

Our Church Circular

First Unitarian Church of San Jose * November 16, 2011 * 16 de noviembre 2011
160 N. Third Street, San José, CA 95112 * (408) 292-3858 * sanjoseuu.com



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

November theme: gratitude & wonder / Tema de noviembre: gratitud & maravilla

Save The Dates

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

November 20 ♦ 20 de noviembre

Celebration Sunday: All-ages worship

Sharing Wisdom, Sharing Thanks

Our special guest, Tulku Jamyang Gyatso, is a young Buddhist teacher and reincarnated lama from Nepal with an informal, straightforward approach to the teachings of the Buddha and life's Big Questions. He shares a message for all ages about his own personal experiences as part of his Northern California "In Pursuit of Happiness Tour." We'll pause to think about a Unitarian Universalist approach to Thanksgiving, and share messages of gratitude and wonder with each other. A morning filled with special gifts! Please join us!

Worship Leaders: The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and The Rev. Geoff Rimositis, with Tulku Jamyang

Worship Associate: K'Ailsa Rowan

Domingo de Celebración: Servicio de todas las Edades

Compartiendo Sabiduría, Compartiendo el agradecimiento

Nuestro invitado especial, Tulku Jamyang Gyatso, es un joven maestro budista y lama reencarnado de Nepal con un enfoque informal y directo de las enseñanzas de Buda y las experiencias personales como parte de su recorrido "en la búsqueda de "la felicidad" en el Norte California. Haremos una pausa para pensar acerca de un enfoque Unitario Universalista del día de Acción de Gracias y compartir mensajes de agradecimiento y admiración entre sí. Una mañana llena de regalos especiales ¡Únase a nosotros!

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y el Rev. Geoff Rimositis, con Tulku Jamyang

Asociada de Culto: K'Ailsa Rowan

November 27 ♦ 27 de noviembre

The Spirituality of Waiting

Remember the long, long wait between Thanksgiving and Christmas when you were a kid? Does it go by in a flash, now? As we light the first candle (for Peace) on our Advent wreath, let's reflect on the spirituality of waiting and on what it is we wait for. Can we slow the rush and bring back the thrill of anticipation?

Worship Leader: Frank Bosche

Worship Associate: Mary Martin

La espiritualidad de la Espera

¿Recuerda la larga, larga espera entre el Día de Acción de Gracias y la Navidad cuando era un niño? ¿Se va en un abrir y cerrar de ojos, ahora? Mientras encendemos la primera vela (de paz) en nuestra corona de

- ♦ November 19, Saturday, 4:30 pm, New and improved Service Auction and Gift Faire
- ♦ November 21, Monday, 7pm, HUUMANIST group meeting, youth room
- ♦ December 1, Thursday, 7:15 pm, Women's Alliance, Ramsden Fireside Room, more info at nbc Coleman@gmail.com or 408 985 5778
- ♦ December 4, Sunday, First Sunday Forum, 10-11:50 am, Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ December 4, Sunday, Jane Austen Dances, Hattie Porter Hall, 2:00-4:30 pm
- ♦ December 10, Saturday, 7:30 pm, UU Coffee House "For the Love of Broadway" Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ December 11, Sunday, School for Compassion class with Rev. Nancy, Ramsden Fireside Room 1:00-2:30 pm
- ♦ December 11, Sunday, Book Discussion Group: "From Jesus to Christianity" with Bob Miess, Conference Room 2-4 pm
- ♦ December 11, Sunday, Circle Suppers, contact Barbara Derbyshire at 370-2219 or CircleSuppers@aol.com
- ♦ December 17, Saturday, 7 p.m., Sanctuary: Evening Winter Solstice Service
- ♦ December 24, Saturday, 5:00 am and 8:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services,, Sanctuary
- ♦ January 20, Friday, 8:00pm Fun-raiser: Lou and Peter Berryman, folksingers, play at FUCSJ ●

Board Report

Meeting minutes, Wednesday, November 2

At the last board meeting, Program Officer Tamara Payne-Alex reported on the successful Retreat-at-Home as well as the upcoming Congregational Survey.

