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Tema:

Querencia





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH *of San José*



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January's spectacular chancel decoration for the theme "Justice" by Alice Steinicke Lynch.

PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to **Genie Bernardini** (*see cover*) for winning January's "belovedness" photo contest.

This month's contest is "Filling the Well". The best photo(s) will be featured on next month's *Circular* cover.

E-mail photos to Henry Ruddle at rcreative1@gmail.com by Sunday, February 21.

In Our Own Voices: Belovedness



“In Our Own Voices” shares congregants’ free-flowing responses to the theme of the month. We draw these responses from on-line surveys.

“What does this mean?” several congregants ask in response to February’s theme of Belovedness. For that matter, what is the “beloved community” that we talk about all the time? Some congregants seem to have heard these pleas for clarity,

and they offer their own visions for beloved community and a world where all know that they are beloved.

Still others point to spiritual practices that can help us to see the beauty in each other, while many folks lift up how easy it may be to love, how much harder it is to feel beloved.

Yet our Universalist heritage rests on this fundamental idea: that we are all loved and lovable, and that we can all be loving.

How do we live, moment to moment, day by day, “as if” we are all beloved? How would this change your daily life, your words and deeds—or would it change what you are already striving to do and be?

February’s theme gives us a chance to take up First Unitarian’s mission—to make Love visible in all we say and do—in practical terms. What will we discover?

With warmth and love,
Rev. Nancy

What Does This Mean?

What does it mean to be beloved? What is beloved-ness? I need a definition for this word. I’ve heard the words “beloved community” often, but I really don’t know what they mean. Please give definitions and examples.

Sure, there’s a dictionary definition of beloved-ness, or of being beloved. But what does this mean in a Unitarian Universalist context?

How is belovedness different from “loved”? Can there be negative feelings within belovedness? Does one earn belovedness, or is it unconditional? It seems to be in the heart of the beholder.

About the Beloved Community

Is “beloved community” a goal or a reality?

The beloved community is an aphorism for a community that is democratic, egalitarian, cooperative, kind, and sustainable. Without incorporating these values into our daily behaviors and institutions, we cannot obtain the community we all desire. Each human need should be dissected to see if it is being met using these values. Unitarian Universalists innately understand that a beloved community requires making love tangible through these values—in other words, operationalizing belovedness. However, we rarely work on the level of operationalizing new institutions on the ground floor of society. If we did this, it could separate Unitarian Universalists from the rest of the religious: to call a spade a spade (call out oppression when we see it) but also to create the new.

How can we as a church community make everyone in the community feel beloved? How can we extend that into the world? For me, “belovedness” is so much more profound than “the inherent worth and dignity” of our first Principle.

Noah Purifoy, my artistic mentor, told me the following story when I was 19. It continues to inform I how interact with strangers as well as friends and family. The Pearl: Every human being lives surrounded by sand and dirt and muck as well as beauty, joy, and love. No matter how miserable the circumstances, during their life everybody is like an oyster, managing to create a pearl from the surrounding debris. Your challenge when meeting someone new is to uncover their pearl. Sometimes the pearl is obvious, but often it is buried deep.

A good theme for Unitarian Universalists to keep front and center, for it would be wonderful for humankind to feel this about the world in which we live and about the rest of humankind.

Who Is Our Beloved?

What are we looking for? Are we looking for a beloved one to make us complete or whole? If we are, we will be disappointed, for our love is the conditional. To be beloved, we must accept the total of another just as they are, unconditionally. Many of us on this planet have bought into and believed all the lies we have made up about each other. To let go of those mistaken beliefs and ideas and love the whole complete and perfect Divine One within each other is the highest belovedness

we can offer another and ourselves. We can do this by seeing beyond the appearances of every one and every thing in this world to the Divine truth beyond.

The warm, soft fur of my cat pressed against my chin; the warm, soft hand of my wife; the joy of connection to friends and the students I teach; the loving voices of family: these are my beloveds.

The Challenge of Feeling Beloved

To learn to say, “Yes, I am the beloved,” is the greatest trust of all.

I think the hardest thing about this for me is accepting that I could be beloved by others. When I encounter that, I am often stunned that I could engender that feeling in another. On the other hand, I can feel that someone is beloved by me very easily, which should make the first sentence easier to understand, but it doesn’t.

How do we live “as if” we are all beloved? I believe that we are, but it’s hard to stay connected to that truth every moment of every day. This Belovedness is surely what I mean when I talk about that great underground river of Love that connects us all. To see ourselves and others as beloved—as lovable, loved, and capable of loving—no matter how brokenhearted or ill or weary or lonely we may be. To honor this belovedness in each other, while still keeping healthy boundaries. Goodness, Life asks a lot of us, doesn’t it?



February Theme: Belovedness

“Love Beyond Belief”: When a Community Learns How to Love

by the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones

On a beautiful plot of land in Tulsa, Oklahoma, sits the largest Unitarian Universalist church in the United States. All Souls Unitarian Church, with a congregation of about 2,000 people, strives to live up to its vision: *“All Souls is a multicultural community of people who Love Beyond Belief. We express this in three ways: Connection, Compassion, and Courage.”*

Love Beyond Belief. It’s a great motto for a congregation where folks who identify as Universalist Unitarians (emphasis on the Universalist), Universalist Christians (emphasis on the Christian), Unitarian humanists, and many other varieties of religious and spiritual identity experience worship, learning, service, and action in one community. When coauthor Karin Lin and I visit All Souls in January, we watch congregants reach out across their theological, racial, and class differences to spend time with each other. We see them come together to learn about Tulsa’s troubled history and to show up for the Dr. Martin Luther King Day parade. Not everyone, of course, but a critical mass. Enough so that All Souls’ Love Beyond Belief—this progressive message so relevant to these times—is palpable.

When we, here at First Unitarian of San José, wonder what February’s theme “Belovedness” means, or when we puzzle

over our frequent use of the term “Beloved Community,” I think first of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., of course. Dr. King takes the phrase Beloved Community from early-20th-century philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce and puts flesh on it. Dr. King envisions a worldwide community where the “Triple Evils” of racism, poverty, and militarism are defeated by a critical mass



Karin Lin and Rev. Nancy with Rev. Gerald Davis of All Souls in Tulsa.

of people committed to and trained in the principles and practices of nonviolence. In the Beloved Community, people share the earth’s wealth and resources (reversing economic inequality), recognize their common kinship (ending hierarchical systems like race and racism), and settle the inevitable conflicts through nonviolent, compassionate means, with reconciliation as the goal. Dr. King believes this vision is practical and attainable, not just some pie-in-the-sky dream.

Imagine the Love Made Visible, the Love Beyond Belief, the plain-and-simple muscular effective Love that would infuse our lives in such a Beloved Community. It’s hard work learning how to get there—but it would be so . . . stress-reducing! So creative. So affirming of each and every one of us. We would all feel beloved. We would let every person know how beloved they are. Surely it’s worth practicing building this kind of community.

So when I think about “Beloved Community” and “Belovedness,” I think not just about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but also about the great experiments in community building that Karin and I experience at All Souls in Tulsa—and that I see growing right here at First Unitarian of San José.

Belovedness: yes, the word feels awkward at first, but when we practice it, it begins to thrum with rhythm.

Belovedness: it’s the ancient root of our Universalist faith springing up in sturdy 21st-century varietals.

