level, rooms 5-6)

Teachers: Mike Birenbach, Jen Birenbach, Sally Cooperrider, Melinda Hoppe, Rodrigo Machuca, Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Shirley Worth, Doug Young

Grades 6-8: Heeding the Call

Explores oppression in our society and promotes the understanding of values that counteract the marginalization of others. (Rooms 2-3, lower level)

Teachers: Bill Bowman, Carolyn Bowman, Jenn Castro, Crystal Isola, Mary Jeffries, Mina Kelly, Cheri Machuca, Susan Miller, Sundar Mudapalli, Ines Zapiola

If you are interested in participating in any of the children, youth or adult classes or activities please contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org

Grades 9-12: A Chorus of Faiths

Each Sunday youth address issues of concern to their lives and spirituality through discussions facilitated by adult advisors.

Senior High Advisors: Rick Morris, Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Cordelia Willis, Terra Wood-Taylor.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

OWL: Grades seven-nine

- ◆ Required Parent Meeting, Sunday, November 13, 2:00-4:00 pm
- ◆ Classes run January 5 through May 6, 2012

OWL: Grades ten-twelve

- ◆ October 9 through December 18, 2:00-4:00 pm, Youth Room

Facilitators: Michealle Havenhill, Rev. Jack Michael, (First Congregational Church of San Jose), Rev. Geoff Rimositis

School for Compassion November 2011 through March 2012

We will engage in spiritual practice and support for one another in living a compassionate life that begins with compassion for oneself and then moves that compassion out into the world. Resources for personal learning and transformation include Karen Armstrong's book *The Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and Frederic and Mary Brussat's *Spiritual Literacy*.

The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and the Rev. Geoff Rimositis will be offering the same class at two different time slots once a month.

Rev. Geoff's class will be on the first Sundays of the month from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the lower level classrooms beginning November 6.

Rev. Nancy will be offering the class on the second Sundays of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Ramsden Fireside Room beginning November 13.

If you can't make one of the times

offered, you can join the other class for that session.

Between classes there will be an online community practice for sharing and support that will be moderated by Rev. Nancy and Rev. Geoff. RSVP with Rev. Geoff for both time slots at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org. ●

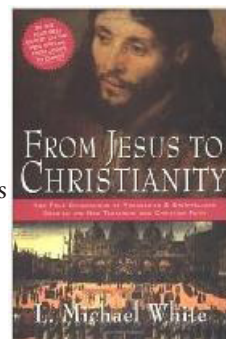
New Book Discussion Group: From Jesus to Christianity

October 9 and second Sunday each month, 2 - 4 pm, Fireside Room

In his book *From Jesus to Christianity: How Four Generations of Visionaries and Storytellers Created the New Testament and Christian Faith*, L.

Michael White

explains how the early Christian storytellers responded to the events of their times and how those responses shaped what we now know as the Christian Testament and



the Christian Faith. Providing multiple viewpoints to consider along the way, he provides opportunities for each of us to explore, form our own understandings, and place the stories into the context of our own faith journey. This discussion group will take advantage of those opportunities. Questions? Contact **Bob Miess**, Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com, 408-781-7073. ●

Learn the Spanish Language with Ervin Wednesday, October 19, 7 - 8pm, Billy de Frank Community Center

Beginners Spanish lessons with Ervin Barrios as instructor. A 10 week class/\$15 per session. For more information, contact Ervin at 415-525-0103 or email ervin.barrios@att.net ●

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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vívidos; entonces todos tenemos una oportunidad para traer a esa persona o mascota a la vida para compartir con un vecino. ¿Qué le gustaba a su ser querido para comer, vestir? ¿Como se miraba? ¿Cuál es su recuerdo favorito de un tiempo especial con esta persona o mascota? Concluiremos reuniéndonos en el corazón del laberinto todos los que han perdido a un ser un amado en los últimos tres años y cantando nuestra consuelo para ellos. Venga a celebrar este día festivo importante de la FUCSJ con nosotros! Traducción al español disponible. **Si puede unirse al equipo para crear el altar, póngase en contacto con Colleen Cabot ASAP: colleencabot@earthlink.net.**

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociado de Culto: Ervin Barrios

November Theme: gratitude/wonder

Tema de noviembre: gratitude/maravilla

November 6 ♦ 6 de noviembre

Grateful, Grateful ...

We rediscover gratitude for the sheer fact of being alive in this service of shared reflections. We honor those who serve in our armed forces as Veterans Day approaches, too. What spiritual practices help you to stay connected to gratitude and wonder, in good times and in tough times? This morning, we fill up our spiritual tank!