The Board encourages everyone to participate in this very important online survey when the email arrives. The information we gather will be used to assess the success of our programs and to aid future decision-making.

John Burk, Social Justice chair, suggested involvement from the church in the upcoming UUA Study Action comment collection effort. Also, a motion was adopted approving a statement of affiliation for the POC to send to San Jose State University regarding the exciting new Campus UU ministry.

Plans were finalized for the participation of more than 20 church members in a workshop at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland on November 4 and 5. The workshop, led by the Rev. Eric Law, was entitled Building Relationships Across Race, Class and Culture.

All are welcome at the next Board meeting on Wednesday, December 7 in the conference room.

—Nancy Coleman, Board Secretary

Multicultural Leadership Training:

San Jose, Oakland UUs build bridges

Unitarian Universalist leaders from San Jose joined counterparts in Oakland for a workshop on November 4-5 with the Rev. Eric H.F. Law, well-known writer and speaker on multicultural issues. We learned practical tools like Respectful Communication Guidelines, Mutual Invitation, and Creating a Grace Margin to build community in a faith-full way. We strengthened our multi-cultural competencies to help our church communities grow and change in response to the continuously changing diversity around us. ●



FUCSJ members prepare to inspire inclusive, faith-filled and energized spiritual homes to support us in our ongoing personal transformation and for our ongoing social justice work.

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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Adviento, reflexionemos sobre la espiritualidad de la espera y lo que es esperar. ¿Podemos disminuir la prisa y traer de vuelta la emoción de la anticipación?

Diriger: Frank Bosche

Asociada de Culto: Mary Martin

December theme: Hope / Tema de diciembre: Esperanza

December 4 ♦ 4 de Diciembre

Finding the Heartbeat of Hope

“Hope is the thing with feathers,” Emily Dickinson wrote—but does that image capture the sheer muscular strength of the hope that can keep our heart beating and our hands working even in the face of setbacks, discouragement, or despair? On this Sunday, our own monthly theme aligns with that of the second Sunday in the Advent (aka “Active Waiting”) Season. We take this as a call to find the sturdy, persistent heartbeat of hope that can sustain our days. Do join us to launch this month of holidays!

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Mary Martin

Encontrando el latido de la esperanza

“La esperanza es la cosa con plumas”, escribió Emily Dickinson—pero ¿esa imagen captura la verdadera fuerza muscular de la esperanza que puede mantener el latido de nuestro corazón y nuestras manos trabajando incluso enfrentando los reveses, el desaliento o la desesperación? Este domingo, nuestro propio tema mensual se alinea con el del segundo domingo de la temporada de Adviento (aka “Espera Activa”). Tomamos esto como una llamada a encontrar el latido resistente y persistente de la esperanza que puede sostenernos en nuestros días. Únase a nosotros para iniciar este mes de fiestas!

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociada de Culto: Mary Martin ●

Help Lead Worship!

The Worship Associate program provides an exciting and enriching opportunity for members of the First Unitarian Church of San José to help plan and present the Sunday-morning services that are at the heart of our Beloved Community. Worship Associates, who serve for one calendar year, work closely with the ministers and a multidisciplinary worship team on five or six services during that year. They also set up the worship space for another five or six Sundays. Ongoing training is provided in periodic gatherings, the next of which is on Saturday, December 3. Interested folks are invited to RSVP to the number below.

In addition to making a critical contribution to congregational life, participation in Worship Associates is a wonderful way to deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism and to get to know some super people!

You'll find details on the church website at <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/OurWorshipLife/WorshipAssociates.html>
Questions? Phone Mary Martin at (408) 354-8878. ●

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)

Grades 2-5: Faithful Journeys

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

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)

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.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

OWL: Grades seven-nine

- ◆ Required parent meeting, Sunday, November 13, 2:00-4:00 pm
- ◆ Classes run January 8 through May 6, 2012

OWL: Grades ten-twelve

- ◆ October 9 through December 18, 2:00-4:00 pm or 2:00-5:00 pm, depending on the class, Youth Room

Facilitators: Michealle Havenhill, Rev. Jack Michael, (First Congregational Church of San José), 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 along with Christy Baker (Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry) 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. RSVP with the Rev. Geoff at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org. ●

Book Discussion Group: From Jesus to Christianity

November 13 and second Sunday
each month, 2:00 - 4:00 pm,
Conference 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.