Belovedness: it’s a 1960s song mixed with new energy, analysis, and longing.

Come experience your own belovedness with First Unitarian this February!

With my love,

Rev. Nancy



Tema de Febrero: Querencia

“El Amor Más Allá de las Creencias”: Cuando una Comunidad Aprende a Amar

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

En un hermoso terreno en Tulsa, Oklahoma, se encuentra la iglesia de Unitaria Universalista más grande en los Estados Unidos. La Iglesia Unitaria de Todas las Almas, con una congregación de aproximadamente 2.000 personas, se esfuerza por cumplir con su visión: *“Todas las Almas es una comunidad multicultural de gente que Ama Más Allá de las Creencias. Nosotros expresamos esto en tres formas: conexión, compasión y valentía.”*

El Amor Más Allá de las Creencias. Es un gran eslogan para una congregación donde la gente que se identifican como Unitarios Universalistas (énfasis en Universalista), Universalistas Cristianos (con énfasis en Cristiana), Unitarios humanistas y muchas otras variedades de identidad religiosa y espiritual experimentan el servicio religioso, el aprendizaje, el servicio y la acción en una comunidad. Cuando mi coautora Karin Lin y yo visitamos Todas las Almas en enero, vemos congregantes contactarse a través de sus diferencias teológicas, raciales y de clase social para pasar tiempo con los demás. Los vemos venir juntos para aprender sobre la turbulenta historia de Tulsa y para dem-

ostrarlo en el desfile del día del Dr. Martin Luther King. No todo el mundo, por supuesto, pero una masa crítica. Suficiente para el Amor Más Allá de las Creencias de Todas las Almas—este mensaje progresista tan relevante para estos tiempos—es palpable.

Cuando nosotros estamos aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José nos preguntamos el tema de febrero, lo que significa “Querencia”, o cuando nos confundimos sobre el uso frecuente del término “Amada Comunidad”, creo que primero del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., por supuesto. El Dr. King toma la frase Amada Comunidad del filósofo-teólogo de principios del siglo XX Josiah Royce y pone la carne en ello. El



Dr. King tiene la visión de una comunidad mundial donde los “Tres males” de racismo, pobreza y militarismo son derrotados por una masa crítica de gente comprometida con y entrenados en los principios y prácticas de la no violencia. En la Amada Comunidad, gente comparte la riqueza y los recursos de la tierra (revertir la desigualdad económica), reconoce su parentesco

común (conclusión de los sistemas jerárquicos como raza y el racismo) y resuelve los inevitables conflictos por medios no violentos, compasivo significa, con la reconciliación como objetivo. El Dr. King cree que

esta visión es práctica y alcanzable, no solo algunas promesas vacías.

Imaginar el Amor Hecho Visible, el Amor Más Allá de las Creencias, el sencillo-y-simple musculo efectivo que infundirá a nuestras vidas en tal Amada Comunidad. ¡Es trabajo duro, el aprender cómo llegar—pero sería tan... desestresante! Tan creativo. Entonces afirmando por todos y cada uno de nosotros. Todos nos sentiríamos amados. Permitiríamos que cada persona sepa cuan amados son. Sin duda merece la pena practicar el construir este tipo de comunidad.

Así que cuando pienso en “Amada Comunidad” y “Querencia”, Yo pienso no sólo sobre el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pero también sobre los grandes experimentos en la construcción de la comunidad que Karin y yo experimentamos en Todas las Almas en Tulsa—y que veo crecer justo aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José.

Querencia: sí, la palabra se siente incómoda al principio, pero cuando la practicamos, ella comienza a vibrar con ritmo.

Querencia: es la raíz de nuestra fe Universalista brotando en robustas variedades en el siglo XXI.

Querencia: es una canción de la década de 1960 mezclada con nueva energía, análisis y el anhelo. Vengan y experimenten su propia querencia con la Primera Iglesia Unitaria este febrero!

Con mi amor,

Rev. Nancy

Meeting the Donor Who Gave Me Life

by Robin B.

When I received the diagnosis of bone marrow cancer in December 2011, I did know that my life had been turned upside down, but I had no idea of the profound connections that would come out of my walk with this life-threatening illness.

Offering a 30% chance of success, the only cure for my disease was a bone marrow stem cell transplant. I chose that path. Together with my family and community of support, I was able to survive the requisite chemotherapy and then the preparation for the transplant. When the day arrived to receive the donation (like receiving a blood transfusion, only they are bone marrow stem cells), I knew that there was a very complex medical system that had opened the door for this possibility, but that day I also learned that my donor was a young German woman, and I understood that there must be a story on the other side of the tiny IV bag that contained my chance at life.

The transplant and long recovery took place, and then, at last, after two years of exchanging a handful of anonymous letters, my donor, Sarah, and I were permitted to share personal information. She and I immediately began emailing in English, this, because my capacity to communicate in German was near zero and consisted of "Gesundheit!," "Was ist das?," "Das ist verboten," and "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." Of course, English has Germanic roots, but that fact did not seem to serve me here, and with Sarah shouldering the burden of translation and composition in her non-native language, our average turnaround time for emails was two to three weeks. When we each declared our wish to meet the other, we found that the tears "came

"What Else Is There Than to Help Another Human?"

immediately," and a plan was quickly envisioned: my husband Robert and I would travel in September, and stay at her family home in Northern Germany.

This is the story of that meeting.

We arrived in Hamburg, prepared. I had taken a short course in German before the trip, and we had allowed time to relax and explore the city for two days before the appointed time came for Robert and I to meet Sarah and her husband Henning in the lobby of our hotel. I could not have been truly prepared, though, and when Sarah walked through the glass doors of the hotel, time did stop. We looked unbelievably at each other and then collapsed into a long embrace. We sat in the hotel and began to get acquainted. I held my questions and began with two gift books. One was a narrative of appreciation I had put together with photos entwining our two lives. The second was a binder bulging with thank-you notes from family and friends. I had hoped Sarah would be able to experience in a tangible fashion some of the incomprehensible gratitude we were bringing. Her humanitarian gesture had come not only from Sarah herself but also from her loving community, and so it seemed fitting to bring statements from those in my sphere, also affected by her act. Again, there were tears. The realm in

which this experience lies cannot readily be expressed in words.

We enjoyed "high tea" at the hotel, and then Henning drove us to Sarah's childhood home in a small town in Lower Saxony, where her parents, and two brothers with their families, live. At dinner that evening with both Henning's and Sarah's families present, I was able to thank everyone together. I began with the words I had prepared in German, but continued in English, Sarah's brother and his wife helping with translation. Sitting next to Sarah, I began to satisfy my yearning to understand her half of the experience leading to and following the donation and transplant.

My first question: why did Sarah volunteer to donate her bone marrow stem cells? Back in 2005, when Sarah was 19 years old, an 8-year-old boy in a neighboring village was diagnosed with a blood cancer. A campaign went out to try to save him, and everyone offered to donate their stem cells. There was ultimately no match, and he did not survive. A few years later, there was another boy, an 18-year-old, who had a bone cancer, and the call went out again for donations. He, too, had no match, and did not live. Thus, when Sarah received word that she had actually matched with someone, she was surprised and "scared," but knew she "had to do it." She put it this way, "What else is there than to help another human?"

