



# Our Church Circular

December 3,  
2008 / 3 de  
Diciembre  
2008

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

**9:30 a.m.**

Servicios en español

**7 de Diciembre** — 9:30 am

### Segundo domingo de adviento

Conectando los puntos: ¿Paz en nuestros corazones y paz en el mundo?

Este domingo tomamos otra pregunta eterna: ¿cómo podemos encontrar, o crear la paz? ¿Hay una conexión entre crear paz en nuestras propias mentes, corazones y vidas y la paz que deseamos en el resto del mundo? Como alguno de usted ha dicho, “si no puedo estar junto con mi madre, ¿cómo podemos tener paz del mundo?” Reflexiones, meditación budista y una oportunidad de decir adiós y gracias a nuestra querida Coordinadora de Justicia Social Carol Stephenson redondeara este hermoso servicio.

Dirige: La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;  
Asociados/as de Culto: Miembros de nuestros Ministerios en Español.

**11:00 a.m.**

Services in English

**December 7** — 11:00 am

### Second Sunday in Advent

Connecting the Dots: Peace in Our Hearts and Peace in the World?

This Sunday we take up another eternal question: how can we find, or create, peace? Is there a connection between creating peace in our own minds, hearts, and lives, and the peace we long for in the wider world? As one of you has said, “If I can’t get along with my own mother, how can we have world peace?” Reflections, Buddhist meditation, a child dedication, and a chance to say farewell and thanks to our beloved Social Justice Coordinator Carol Stephenson will round out this beautiful service. And to help bring a little peace to the world, we’ll be handing out the UUSC’s Guest at Your Table boxes this Sunday.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;  
Worship Associate: Bruce Halen.

## SAVE THE DATES

**December 4, Thursday,**  
Women’s Alliance Meeting,  
7:15-9:15 pm, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum; call Nancy Coleman at 408 985 5778 for more info.

**December 6, Saturday,**  
Tanchaz Hungarian Dance Party, with live music, Hattie Porter Hall; children’s party: 5:00-7:00 pm; instruction and dancing 7:00-11:00 pm.

**December 7, Sunday, farewell**  
to Carol Stevens at the 11:00 am Sunday Service and Band of Writers, Youth Room, 12:20 pm

**December 9, Tuesday, UU**  
Humanists meeting, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room

**December 13, Saturday,**  
9:00 am-1:00 pm; Making a World of Difference: A Pre-Parliament of World Religions Conference at Santa Clara University. (See article on page 5)

**December 14, Sunday, after**  
10:00 am service, Fireside Gift Faire, Hattie Porter Hall

**December 18, Thursday,**  
6:00 pm. La Posada, Hattie Porter Hall

**December 24, Wednesday,**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, in the Sanctuary, 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

**January 31, Saturday, 1:00–**  
4:00 pm, Tea for Partner Church, Hattie Porter Hall

**14 de Diciembre** — 10:00 a.m.

### Servicio Combinado a las 10:00 am

Seguido Por La Feria De Reglos Navideños

Las clases de educación religiosa:

10:30-11:30 mañana

### Adviento III – Amor: ¿Hay límites para el amor?

¿Hay límites en el amar? ¿Puede el amor ramificarse, ampliándose en una red cada vez más extensa, o necesita un “envase”? ¿En algunos de nosotros nace el amor en más de una persona a la vez, mientras que en otros de nosotros nos cuesta más trabajo en nuestra vida el amar solamente una, aunque ese “uno” sea a nosotros mismos u a otro? ¿Qué clases de relaciones amorosas hacen que cada uno de nosotros nos sintamos cómodos, seguros, apreciados, respetados y “vistos”? Con un toque suave, daremos una mirada fresca al amor en esta época de fiestas y que deje una cálida comprensión más profunda en nuestras mentes y corazones.”

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociados de Culto: Alice Lynch, Erika Jackson, y Bill Baldwin.