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Alice Lynch

Agradecido, Agradecido...

Nosotros redescubriremos la gratitud por el puro hecho de estar vivos en este servicio de reflexiones compartidas. Honramos a aquellos que sirven en nuestras fuerzas armadas mientras el día de los veteranos se acerca, también. ¿Qué prácticas espirituales ayudan a mantenerse conectado a la gratitud y maravilla, en los buenos tiempos y en tiempos difíciles?

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociada de Culto: Alice Lynch

October 6 Board Meeting

The Board heard Treasurer Dave Proulx's report. The church finances continue to be in great shape thanks to the vigilance of the Finance Committee and the POC. Tamara Payne-Alex shared her report from the POC, including the enjoyable fund-raiser at Aqui and the fact that the annual congregational survey will be conducted via e-mail soon.

Two motions were approved. The Board affirmed the affiliation of the recently formed San Jose State University Campus UU group with FUCSJ. Also, the Board moved to cosponsor an event with PACT on Sunday, November 6, after church. The event will include a report from PACT and a discussion. All are encouraged to attend.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 pm in the conference room.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Coleman, FUCSJ Board Secretary ●

Thank-You from those we support: InnVision and UUSC

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your gift on September 13, 2011 of \$1,392.81 to support InnVision the Way Home.



Your contribution, along with the support of others like you, allowed InnVision to serve over 29,000 homeless and at-risk individuals this past year, providing housing, food and supportive services at 25 locations.

Our robust partnerships with individuals like you are the cornerstone to our success and will ensure that we can continue to provide a continuum of care to all our clients as we walk with them down the path to self-sufficiency. For more information on other ways to help, visit our website at www.lnnvision.org.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and continued support.

Warm Regards,

Christine Burroughs,

Chief Executive Officer, InnVision

Dear Friends,

Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the special congregational collection gift of \$448.16, which we received on October 3, 2011.



Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to restore and protect our civil liberties, to ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

You can learn more about our work, our courageous program partners, and ways you can become involved in the struggle for human rights at www.uusc.org.

Sincerely,

Constance F. Kane, Ph.D.

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Security Alert

Recent incidents of missing keys, cash and cell phones in the Church building should alert every one of us to be aware of our surroundings, and to keep valuables nearby and secure. Just because we are a church, that doesn't mean we are immune to crime. Be careful out there – and even "in here"!

Partner Trip Report

Deepening our connections

by Monty Low

This summer, 2011, members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose visited our partner church, the Unitarian Church of Homoródszentmárton, Romania. We conducted two trips. On the first trip, July 14 to July 29, there were 14 adults. On the second trip we had 18 high school youth and 10 adults traveling from July 21 to August 4. The trips had approximately the same itineraries offset by one week with a one-night overlap in the village.

The trips started in Budapest, where we did some sightseeing. Here we visited the Budapest Unitarian church and were given an informative talk by elder Leb Betty. In Budapest we were joined by Rev. Orban Erika (Balázs Scholar '06-'07) who guided our trips into Kolozsvár and on to Homoródszentmárton. Rev. Orban, who was a wealth of information, took us to see many historical Unitarian sights in Kolozsvár. We were given presentations by the librarian of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, Kovacs Sandor, and Rev. Rác Norbert of the Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár. On our way to Homoródszentmárton we stopped and visited the village of Mész and met with Rev. Bálint Róbert.

Each of our travel groups then stayed one week in our partner church village of Homoródszentmárton. We were housed in the conference center, which had around 40 beds, a common room, a kitchen, and a dining room. We were also happy to have a washing machine and showers in the conference center.

Our travelers and the villagers together worked on several preservation projects. Trip 1 helped retiling the roof of one church building. Trip 2 took hammers to break the damaged tiles into small pieces to line the labyrinth path. Trip 2 also cleaned out a building recently recovered from the government

and dug out numerous headstones that were disappearing into the ground. It was wonderful to see how hard our teenage youth travelers worked together with the village youth and others during the building and graveyard reconstruction projects during some very hot days.

Many thanks go out to Rev. Szombatfalvi József, Jr. and the members of the Unitarian Church of Homoródszentmárton, who worked so hard to provide a wonderful array of activities and cultural experiences in and around the village. From Homoródszentmárton we toured the shopping area of Korond, Bran Castle, the Unitarian Church of Brassó, the Parajd salt mine, and the UNESCO Heritage sites of Székelyderzs and

Segesvár. In addition, the adult trip attended a night at the Székelyföldi dance camp in Felsősfalva.