I also wondered what the experience was like for her. When the call came that she was a match, Sarah and Henning were planning for their wedding in two months. Yet she accepted the call. Sarah was given a medication for about a week that would allow her bone marrow stem cells to be available to be withdrawn from her blood. During that time, she "was really sick." Still, she went to her work at a local utili-

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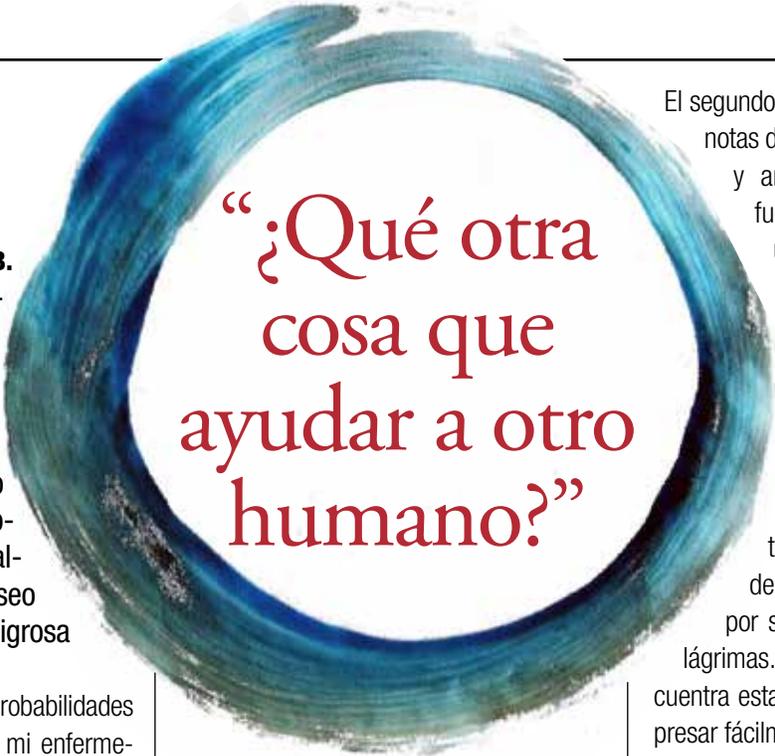
Reunión con el Donante que Me Dio la Vida

por Robin B.

Quando recibí el diagnóstico de cáncer de médula ósea en diciembre de 2011, yo sabía que mi vida se había vuelto al revés, pero no tenía ni idea de las profundas conexiones que saldrían a relucir de mi paseo con esta enfermedad peligrosa para la vida.

Ofreciendo un 30% de probabilidades de éxito, la única cura para mi enfermedad era un trasplante de células madre de médula ósea. Elegí ese camino. Junto con mi familia y la comunidad de apoyo, pude sobrevivir a la quimioterapia necesaria y luego a la preparación para el trasplante. Cuando llegó el día para recibir la donación (como recibir una transfusión de sangre, sólo que son las células madre de médula ósea), yo supe que hubo un muy complejo sistema médico que había abierto la puerta a esta posibilidad, pero ese día también aprendí que mi donante fue una joven alemana, y yo entendí que ahí debe estar una historia en el otro lado de la pequeña bolsa de IV que contenía mi oportunidad en la vida.

El trasplante y la larga recuperación ocurrieron y entonces, por fin, después de dos años de intercambio de un puñado de letras anónimas, a mí donante, Sarah, y a mí, nos fue permitido compartir información personal. Ella y yo comenzamos inmediatamente un correo electrónico en inglés, esto, porque mi capacidad de comunicarme en alemán estaba cerca de cero y consistía en "Gesundheit!", "Was ist das?," "Das ist verboten," y "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." Por supuesto, el inglés tiene raíces germánicas, pero este hecho no parece servirme aquí, y con Sarah asumiendo la carga de la composición y



“¿Qué otra
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traducción en su idioma no nativo, nuestro tiempo de respuesta promedio de correos electrónicos fue de dos a tres semanas. Cuando cada uno de nosotras declaramos nuestro deseo de conocer a la otra, encontramos que las lágrimas llegaron "inmediatamente", y rápidamente se vislumbró un plan: mi esposo Robert y a mi nos gustaría viajar en septiembre y alojarnos en la casa de su familia en el Norte de Alemania.

Esta es la historia de esa reunión.

Llegamos a Hamburgo, preparados. Yo había tomado un pequeño curso de alemán antes del viaje, y nos habíamos permitido tiempo para relajarnos y explorar la ciudad por dos días antes de la hora señalada para que Robert y yo conociéramos a Sarah y su esposo Henning en el lobby de nuestro hotel. Yo no podía haber estado verdaderamente preparada, sin embargo, cuando Sarah entró por las puertas de cristal del hotel, el tiempo se detuvo. Nosotros nos miramos incrédulamente la una a la otra y entonces nos fundimos en un largo abrazo. Nosotros nos sentamos en el hotel y comenzamos a conocernos. Yo contuve mis preguntas y comencé con dos libros de regalo. Uno era una narrativa de agradecimiento que había puesto junto con fotos entrelazando nuestras dos vidas.

El segundo fue una carpeta abultada con notas de agradecimiento de la familia y amigos. Esperaba que Sarah fuera capaz de experimentar de una manera tangible la incomprendible gratitud que nosotros estábamos llevando. Su gesto humanitario había venido no solo de Sarah misma, sino también de su comunidad de amor, y eso me parecía apropiado para traer las declaraciones de los de mi esfera, también afectados por su acto. Otra vez, llegaron las lágrimas. El ámbito en el que se encuentra esta experiencia no se puede expresar fácilmente en palabras.

Nosotros disfrutamos de la "merienda" en el hotel, y luego Henning nos condujo a la casa de la infancia de Sarah en una pequeña ciudad en la Baja Sajonia, donde viven sus padres y dos hermanos con sus familias. En la cena esa noche con las familias de Henning y la de Sarah presentes, pude agradecerles a todos juntos. Empecé con las palabras que había preparado en alemán, pero continué en inglés, el hermano de Sarah y su esposa ayudaron con la traducción. Sentada al lado de Sarah, comencé a satisfacer mi anhelo de comprender su mitad de la experiencia que conducen a y seguida de la donación y el trasplante.

Mi primera pregunta: ¿por qué Sarah fue voluntaria para donar las células madre de su médula ósea? En 2005, cuando Sarah tenía 19 años, un muchacho de 8 años en un pueblo vecino fue diagnosticado con un cáncer de la sangre. Salió una campaña para tratar de salvarlo, y todos se ofrecieron para donar sus células madre. Absolutamente, no hubo compatibilidad y él no sobrevivió. Unos años más tarde, había otro chico de 18 años de edad, que tenía un cáncer de hueso, y la llamada salió otra vez para las donaciones. Tampoco hubo ninguna compatibilidad y no vivió. Así,

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HUMAN

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ties office in a neighboring small city every day. An acquaintance during this time suggested that she “did not have to do this. It is too hard.” This, she said, just served to strengthen her commitment to the process: “I told her, ‘Of course, I will do it.’”

My transplant took place on July 26, 2012, but Sarah did not receive the letter I wrote in August, thanking her and assuring her that I was OK, until December. All those months she had been waiting anxiously to hear about my health. Her godmother, best friend Katerina, other friends and relatives, and parents were all rooting for her, and for me. As Katerina put it, “We always help each other here; it is a small place.” My letter finally arrived during a gathering of some of these women. Sarah’s sister-in-law

translated, and all shared in Sarah’s joy.