**December 14** — 10:00 a.m.

### Combined Service at 10:00 am

Followed By The Holiday Gift Faire

Religious Education Classes: 10:30-11:30 am

### Advent III - Love: Are There Limits to Love?

Are there any limits on loving? Can love branch outward in an ever-widening web, or does it need a “container”? Are some of us born to love more than one person at a time, while others of us find our life’s work in learning to love just one, whether that “one” be oneself or another? What kinds of loving relationships make each of us feel comfortable, secure, appreciated, respected, and “seen”? With a light and gentle touch, we’ll take a fresh look at love this holiday season and let a deeper understanding warm our minds and hearts. We’ll also bless the Mudupalli family as they leave for England for 18 months!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;  
Worship Associates: Alice Lynch, Erika Jackson, and Bill Baldwin.

See SUNDAY SERVICES, page 7



# As we build the beloved community...

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

## The Greatest Gift: A Season of Listening

Did you hear the series on National Public Radio the week of Thanksgiving, in which newscasters participated in very personal interviews with family members and loved ones? It was part of StoryCorps' project to create an annual **National Day of Listening** on the Friday following Thanksgiving. StoryCorps, which collects recorded interviews from everyday people around the country and then stores them at the Library of Congress, was inviting every one of us to find someone whose stories we would like to hear and record—stories of that person's earliest memory, for example, or stories about what she is proudest of in her life; stories about when he felt the most alone or what it felt like to hold his own child for the first time; stories about serving in the military or going to school; funny stories, sad stories, stories that have been told over and over again or have never been heard before. Here's how, StoryCorps suggested: Just create a short list of questions, then sit down with a friend or family member or with anyone you'd like to get to know better, and (if possible) record your conversation—not for the national archives this time but for your *personal* archives.

I love everything about this idea. I love the invitation to spend a part of the post-Thanksgiving Sales Day—when we are expected to shop until we drop—having a deep and loving conversation instead. I love the recognition that there is *always* more to learn about someone, even when we think we know him or her through and through. I love the idea of reaching out to near-strangers and demonstrating our interest in them and our respect for their unique worth by asking them to share their stories, all the while creating new and meaningful relationships in the process. I love the idea of creating a day when we intentionally offer each other the *gift of listening*.

But the National Day of Listening may be over by the time you read this, so what are we to do? Wait a whole year until it comes around again?

Of course not! Let's create a *Season of Listening* right now. It starts the moment you read this column and continues through New Year's Day. Participation is simple: Once a week, ask someone to spend about half an hour to 45 minutes with you. Tell them you want to hear their stories—that this is the best holiday gift you can give each other.

Here are some tools that will help make this spiritual practice of listening easier and more inclusive:

1. Go to [www.nationaldayoflistening.org](http://www.nationaldayoflistening.org), and scroll down to the "Do-It-Yourself" guide for creating an interview. Follow the simple steps that StoryCorps suggests. If you want to generate a really interesting set of questions, click on "Question Generator." (I have had such fun using this tool to create questions for my spouse Kevin and my dear friend Terry; some of

the questions took me by surprise!)

2. Take a look at the list of Multicultural Competencies that accompanies this column. These suggestions help us to move out of our comfort zones and get to know others across seeming cultural or social divides. They can deepen even the most comfortable and familiar conversations by encouraging us to set aside our assumptions and approach our interviews with respectful and passionate curiosity.

3. Finally, *have fun*—and please share what you discover about yourself and about this gift of listening with our spiritual cooperative!

May your holidays become warmer and richer through this gift of listening!

With my love,

*Nancy* ●

### Multicultural Competencies

Adapted from Building the World We Dream About:  
A "Welcoming Congregation" Curriculum on Race and Ethnicity

by Mark Hicks

When we are competent in "multicultural communication":

- We can listen and behave without imposing our own values and assumptions on others.
- We carry with us an attitude of respect when approaching people of different cultures; this requires that we engage continually in a process of self-reflection and self-critique. We thus have the ability to move beyond our own biases.
- We can maintain a communication style that is not based on arguing or competing, on trying to overwhelm someone with our "compelling evidence" or on establishing who is "right."
- We are curious about the other person, and we seek solutions to problems and

approaches to projects that work across the shared interests that we discover.

- We are comfortable asking questions when we are uncertain or unclear about the assumptions of an individual or a group.
- We intentionally seek to see, hear, and understand the cultural "other." We actually seek out opportunities for multicultural communication.

