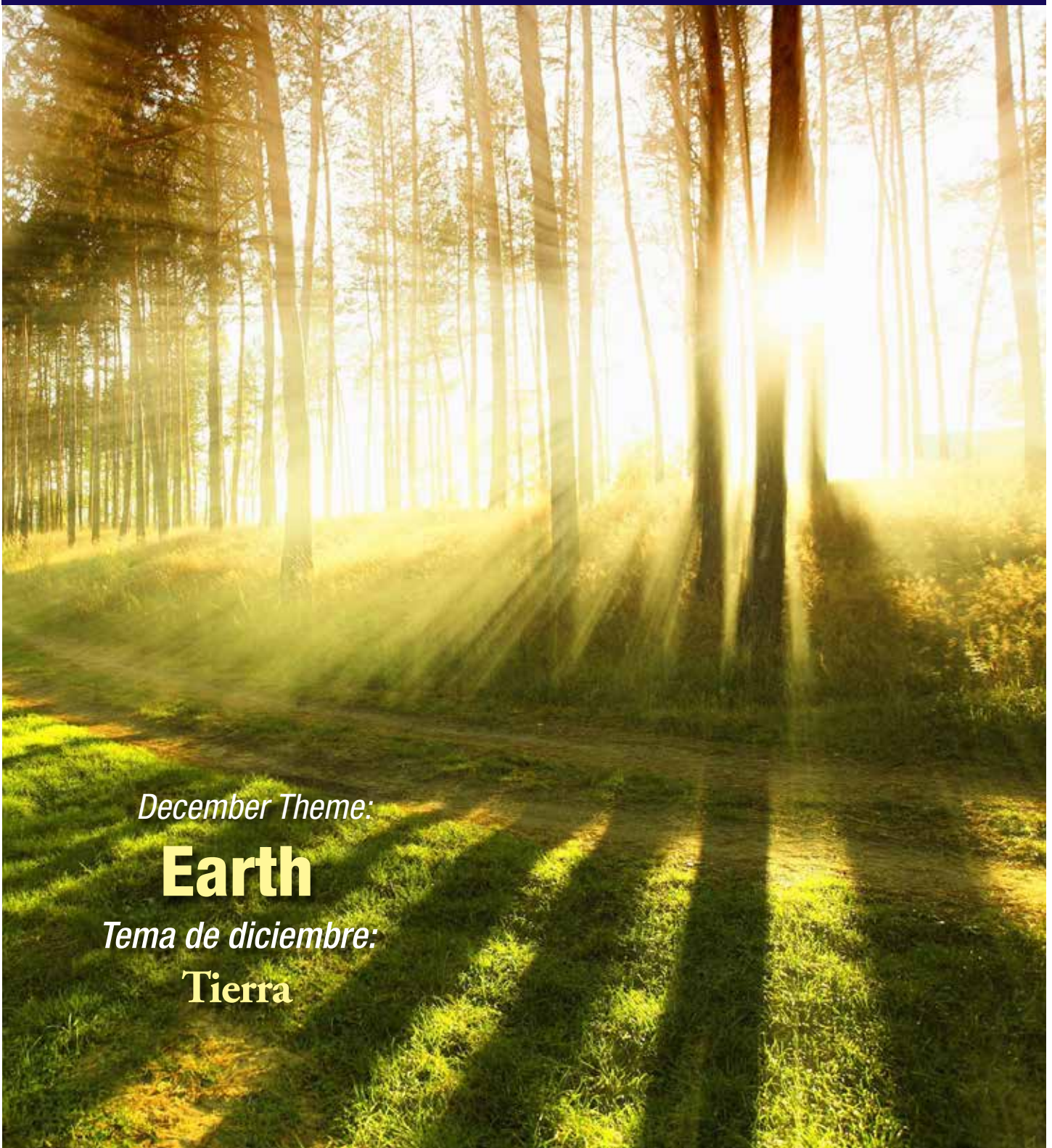




# ur Church Circular

December 2016

Diciembre 2016 / Nuestro periódico iglesia



*December Theme:*

**Earth**

*Tema de diciembre:*

**Tierra**







# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

**150** YEARS  
OF MAKING  
LOVE VISIBLE

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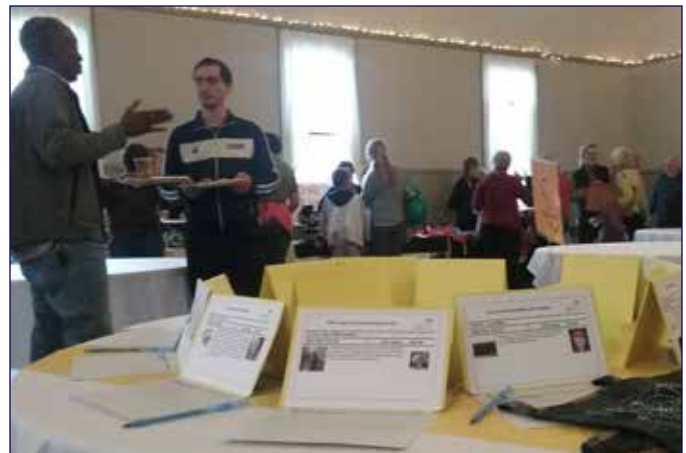
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## Inside This Issue:

The Call to Ecological Conversion (Rev. Geoff) .....	3
The Day After the Election: We Go to the Earth (Rev. Nancy).....	4-5
In Our Own Voices: Earth.....	6-7
Rev. Nancy Receives Human Agenda Award .....	7
Are We the Earth's Keeper? / Support Your Intern Minister .....	8-9
Children and Youth Program / Lifespan Faith Development.....	10-11
Statement of the Rights of Nature .....	12
Guest at Your Table / Church Work Party .....	12
A Poetic Response to the Election / Third Street Update .....	13
Sunday Services / Servicios de Domingo.....	14-16
Circling Around .....	17
Upcoming Events / Announcements.....	17-19
Save the Dates / Contact/Donate.....	20



*The biannual Service Auction was held after the November 20 service.*

# The Call to Ecological Conversion

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis



Billie Wachter  
June 17, 1918 - May 28, 2016

It was 2011 when I received a call from Billie Wachter, a member of the congregation and long-time social activist across many decades. She said that she and her spouse Saul had something very important to talk to me about and could we set up a meeting? "Of course!" I replied. Billie had the stature and moral authority of 90 plus years championing civil rights and justice causes. If Billie said jump; I said, "How high?"

Our Senior Minister, the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones, would have been the person the Wachters would have approached first. But since Rev. Nancy was on sabbatical I was lead minister in her absence. When we finally gathered for our meeting I had to admit I was a bit anxious as I had never been summoned by Billie with such a sense of urgency. When we sat down in the church office she handed me a book and told me that we had to get the congregation behind it.

The book was *The Rights of Nature*. It was a report of the gathering of countries in Bolivia that came together to draft a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth. Ecuador rewrote its constitution and in 2008 it was ratified by the people. It states:

*Rather than treating nature as property under the law, Rights of Nature articles acknowledge that nature in all its life forms has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles. And we—the people—have the legal authority to enforce these rights on the behalf of ecosystems. The ecosystem itself can be named as a defendant.*

## Rights of Nature!

Of course, nature should have rights! It was a blinding flash of the obvious. Billie, Saul and I immediately began to strategize how we could bring it to the congregation. We decided to plan a worship service on the topic. And then we would assemble a group of people to work on a resolution that would go before the congregation for a vote. It took some time to move through the process after discussions and wordsmithing but finally at a congregation meeting in February of 2013, The Rights of Nature resolution passed. (See the document in this newsletter).

The Rights of Nature resolution now has the weight of a moral position that empowers the congregation to attach its name to environmental initiatives such as protesting the construction of the Dakota pipeline, which our church leaders are now considering. The process is more nimble than holding a congregational meeting every time we want to attach the church's name as a sponsor for an issue we already have agreement on. Once a moral position has been approved, statements in support go through our Program and Operations Council via the Social Justice Council and then are voted on by our church Board.

Billie died this year at the age of 97 and thanks to Billie and Saul the church now has an active Rights of Nature group that educates the congregation about environmental issues and is active in legislative and direct action, and in advocacy. Billie's passion raised the alarm that the Earth is in crisis and needs all hands on deck if we are to steer our planet to a safe harbor.

Though I considered myself an environmentalist whose true church was the untrampled wilderness; it wasn't until that meeting with the Wachters that I had my

true ecological conversion. I received my marching orders that I must do my part to bring about spiritual-ecological transformation on how we live our lives, what we eat, what we buy and how we use the planet's resources. I was being called to help facilitate the cultural shift from consumption to conservation, to each of us seeing ourselves as stewards of the Earth; all of it! Every plant, animal and person. Every hillside, vale and wetland. Every rocky crag and fiddle crab. All of it is worth fighting for. It is our Mother Earth and we must take good care of her!