For the session on December 11, we will be discussing Chapter Three.

Questions? Contact Bob Miess, Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com, 408-781-7073. ●

Holiday donations to Sunday Friends

Calling all Santas! We have an opportunity to donate Christmas gifts to the children and parents of the Sunday Friends program. Last year our church filled a box to the brim, and they were extremely grateful.

Sunday Friends is a non-profit organization with the motto *The Working Alternative to Charity*. Very low income families earn points by attending



classes, helping to prepare meals, making decorations for convalescent hospitals, writing thank you notes to donors, etc. Their points can then be spent in a storeroom full of donated clothing, household supplies, toys, books, etc. Learn more at sundayfriends.org.

Gifts are needed for children of all ages and for their parents, too. Gifts should not be wrapped, Gift cards and checks are welcome. Checks should be made out to Sunday Friends. There will be a donation box in Hattie Porter Hall. The deadline is December 4.

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Silent Auction and Dinner

Saturday, November 19

By Jan Theiss-Guffey

Get set to have fun and SHOP at our annual Service Auction and Gift Faire, Saturday, November 19, beginning at 4:30, with a scrumptious dinner provided, too! See you there!

Each year, the First Unitarian Church holds a Service Auction as a major fundraiser for our congregation. This year, our Service Auction features these fun elements: time for silent-auction



bidding, a chance to browse through wonderful crafts at the Gift Faire, then a delicious shared meal to bring our community together, followed by the

fun and hilarity of a Live Auction.

To catch a glimpse of the offerings on which you'll be bidding, please take a look at the Service Auction Catalog! This includes not only the offerings but also a how-to guide for bidding, and some thoughts about how to bid if you have to miss the auction itself. Take a look!

Then come, join us for friendship, fun, and the healthy stewardship of our community!

When: Saturday, November 19

Silent Auction begins at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 7:00 p.m. with our own Jim Rumbaugh as auctioneer!

Where: FUCSJ Sanctuary and Hattie Porter Hall, 160 N. 3rd Street, San Jose, CA 95112

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

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

Suggested Donation to Cover the Costs: \$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!

Child Care Available: Beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please let Jan Theiss-Guffey know if your children will need child care: jantg@yahoo.com.

Retreat at Home:

Winners in a game of Tag... You're it!

Thanks, acknowledgements and gratitude to all of you for taking turns in the serious and fun game of life in this great spiritual cooperative. I've really enjoyed my turn as Retreat Chief since I was tagged as Stewardship Co-Chair last spring with **Diana Wirt**.

We aimed to create an uplifting event in the midst of these insecure and anxious times, especially after missing the retreat last year. The goal: maximum fun, minimum dollars (no profit expected), and stay out of trouble (no jail time!). We succeeded. With our 100 attendees, we actually cleared more than \$1,000 (stay tuned for exact figures), and we're on the calendar to do it again next year, October 12-14, 2012.

It all started with people like **Dena Dickinson** and our Circular and communications people who did early publicity. **Susan Burke** contributed artistic and careful office work. **Jan Theiss-Guffey** took on the November Service Auction. **Diana Wirt** double-checked everything and led our Leadership workshop.

Applause to all who jumped into the game. Events Planner and Food Chief **Erika Jackson** pulled off seven delicious meals with enough left to give away. She had a wonderful crew headed by **Liz Owen**, who knows all the right questions to ask--such as who'll buy and make the coffee!

We'll never forget the workshops: **Amy Baldwin's** hilarious improv session Friday night, **Claire Wagner's** intro to Facebook, **Liz Shivell's** tremendous book updating LGBT law, and talks from **Bob Howd** on cleaner toilet water, **Tamara Payne-Alex** on owl pellets, **Madeline Morrow** on fruity "green" foods and **Patty Eaton** on a fun and informative tour of the park.