Our travelers were very taken by the generosity of our hosts, who showed us so much love. For many of our travelers it was an eye-opening experience to visit a farm village. The highlights for us occurred in the moments of deepest contact as happened when we had meals in our host's homes. We were extremely touched when our church was presented an intricately embroidered traditional girl's costume made by two of the women of the village. From this trip, we found our connection between our two churches continue to deepen. We look forward to bringing villagers to visit San Jose in 2013! ●

In our own voices... Considering death

by Genie Bernardini

“Death is the end of a life, but it is not the end of a relationship.” I have found this quote to be very comforting every time our minister has used it at the memorial services that I attend with greater and greater frequency as I grow older. It is reassuring to realize that we will always maintain a connection with the important people in our lives, even after they are no longer a physical presence. How often I think about my mother and become aware of the many ways that she has influenced my life, though she died over 15 years ago—ways both profound and very simple. Every time I eat some dark chocolate, run across “Rustle of Spring” in my piano book, smell the sweet scent of Shalimar perfume, watch *Pride and Prejudice* or despair at my “washer woman's hands,” as she called hers, I am reminded of how much a part of my life she still is.

And although I have no religious basis for believing in a Heaven and certainly no rational one, I have simply chosen to believe that in some fashion or other I will see my mother again after I die. I don't dwell on the practical details, or it soon becomes obvious how very unlikely this is. But the anticipation—in the abstract—of once again seeing her face and being graced by her presence helps with my acceptance of her death and lessens the fear of my own.

Something else that has helped me deal with the prospect of my own death is the example of how to die with dignity provided by my former teaching supervisor, Esther Stone. Esther was a charming, warm, compassionate woman with a healthy recognition of her own value and a great appreciation for life and other people. In her early seventies she was struck with breast cancer, which soon spread to her lungs, and in little more than a year she was gone. The last few weeks of her life, a nurse friend moved into her home to care for her and arranged for a few people each day to come say their goodbyes. When I went to visit, I remember her lying in bed, propped up on pillows with an oxygen tank near by. She motioned for me to sit on the bed in front of her. Although her voice was weak, she smiled a beautiful smile and immediately started asking, “How are you and how is your family?”—so typical of her focus on others, out of genuine interest and concern. We didn't talk long, but our time together ended with a lingering hug, and I left feeling as if I'd had an audience with the Pope. I felt so honored to have been blessed by this phenomenal woman who was

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Immigration Reform: A Moral Imperative

Saturday, October 29, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Mt Diablo UU Church

Learn more about immigration reform with UUs! Hear UU voices and stories of others on the front lines. Be inspired by theater and worship. Learn to speak our values and create networks of justice and compassion here in the Pacific Central District. Build skills and connections for Justice GA 2012. General registration \$25.00. Students, youth, and young adults - sliding scale \$5.00 - \$25.00. Lunch provided. Register at pcd-uua.org. Please let FUCSJ Office Manager Susan Burke know you are going so that we can set up carpools: fucsjs@sanjoseuu.org. ●

Considering death

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offering me a model of how to die, just as she had been a model of how to live life to the fullest. Surely this was the ideal way to end your life, with little pain and with time and opportunity before leaving to express your gratitude and good wishes to all the people you have loved. I can only hope that I will have such an ideal ending.

Then I would like a spectacular memorial service! Dancing—there must be lots of dancing. I want it to be an experience people will look back on with joy. I want lively music and beautiful readings and moving testimonials. I want the people attending to realize how special they are and how much I valued their friendship. I want them to know that I lived a rich, full life, full of love and beauty. I want them to leave with a renewed appreciation for their own worth and the preciousness of life and loving relationships. My only regret is that I won't be there to enjoy it! But for a more lasting remembrance, I would like a park bench with a plaque, maybe next to the one I have for my mother. Then, if by chance we haven't yet met in Heaven, we'll be together again, at last, on earth! ●

Join First Unitarian at PACT Gala Luncheon

Thursday, Nov. 3, 11:30-1:30 at the Wyndam Hotel, San José

Every year PACT hosts a gala lunch as its major fund-raiser. It is quite a gathering of 600 corporate and business supporters in addition to nonprofit leaders and elected officials. This year's honorees are Judy Chirco, former vice mayor of San Jose, and Dan Warmenhoven, Executive Chair, NetApp, and his wife, Charmaine, a retired educator. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet folks from other churches, nonprofits, and elected officials. This year, we are hoping our church can fill up a table of 10 people. We have accomplished a lot through PACT this last year, and we want to show up and support this major event. Tickets are \$100 each. To RSVP, or if you can help support us by contributing towards someone else who is a strong PACT volunteer to attend, please contact Joyce Miller, table captain at j408miller@sbcglobal.net or (408) 730-1052. ●