What does the Earth mean to you? What do you mean to the Earth? What are you being called to be and do? Thank you Billie and Saul!

## La Llamada a la Conversión Ecológica

Fue en el 2011 cuando recibí una llamada de Billie Wachter, miembro de la congregación y por mucho tiempo activista social a través de muchas décadas. ¿Ella dijo que ella y su esposo Saúl tenían algo muy importante que hablar conmigo y si podríamos organizar una reunión? "¡Por supuesto!" Le respondí. Billie tenía la estatura y la autoridad moral de 90 o más años defendiendo los derechos civiles y causas de justicia. Si Billie dijo salta; Yo dije, "¿Qué tan alto?"

La Ministra Decana, la Reverenda Nancy Palmer Jones habría sido a la persona que los Wachters se habrían acercado primero. Pero desde que la Reverenda Nancy estaba en su año sabático, yo era el ministro líder en su ausencia. Cuando finalmente nos juntamos para nuestra reunión tuve que reconocer que estaba un poco ansioso ya que nunca había sido convocado por Billie con sentido de urgencia. Cuando nos sentamos en la oficina de la iglesia, ella me entregó un libro y me dijo que teníamos que conseguir la aprobación de la congregación.

El libro fue Los Derechos de la Naturaleza. Fue un informe de la reunión de los países que se reunieron en Bolivia para redactar una Declaración Universal de los derechos de

*Continúa en la página 11*



# The Day After the Election: We Go to the Earth

By the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones

On November 9, 2016, the day after our national election, I am on writing retreat in Graeagle, California, in the Plumas National Forest up in the mountains north of Truckee. I am staying with my long-term acting-writing soul-friends Deb and Chris.



In fact, one of the themes of this sabbatical is the chance to reconnect with my dearest, longest-term friends-of-the-heart who are like true family for me. They are my “Framily”—a word I’ve coined to name this relationship and that I’ve discovered is remarkably fun to say.

Try it, beloveds. Say it right out loud: “FRAMILY.”



## There— isn't that worth it?

On November 9, we don't know what to do, except to grieve and be as real and present and open and humble as we can be. So the three of us go to the earth—that is, we walk and walk along a creek among towering trees and over rocks and moldering leaves on a fading and then re-appearing path. It is good to be together and to breathe in the scent of pine and dirt, to hear the whoosh of the full stream pooling and rushing, dividing and coming together in small falls and clear waters. The working of our muscles, the beat of our hearts—it all makes us smile again.

**The earth gives us strength.** As we come back down the mountain, we stop to place a rock—an icon, a god/dess, a spirit symbol, a Friend—in a niche in a cliff that calls for it. May it offer strength or whimsy, beauty or peace to those who next see it.

Still: although I'm not wearing a backpack on this hike, I am carrying with me the fears I feel and have heard expressed since the election was called—very real fears, tragically borne out by our human history. This thrum of fear, grief, and worry run a counterpoint to the harmony of our surroundings. I know I am lucky—ridiculously privileged, in fact—to be here in the mountains with my Framily, where such a life-giving, renewing walk is possible on this particular day.

Then, that evening, we go out for dinner, among people celebrating the election results. The horrible sense of disconnect, the chasm—present for a long time and already obvious to the most vulnerable among us—now yawns wide for all to see, on all sides of it. Our hearts break open again.

Beloveds, there is no turning away. There is only deeper presence, and the work and heartbeat of the struggle. To those of us—both within our congregation and beyond—who are experiencing renewed fears of violence on their persons, of the dissolution of their families, of the deportation of their loved ones, I say: We will start a new sanctuary movement. We will set up relays of companions to walk with people through the streets and accompany them on buses. We will stand in front of the trains. I am committed to this work of building true Beloved Community for as long as I have breath.

Here at First Unitarian, we chose the sequence of our worship themes this fall with great intention: Change (September), Living with Our Fears (October), Integrity (November), and now Earth (December). Today, in the midst of change and fear, may we respond with an ever-deepening integrity. And may we go to whatever patch of earth, whatever symbols of Earth we have at hand, for the strength we need. Join us! Together we will find our way.

With all my love,

Rev. Nancy



# El día después de las elecciones: Nosotros vamos a la tierra

por el Reverendo Nancy Palmer Jones

**E**l 9 de noviembre del 2016, el día después de la elección nacional, estoy en mi retiro escribiendo en Graeagle, California, en el Bosque Nacional de Plumas en las montañas al norte de Truckee. Me estoy quedando con Deb y Chris, mis amigos actores, escritores de toda la vida.



Rev. Nancy con Deb.

De hecho, uno de los temas de este año sabático es la oportunidad de reencontrarme con mis queridos amigos de corazón de toda la vida, que son como una familia verdadera para mí. Son mi "Famigos" — una palabra que he acuñado para nombrar esta relación y que he descubierto es muy divertido decir.

Pruébenlo, queridos. Díganlo justo en voz alta: "FAMIGO."

## Allí—¿no vale la pena?

El 9 de noviembre, no sabemos qué hacer, excepto sufrir y ser tan real y presente y abierto y humilde como podemos ser. Así que tres de nosotros vamos a la tierra — es decir, caminamos y caminamos a lo largo de un arroyo entre imponentes árboles y sobre las rocas y hojas descompuestas en un deteriorado sendero y que luego reaparece nuevamente. Es

bueno estar juntos y respirar el aroma de pino y tierra, para oír el zumbido de la secuencia completa del riachuelo corriendo, dividiéndose y uniéndose en pequeñas caídas y aguas cristalinas. El trabajo de nuestros músculos, el latido de nuestros corazones—todo nos hace sonreír otra vez. La tierra nos da fuerza. Mientras regresamos, bajando la montaña, paramos para colocar una roca—un ícono, un Dios/Diosa, un símbolo del espíritu, un amigo — en un nicho en un acantilado que lo requiera. Pueda ofrecer resistencia o fantasía, belleza o paz a los próximos que lo vean.

Todavía: aunque no llevo una mochila en esta caminata, estoy llevando conmigo los miedos que siento y he oído expresados desde que se inició la elección — temores muy reales, trágicamente confirmados por nuestra historia humana. Este tamborilear de miedo, dolor y preocupación ejecutan un contrapunto a la armonía de nuestro entorno. Sé que soy afortunada—ridícula-



mente privilegiada, de hecho— estar aquí en las montañas con mis Famigos, donde una caminata vivificante, renovadora es posible en este día tan particular.

Entonces, esa noche, nosotros salimos a cenar, entre la gente que celebra los resultados electorales. La horrible sensación de desconexión, el abismo — presente durante mucho tiempo y ya obvio a los más vulnerables de entre nosotros— ahora bosteza para todo lo que vemos, por todos los lados. Nuestros quebrados corazones se abren otra vez.

Amados, no hay marcha atrás. Hay solamente más presencia y trabajo y el latido del corazón de la lucha. Para aquellos de nosotros—dentro de nuestra congregación y más allá— que están experimentando renovados temores de violencia en sus personas, de la disolución de su familia, de la deportación de sus seres queridos, les digo: vamos a empezar un nuevo movimiento Santuario. Vamos a establecer una carrera de relevos de compañeros para caminar con la gente por las calles y que los acompañen en los autobuses. Estamos frente a los trenes. Estoy comprometida con esta tarea de construir la verdadera amada comunidad mientras tenga aliento.

Aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria, elegimos la secuencia de nuestros temas de culto este otoño con gran intención: Cambio (septiembre), Viviendo con nuestros miedos (octubre), Integridad (noviembre) y ahora la Tierra (diciembre). Hoy, en medio de cambio y el miedo, podemos siempre responder con una profunda integridad. Y podemos ir a cualquier parte de la tierra, cualesquiera que sean los símbolos de la tierra que tengamos a mano, para la fuerza que necesitamos. ¡Únete a nosotros! Juntos encontraremos nuestro camino.

Con todo mi amor,

Rev. Nancy





# In Our Own Voices: Earth

By Mary Martin

“In Our Own Voices” shares congregants’ free-flowing responses to the theme of the month. We draw these responses from on-line surveys and use them in creating worship, small-group ministry content, and other opportunities for spiritual growth.

No matter what our age, we wrestle with these questions about how best to live. Let’s take up these questions in community! I know we will gain wisdom from each other—and find comfort in our common humanity.

This month’s theme, “Earth,” elicited responses that show deep concern about the state of our planet and worry about its future. But there is also a thread of hopefulness and desire to be of help in preserving our “earth, forever turning.”