Special kudos to **John Burk**, who not only managed the Saturday breakfast with **Brian Singer** but got **Sabrina Parra-Garcia** of PACT to show how immigration and civil rights connect. Then came **Jay Porter**, who despite prepping his own wonderful Mystery Dinner Theater helped me at the desk. Thanks also to my other check-in desk runners including **Gretchen Leavitt**, **Alfonso Sakauskas**, **Janet DeBartolo** and **Deanna La Torre**, who said "just tell me what to do, and I'll do it!"

Special gratitude to the arts/crafts crew headed by **Cecilia Deck**, who designed the table centerpieces to be auctioned off and kept the arts room open for much of Saturday. And more memorable images: Tai Chi with the Tree of Life from **Rev. Nancy**, chest-thumping Energy Medicine from **Mary Ann Dahle**, relaxing Yoga from **Shirley Worth**.

The Youth group stayed Saturday night and put on a waffle breakfast Sunday morning, thanks to **Cordelia Willis** and **Rev. Geoff**. Thanks to those in my tarot and writing groups and the two speakers I tagged, Single Payer's Health Care for All and massage therapist **Royal Jacobs**.

It wouldn't have been the same without music, dance, and meditation--thank you to all singers and instrumentalists: **Anand Solest**, **Claire Wagner**, the **Alegría Singers**, **Patrick Smiley's** dance, the sing-along with **Sally Cooperrider's** flute and **Bev Clifford**. The Coffee House was inspiring. I've told my family I want my own "Celebration of Life" to be like a UU Coffee House with informal stories and a sing-along like the one led by **Deb Fenzel-Alexander** Friday night.

The Sunday Service (timed perfectly by **Jim Rumbaugh**) was fun and informative with **Billie Wachter's** priceless story and the Band of Writers headed by **Genie Bernardini**--who also did all the great signage. And a final thanks to our ministers who after the main service highlighted their own pasts and ours and moved us into the future.

So thanks to all we've tagged so far, and to stay in this wonderful game, expect to be tagged as the wheel of the year turns around. You're all it!

—Jean Embree

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HUUmanist Group

Monday, November 21 at 7 pm, Youth Room

We will meet to discuss what we think the goals for the Occupy Movement should be. All are welcome. Amy Baldwin, ABaldwinBiz@aol.com, will lead the discussion. ●

HUUG First Sunday Forum

Sunday, December 4, 10:00-10:50 am, Hattie Porter Hall

Topic: What do you do with the winter holidays now that you are all grown up? All are welcome to join in the discussion. Facilitator: Amy Baldwin, ABaldwinBiz@aol.com, for more information. ●



Jane Austen and More! Dances

**Sunday, December 4, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Hattie Porter Hall**

December's event has a Dickens Christmas theme. Come to learn and enjoy! 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 FUCSJ and The Bay Area Country Dance Society (bacds.org) Next dance: Sunday, February 5, 2012. ●

Donations or free will offerings to support our music program are suggested at all music events.

Membership Sunday

December 11, 11:00 am

There will be an ingathering ceremony for new members of our congregation on Sunday, December 11 at the 11 am service. If you are ready to stand on the side of love and declare that this community, whose mission is to bring the transforming power of love into our lives and out into the world, is for you, then it may be time for you to affirm your participation in our congregation by becoming a member. Please talk with one of our ministers about the rights and responsibilities of membership in the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. Rev. Geoff, GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org, Rev. Nancy, revnpj@yahoo.com ●

UU Coffee House

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 pm

This "For the Love of Broadway," coffee house performance features great line-up of experienced performers, the familiar songs you love, and lots of sing-alongs. Families and kids welcome. ●

Winter Solstice Celebration

December 17, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Chants, musical performances, readings, and meditations on the turning of the wheel of life. Please bring your friends and family for this uplifting community event. ●

The Alegria Singers

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at regular Sunday services, at special events such as Solstice Celebrations and Coffee Houses, and bring music to various church activities. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday, 7:30-9:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. ●

UUthful Spirits

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

Join our 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 uuthfulspiritsowner@yahoo.com. ●