Robert and I stayed with Sarah and her family for four days. We visited the dairy farm of Henning’s family where the two of them live with his parents, grandparents, and brother’s family. We toured Hannover, a short train ride away; visited one of Sarah’s favorite places, a resort town on the Baltic Sea, called Timmendorf; and drove to the neighboring town to visit her workplace.

The day before we departed, a local newspaper reporter interviewed Sarah and me. The reporter seemed especially touched. It turned out he was the one who

“Medical science has created this relationship; now we, in all our humanity, get to live it out.”

had covered the stories about the two boys who had not survived, so our experience was particularly poignant for him. The resulting article captured Sarah’s serious commitment to encourage others to volunteer to donate, and included photos of her family, as well as of their new “blood relative” and her husband.

This fall I have closed one circle, enacting my singular wish to look into the eyes of my donor and thank her for giving me life. The circle, though, having no beginning or end, continues around. Sarah and I have been in touch every day since then via WhatsApp. What is this loving relationship? Is she my mother (she gave me life), my daughter (she is nearly the same age as my son), my niece (it feels a bit like that), my godmother? Medical science has created this relationship; now we, in all our humanity, get to live it out.

HUMANO

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cuando Sara recibió la noticia de que ella había emparejado realmente con alguien, ella estaba sorprendida y “temerosa”, pero sabía que “tenía que hacerlo.” Ella lo dijo de esta manera, “¿Qué otra cosa que ayudar a otro humano?”

También me preguntaba lo que fue la experiencia para ella. Cuando la llamaron diciéndole que ella era compatible, Sarah y Henning estaban planeando su boda para dentro de dos meses. Sin embargo, ella aceptó el llamado. A Sarah le dieron un medicamento por una semana para que sus células madre de la médula ósea estuvieran disponibles para ser retiradas de su sangre. Durante ese tiempo, ella “estuvo realmente enferma.” Aun así, iba a su trabajo en una oficina de servicios públicos locales en una pequeña ciudad vecina todos los días. Una conocida durante este tiempo le sugirió que ella “no tenía que hacerlo. Es muy difícil”. Esto, ella dijo, sólo sirvió para fortalecer su compromiso con el proceso: “Yo le dije a ella, ‘por supuesto, lo haré.’”

Mi trasplante fue el 26 de julio del 2012, pero Sarah no recibió la carta que le escribí en agosto, agradeciéndole y asegurándole que yo estaba bien, hasta diciembre. Todos esos meses ella había estado esperando ansiosamente oír acerca de mi salud. Su madrina, su mejor amiga Katerina, otros amigos y familiares y sus padres estuvieron apoyándola a ella y a mí. Como Katerina lo puso, “siempre nos ayudamos los unos a otros; es un lugar pequeño”. Mi carta finalmente llegó durante una reunión de algunas de estas mujeres. La cuñada de Sarah la tradujo y todos compartieron la alegría de Sarah

Robert y yo nos quedamos con Sara y su familia durante cuatro días. Visitamos la granja de la familia de Henning donde los dos viven con sus padres, abuelos y la familia de su hermano. Recorrimos Hannover, a una corta distancia en tren; visitamos uno de los lugares favoritos de Sarah, un balneario en el Mar Báltico, llamado Timmendorf; y nos llevaron al pueblo vecino para visitar su lugar de trabajo.

El día antes de que partiéramos, un re-

portero del periódico local nos entrevistó a Sarah y a mí. El reportero parecía especialmente conmovido. Resultó que era el que había cubierto las historias sobre los dos niños que no sobrevivieron, por lo que nuestra experiencia fue particularmente conmovedora para él. El artículo resultante capturo el serio compromiso de Sarah para animar a otros a ser voluntarios para donar y había incluidas fotos de su familia, así como de su nueva “pariente de sangre” y su marido.

Este otoño he cerrado un círculo, promulgar mi singular deseo de mirar a los ojos de mi donante y agradecerle por darme la vida. El círculo, sin embargo, no tiene principio ni fin, continúa alrededor. Sarah y yo hemos estado en contacto cada día desde entonces a través de WhatsApp. ¿Cuál es esta amorosa relación? ¿Ella es mi madre (ella me dio la vida), mi hija (ella es casi de la misma edad que mi hijo), mi sobrina (que se siente un poco como eso), mi madrina? La ciencia médica ha creado esta relación; Ahora nosotros, en nuestra humanidad, llegamos a vivir plenamente.

WHADDYA UU know?



Friday, February 26 • 7 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of San Jose • Hattie Porter Hall

A comedy game show with word play, puzzles, trivia, music and fun.

FEATURING:

Celebrity Guest:.... Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Emcee: Henry Ruddle
House Musician: John Ector
Official Scorekeeper: Art Henrick
Music: Dianne Saichek
Door/Tickets: Susan Miller
Snacks/Drinks: Bob Owen
Table Puzzles: K'Ailsa Rowan, Sally
Cooperrider, Jenny Redfern

*Format affectionately and deliberately
stolen from NPR's Ask Me Another*

Contestants needed!

(Email Henry Ruddle at rcreative1@gmail.com to sign up.)

GRAND PRIZE: Lunch with Rev. Nancy

Free will donation at the door.
(Suggested: \$10). All proceeds
benefit the music program.

For questions, to offer help,
or to volunteer as a contestant,
e-mail (emcee) **Henry Ruddle** at
rcreative1@gmail.com

Democratic Governance

Mission and Vision—What Are They For?

By The Board of Directors

Our Mission Statement tells us and the world who we are: Bound together by our commitment to making Love visible, we gather to deepen our spirits, to work for justice, and to create one sacred family. We summarize this statement as Making Love visible in all that we say and do, to help us keep our Mission in our thoughts as we work together.

Our Vision Statement helps us to create a transparent, sustainable, effective community, accountable to the Mission and to each other. The Vision identifies those areas where we most need to focus our attention in the next 5 years in order to fulfill our Mission within ourselves, among our congregation, and beyond our congregation in the wider community. Once the Vision is approved, the Board, Program and Operations Council, and ministers, along

with other congregants and leaders in our various ministries, create quantifiable goals in order to turn the Vision into reality.

Through fall-winter 2015, in town-hall meetings, small-group ministry sessions, one-to-one meetings, and the Board retreat, the Board has gathered congregational input on what the areas of focus should be for Vision 2020. The board has distilled this input into the draft Vision 2020 below.

Vision 2020 DRAFT

In 2020 at First Unitarian Church of San Jose, we see:

Within

- Congregation-wide participation in activities that promote multicultural, antiracist, anti-oppressive competencies, including deep listening, compassionate communication, and understanding of systems of oppression
- Worship, classes, and activities that deepen personal spiritual development and encourage the expression in the world of one's faith

Among

- Our physical plant structurally sound and updated to support our ministries
- Children, youth, and young adults at the center of congregational life through classes, projects, worship, and intergenerational experiences
- A robust membership support system that engages everyone from first-time visitors to long-time members and friends through programs that include

leadership development, social events and celebrations, diverse support groups, and service to the congregation and to the community

Beyond

- Coalitions and alliances with interfaith, Unitarian Universalist, and secular organizations working for racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice



Left, Rev. Nancy, Rev. Ken Henry (Willow Glen Presbyterian Church, and Rabbi Dana Magat at the interfaith candlelight vigil to for an end to gun violence, San Jose City Hall, Monday January 18. Above, Mary Idso and Genie Bernardini at the vigil.