## Earth is a Source of Awe

*A recent newspaper article about awe said that 75% of people in a study attributed the natural world as the source of their inspiration for awe. Research linked the positive feeling of awe to better health and well-being. Researchers wondered “whether a lack of nature and opportunities for feeling awe might add to the stresses and health damage that come from living in urban blight and poverty.”*

*Oh, Source of strength, beauty, and the rhythms of Life! I need grounding always, and the senses awakened when I put on my hiking boots and hit the trail, returning me to my elemental self.*

*There is incredible diversity and incredible innovation that exist in nature.*

*How Have we Gotten Where we Are?*

*Modern society—especially Westernized urban dwellers—has become so separated from the natural world we have lost our basic connections to what life is at its core: where our food comes from; the “natural resourc-*

*es” that become all the products we think we need every day; the sources of all the forms of energy we take for granted. We pay a big price for this separation in our stressful fast-paced lives. And our Earth pays a big price in its destruction and pollution.*

*Climate change is like the Earth’s revenge on its foolish human inhabitants.*

*This theme speaks to the uncertain health of our planet—what we have done to destroy ecosystems and biodiversity, how we have harmed our Earth Home.*

*If [this theme] pertains to trying to protect our planet from overheating, it is a good topic.*

*Current events suggest that climate change is real, yet a lot of established power and wealth structures want to ignore it.*

## Feelings Evoked

*I have a lot of feelings about the subject of Earth. One of them is regret and shame that I drive a car that is so bad for the earth. One is fear—fear about the fate of the Earth in humans’ care. One is love—love for the miracles of nature and the natural order. One is awe—awe for the majesty and beauty of the Earth.*

*Climate change is such a huge, overwhelming topic with so many different aspects that it’s hard to get a handle on it.*

*I think of the times I have lived through the big earthquakes, and how psychically unnerving it is—for weeks afterward—to feel the earth, this supposedly stable element, move. That’s the kind of psychic and physical instability with which we live now.*

*To me this is directly related to our seventh principle about respect for the interconnected web of all existence, the ecology of human existence and all of our deep interconnections to one another and our habitat! The hymn “Blue Boat Home” sums up this category for me!*

*I think of the beloved hymn “For the earth, forever turning” when I meditate in the beautiful predawn darkness as the stars fade. It*

*is my earth, holding such beauty and such sadness.*

*I’m discouraged. Too few people are acting on this. Are we [only] educating the people who are already educated about it?*

## Questions

*What earth are we leaving for our kids, for the next generation?*

*How can we best work to protect the earth?*

*How can we protect and nourish our planet, particularly in opposition to climate-change deniers who are willing to spend vast amounts of money to protect their business interests and continue to destroy the planet?*

*From whence comes the progressive and UU movement on ecology, environment, and conservation? What are our denomination’s future hopes and plans?*

*What about sustainability and a sustainable future?*

*Economically, is [climate change] more difficult for the poor?*

*Global warming is the biggest threat to all our futures, yet is not being discussed as an election topic. Why is this? What are we avoiding?*

## How Can We Help Our Planet—and Ourselves?

*Action is the antidote to fear: working for climate preservation, but also building our deep communal roots to ensure our flexibility and sustainability, our solidarity in the midst of decreasing resources.*

*I need to know—specifically—how I can make a difference.*

*[Helping our Earth] is a big reason I bike so much and take public transit.*

*In each Sunday program or sermon, include one action, large or small, that each of us can take to try to mitigate global warming and its effects.*

*Create and post a chart in HPH showing the mean temperature in San Jose over the past*

*hundred years, with space to add data going forward.*

*I'd love to not hear lectures about climate change. I have Facebook friends and frightened relatives, so I get that stuff ALL DAY LONG. I'd love to talk about the earth from an urbanite perspective—how can we connect with it and love it in the middle of the big city? I'd like [our talking about it] to be gentle and encouraging, not fear-based.*

*Our Earth deserves more than our appreciation and respect, I believe it deserves our devotion and loyalty.*

*This topic reminds me of the UU trinity: reduce, reuse, recycle.*

*It seems as if the little individual things an individual can do—recycling, composting, solar panels, biking instead of driving, etc.—won't make a difference unless everyone else is doing them too. Otherwise these actions may just be an exercise in making ourselves feel we're doing something to solve the problem, even if they aren't having much of an impact.*

### Other Things to Think About

*I cracked up when Rev. Nancy said from the pulpit a year or so ago that the Earth is dying. No, it certainly isn't. But it is becoming decreasingly diverse, and may end up becoming uninhabitable for humans, at least as we know it. But to equate a human-free earth with a dead one reveals a lot about what our place is in the universe.*

*Earth is the third planet from the sun in our solar system. It's the only place we know of harboring life.*

*There are Earth-based religions (particularly those of indigenous peoples).*

*Consider whether there are other worlds, other planets.*

*There is that expression "down to earth."*

*What are examples of different cultural perspectives of humans' relationship to the planet or the ecosystem?*



# The Rev. Nancy Receives a Human Agenda Award



**R**ev. Nancy Palmer Jones will receive an award from Human Agenda for kindness at its 14th Annual Human Rights Award banquet on Sunday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m.

The event will feature two dynamic leaders speaking on the topic of "The Future of the United States": **Aimee Allison**, Co-Director of the Democracy in Color Campaign and Senior Vice-President of PowerPAC+ and **David Cobb**, Move To Amend National Spokesperson and Former Presidential Candidate, Green Party.

DECKS Awards: representing the values of Human Agenda will be given to:

- **Democracy:** Chava Bustamante, Executive Director of Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)
- **Equality:** Sal Ventura, President of the South Bay Labor Council
- **Cooperation:** Tim Huet, Co-Founder of the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives
- **Kindness:** Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Senior Minister First Unitarian Church of San Jose
- **Sustainability:** Kristin and Mark

Sullivan, Professors of Environmental Studies, De Anza College  
Tickets for the dinner event are \$50 (\$10 for students) and can be purchased at [www.HumanAgenda.net](http://www.HumanAgenda.net).

The mission of Human Agenda is to envision a world where the human needs of all can be met, to engage the community in forging local institutions that are democratic, cooperative, egalitarian, sustainable, and kind, and to take individual responsibility to embody the change we'd like to see.

Human Agenda believes that human beings require appropriate resources and time as well as an ethic of love to engage in the human-need-fulfilling activities that make our lives full, meaningful, and satisfying. Key to meeting our human needs is access to reduced working hours at a livable wage. Without a reasonable work week and reasonable time for other essential human activities like our health, our relationships, our community, our lifelong learning, our civic engagement, and our self-realization, we cannot reach peace, growth, and fulfillment for ourselves, our society, or our world.



# Are We the Earth's Keeper?

By Rodney Lemery, Intern Minister



This month our beloved community will enter into worship around the concept of Earth. In thinking about this idea, I began to remember my 8th grade English literature course where I learned about five literary conflict styles; person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, person vs. self and person vs. technology.



UUA President Peter Morales in the greeting line with Intern Minister Rodney Lemery at the November 13 anniversary celebration.

It is the person vs. nature that inspired my thoughts on the topic of Earth for this month. I immediately go to literature like "The Old man and the Sea," the "Little House" series by Laura Ingalls Wilder, or even "The Life of Pi." In these works and those in the same genre, it would seem that humans are pitted against the environment and nature. The protagonist is always struggling, fighting and trying to control the Earth or its representative in the tale. At the time, my theology was very different, and I didn't think anything of these dominating narratives of person vs. nature; in my 8th grade, born-again mind, "...G\*d gave the world to us to do with what we please..." Concepts such as universal interconnectedness or a web of life were foreign constructs to me.

I am now a Unitarian Universalist and as such believe in the deep interconnectedness of all things on this planet. I no longer see nature as something to be controlled for my use but rather witness my place in the balancing act of living with other people, places, and things. This

balancing means I see my place as a part of the puzzle of this world. My needs should be balanced with the ramifications on the greater world. I find myself in partnership with nature rather than trying to subdue it.

In this day of political concern in the US, I find myself wondering if our leadership will continue on this path of viewing nature and humankind as adversaries. Will the new administration undo all of the multiple climate control initiatives in which the US currently participates? Will we hurtle ourselves down a path of controlling the Earth for our needs with reckless abandon?

None of us have a crystal ball, and I have long given up hope on clairvoyant prophecy, so with what does that leave us? I would argue faith! We are Unitarian Universalists; we have faith that all things are interconnected and that there is a web of life. I trust in this community that we will not remain idly by while the government or others violate this one precious world in which we live. We are called to live our principles in our everyday life. After all, the doctrine of this church is love and service is our prayer! I know that we will have opportunities to pray hard in the coming months. May we be the ones to make it so!

# How Can I Support Our Intern Minister?

By Rodney Lemery, Intern Minister

At this point I feel like I have been able to at least say hello to most of you who are reading this article. For those of you I haven't been able to say hello to... "Hello".