Women's Alliance

Thursday, November 3, Ramsden Fireside Room, 7:15 pm

We will read aloud a short play about the time Susan B. Anthony voted in an election, even though it was not legal for women to vote until after her death. We also agreed to each read a version of the story of Pope Joan, a medieval woman who disguised herself as a man and rose through the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church to become pope. We'll share about what we've read at the December 1 meeting. Please join us in the Fireside Room from 7:15 to 9:15 P.M. on the first Thursday of each month, September to May. All are welcome. Contact Nancy Coleman at nbc Coleman@gmail.com or 408 985 5778 for further information. ●

HUUG First Sunday Forum

Sunday November 6, 10 -10:50 am, Hattie Porter Hall

First Sunday Forum, Facing our Mortality: one aspect of this will be discussed. The narrowing of the topic will occur at the monthly HUUGmanist Group meeting on Monday Oct. 17, 7 PM-8:30 PM in the Youth Room. The forum and meeting are open to all. I also welcome your views outside of those events. tjb@timblackwood.com ●

PACT Report, Discussion

Sunday, November 6, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Our PACT committee invites everyone to an after-church report and discussion. The committee reports on our multiple ongoing interfaith efforts to address local issues related to immigration and racism. Pizza lunch included! Please come and share food and your questions. ●

UUthful Spirits

Second and fourth Sundays, 12:45 pm, Hattie Porter Hall

Join our young adult and young-at-heart fellowship group for Sunday brunch! Meet in Hattie Porter Hall about 12:45 p.m. We also host a happy hour on the first Friday. For information, contact uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoogleroups.com. ●

Labyrinth Walking

Tuesday through Friday during the lunch hour and each Sunday at 1:00 pm. ●

Yoga Classes at FUCSJ

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 am; Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm ●

Silent Auction and Dinner

By Jan Theiss-Guffey

Come join us for friendship, fun, and Stewardship at the FUCSJ Service Auction

Saturday, November 19
Silent Auction – 4:30 pm
Dinner – 6:00 pm
Live Auction – 7:00 pm

It's bigger – and better – this year, with crafts galore from our own incredible UU artists, and donations from the San Jose Giants, Camera Cinemas, and the California Academy of Sciences! And our fellow Unitarians have offered a couple of B&Bs in Hawaii!!

To catch a glimpse of the offerings on which you'll be bidding, please take a look at the Service Auction Catalog, which will be available on our website after October 19.

Please RSVP to Jan Theiss-Guffey, jantg@yahoo.com. Child care is available beginning at 6:00 p.m. If your child(ren)

will need child care, please let Jan Theiss-Guffey know by November 11.

What to Bring: Yourself, Your Friends, Your Children, Donation for Dinner (if you can, otherwise, please come and be treated!)

Dinner Menu: Chicken Marsala, Spinach Filo; Rice Pilaf, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

Suggested Donation: \$12 – Please note: If you can contribute to the costs of dinner, for yourself and another, that is fantastic. If you can't, please know that everyone can sit at our Welcome Table!

How to Bid on Items

You will need to register for the auction in order to bid on an item. You can fill out a registration form beginning Sunday, November 6 at the Service Auction table, or you can register at the service auction, starting at 4:30 pm. You will receive a number to use for all of your bids, silent or live.

If you will not be present for the auction, you may make absentee bids by filling out a registration form, listing no

more than five offerings you would like to bid on, including the item number, the maximum you will bid for the item, and the bid increment you would like to use.



Come see us at the Service Auction table after church!

Winning

When the auction ends, we will try to close it out quickly so that you can receive confirmation of your winning bid before you leave. If that is not possible, you can come to the Service Auction table after church on November 20 to find out what you won – and who won on what you offered! For physical items, you must be present when the group closes in order to win.

Guidelines for physical items donated for the auction

For donors: In case the object is not bid upon and claimed, the donor must be present at the end of the auction to take it back. If not, the service auction committee will bring it to Goodwill.

For bidders: To win the item, you must make the highest bid and you must be present when the auction closes to receive your item. If you are not present, the item will go to the next-highest bidder.