Democratic Governance

Board Meeting Report from January:

Justice, both racial and economic, was a primary concern of our Board's discussions in our January 7th meeting, along with completion for consideration of a draft of a Vision 2020 for our Congregation.

But first I should mention that Bill Shepard, our Treasurer, had several items of general interest to report. The Audit Committee is currently active and expects its report to be completed in February. The Investment Committee has invested \$25,000 of our operational funds with the UUA rather than letting it languish as cash-on-hand. The Stewardship Committee will send out year-end tax info by the end of January. The Finance Committee is yet dealing with the insurance company over the water damage caused by equipment failure. And the Church's overall expenses are on target vs. budget for this point in the year.

We also had a special report from Dana Grover concerning plans for Saint James Park. Dana is involved as one of many community advisers as the City pursues a

major grant from the Levitt Foundation to locate a "Levitt Pavilion" in the park. This would be a major transformation of the use of the park, creating a music venue for a minimum of 50 free concerts each year for the downtown neighborhoods. This has been accomplished in several cities across

“The Board has completed a DRAFT of “Vision 2020”, and has released it for consideration by the congregation.”

the nation, transforming under-maintained and under-utilized parks into vibrant civic spaces. More information about the intention of the project can be found on the internet at LevittPavilions.org.

In considering the relationship of this project to our Church, and our Mission and Vision, the Board is particularly concerned with what will happen with the homeless that currently inhabit the park, that they

by Rob Strong, Board Secretary

not just be swept out. The Board provided Dana with the current draft of Vision 2020, in which the words most pertinent for representing our congregation on this project seem to be “working for racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice”. Dana understands this concern and will carry that concern as he continues in his role with the planning.

“Black Lives Matter” will be the topic in the pulpit on January 24th. To encourage a deeper and more personal conversation, the Board is sponsoring a discussion after that service from 12:30 to 2 in conjunction with a free “light lunch” of soup and bread.

The Board has completed a DRAFT of “Vision 2020”, and has released it for consideration by the congregation. (See page 10) Discussions, comments and revision are planned for February, hopefully with adoption to be voted during the March Congregational Meeting.

The Board continues with 150th Celebrations planning, and with performing a ministerial review with Reverend Nancy this year.

Deepening Our Welcome: *Get-Acquainted Light Lunches 2016*

by the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones

On certain Sundays, the smell of fresh-baked bread wafts up from the kitchen downstairs, then floats through the sanctuary into the Library.

The aroma invites First Unitarian's newcomers to gather with a small group of members and friends for a potluck light lunch (bread, soup, salad, etc.) right after the worship service in the cozy round room just off our entryway.

The host asks everyone in the circle to

share their names and a little bit about the journey that has led them to First Unitarian. Like a small-group ministry session, the conversation invites people into FUCSJ's practice of deep listening.

Longer-term members then share the church activities that enliven them. “Let us help you get connected.”

Volunteer to Help!

Email **Ed Gardner** ednatsj@sbcglobal.net to attend or to volunteer to help.



Lunch Schedule 2015-16

All lunches take place in the Library from 12:15 – 1:15 pm

- Sunday, March 6
- Sunday, May 1

Children and Youth Classes



For a full description of our 2015-2016 curriculum, please refer to the September 2015 Church Circular.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1st - 4th grades — Chinese New Year
5th - 8th grades — Sources of Injustice
9th - 12th — A safe place for youth to share their lives and find support and friendship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

1st - 4th grades — Chinese Dragon Celebration
5th - 8th grades — Sources of Justice
9th - 12th — A safe place for youth to share their lives and find support and friendship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

1st - 4th grades — Huichol Tribe Day
5th - 8th grades — The UU Approach to Justice
9th - 12th — A safe place for youth to share their lives and find support and friendship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

1st - 4th grades — Powamu—Hopi Bean Planting Ceremony
5th - 8th grades — Justice at Home
9th - 12th — A safe place for youth to share their lives and find support and friendship

Teacher Orientation

By Emily Carroll

Love working with children? Want to get involved in this church community? Interested in best teaching practices? This orientation is for you! 9:30 am February 7 in the office conference room. Refreshments provided.

Program Overview From Emily Carroll

Dear FUCSJ Community,

It has been splendiferous joining you in worship, meditation, faith development, and conversation. I am grateful to be on board, get to know you, and serve this church!

Highlights of the last month include the youth covenant sleepover. They wrote a beautiful and meaningful covenant. Ask a youth to take you upstairs and check it out; you will be impressed! Our regular Sunday classes, meditation group, and UU parenting group are all going strong! Here are some new invitations:

A new young adult group for ages 18-35 is starting Sunday, January 31 from 1-3 pm in the Youth Room! We will use the Unitarian Universalist curriculum "Find-

ing Your Path" by Michael Tino to explore who we are and where our passion and the needs of the world intersect in order to live a more meaningful life. It's a time to pause from the busyness of the day, reflect on what matters most, and connect with other young adults!

Children are the lights of our lives, teaching is one of most rewarding activities available to us, and we could all use a few more friends! One way to partake in all three is by serving as an RE teacher! Join this teacher orientation downstairs in the conference room Sunday, February 7th from 9:30 am-10:45 am to get involved, build community, and enjoy the rewards of teaching! Childcare available upon request. Light refreshments will be provided. Please

RSVP to me by Tuesday, January 26th.

Finally, please see the announcement about a new adult RE class starting up February 21 about how issues of sustainability connect with issues of race and ethnicity. This class helps us learn new practices that create a more just world!

Thank you for participating in this church community, and I look forward to getting to know each of you in the coming months! Please contact me with questions, concerns, and ideas!

In Service,

Emily Carroll
Sabbatical Religious Educator
faithlovegratitude@gmail.com

“Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on the earth. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.”

~Shirley Chisholm

“Our Place in the Web of Life”

New adult RE class sponsored by Social Justice and Rights of Nature

By Emily Carroll, Sabbatical Religious Educator

The Rights of Nature and Social Justice groups offer “Our Place in the Web of Life,” an introduction to environmental justice and how issues of the environment interact with race and ethnicity.

Curriculum co-developer Dr. Mark Hicks states, “We want to help congregations not simply talk about injustice, but to learn new practices that bring about the kind of world that UUs dream about all the time.”

This highly engaging five-session class invites participants to look deeply at how the consequences of their actions on people and the environment ripple out from their neighborhood in ever-widening circles across the U.S. and world. Through film, music, research, mapping, ethical reflection, meditation, and ritual, participants wrestle with what it means to be faithfully and justly part of an interconnected com-

munity of life.

The class starts Sunday, February 21, from 1:30-3:30pm and continues every other Sunday: March 6, March 20, April 3, and April 17. Classes are highly participatory and cumulative, so consistent attendance is critical. We will meet in the downstairs classrooms 4-6.

Please join us in this transformative learning experience! Space is limited, so please email **Dana Spinney** to sign up: fucsjoffice@gmail.com. There is a \$10 suggested materials fee, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you need childcare, we will strive to provide it for

a small additional fee. Questions? Please visit the Social Justice table in Hattie Porter Hall after the Sunday service or email **Frey Leigh**: fleigh@att.net.