My name is **Rodney Lemery** and I live in Hercules, CA 20 miles east of San Francisco. If you don't know by now, it is my great pleasure to be serving this community 20 hours per week for the next two years under the direct supervision of **Rev. Nancy** and **Rev. Geoff**. I thought I would

write this article to reach out to all of you and express my deep gratitude for you all being willing to share your amazing community with me in my learning process. To help me gain the maximum insights into parish ministry and to help guide me down this learning path, a lay person intern committee has been established. I would like to thank the members of this committee for their time and talents in this critical guiding role: **Cheri Goodman, Gautam Biswas, Joyce Miller** (chairperson), **Gerrit Ten-**

**Brink, Margaret Trask.**

The intern committee is present to provide feedback to me on my performance as a student minister. While I hope you all will become comfortable delivering constructive criticism directly to me, the intern committee is available for you to relay your feedback to me as well. Thank you all again for holding me in this community for the next two years! Amen, Blessed be, Namaste, Ashe, Shalom and Salaam.



# ¿Somos Cuidadores de la Tierra?

Este mes entrará en los servicios de nuestra querida comunidad el concepto de la Tierra. Pensando en esta idea, empecé a recordar mi curso de literatura inglesa de 8 grado donde aprendí cinco estilos de conflicto literario; persona vs persona, persona vs naturaleza, persona vs sociedad, persona vs uno mismo y persona vs la tecnología.

Es la persona contra la naturaleza que inspira mis pensamientos sobre el tema de la Tierra para este mes. Inmediatamente voy a la literatura como las series por Laura Ingalls Wilder "El viejo y el mar, la "Casa



pequeña", o incluso "la vida de Pi". En estas obras y en el mismo género, parece que los seres humanos se enfrentaron contra el medio ambiente y la naturaleza. El protagonista está siempre luchando, peleando y tratando de controlar a la tierra o a su representante en el cuento. En ese tiempo, mi teología era muy diferente, y no creo nada de estas narrativas dominantes de persona contra naturaleza; en mi 8º grado, mente nació de nuevo, "... Dios nos dio el mundo para hacer lo que queramos..." "Conceptos tales como interconexión universal o una red de vida eran construcciones ajenas a mí.

Ahora soy un Unitario Universalista y como tal, creo en la profunda interconexión de todas las cosas en este planeta. Ya no veo a la naturaleza como algo para ser controlado para mi uso, sino más bien testigo de mi lugar en el equilibrio del acto de la vida con otras personas, lugares y cosas. Este equilibrio significa que veo mi lugar como una parte del rompecabezas de este mundo. Mis necesidades deben equilibrarse con las ramificaciones de un mundo más grande. Me encuentro en sociedad con la naturaleza en lugar de intentar dominarla.

**por Rodney Lemery, Ministro Interino**

En este día de preocupación política en los Estados Unidos, me encuentro preguntándome si nuestro liderazgo continuará en este camino de ver a la naturaleza y humanidad como adversarios. ¿Será el nuevo gobierno el que va a deshacer de todas las múltiples iniciativas de control de clima en el que Estados Unidos participa actualmente? ¿Nos precipitaremos nosotros mismos hacia un camino de control de la tierra para nuestras necesidades con imprudente abandono? ¿Ninguno de nosotros tiene una bola de cristal, y desde hace mucho tiempo he perdido la esperanza en las profecías de los clarividentes, entonces con que nos dejan? ¡Yo diría la fe! Somos Unitarios Universalistas; tenemos fe en que todo está interconectado y que hay una red de vida. Confío en esta comunidad que no permanecerá ociosa mientras el gobierno u otros violan este precioso mundo en el que vivimos. Estamos llamados a vivir nuestros principios en nuestra vida diaria. Después de todo, la doctrina de esta iglesia es el amor y el servicio es nuestra oración! Sé que tendremos oportunidades para orar duro en los próximos meses. ¡Podemos ser los que lo hacen!

# ¿Cómo Puedo Apoyar al Ministro Interino?

En este momento siento que he podido saludar por lo menos a la mayoría de ustedes que están leyendo este artículo. Para aquellos de ustedes a los que no he podido decirles hola... "Hola".

Mi nombre es **Rodney Lemery** y vivo en Hércules, CA, a 20 millas al este de San Francisco. Si usted no sabe por ahora, es mi gran placer de servir a esta comunidad 20 horas por semana durante los próximos dos años bajo la supervisión directa de la Rev. Nancy y el Rev. Geoff. Pensé que

escribiría este artículo para llegar a todos y expresarles mi profunda gratitud hacia ustedes por estar dispuestos a compartir su increíble comunidad conmigo en mi proceso de aprendizaje. Para ayudarme a obtener la máxima información sobre el ministerio parroquial y a guiarme por este camino de aprendizaje, se ha establecido un comité interno de personas laicas. Me gustaría agradecer a los miembros de este Comité por su tiempo y talento en este crítico papel rector: **Cheri Goodman, Gautam Biswas, Joyce Miller** (Presiden-

**Por Rodney Lemery, Ministro Interino**

te), **Gerrit TenBrink, Margaret Trask.**

El Comité interno está presente para proporcionarme retroalimentación en mi desempeño como estudiante de Ministro. Mientras espero que todos ustedes lleguen a sentirse cómodos para ofrecer una crítica constructiva directamente a mí, el Comité interino está disponible para ustedes para transmitirme su opinión también. Gracias a todos otra vez por sostenerme en esta comunidad por los próximos dos años! Amén, sean bendecidos, Namasté, Ahse, Shalom y Salaam.

# Children and Youth Classes



## Youth Classes for December

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

1st -4th grades—David and Goliath  
 5th-8th grades—Love Your Enemies  
 9th-12th grades—Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30  
 Coming of Age Empty Bowls Luncheon fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank after church.

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

1st -4th grades—Wise King Solomon  
 5th-8th grades —The Story of Jesus' Birth  
 9th-12th—Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

Celebration Sunday—Children's Holiday Service-No Classes  
 Coming of Age Mentor-Youth Gift Exchange Party After Church

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 25/JANUARY 1

NO CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAM

## Upcoming Adult RE Events

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 9:30 AM

#### Roots and Wings UU Parenting 0-10 Years Group

##### Classrooms 4-6, Childcare Provided

Session: *HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT RACE*, World Trust Educational Services, Dia Penning, Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, Aimee Reeder, Edited by Ryan Mehar

"We live in a complex world. We are all trying the best we can to support the growth, health, and understanding of our kids. Today, as we get information at warp speed and events are televised from all parts of the globe, we are exposed to things that we might not have had an understanding of 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago. As a parent that is interested in developing an honest and robust dialogue with your child about race and equity, there are a few things that you will want to keep in mind. It's not too soon! By 6 months old, your child can distinguish between skin color and hair texture. As toddlers, children develop preferences and start to associate 'good' with people that look like them. As preschoolers, they are all about sorting and are finding many ways to practice exclusion. By supporting their questions and

guiding them in positive directions when they ask questions that seem jarring, we are setting them up for being inclusive and healthy adults."

The Roots and Wings class meets on Second Sundays in classrooms 4-6 at 9:30 am, childcare provided. Meetings facilitated by **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 9:30 AM

#### Support Group for Parents of Teens and Tweens

##### Classrooms 4-6, Childcare by Request

Parenting is one of the most important and least supported roles in society. How can we support each other to stay compassionate with our children, our partners, and ourselves when the inevitable breaks in connection happen? How do we repair the connection? How do we get out and stay out of power struggles? These are some of the goals of this new group for parents of teens/tweens. We support each other, share deeply, and learn from each other and are also reading the book *Getting to Calm* by Jennifer Wyatt. Fourth Sundays, classrooms 4-6, 9:30 am, Childcare provided by request.

## MUUGs Program—Middle School Youth

**M**UUGs stands for "Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings," and it is a district-wide program created to help congregations meet the needs of their middle school youth.

MUUGs programming is designed for Unitarian Universalist middle-school youth and most consistent with the

needs of 7th and 8th graders. Also welcome are youth in 6th grade, and those in 9th grade who have not bridged to YRUU from MUUGs. Our district planning group for the MUUGs' Program, the MUUGs' Ministry, determined the following dates for future retreats:

- January 13-15
- March 17-19

- July 3rd-8th Middleschool Camp at Mendocino State Park, Mendocino, CA
- Marlene Abel**, the MUUGS Registrar, will let us know more when she knows the location of the January and March retreats.

Save the dates for these retreats. Questions? Contact **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, [GRIMOSITIS@gmail.com](mailto:GRIMOSITIS@gmail.com).



# Announcing Adult OWL...

By Rodney Lemery, Interim Minister

**W**e are sexual beings and often have not fully integrated this aspect of our mental and physical being into our lives.