Tour Alaska with fellow UUs

Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to join them for their 15th year annual eco-cultural and spiritual program. See Alaska through the eyes of UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka with friendly home stays and unique activities. See wildlife, visit Denali National Park and experience Native Alaskan culture. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation. For more information, see www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. ●

UUA President Statement on Occupy Wall Street

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), has issued a statement regarding Occupy Wall Street and accompanying protests around the country. The statement says, in part: "Unitarian Universalism embodies a long tradition of working for economic justice and workers' rights. Today is another opportunity for us to live our faith, and the Occupy protests are a first step on the road to repairing our country." To see the full article, go to <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/188398.shtml> ●

UU Hikers and Friends

Here is the hiking schedule for the rest of November. Be sure to call if you want to hike unless you are a regular, then let me know if you are not coming. My home phone is 408-730-1052 and cell is 408-570-7052. Use my cell phone after 7:30 am. All other times use my home phone. See you on the trails!



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.

Saturday, November 26

Almaden Quicksilver, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond in Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am. Or at the trail head at Hacienda entrance at 8:30 am. ●



Remember to bring your recyclable bottles and cans to help cover expenses of this newsletter!

"Like" Us On Facebook!
tinyurl.com/FUCSJ-FB



UUA one of top 5 organizations for green meetings

Meetings and Conventions Magazine selected UUA as one of five organizations that have raised the bar for eco-friendly gatherings. The following is quoted from the article at http://www.meetings-conventions.com/articles_ektid44042.aspx?page=1. The other organizations are Sprint, Environmental Defense Fund, Intel, and Oracle.

The Unitarian Universalist creed lays out seven principles by which its members are asked to live. Eight years ago, the seventh principle, respect for the interconnectedness of all things on the earth, became the foundation for the greening of the organization's meetings.

"At our meeting in 2003, members of the Seventh Principle Project asked me to green the General Assembly," recalls Janiece Sneegas, director of the General Assembly and conference services for the

Boston-based Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. "I thought, 'We're not going to be able to do this to anybody's satisfaction.'"

She was wrong. In fact, over the years, the UUA convention has become one of the most environmentally friendly gatherings around. While Sneegas uses green protocols in her selection processes, and the group prefers cities that have a sustainability track record, "we also recognize that part of our work is helping other cities to take the next step on their own paths," she says. Accordingly, the 2013 General Assembly will be held in Louisville, Ky., where such practices aren't as ingrained. "They speak commitment, but we'll see when the rubber hits the road how willing they are to partner with us," Sneegas adds.

A food-donation requirement was



Janiece Sneegas, Director, General Assembly and Conference Services, UUA

added to the 4,000-person meeting in 2006 in St. Louis, and fully green contracting was added for the convention in Portland, Ore., in 2007. Earlier this year, when the group went to Charlotte, N.C., the UUA asked that 5 to 15 percent of the power supplied by the convention center and hotels come from a renewable source. "The other thing we were able to do in Charlotte was maximize the front-of-the-house composting by setting up composting stations in the food court," says Sneegas. "Also very cool was that they agreed to have their vendors switch to compostable serveware for us."

Going green has never hurt the UUA's bottom line, Sneegas reports. The only area for which the group has paid extra is in food and beverage -- specifically, to use more organic and local foods. In this case, the UUA's "ethical eating statement of conscience," which was passed last year, trumps the budget. Sneegas explains, "Our contracts require 20 percent of the foods to be organic and local at no extra cost, but if the vendor can do more, we'll pay for the difference."

Sneegas is happy that she no longer gets the amount of resistance that she once had to fight against, though some suppliers still drag their feet a bit at providing green services. "We're not interested in hearing suppliers tell us what they plan to do," she says. "We're interested in hearing what they're doing." ●

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.



by Torchy Hunter

Who is teeny? Who wants to be taller? Who would trade in their feet and sinuses? Welcome new person!

The question of the day, on the day before Halloween was, "If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?" I, personally, would make myself taller, say four inches to 5'8". I got the following responses.