Additional Offerings for the Auction:

Whoops! Did you forget to get your own offering in for the silent auction? No worries! You can still email it to Susan Burke, fucsj@sanjoseuu.org. ●



Dance like Miss Bennett and Mr. Darcy! Dancing Master **Bob Fraley** will teach you everything you need to know, and live music by **William Allen** and friends will lift your feet. Casual dress and comfortable shoes are encouraged. Suggested donation: \$10 to \$25; no one will be turned away. Proceeds to benefit the co-sponsors: The Music Program of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose (sanjoseuu.org) and The Bay Area Country Dance Society (bacds.org)

Wine Country Holiday

“Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses.”

Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the sixth season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day “Wine Country Excursion,” a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for comparable services and all proceeds go to our small fellowship. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net. Web site: http://www.uunorthbay.org/wine_tours/index.html

We look forward to sharing our lovely “home” with you! ●

UU Hikers and Friends

Here is the hiking schedule for the Rest of October and for November as well. Call if you are planning to hike unless you are a regular. In case of rain, call 408 730-1052 before 7:30 am the morning of the hike to verify plans. Use my cell 570-7052 after 7:30 am. All other times use my home phone. Call if you have questions about where we are going. See you on the trails! – Joyce Miller

Wednesday, October 19

Stevens Creek/Fremont Older, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot at Stevens Creek Park at 8:30 am. Directions: from 280 take Foothill Expressway as though you were going to Rancho San Antonio, but go straight on Foothill, which becomes Stevens Canyon Road at McClellan. Continue about a mile to entrance of park, which is on the left. Parking fee is \$7.

Saturday, October 22

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am. Wednesday, October 26 Foothill Par, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, October 29 2011

Joseph Grant County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park & Ride on Capitol at Alum Rock across from cemetery at 8:00 am. I will be attending an immigration workshop all day. Let Alice Lynch know if you are planning to hike. Her email is lynch.alice@gmail.com.

Wednesday, November 2

Long Ridge, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

Saturday, November 5

Wunderlich County Park, 6-10 miles. We can do the longer hike up to Skyline if folks want to. We can decide at the carpool spot. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, November 9

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:30 am.

Saturday, November 12

Big Basin State Park, Berry Falls. We missed this hike this year so I'd like to try again. I plan to do an out and back to the falls, which is around 8 miles. In the past we have done the 12 mile loop, but I don't think my legs can do it this year. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8 am. Plan to get back around 3:30 pm.

Wednesday, November 16

Montebello Open Space/Grizzly Peak shuttle hike, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, November 19

Skyline Ridge Loop, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, November 23

Wunderlich County Park, 5 miles, easy. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride at 8:30 am. Shorter hike today due to Thanksgiving preparations.

In Our Own Voices...

Engaging the theme of death

Some additional thoughts from members and friends on this month's theme:

There's no notion of sentimentality in the “afterdeath”

I envision: ultimately everything becomes stardust, and due to the expanding universe, eventually there will be so much distance between every star and planet that “stars” will no longer be visible—hence, the end of astronomy. So perhaps we should live the best life we can according to our individual moral & spiritual compass (or lacking such, ascribe to Franklin's list of thirteen virtues: <http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Benjamin>), be moderate in most things (including moderation, occasionally), and follow the Saturday Night Live dictum: “Party on, Wayne! ... Party on, Garth!”

—Doug Zody

I have seen dead people and

found them to not be lively at all. I believe that someday I, or at least my body, will be in a similar condition, but there is no way I can grasp the full and complete nature of this loss. So I fear death or dying but not to the point where I become nonfunctioning. Perhaps a bigger concern is the possibility of having a long-drawn-out and painful death; or that I will be permanently incompetent for some extended period before I expire. I don't want my dying to be like that. After I die I hope people will remember me in a positive way. That remembrance is often said to be a sort of afterlife, but I will not experience this afterlife. In any event, I realize that in the long run those memories will be lost. I find it somewhat comforting to reflect on the fact that I am not alone in my mortality nor in my concerns about death and dying. Furthermore, it helps me to focus on, and be conscious of, the ‘now’ and to reflect upon its seemingly never ending nature for me.

— Tim Blackwood

Saturday, November 26

Almaden Quicksilver, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond in Almaden Plaza shopping center at



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San Jose, CA 95112

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Next issue copy deadline:

3:00 pm Wednesday, October 26

Assembly: Tuesday, November 1

Mailing: Wednesday, November 2

View this newsletter online in PDF

format at:

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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** (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpj@yahoo.com. **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: 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** (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpj@yahoo.com. **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@sanjoseuu.org.

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

Contact Rev. Geoff, 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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