When we haven't, wounding around this important area of our existence is experienced. However, when we realize and honor our sexuality, a richer more complete actuality is achieved. **Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education** and **Sexuality and the Our Faith** curricula are the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist bold antidotes to our ever conflicted culture about sexuality. The inability to integrate this aspect of self into our lives results in mixed messages and misinformation.

The curricula support and nurture four sexuality values:

- Self-Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

## Schedule:

Date	Time	Chp	Topic	Location
1/19/17	7-9 pm	1	Sexuality and Values	Fireside Room
1/26/17	7-9 pm	2	Sexuality and Communication	Fireside Room
2/9/17	7-9 pm	3	Sexuality and Spirituality	Fireside Room
2/16/17	7-9 pm	4-5	Discovering the Sexual Self and Other	Fireside Room
2/23/17	7-9 pm	6-7	Sexual Attraction and Early Relationships	Fireside Room
3/9/17	7-9 pm	8	Sexuality and Committed Relationships	Fireside Room
3/16/17	7-9 pm	9	Guest Panel on Sexual Diversity	Conf. Room
3/23/17	7-9 pm	10-11	Sexuality and Family	Fireside Room
3/30/17	7-9 pm	12	Sexual Health	Fireside Room

Our Unitarian Universalist faith compels us to create safe settings where people can come to understand and respond to the challenges facing them as sexual beings. As faith communities, we promote justice for all people, and we affirm the dignity of every individual.

Join our facilitators **Kristin Rivers** and Intern Minister **Rodney Lemery** as they assist us this January, Thursday evenings,

in our exploration of sexuality and sexual health. The class will provide us an opportunity to step back, reflect, and evaluate these messages so that we can increase our ability to act on and communicate our faith-based sexual values.

For additional information or to register for this free adult education class, please contact Intern Minister Rodney Lemery at [rdlemery@meadville.edu](mailto:rdlemery@meadville.edu).

## Ecológica

Continúa de la página 3

la Madre Tierra. En Ecuador reescribieron su Constitución y en 2008 fue ratificada por el pueblo. Se afirma:

En lugar de tratar a la naturaleza como propiedad bajo la ley, los artículos de los Derechos de la Naturaleza reconocen que la naturaleza en todas sus formas de vida tiene el derecho a existir, persistir, mantener y regenerar sus ciclos vitales. Y nosotros — el pueblo — tenemos la autoridad legal para hacer valer estos derechos en nombre de los ecosistemas. El ecosistema mismo puede ser nombrado como un acusado.

¡Los Derechos de la naturaleza! ¡Por supuesto, la naturaleza debe tener derechos! Fue un destello cegador de lo obvio. Billie, Saúl y yo inmediatamente comenzamos a diseñar las estrategias de cómo podríamos llevarlo a la congregación. Decidimos planificar un servicio de culto sobre el tema. Y luego montamos un grupo de personas para trabajar en una resolución que iría ante la congregación para un voto. Tomó un tiempo para moverse a través del proceso después de discusiones y puliendo

el borrador, pero finalmente en una junta con la congregación en febrero de 2013, la resolución de Los Derechos de la Naturaleza pasaron. (Ver el documento en este boletín).

La resolución de los Derechos de la Naturaleza tienen ahora el peso de una posición moral que permite a la congregación para agregar su nombre a iniciativas ambientales tales como la protesta por la construcción de la tubería de Dakota que nuestros líderes de la iglesia están considerando ahora. El proceso es más ágil que la celebración de una reunión congregacional cada vez que queremos colocar el nombre de la iglesia como un patrocinador para un problema en el que ya estamos de acuerdo. Una vez que han sido aprobadas las declaraciones de una posición moral en apoyo de ir a través de nuestro programa y Consejo de operaciones a través del Consejo de la Justicia Social y entonces son elegidas por la Mesa Directiva de nuestra iglesia.

Billie murió este año a la edad de 97 años y gracias a Billie y Saul, la iglesia tiene ahora un grupo activo de los Derechos de la Naturaleza que educan a la congregación acerca de los problemas ambientales y es activo en

la promoción, legislativa y la acción directa. La pasión de Billie levantó la alarma de que la Tierra está en crisis y necesita todas las manos en cubierta para dirigir nuestro planeta a un puerto seguro.

A pesar de que yo mismo me consideré ecologista cuya verdadera iglesia fue la ilimitada naturaleza; no fue hasta esa reunión con los Wachters que tuve mi verdadera conversión ecológica. Recibí mis órdenes que debo hacer mi parte para lograr la transformación espiritual ecológica en cómo vivimos nuestras vidas, lo que comemos, lo que compramos y cómo usamos los recursos del planeta. Fui siendo llamado para ayudar a facilitar el cambio cultural del consumo a la conservación, para que cada uno de nosotros nos veamos como seridores de la Tierra; ¡todo! Cada planta, animal y persona. Cada ladera, valle y pantano. Cada rocoso Peñasco rocoso y cangrejo violinista. Por todo esto vale la pena luchar. Es nuestra Madre Tierra y hay que tener buen cuidado de ella!

¿Qué significa la Tierra para ustedes?  
¿Cuál ha sido su llamado para ser y hacer?  
¡Gracias Billie y Saúl!

## Statement on the Rights of Nature (Feb. 2013)

Inspired by the "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth," which was adopted by the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Bolivia in 2010.

Long ago many indigenous peoples recognized that they shared a common existence with the whole of nature, and today they are among the leaders of a Rights of Mother Earth movement. As Unitarian Universalists, we also affirm our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part (our Seventh Principle). A Rights of Nature worldview calls us to unite our First and Seventh Principles: We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every being, including the interdependent web of all existence.

Currently our governments and corporations treat nature, our natural environment and its resources, as property that can be exploited for profit. This is a major factor in producing overconsumption, pollution, and critical environmental imbalances such as accelerated climate change. A fundamental shift is required in our way of thinking in order to transform our economic and legal systems to acknowledge the Rights of Nature to exist and to thrive. This change is already taking place in many local communities across the United States and even some nations. Communities have written rights for natural entities and ecosystems into their laws, while giving people the legal standing to represent nature. We, the members of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, in agreement with our

Principles, affirm that Nature, or Mother Earth, which encompasses all natural beings and their interconnected natural systems, has inherent worth and inherent rights to exist, maintain its integrity and perform its natural vital functions. All beings (species, natural communities and ecosystems) have the right to healthy water, land and air. The rights of each being, including humans, are limited by the rights of other beings. Conflicts between their rights are to be resolved in a way that maintains the integrity, balance and health of Mother Earth as a whole. To bring about this major change in our relationship with the natural world, we agree to support and promote the Rights of Nature movement in the larger Unitarian Universalist community and in communities where we live.

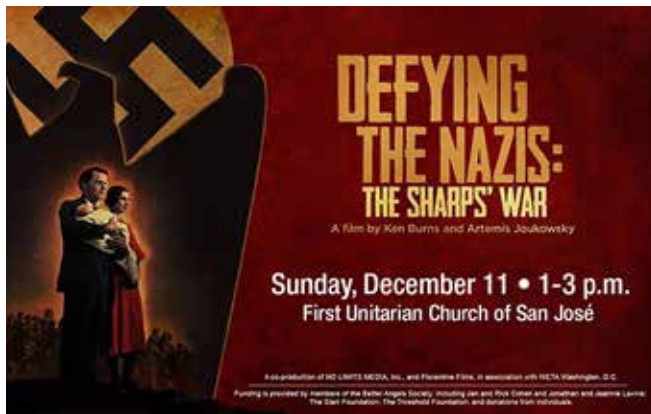
## Guest at Your Table

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UJSC's) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about our work to advance human rights.

This year's program theme is Defying Hate, based on the recent release of the Ken Burns documentary about UJSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* (on PBS). (A showing of the film will be on Sunday, December 11, 1 p.m. in the church sanctuary.) The Sharps defied hate by helping Jews and dissidents escape Nazi Germany using brave, creative methods, many of which could have caused them to be imprisoned, tor-

tured, or worse. Learn more about the [Sharps and UJSC's beginnings](http://www.uusc.org/the-history-of-uusc/) <http://www.uusc.org/the-history-of-uusc/> Pick up a box up at church or make your own [Template for Homemade Boxes](http://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Template-for-Homemade-GAYT-Box.pdf) (<http://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Template-for-Homemade-GAYT-Box.pdf>) and bring your donation to the Sunday Service on Sunday, December 18. The special collection that day will go to the UJSC.



## Church Work Party

By Bob Howd

On the first Saturday in November, we had another successful work party at the church.