Notice that we don't have to be "excellent" at any of these skills! Our goal is competence in multicultural communication; we are striving simply to build skills, attitudes, and abilities that will grow with each new experience.

How often might we use these skills in our everyday lives in Silicon Valley? How might these skills enrich our spiritual cooperative at the First Unitarian Church of San José? ●





# Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad... Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

## El regalo más grande: Una época de escuchar

¿Ha escuchado usted la serie en la Radio Pública Nacional la semana del Día de acción de Gracias, en la cual los locutores participaron en entrevistas muy personales con los miembros de su familia y sus seres queridos? Era parte del proyecto de StoryCorps para crear un **Día Nacional Anual de Escuchar** el viernes siguiente al Día de Acción de Gracias. StoryCorps, recoge entrevistas gravadas de la gente común de alrededor del país y después las almacenan en la Biblioteca del Congreso, estaba invitando a cada uno de nosotros que encontrara a alguien cuyas historias quisiéramos oír y gravarlas—historias de la memoria más temprana de esa persona, por ejemplo, o las historias sobre lo cuál ella se siente mas orgullosa en su vida; las historias sobre cuando se sintió más sola o el gusto qué sintió al cargar a su propio hijo por primera vez; historias sobre servir en el ejercito o el ir a la escuela; historias divertidas, historias tristes, historias que se han contado repetidamente una y otra vez o que nunca se han escuchado antes. Aquí es cómo, StoryCorps sugirió: Solo crear una pequeña lista de preguntas, entonces sentarse con un amigo o un miembro de la familia o con cualquier persona que usted quisiera conocerla mejor y, (sí le es posible) gravar su conversación—no para el archivo nacional esta vez, pero si para sus archivos personales.

Me gusta todo sobre esta idea. Me gusta la invitación de gastar una parte del tiempo del día de las ventas después del Día de Acción de Gracias—cuando se espera que hagamos compras hasta que nos desplomemos—para tener una profunda y cariñosa conversación en lugar de lo otro. Me gusta reconocer que siempre hay algo más por aprender sobre alguien, aun cuando nosotros pensemos que lo(a) conocemos al revés y al derecho. Me gusta la idea de ponernos en contacto con esos cercanos-extraños y demostrarles nuestro interés en ellos y nuestro respeto por su valor único, pidiéndoles que compartan sus historias, mientras que creamos nuevas y significativas relaciones en el proceso. Me gusta la idea de crear un día en que intencionalmente nos ofrecemos los unos a los otros el regalo de escuchar.

¡Pero el Día Nacional de Escuchar puede ser sobre el momento en que usted lea esto,

entonces que estamos haciendo? ¿Esperar un año entero hasta que llegue otra vez?

¡Por supuesto que no! Creamos una temporada de escuchar ahora. Comenzando en el momento en que usted esta leyendo esta columna y continúe hasta el día de Año Nuevo. La participación es simple: Una vez por semana, pida que alguien pase de media hora a 45 minutos con usted. Dígalos que usted desea oír que sus historias— que éste sea el mejor regalo que usted pueden darse el uno al otro.

Aquí están algunas herramientas que le ayudarán a hacer esta práctica espiritual de escuchar más fácil y más inclusiva:

1. Vayan a [www.nationaldayoflistening.org](http://www.nationaldayoflistening.org), y revise la guía de “Hágalo usted mismo” para crear una entrevista. Siga los simples pasos que StoryCorps sugiere. Si usted desea generar un sistema realmente interesante de preguntas, haga click en el “generador de preguntas.” (Ha sido divertido usar esta herramienta para crear preguntas para mi esposo Kevin y para

mi estimado amigo Terry; algunas de las preguntas me tomaron por sorpresa!)