Unitarian Universalist Parents Meetup Group

The Meetup group is a safe venue for parents and children who embrace a Unitarian Universalist philosophy to connect. The group was formed by parents at First Unitarian Church of San José <http://sanjoseuu.org> who wanted an easy way to get to know like-minded parents. You do not have

to attend any church or consider yourself religious to be part of this group. Just go to our Meetup site, <http://www.meetup.com/UUParents/> and fill out a few profile questions, which are meant to verify you are a parent with some interest in this group, and an organizer will approve you.



Circling Around

by Torchy Hunter

“Now, now, now. You know it is more blessed to give than to receive.” This is often said to greedy little kids ahead of some event like birthdays or Christmas.

Just to check on how we’re doing, the week before Christmas, I asked the question “What is the best gift you are giving?”

Federico Zapiola-Madden was dumb-founded and couldn’t think of a single an-

swer. **Connie Lucid** is giving a T shirt with a quote from The Exaggerators “There are billions of us.” Meaning? **Jean Rivers** is giving candy. **Rick Merritt** is giving time and a football. Sounds like a song title. **Mary Martin** has three sisters, and she is making up a huge box containing trashy novels, bon-bons, tea and furry boots. And somebody is giving her a gift with kitties on it, but I’m not telling. **Arthur Henricks** is giving a coin to his dad. I saw him giving coins to **John Ector**, who said he was giving “the gift of his music”. **The Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones** began, uncharacteristically, to jump up and down saying she had stopped giving gifts, but this year decided to have another go at it, and what a great question (you are welcome). She’d forgotten the actual joy of wrapping presents: how the paper feels and the tape you’ll never get off the table, but she’s near delirious about wrapping pictures, with

frames, even. (I once wrapped a football to look like a bottle of champagne.) **Patrick Smiley** gave a ticket to the Choral Project. Wow. (Enter **Sherry Howd**, a person so practical that if you tell her you’ll be there “in 5 minutes”, she’ll look at her watch.) She’s giving a filing cabinet. I didn’t ask. **Patti Segarini** gives time. **Bob Owen**, a matching iPhone for **Liz. Steve Stein**: fudge. **MM Feldman** gave help with her Kindle to **Karen Conrotto**. Our Pres, **Madeline Morrow** is taking Jim to the Nutcracker, which he’s never seen.

Barbara Derbyshire is giving a bungee chair. **Jay Porter** is getting tix to a bowl game: Nebraska vs UCLA. He might be the only person you have ever known from Nebraska. And a newbie, **Ken McCain** is giving time for his family.

So is this a Unitarian Christmas? Look at the variety. And we were all blessed in giving. On to 2016.

An Invitation to Tea — The Jean vonKaenel Tea

By MM Feldman

You are invited to take an afternoon off from the hustle-bustle of Superbowl Weekend and enjoy some more civilized and tasteful company, a perfectly lovely combination of tea, tasty treats, and musical entertainment.

This marvelous event is the kind of thing to which you might bring your relatives and friends. It is Good Fun in support of a good cause.

The Date: 1:00 to 3:30 pm , Saturday, February 6— the day before the Superbowl

The Place: Hattie Porter Hall, First Unitarian Church of San Jose 160 N. Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112

The Event: The Jean vonKaenel Tea — a lively and elegant event to raise money for our Partner Church Program. In particular, this Tea will support our efforts to bring more of our friends from the Unitarian Church in Homoródszentmárton,



Transylvania, to visit us here in the summer of 2017.

The Fun: Get dressed up (or not) for a fancy tea party. We’ll serve ten different kinds of tea, from fancy china teacups (and saucers!), and a delectable assortment of tea sandwiches, fruits, cookies, and scones, as well as handmade apple strudel with ice cream. Throughout the event, talented musicians and dancers from our church community will entertain you. We

also have three themed raffle baskets, packed with goodies: Coffee Express, Time for Tea, and Fun For All. And once again, we will auction off a full-color poster, donated by Pixar Studios and signed by dozens of Pixar artists.

Tickets: Tickets are \$20 for adults, or \$10 for kids. To get your tickets, see me (MM Feldman) or Monty Low in Hattie Porter Hall after service, or ... online via Paypal www.sanjoseuu.org/donate.shtml

Incentives for Advance Ticket Purchase:

1. If you buy your ticket in advance, you’ll receive three free raffle tickets when you arrive. Your odds of winning a basket just got better.
2. Lost Ticket Insurance. If you misplace your pre-purchased ticket before the event, or forget to bring it, no worries, because we’ll have a record of your purchase. Safer than cash!

Thank you for my Big Bash 90th!

From Jean Embree:

Thank you to all who contributed to my Big Bash 90th birthday party on January 9.

You all know who you are! And if any of you brought plants or flowers, let me know, because the cards attached to some of those somehow disappeared. We had more than 90 family and long-time friends, and a lot of great singalong and potluck. Love and metta to you all.



FUCSJ on Display

By Catherine Leeson

Five glass cases on the fifth floor of San Jose's Martin Luther King Jr. Library (just as you exit the elevator) are currently displaying an array of historical items that explain and illustrate the 150-year history of our church

Exhibits range from an 1865 newspaper article about Charles Gordon Ames's first Unitarian sermon in San Jose to the disastrous fire of 1995, the amazing recovery from it, and the involvement of our church in social justice issues through a century and a half to the present day.

This display will be removed on February 15, so please make a visit (perhaps after church) and check it out!



Pledge Carnival!
Sunday, March 13th
 A one-day combination Retreat/Day Camp/Fiesta for all ages! Drop in or stay all day to maximize the fun.
Raffles throughout the day
 Earn raffle tickets by pledging AND by showing up.
Mark your calendars!

Dear UU Friends of Third Street,

Thank you for welcoming me to your service on Jan. 10 and allowing me to say a few words about Third Street. I am extremely grateful that you dedicated the special collection for Third Street kids.

As many of you may know, this month we started our Young Engineers Program.

We have 40 youth including 10 high school youth who have been in this program since middle school. This is the first time we've had so many older youth a part of our program. Your support has helped us reach this new milestone in serving our community!

In addition, we would like to announce that tickets for our annual Inspire Young Minds event, on March 12, 2016, are now available from a link on our homepage www.3street.org.

Sincerely,

Rosemary
Baez



Save the Date: March 12, 2016

Inspire Young Minds

This signature event supports the Third Street Community Center's work to bridge the achievement gap, promote STEM education, and create a college-going culture for disadvantaged children in San José. Please contact Rosemary at rosemary@3street.org for information or to help with the event.

Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 11 AM



“I Am Grateful”

Cultivating gratitude is one of the simplest and most transformative spiritual practices. Being grateful leaves us happier, healthier, improves our relationships, and helps us feel connected to something larger than ourselves. But how can we find gratitude when life isn't going well? In the face of widespread suffering, can gratitude help us be a force for healing and justice in the world?

On this Super Bowl Sunday, please allow some extra time for travel to the church and parking, and then let's offer our guest an especially warm welcome!

Worship Leader: The Rev. Matthew McHale, special guest; **Worship Associate:** Mary Martin

DOMINGO, 7 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

“Estoy Agradecida”

Cultivando la gratitud es una de las prácticas espirituales más simples y más transformadoras. Ser agradecidos nos deja más felices, saludables, mejora nuestras relaciones y nos ayuda a sentirnos conectados a algo más grande que nosotros mismos. Pero, ¿cómo podemos encontrar la gratitud cuando la vida no va bien? ¿Ante el sufrimiento generalizado, la gratitud nos puede ayudar ser una fuerza para la sanación y la justicia en el mundo?