We got a lot done to help keep our church in shape, and enjoyed the camaraderie of a relaxing lunch together. Thanks to everyone who participated: **Xavier Kanickaraj, Jenay Jauregui, and Tiffany Wooten** from 3rd Street, **Geoff Rimositis, Steve Saunders, Julia Rodriguez, Bob and Liz Owen, Mary Martin, Dena Dickinson, Rob Strong, Catherine Pelizzari, Bob and Carol Roszkowski, and Bob Howd.**



# A Poetic Response Following the Elections

By Kristin N. Rivers, Ph.D



*Aunque sé que no sea el fin del mundo...*

*Espero que mis niños de raza mixta serán seguros.  
Espero que mi matrimonio no estará anulado, otra vez.*

*Espero que el asalto sexual no será despedido.*

*Espero que las mujeres serán respetadas y escuchadas.  
Espero que los musulmanes serán respetados y escuchados.  
Espero que los Pueblos Indígenas serán respetados y escuchados.  
Espero que los inmigrantes serán respetados y escuchados.  
Espero que las personas con discapacidades serán respetados y escuchados.  
Espero que Las Vidas Negras Importarán.*

*Que el amor prevalece.*

*While I know this is not the end of the world...*

*I hope my mixed children will be safe.  
I hope my marriage will not be annulled, again.*

*I hope sexual assault will not be dismissed.*

*I hope women will be respected and heard.  
I hope Muslims will be respected and heard.  
I hope Native People will be respected and heard.  
I hope immigrants will be respected and heard.  
I hope people with disabilities will be respected and heard.  
I hope Black Lives will Matter.*

*May love prevail.*

## Dear UU Friends of Third Street,



I just wanted to give you an update on the office space redesign. We continue to work with HGA Architects and Engineers on securing new office set up. The plans will make the office area more welcoming and productive. The design plans are not yet finalized but once we have a draft, we will share them with you. The hope is to complete the project by the end of April 2017.

I also wanted to share with you the news that **Anabel Hernandez** has moved on from Third Street. She was

not looking to leave us, but a wonderful opportunity presented itself and she could not pass it up. We will all miss her but wish her well in her new career.

Replacing her will be **Erika Salazar**. Erika graduated from SJSU this past spring with a degree in sociology. She is Salvadorian and fluent in Spanish. Erika has volunteered with Third Street during our Summer Camps for two years. I hope you join me in welcoming her to Third Street.

On a more somber note, please keep our kids and their families in your thoughts. Many are scared and worried about their families. If you are an educator, counselor, or would like to simply be there for a child to let them know they are not alone, we could use your help. Please let me know if you can volunteer as a mentor/tutor in our After School Academic Program during the months of January and February. Your time as an ally to us will not only benefit our kids



but our staff as well.

In community spirit,

*Rosemary Baez*

# Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

**Tema de diciembre, 2016: Tierra**

**December 2016 Theme: Earth**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 11 AM**

**Community + Hope =  
Resistance**



The election of Donald Trump raises alarms about our country's future environmental policy. We need to consider how we as members of the faith community might contribute our efforts to advocate for our planet (and all creatures on it) in a new and challenging political climate.

**Worship Leader:** Father Jon Pedigo

**Worship Associate:** Marta Norment

**Bio: Father Jon Pedigo**

Fr. Pedigo has been awarded the 2008 Immigrant Advocate of the Year by SIREN (Services, Immigrants, Rights and Education Network), the 2010 Director's Award from the Human Relations Commission of Santa Clara County, the 2013 Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award from American Muslim Voice and the 2014 Cesar E. Chavez Si Se Puede Award by the Chavez Family Vision Foundation. He is the Chair of the Inter-Faith Council on Economics and Justice Board and a 2012 Rockwood Fellow for Immigrant Leaders in California

**DOMINGO, DICIEMBRE 4 11 AM**

**Comunidad + Esperanza =  
Resistencia**

La elección de Donald Trump genera alarmas sobre la futura política ambiental de nuestro país. Tenemos que considerar

cómo nosotros, como miembros de la comunidad de fe pueden contribuir nuestros esfuerzos para abogar por nuestro planeta (y todas las criaturas en ella) en un clima político nuevo y desafiante.

**Dirige:** Padre Jon Pedigo;

**Asociada de Culto:** Marta Norment

**Biografía del Padre Jon Pedigo**

P. Pedigo ha sido premiado en el 2008 como el Defensor del inmigrante del año por SIRENA (Servicios, Inmigrantes, Derechos y red de educación), Premio del Director 2010 de la Comisión de Relaciones Humanas del Condado de Santa Clara, el premio Cesar Chávez Justicia Social 2013 de Voz Musulmana Americana y el premio Cesar E. Chavez Si Se Puede 2014 de la familia Chavez Vision Foundation. Él es el Presidente de la Junta del Consejo Interreligioso sobre economía y justicia y miembro de Rockwood 2012 para líderes de inmigrantes en California.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 7 PM**

**Facing the Shadows -  
A Midweek Vesper Service**



We have been facing lots of shadows lately – the gathering darkness from the turning year, an election which brought anger and fear for many, ongoing global climate change and desecration of Native lands, the crying need to come together as supportive allies; and let us not forget the relational and internal shadows we each may be facing. But wherever there are shadows, there must be light. Let us come together to ground ourselves in music, po-

etry, and ritual. Let us remember together that there are reasons for hope!

**Worship Leaders and Associates:** Mar-  
nie Singer, Karen Conrotto, Susan Miller,  
Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Alegría Singers, Mis-  
sion College Chorus, and Guitars Aloud.

**JUEVES, DICIEMBRE 8 7 PM**

**Frente a las Sombras - Un  
Servicio Vespertino Entre Semana**

Nos hemos enfrentado a un montón de sombras últimamente – el oscuro encuen-  
tro desde el cambio de año, una elección  
que trajo la ira y el miedo para muchos,  
el cambio climático global continua y la  
profanación de tierras indígenas, el llanto  
necesita venir mientras apoyamos a los  
aliados; y no permitimos olvidar las som-  
bras internas y relacionales que cada uno  
de nosotros podemos estar enfrentando.  
Pero donde hay sombras, debe haber luz.  
Unámonos a la base de nosotros mismos  
en la música, la poesía y el ritual. Recor-  
demos juntos que hay motivos para la es-  
peranza!

**Dirigentes y Asociados de Culto:** Marnie  
Singer, Karen Conrotto, Susan Miller, Rev.  
Geoff Rimositis, Alegría Singers, Mission  
College Chorus, and Guitars Aloud.

**ALBANZAS EN ESPAÑOL 10:15 AM**

**V**enga 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.

**C**ome 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.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 11 AM**

## "A Jewish Perspective on the Earth"



Rabbi Dana Magat will speak on our responsibilities toward our planet and toward each other. During his talk there will be an opportunity to learn about the Jewish perspective on protecting our planet as well as having an opportunity to ask about other ideas in Judaism.

### **Bio: Rabbi Dana L. Magat**

Rabbi Dana Magat became Temple Emanu-El's Senior Rabbi in July 1999. Prior to that, he served four years as Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego. Rabbi Magat's first pulpit was in Miami where he was the Assistant Rabbi/Director of Education for Temple Israel of Greater Miami. Before his ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1993, he earned a Masters in Education from the Fingerhut School of Education at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Magat is actively involved in interfaith relations. He is the immediate past Chair of the Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice for Santa Clara County. He also serves on the board of Chai House, Shalom Bayit, Northern California Board of Rabbis, and Home First. He serves on committees for the Mayor, County Commissioners as well as having served as President of the Cantors and Rabbis Association of Greater San Jose. Rabbi Magat has been a board member of Hillel of Silicon Valley, the Jewish Community Center

and the Pacific Association of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Magat is married to Cheriel and he has two children, Shira and Raya.

**Worship Leader:** Rabbi Dana Magat, Temple Emanu-El

**Worship Associate:** Ram Kakarala

**DOMINGO, DICIEMBRE 11 11 AM**

## "Una Perspectiva Judía Sobre la Tierra"

El Rabino Dana Magat hablará sobre nuestra responsabilidad hacia nuestro planeta y hacia los demás. Durante su charla será una oportunidad para aprender acerca de la perspectiva judía en proteger nuestro planeta, así como una oportunidad para preguntar sobre otras ideas en el judaísmo.

### **Bio: Rabbi Dana L. Magat**

El Rabino Dana Magat se convirtió en el Rabino Decano del Templo Emanu-El en julio de 1999. Antes de eso, se desempeñó cuatro años como Rabino Asociado en la Congregación Beth Israel en San Diego. El primer púlpito del Rabino Magat fue en Miami donde él fue el Rabino asistente/Director de Educación para el Templo de Israel del Gran Miami. Antes de su ordenación del Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion en 1993, obtuvo una maestría en Educación de la escuela de Educación de Fingerhut en la Universidad de judaísmo en Los Ángeles.