Claire Wagner: Make myself patient. **Roberto Padilla,** also patient. **Ervin Barrios** would be younger. **Rev Nancy:** To be less hard on herself. **Dena Dickinson:** To weigh less. **Carol Green:** To have the energy to hike. **Jay Porter:** I'd make myself thinner. **Sherry Howd:** I'd be calmer. **John Burke** said he'd be both of those. **Erika Jackson** would be more assertive. **Bill Baldwin** would be less scared. **Genie Bernardini** would be more assertive. **Frey Leigh** would be taller. **Marla Scharf** would have better feet and ankles, because she clearly got some from a very weak person. **Alice Lynch** would also change her feet. **Gary McCumber** would give himself better sinuses with bigger drain holes. **Belinda** [sorry, missed your last name] would give herself 20/20 vision. **Susan Burke** would give herself a piano and the ability to sing. **Karen Grimes Schuler** would give herself patience.

I think all the people who want to be more patient (Claire, Roberto) should have dinner with all the people who want to be more assertive (Erika, Genie) and it all should be a revelation, right?

Rick Merritt would be a more loving parent to himself. (He actually said he would gag, bind and whip his critical inner parent, but this is a family publication) See him November 19 at the newly named Cafe Frascati (the old Cafe Trieste), performing with **Cathy Cook Thiemann** and **Tracy Avent**. I've seen them; they are actually good and it's cool to go to a real coffee house. Not necessary to wear black.

Mike Pelizzari would change his income by a factor of five. (You probably didn't know there is a YouTube video of Mike singing The Star Spangled Banner. You probably don't want to know that.) **Shirley Worth** would have more self discipline (she and I have agreed to call each other and shout into the phone, saying "Get To Work!")

Those who could not answer (Connie, Alec, Bev), are, alas, if Dante is to be believed, consigned to the seventh circle of Hell – those who in time of crisis, cannot make up their minds. Gee, I thought those were called liberals.

Dena Dickinson just returned from another of those Himalayan hikes she likes, walking four to eight hours a day, over 17 thousand foot passes.

I met a new person: **Judith Smith** here from a small UU church in Vermont, which they left because her husband took a new job here. What has most surprised her about California in the month she's been here is the consistency of the weather. I informed her that we pay for good weather around here. She is still shell-shocked at the housing prices. The family spent three years in Amsterdam, which I hear is very, very cool. She has worked in non-profits, like all of us, although some of us didn't mean to. And she likes to hike, so Alice, find her. ●

Gifts of Service

A special thanks to **Jean Embree** for her gifts of service initiating and managing our first and very successful in-house all-church retreat. Starting eight months in advance, Jean held planning meetings and directed about 40 volunteers in creating 25 workshops, providing seven meals and a Coffee House for evening entertainment, and did it with great decisiveness, efficiency and good humor. She always seemed to be in control and able to assure everyone involved that everything was going to be just fine. Jean is one remarkable woman. At the age of 85 she not only teaches at Evergreen Valley College and travels extensively, but also is a very active member of our church, currently serving as co-chair of the Stewardship Committee.

Here are a few other salutes:

"I think **Jean Embree** should be thanked for all she did to pull off the awesome retreat!" –Jay Porter

"Cheers for **Jean Embree** and the entire crew which made the At-Home Retreat a reality!" –Bob Howd

"Thanks to **Jean Embree** for all her organizing of the Retreat weekend, and **Anand Solest, Claire Wagner, Liz Owen and Bob Owen** and others who made the Coffee House work!" –Shirley Worth

"Definitely **Jean Embree** and **Erika Jackson** who arranged and coordinated all the food and clean-up at the Retreat." –Diana Wirt

"**Liz Owen, Bob Owen** and **Sally Cooperrider** for creating the wonderful Coffee House ambiance; the musicians, **Peter Hiltz, Anand Solest, Bev Clifford, Beth Hilton** and **Meredy Enders and the Lounge Lizzies**, and the artists whose work graced Hattie Porter Hall: **Madeline Alexander, Barbara Tonneson** and **Torchy Hunter**." –Claire Wagner

"**Anand Solest** and the rest of the music people who put together the Coffee House at the retreat. It was a great evening. In addition to the music, the visual transformation of HPH was amazing." –Dave Proulx



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, November 30

Assembly: Tuesday, December 6

Mailing: Wednesday, December 7

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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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