En este domingo de Super Bowl, por favor deje algún tiempo adicional para viajar a la iglesia y estacionarse, ¡y entonces

ofrecer a nuestros huéspedes una bienvenida especialmente cálida!

Dirige: El Rev. Matthew McHale, invitado especial; **Asociada de Culto:** Mary Martin

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 11 AM



“You Ask Me to Speak”

On this Valentine's Day, let's look at how we express our love. How do we let others—even the stranger—know they are beloved, by which I mean they are held in our high regard, with compassion and respect? For that matter, how do we convince ourselves of our own belovedness? This idea that we are all beloved lies at the very root of our Universalist faith. Let's let our “roots hold us close” on this Sunday.

Worship Leader: The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** TBA

DOMINGO, 14 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

“Me Piden que Hable”

En este día de San Valentín, vamos a ver cómo expresamos nuestro amor. ¿Cómo dejamos que otros— incluso a los extraños—sepan que son amados, me refiero a que ellos están en nuestra estima, con compasión y respeto? De hecho, ¿cómo convencernos a nosotros mismos de nuestro propio amor? Esta idea de que somos todos amados se encuentra en la raíz misma de nuestra fe Universalista. Dejemos que nuestras “raíces nos mantengan cerca” este domingo.

Dirige: La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Asociados de Culto: TBA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 11 AM



“Bird on the Wing”: Will We Choose Love or Fear?

“Come on, people, now, smile on your brother [sister, sibling, friend]. Everybody get together, try to love one another right now!” When we use the Youngbloods' 1967 song “Get Together” as our text for this service, we discover some serious questions about how we want to live our “one wild and precious life,” as poet Mary Oliver puts it. Come on, people, now, let's consider the alternatives and find out if we can renew our commitment to choosing Love over fear!

Worship Leader: The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Bev Clifford

DOMINGO, 21 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

“El Pájaro en el Ala”: ¿Elegiremos Amor o Miedo?

“Venga, gente, ahora, la sonrisa en tu hermano [hermana, hermano, amigo]. ¡Todo el mundo a reunirse, tratar de amarse unos a otros ahora mismo!” Como cuando usamos en 1967 la canción de los Youngbloods “Get Together” como nuestro texto para este servicio, nosotros descubrimos algunas preguntas serias acerca de cómo queremos vivir nuestra “salvaje y preciosa vida,” como dice la poeta Mary Oliver. Vamos, gente, ahora, vamos a considerar las alternativas y averiguar si podemos renovar nuestro compromiso de elegir ¡el Amor sobre el miedo!

Dirige: La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Asociada de Culto: Bev Clifford

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 11 AM



“It’s a Mystery ...”

Life is indeed a mystery sometimes, isn’t it? As we go to press with this newsletter, the title and worship leader for this Sunday service are wrapped in mystery. Come experience the unveiling and join Rev. Nancy in welcoming a special guest!

Worship Leader: TBA; **Worship Associate:** The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

DOMINGO, 28 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

“Es un misterio ...”

La vida es de hecho un misterio a veces, ¿no lo es? Como vamos a seguir con la impresión de este boletín, el líder del título y el dirigente del servicio para este domingo están envueltos en misterio. Vengan a la revelación de la experiencia y Únanse a la Rev. Nancy en la bienvenida al invitado especial!

Dirige: TBA; **Asociada de Culto:** La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones



Like us on Facebook!

Help us grow our online presence and continue the conversation on our Facebook page. “First Unitarian Church of San José.” New articles, thoughtful quotes, and photos every week! www.facebook.com/FUCSJ

Rev. Nancy’s Coauthor, Karin Lin, Returns to FUCSJ, February 18-24!

Karin Lin, lay leader from First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts, returns to First Unitarian this month “in her own voice”!

Yes, that’s an inside joke: Karin had lost her voice when she visited First Unitarian this past November, but with technological savvy, she discovered a way to conduct interviews anyway. Thanks to all who participated in group and individual conversations with Karin and Rev. Nancy then.

During this visit, Karin and Rev. Nancy will conduct more individual interviews for their book, *The Joy of the Journey: Unitarian Universalist Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* (working title). If you receive an email request for an interview, please do say yes. You can visit the book’s website for more information: <http://joyofthejourneyuu.weebly.com/>.

And we hope everyone will offer Karin a warm “Welcome Home!” as she joins us in worship on February 21.



Rev. Nancy and Karin pose with Dotty the Penguin outside the Religious Education wing of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma

ALBANZAS EN ESPAÑOL (SPANISH LAUDS) 10:15 AM

Venga a unirse a nosotros para este servicio simple de oración-meditación de media hora (sin sermón) a las 10:15 am en una mezcla de inglés y español en la biblioteca de la iglesia.

Come join us for this simple prayer-meditation service (without sermon) at 10:15 am, held in a mixture of English and Spanish in the Church Library.

Announcements

MONDAYS 6-7 PM

Weekly Meditation Group

First Unitarian Church Sanctuary

After a short reading and ringing of the bell, we sit in silent meditation for 30 minutes, followed by a loving kindness meditation.

Next, we share about our practice and are currently reading and discussing *The Sun, My Heart* by Thich Nhat Hanh together (copies available if you don't have the book). Please enter the church through the side door at the end of the ramp. Feel free to sit in a chair or bring a cushion. Contact Emily faithlovegratitude@gmail.com with questions. All are welcome!

1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS 2:30-5 PM



San Jose Community Dances

Hattie Porter Hall

Great exercise, great LIVE music, great fun! All dances taught — beginners welcome.

You can find detailed information at bacds.org/series/community/san_jose or [facebook.com/groups/SanJoseCommunityDance](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SanJoseCommunityDance)

April 19: After-dance jam session using The Portland Collection (contra) and The Barnes Books (English Country Dance), 5-7 pm. Contact Susan Torngren, storgren@comcast.net, for more information.

2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS 12:45 PM

Uuthful Spirits Lunch

Hattie Porter Hall by Newcomer's Table

Join our young adult/young-at-heart fellowship group for Lunch!

Meet in Hattie Porter Hall near the Newcomer's table at about 12:45 pm. Questions? Contact uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAYS 7-9 PM



Alegría Singers Choir Practice

Sanctuary

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at Sunday services, special events such as solstice celebrations, Coffee-houses and other activities.

Questions? Liz Owen lowen@data-time.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 31 1-3 PM

Young Adult Group (18-35) Begins

Youth Room

With opening words, a check-in, focus reading, discussion, activity, closing words, and plenty of food and laughter, this new mini-worship service and spiritual discussion group will help us pause from our daily lives, reflect on what matters most, and connect with others in a similar phase of life!

I'm hoping to get some meditation in as well! The first session will be about fresh starts and setting an intention for 2016. Facilitated by sabbatical Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) Emily Carroll faithlovegratitude@gmail.com. **Pizza will be provided.** We hope to see you there!



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 1-3 PM

Women's Alliance

Ramsden Fireside Room

We are discussing *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Ch. 21-26 (pp. 267-316), as well as *Belief & Unbelief: Womanhood Beyond Re-*

ligion by Barbara Walker (Essay #13 "A Learning Experience" and Essay #14 "How Did Funerals Begin?").