El Rabino Magat participa activamente en las relaciones interreligiosas. Es el inmediato pasado Presidente del Consejo Interreligioso sobre Economía y Justicia para el Condado de Santa Clara. También sirve en la Junta Directiva de Chai House, Shalom Bayit, Junta de Rabinos del Norte California y Home First. Ha servido en comisiones para el Alcalde, Comisionados del Condado, también ha servido como Presidente de la Asociación Cantors y Rabinos del Gran San José. El Rabino Magat ha sido miembro del Consejo de Hillel del Silicon Valley, la Asociación de la

Comunidad Judía de Rabinos Americanos de Centro y del Pacífico.

Rabino Magat está casado con Cheriel y tiene dos hijos, Shira y Raya.

**Dirigen:** Rabbi Dana Magat, Temple Emanu-El; **Asociado de Culto:** Ram Kakarala

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 11 AM**

## Children's Holiday Service: When I Give, I Receive



Come and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the annual children's holiday service led by directors Maiclaire Bolton and Jenny Cressman. Please make sure to bring your lists and check them twice, for that jolly old elf, Santa Claus, will be making an appearance after the service. Joy to the world. Love will come!

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

**DOMINGO, DICIEMBRE 18 11 AM**

## Servicio de Festividades de los Niños: Cuando Yo Doy, Yo Recibo

Vengan y celebren el comienzo de la temporada de fiestas con el anual servicio de las festividades de los niños, dirigido por las directoras Maiclaire Bolton y Jenny Cressman. Por favor asegúrese de traer sus listas y comprobarlas dos veces, para ese alegre viejo elfo, Santa Claus hará una aparición después del servicio. Alegría al mundo. ¡ El amor vendrá!

**Dirige:** El Rev. Geoff Rimositis

*Continued on the following page*

**SAT., DECEMBER. 24 5 & 8 PM**

## **Cherishing the Old, Welcoming the New**

**Advent V: Love Arrives!**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**



This year, we offer a true Unitarian Universalist Christmas Eve celebration, embracing skeptics and believers alike. Gathered with all ages, we sing the beautiful old carols and dance our way to joy. We lift up the brand new lives born to our families and communities this year, so please do bring the names of all the babies you want to welcome on this special night. We relish Crystal Isola's singing of "O Holy Night," we bask in the glow of candlelight, and we go forth ready to create a more loving, peaceful, hopeful, and joyful New Year. All are welcome!

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Geoff Rimositis and Rodney Lemery, Ministerial Intern  
**Worship Associate:** Bev Clifford (5:00)

**SABADO, 24 DE DIC. 5 Y 8 PM**

## **Amando lo Viejo, Bienvenido lo Nuevo**

**Adviento V: ¡El Amor Llega!**

**SERVICIOS DE VISPERA DE NAVIDAD A LA LUZ DE LAS VELAS**

Este año, ofrecemos una verdadera celebración de Nochebuena Unitaria Universalista, abrazando a los escépticos y creyentes por igual. Reunidos con todas las edades, cantamos los hermosos villancicos antiguos y danzaremos nuestro camino a la alegría. Nosotros levantamos el estilo de nueva vida nacida de nuestras familias y comunidades este año, así que por favor traiga los nombres de todos los

bebés que quieran darle la bienvenida en esta noche especial. Nos deleitamos con Crystal Isola cantando "O Holy Night" "Noche de Paz", Disfrutamos en el resplandor de la luz de las velas, y vamos adelante listos para crear un nuevo año más amoroso, pacífico, esperanzador y alegre. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

**Dirigen:** Rev. Geoff Rimositis y Rodney Lemery, Ministro Interino  
**Asociada de Culto:** Bev Clifford (5:00)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 11 AM**

## **"Our Gifts for the Season"**



We are entering into a new era of the American experience. In this holiday season, we honor multiple traditions where the changes of the season are marked by the act of exchanging gifts. Please join Intern Minister Rodney Lemery and the worship team as they lead the congregation through a participatory service and ritual of giving. These will be words of hope, strength and loving kindness that we all need. It would be an honor if you joined us as we find hope and healing together.

**Worshiper Leader:** Rodney Lemery  
**Worship Associate:** To Be Determined

**DOMINGO, DIC. 25 11 AM**

## **"Nuestros Regalos para la Temporada"**

Estamos entrando en una nueva era de la experiencia americana. En esta temporada festiva, honramos a múltiples tradiciones donde los cambios de la temporada están marcados por el acto de intercambiar regalos. Por favor únase al Ministro interino Rodney Lemery y al equipo de asociados de culto mientras conducen a

la congregación a través de un servicio participativo y el ritual de dar. Son palabras de esperanza, fuerza y bondad que todos necesitamos. Sería un honor que nos acompañen mientras encontramos esperanza y sanación juntos.

**Dirige:** Rodney Lemery  
**Asociado de Culto:** TBD



## **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/FUCSJ](http://www.facebook/FUCSJ)

## **Worship / Small-Group Themes for 2016-17**

Based on congregants' responses to the Spring 2016 Worship Survey, FUCSJ's Worship Associates and Small-Group Ministry Content Team, working with Rev. Nancy, have chosen these themes for September 2016 through May 2017! Let's go deep!

- September 2016: ..... Change
- October 2016: ..... Living with Our Fears
- November 2016: ..... Integrity
- December 2016: ..... Earth
- January 2017: ..... Stages of Life
- February 2017: ..... Kinship and Friendship
- March 2017: ..... Understanding "the Other"
- April 2017: ... The Boundaries That Harm and That Heal Us
- May 2017: ..... Forgiveness



# CIRCLING AROUND

by Torchy Hunter



The church's 150th birthday was some cool event, with the president of the whole church, **Peter Morales** in attendance, and more and better food than I have ever seen here.

Never mind that I am on an all liquid diet and couldn't eat any of it. It's ok. I'm sure it's ok. It's okkkkk.

The question I asked was "what is your favorite possession?" and reminding people that people and animals are not possessions, especially cats. Do you think you own your cat? Some folks had to resort to telling me that they are not materialists, yadda yadda, but

**Dana Grover** insisted he owns **Barbara**. Many people most like their musical instruments: **Rick Merritt**, his guitar; **Ed Gardner**, also guitar; **Geoff Rimositis**, his flute; **Debra Fenzel-Alexander**, her cello, no surprise. Peter Morales didn't hesitate a second to say "my stereo". Into the tech world: **Steve Carr** said his computer (Dell quad core with 12 gig of memory, to be specific); **Marnie Singer**, her hard drive; **Jan Guffey**, her phone; also **Karen Fahrner**, her phone. **Sarah Lemmat**, one of the visiting board members, said "a particular love letter." Awww...! **Don Southworth**, another of the visitors, said the ministerial stole he was given. A lot of you really like your cars: **Pam Price**, **Jay Porter**, and **Lynn Morrison**. **Liz Owen** likes her farm, even though it's in Missouri; **Sundar Mudupalli** likes his mind; and **Bruce Halen** likes his voice (who doesn't?) **Crystal Isola** cherishes her grandmother's china. You are supposed to use those old things, or what lifetime are you saving it for? I use

the sterling every day. **Rebecca Marcos Mason** enjoys her hammock; **Monty Low**, his snowboard (he's in the running for most interesting man, or biggest kid). **Jo Balzer** prizes her chocolate; **Nancy Coleman**, her pool table; **Dena Dickinson**, her singing bowl; **Karen Conrotto**, her recovery; **John Burke**, a black and tan polo shirt, **Connie Bloch**, her house; and **Rowan Fairgrove**, her athame (I think this is a kind of Wiccan weapon?) **Steve Saunders** is very fond of his Keen sandals. Keen.

The sentimental softies like old photos: **Catherine Pelizzari**, **Rob Strong** (one of his mom and grandmother walking down a road). **Genie Bernardini** loves a note from one of her daughters: I love you and I know you love me. And the biggest softie of all, **Patrick Canonge**, his "bankie".

So once again we see the wonderful diversity among us, and although I know that Patrick won't lend you his "bankie," please create your own to get us through what's coming. Peace and love.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUESDAYS 8-9 PM**



### Guitars Aloud! Fireside Room

Guitarists! Let's get together each Tuesday to play UU hymns and other music suitable for services. This free event (for multiple levels) will help you develop your musicianship as you serve the church

and its ideals. Ages teen through adult are welcome. Please call **Sally Cooperrider** (408-204-1046) before attending for the first time as the group occasionally skips a week.

**WEDNESDAYS 7-9 PM**



### Alegre Singers Choir Practice Sanctuary

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at Sunday services, special events such as sol-

stice celebrations and Coffeehouses, and various church activities. Questions? **Liz Owen** [lowen@data-time.com](mailto:lowen@data-time.com)

**WEDNESDAYS 6 PM**

### "Breathe in Peace, Breath out Love" Silent Meditation

#### Ramsden Fireside Room

We meditate in the Ramsden Fireside Room. We begin with ringing the meditation bell and setting the timer for 30 minutes. Come in the door at the end of the ramp and quietly enter the Fireside Room from the hall past the elevator. You can sit in a chair or bring a cushion to meditate on. All are welcome to stay afterwards for a check in about our meditation experience and practice. Contact, the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, [GRimositis@gmail.com](mailto:GRimositis@gmail.com).

**2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS 12:45 PM**

### Young-at-Heart Fellowship Group Sunday 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](mailto:uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoo.com)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 1-3 PM**

### Women's Alliance

**Ramsden Fireside Room**

Join the members of the Women's Alliance as we continue our discussion of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's fascinating memoir, *Nomad: From Islam to America: A Personal Journey Through the Clash of Civilizations*. For this meeting, we will concentrate on Part III, Chapters 11-13. All are welcome.

For further information, contact **Nancy Coleman** at [nbc Coleman@gmail.com](mailto:nbc Coleman@gmail.com) or 408.256.1622.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 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](mailto:patrick.smiley@sbc-global.net) or telephone and leave a message on his cell phone: 408-421-6492.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 10-11 PM**

### HUUMANATI 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 **Mike Pelizzari**, email [nextgalaxy@aol.com](mailto:nextgalaxy@aol.com).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 12:45 PM**

### Band of Writers

**Youth Room**

Writers are encouraged to look through the things they've written over the past few years and submit the best of them to **Catherine Pelizzari** at [caleeson@aol.com](mailto:caleeson@aol.com) for inclusion in the newest Band of Writers published collection. The UU Band of Writers offers support and encouragement to people who enjoy writing. We have a monthly homework assignment and a 10-minute writing session during our meetings, which is always a lot of fun. New people are always welcome.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 12:45 PM**

### Homelessness Concerns Group Sunday Meeting

**Ramsden Fireside Room**

This newly-formed group meets on the 1st Sunday of the month to concentrate its efforts on finding a meaningful way to add to the resources already available to the homeless in our own neighborhood.

## Hiking Schedule (December 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: [j408miller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j408miller@sbcglobal.net), home phone 408-730-1052 or cell 408-769-0534. — **Joyce Miller**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 8:30 AM**

Joseph Grant County Park, about 5 miles. We will do a flatter hike in the valley. We can decide which loop to do once we get there. There are several loops to choose from. Meet at VTA Park & Ride on Capitol off of Alum Rock.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 8:30 AM**

Canada del Oro Open Space, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at lot across from Bed, Bath and Beyond (where the giant electronic sign is located) at Almaden Plaza Shopping Center.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 8:30 AM**

Alum Rock Park, 5 miles, moderate. We will do the usual south rim hike. Meet at VTA Park & Ride on Capitol off Alum Rock.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 8:30 AM**

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. There are two hikes, one long and strenuous, around 8 miles, and one moderate, around 4.5 miles. We will carpool from the parking lot at the Berryessa

Community Center at 3050 Berryessa Road.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 8:30 AM**

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

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 8:30 AM**

Wunderlich County Park, about 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 8:30 AM**

Baylands, starting at end of San Antonio Rd in Palo Alto. We can decide how long we want to hike when we get there. Meet at trail head.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 8:30 AM**

Santa Teresa, around 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza Shopping Center.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 8:30 AM**

Arastradero, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at trailhead.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 12:45 PM**



### Empty Bowls Luncheon, Hattie Porter Hall

Coming of Age Mentors and Youth invite you to the Empty Bowls Luncheon on Sunday, December 4 in Hattie Porter Hall immediately after the church service. Proceeds go to Second Harvest Foodbank. There will be a silent auction of bowls decorated by mentors and youth in the Fireside Room. Admission donation is \$10 minimum per person for the full lunch including drink and desert. Menu accommodates vegetarians as well as anyone who can't have gluten.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 RSVP**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 5:30-10 P.M.**

### Circle Supper Gala

This month we are having one grand supper together and everyone is invited, including children. We will need beverages, appetizers, entrees, vegetables, bread, and desserts. Let me know if there is something you would especially like to bring to the party. If you don't make a choice, I will assign something to fill out the menu. Please also let me know if you are willing to help set up or clean up. As always, please make a reservation if you plan to attend. Reservation deadline is Sunday, December 4. Looking forward to seeing you there. Contact **Barbara Derbyshire** at [CircleSuppers@AOL.com](mailto:CircleSuppers@AOL.com).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 2:15 - 5:30 PM**

### South Bay Contra Dance

#### Hattie Porter Hall

Social dance for all ages to live music. If you can walk, you can contra dance. No experience or partner needed. All dances taught and called. First time visitors are

free if they come to the newcomers' lesson at 2:15. Dance starts at 2:30. Wear comfortable shoes. Suggested donation - \$5-\$10; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All details available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/South-BayContraDance/> or <http://bacds.org/sbc>.



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 & 26 7 PM**

### UU Knitters

#### Julia Rodriguez's Home

Join the drop-in group of lively crafters: including knitting, crochet, beading (so far) on 2nd and 4th Mondays. All levels of experience are welcome! Call **Julia** at 408 379-0759 for directions.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 7-9 PM**

### Social Justice Council Meeting

#### Conference Room

Please join the council on Monday, November 14, at 7 pm in the downstairs conference room to make your voice heard about the issues under discussion. We regularly meet the 2nd Mondays of the month. For more information or if you are locked out, call or text **John Burk** at 408-259-3781.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 2:30-5 PM**

### San José English Country Dance

#### Hattie Porter Hall

Enjoy truly social group dancing to classical and folk music from the last five centuries! In our pattern dances, you dance with the whole room. Come alone or with friends — we change partners after every dance. All group dances taught and prompted, no experience necessary, no complicated footwork. For the best experience, come at the beginning of the dance — later patterns are more complex. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 7:30-9 PM**

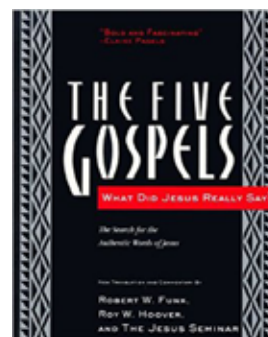


### HUUmanati Monday Meeting

#### 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. For more information, contact **Mike Pelizzari**, email [nextgalaxy@aol.com](mailto:nextgalaxy@aol.com)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 7-9 PM**



### Christian Origins Book Study – The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say?

#### by the Jesus Seminar and Robert Funk

Our Christian Origins Book Study for December is scheduled for Thursday, December 22 via Zoom. This session will focus on Matthew 1-14 (129-200) [72 Pages], which includes Matthew's birth story. As we move on to this, the second Gospel we will be reading, we will seek to understand how the scholars make their decisions, see how they differ in their opinions, develop our own perspectives on what Jesus is likely to have said, and consider how Jesus' message may or may not relate to our time and our lives. We'll also begin comparing what we see in one Gospel vs. another, and consider what those differences tell us about the authors and their intent.

Questions? Contact **Bob Miess** at [Bob@BobMiess.com](mailto:Bob@BobMiess.com) or 925-392-5901.



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](mailto:fucsjooffice@gmail.com) or join the Yahoo Group: [groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj)

Next issue copy deadline: 3 pm Wednesday, December 21

Mailing: Wednesday, December 28

View this newsletter online in PDF format at: [sanjoseuu.org](http://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

**December 1**, Thursday, 1-3 pm,  
Women's Alliance Meeting, Ramsden Fireside Room

**December 2**, Friday, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

**December 4**, Sunday, 12:45 pm,  
Band of Writers, Youth Room

**December 4**, Sunday, HUUmanati Forum, 10-11am, Hattie Porter Hall

**December 4**, Sunday, Immediately Following the Service, Empty Bowls Luncheon, Hattie Porter Hall

**December 4**, Sunday, Deadline to sign up for Circle Suppers

**December 8**, Thursday, Facing the Shadows, Midweek Vesper Service, 7 pm, Sanctuary

**December 10**, Saturday, Circle Supper Gala 2016, Hattie Porter Hall, contact Barbara at [CircleSuppers@aol.com](mailto:CircleSuppers@aol.com)

**December 11**, Sunday, 1-3 pm, Defying the Nazis: the Sharps' War; a Film by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, Sanctuary

**December 19**, Monday, 7:30-9 pm, HUUmananti Monday Meeting, Library

**December 22**, Thursday, 7-9 pm, Book Study, via Zoom Conference

**December 24**, Saturday, 5 & 8 p.m., candlelight Christmas Eve services

**READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ? Contact Rev. Geoff, [grimositis@gmail.com](mailto: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! Rev. Nancy is on sabbatical from October 15 – March 14, 2017; therefore, she is not available for calls. To reach Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@gmail.com](mailto: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! La Rev. Nancy está en su año sabático del 15 de octubre, 2016 al 14 de marzo de 2017; por lo tanto, ella no estará disponible en este tiempo. Para contactar al Rev. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.