Please contact Nancy Coleman at 408-985-5778 or nbc Coleman@gmail.com for further information. All are welcome.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 8 PM



Dances of Universal Peace

Sanctuary

The Dances of Universal Peace are a spiritual practice honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, celebrating the interconnected web of all existence, and using sacred phrases from the world's religions.

Come join us on the labyrinth under the dome of our church. **Beginners and experienced dancers join together in these moving meditations.** The words of the sacred phrases, as well as the melodies and the movements, are taught each time.

If you have questions you can email Patrick Smiley at patrick.smiley@sbc-global.net or telephone and leave a message at 650.596.8829.

SATURDAY, FEB 6 1-3:30 PM

Jean von Kaenel Tea to Benefit Partner Church

Details, page 9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 10-11 AM

HUUmanati Sunday Forum:

Hattie Porter Hall

We gather, socialize, check in, read aloud, write haiku, play games, or whatever. Come by to tarry

awhile, share your thoughts, or just listen. It's fun, and interesting talk always happens.

We meet at the table nearest the coffee. For more information, contact **Amy Baldwin** at 408-730-9622.

MONDAY, FEB. 8 **DEADLINE**
SAT. /SUN., FEB. 20-21 **SUPPERS**

Circle Suppers

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 members' homes to share food and conversation. Singles and couples, long-time church members or new to this church community, all are welcome. Contact **Barbara Derbyshire** at CircleSuppers@AOL.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 7-9 PM

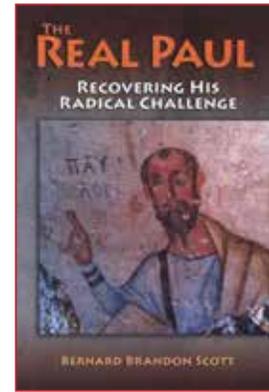
Social Justice Council

Conference Room

The Social Justice Council meets on 2nd Mondays. You are invited to attend.

A current social action issue is discussing Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) that our congregation thinks should be added to the 2016 General Assembly agenda for four years of study, reflection, and action. For information about Congregational Study Action Issues go to www.uua.org/statements/current. To weigh in on these issues, join the Social Justice Council meeting. If you have questions or plan to attend the meeting, please call or text **John Burk** at 408-259-3781.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 6-8 PM



Christian Origins Book Study

**Conference Room, or by Video/
Teleconference wherever you are**

***The Real Paul: Recovering His Radical Challenge* by Bernard Brandon Scott**

On February 10 we continue our 5-month study of a historic shift in perspectives on Paul of the New Testament.

In his new book, Biblical historical scholar Bernard Brandon Scott presents a radical new interpretation of what Paul was about. This month we'll discuss pages 39 – 89 (Chapters 5-7), in which Scott claims that Paul was not converted, and discusses the meaning of the disagreement between Paul and Cephas. As we read and discuss we will continue to form our own perspectives, and consider whether Scott's re-interpretation makes sense, and if so, whether Paul's radical challenge has something to say to us in our time. Questions? Contact **Bob Miess**, Bob@BobMiess.com, 925-392-5901.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 7:30-9 PM



HUumanati Monday Meeting

Library (to the left in the front lobby)

Come join us, rest your feet, check in, and chat about what's on your mind.

There may be board games and other easy activities, also. Questions? Contact **Amy Baldwin**, 408-730-9622.

Hiking Schedule (February 2016)

Dear Hikers, Please call or email me if you plan to hike so I know that you are joining us and can tell you if plans have changed: home phone 408-730-1052 or cell 408-769-0534; j408miller@sbcglobal.net. I have tried to accommodate the San Jose folks with quite a few south county hikes. The north county hikes are more often on Saturday when traffic is not a problem. As always, if you are not a regular hiker on Wednesdays, be sure to let me know you are coming so we don't leave you behind. Saturday hikers always have to let me know since I don't have any "regulars" at this time. You can let me know by email, text message or a real phone call. Now that the rainy season (hopefully) is upon us we may use the Dish and Arastradero as back up venues to avoid muddy trails. I don't always change the venue if it is drizzling. Call me the evening before or in the morning if you have not heard from me about a change of venue. I will cancel if there is real bad storm.
-Joyce Miller

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3 8:30 AM

Long Ridge/Saratoga Gap Loop. 5 miles, moderate. Meet in parking lot in Saratoga behind what used to be US Bank.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6 8:30 AM

Almaden Quicksilver, Hacienda entrance, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10 8:30 AM

Shuttle hike from Sunnyvale Mt. trail head in Sanborn to Indian Rock, 5 miles, moderate. There can be a longer and more strenuous version if folks want to do the Summit Rock loop. Meet at parking lot in Saratoga behind what used to be US Bank.

SATURDAY, FEB. 13 8:30 AM

Butano State Park, 7 miles, moderate. Plan on a long day for goat cheese sampling and pie

eating. Meet at PageMill/280 Park and Ride.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17 8:30 AM

Wunderlich County Park, 8 miles in two 4-mile segments. We will hike to Alice's Restaurant (4 miles) for an early lunch and hike back. Highly recommended by Mike and Karen. Meet at PageMill/280 Park and Ride

SATURDAY, FEB. 20 8:30 AM

Palo Alto/Mountain View Baylands, 5 miles, flat. Meet at trail head at the end of San Antonio Road. There is plenty of on street parking.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23 8:30 AM

Calero County Park, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

SATURDAY, FEB. 27 8:30 AM

Arastradero Park, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at trail head parking lot.



160 North Third Street
San José, CA 95112

Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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

To receive the newsletter via email: fucsjooffice@gmail.com or join the Yahoo Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj

Next issue copy deadline: 3 pm Wednesday, February 17

Mailing: Wednesday, February 24

View this newsletter online in PDF format at: sanjoseuu.org

Donations are welcome to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. Suggested donation: \$18-\$20 per year – please mail to Office Manager – or bring returnable bottles/cans for us to recycle!

Save the Dates

January 31, Sunday, 1-3 pm, Young Adult Group, Youth Room

February 4, Thursday, 1-3 pm, Woman's Alliance, Ramsden Fireside Room

February 5, Friday, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

February 6, Saturday, 1-3:30 pm, Jean von Kaenel Tea to Benefit Partner Church, Hattie Porter Hall

February 7, Sunday, 10-11 am, HUManati Forum, Hattie Porter Hall

February 8, Monday, Deadline to sign up for Circle Suppers

February 8, Monday, 7-9 pm, Social Justice Council, Conference Room

February 10, Wednesday, 6-8 pm, Book Study, Conference Room or Video/Teleconference\

February 15, Monday, 7:30-9 pm, HUManati Monday Meeting, Library

February 20 & 21, Saturday & Sunday, Circle Suppers

February 26, Friday, 7 pm, Whadda UU Know? comedy game show, Hattie Porter Hall

READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ? Contact Rev. Geoff, grimositis@gmail.com

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 to reach us: Nancy (408) 292-3858, ext. 223 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpj@yahoo.com. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@gmail.com.

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. 223 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpj@yahoo.com. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@gmail.com

How You Can Support This Congregation:

Your Presence and Time

Attend Sunday services, join a Small Group or one of the many social/activity groups, serve on a committee, come to events, like us on Facebook. Visit www.sanjoseuu.org for more ideas!

Contribute to Fundraisers, Weekly Collections

Make an annual pledge of support (fulfill it by check, EFT, stock transfer or Paypal), attend fundraisers such as the service auction and mystery musical, watch for special collections.