2. Échele una ojeada a la lista de Competencias Multiculturales que acompaña a esta columna. Estas sugerencias nos ayudaran a movernos de nuestras zonas de comodidad y familiarizarnos con otras a través de las semejanzas de la división cultural o social. Ellos pueden profundizar mejor en las conversaciones más cómodas y familiares animándonos a que pongamos nuestras suposiciones a un lado y nos acerquemos a nuestras entrevistas con una respetuosa y apasionada curiosidad.
3. ¡Finalmente, *sea divertido*—y comparta por favor lo que usted descubre sobre usted mismo y sobre este regalo de escuchar con nuestra cooperativa espiritual!

¡Puedan sus días de fiesta llegar a ser más cálidos y más ricos a través de este regalo de escuchar! Con amor,

*Nancy* ●

### Las Competencias Multiculturales

Adaptado de Construyendo el Mundo que Hemos Soñado:  
Currículum en Raza y Etnicidad “Una Comunidad Aceptante”

por Mark Hicks

Cuando somos competentes en “comunicación multicultural”:

- Podemos escuchar y comportarnos sin imponer nuestros propios valores y suposiciones en los otros.
- Tenemos que llevar con nosotros una actitud de respeto al acercarnos a la gente de diversas culturas; esto requiere que nos encontremos continuamente en un proceso de autorreflexión y de autocritica. Así tendremos la capacidad de moverse más allá de nuestros propios prejuicios.
- Debemos mantener un estilo de comunicación que no se base en la discusión o en la competencia, al intentar abrumar a alguien con nuestro “convinciente testimonio” o en establecer quién esta en lo “correcto.”
- Ser curiosos sobre la otra persona y buscar soluciones a los problemas y aproximarse

a los proyectos que trabajen a través de los intereses compartidos que descubramos.

- Sintámonos cómodos haciendo preguntas cuando no estemos seguros o nos sintamos confundidos sobre las suposiciones de un individuo o de un grupo.
- Intencionalmente busquemos ver, oír y entender la “otra” cultura. Nosotros realmente buscamos las oportunidades para la comunicación multicultural.

¡Note que no tenemos que ser “excelentes” en ninguna de estas habilidades! Nuestra meta es la capacidad en la comunicación multicultural; nos estamos esforzando simplemente en construir destrezas, actitudes y habilidades que crecerán con cada nueva experiencia.

¿Qué tan a menudo podemos usar estas habilidades en nuestras vidas diarias en el Valle del Silicón? ¿Cómo pueden estas habilidades enriquecer a nuestra cooperativa espiritual en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José? ●



# Religious Education

Nursery (birth-4 years) - Church's Lower Level

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support each child in initiating play activities at the developmental level they manifest. Child Care Workers: Jessica Nunez and Maria Elena Olvera.

**K-2ND GRADES. LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 2-3**

**Special times**

**December 7**

A Time for Getting Ready: Advent

**REGISTER  
ONLINE!**

Information sent only  
to the RE Minister.



<http://sanjoseuu.org/RE/br.html>

**December 14**

A Time for Freedom of Worship: Hannukah

**December 21**

Children's Holiday Play: NO CLASS

**3RD-5TH GRADES, LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 4-5**

**A stepping stone year**

**December 7**

Stories in Rocks and Bones

**December 14**

Jesus' Birth Story and Yours

**December 21**

Children's Holiday Play: NO CLASS

**6TH-8TH GRADES, CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Building Assets Together**

**December 7**

Building Assets Together: A Thousand Points of Light

**December 14**

Safe or Not?/Unclear Boundaries

Youth take a stand on safety in various aspects of their lives and experience what happens when rules aren't articulated well.

**December 21**

Children's Holiday Play: NO CLASS

**9TH-12TH GRADES, YOUTH ROOM**

**Senior High Youth Group**

**December 21**

Children's Holiday Play: NO CLASS

The youth group meets every Sunday after the first part of the service. The youth group provides a safe place for personal sharing and discussion of diverse issues affecting society and youth today. The group will be using the curriculum *Real Stories* by teens making choices and keeping it real.

**8TH-10TH GRADES, LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 4-6**

**Coming of age**

**December 21**

Mentor-Youth Gift Exchange, 12:45-2:00 pm

**YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES**

**JUNIOR HIGH (6th-7th-8th Grades)**

Advisor: **Pam Pell**

**SENIOR HIGH (9TH-12 GRADES)**

Advisors: **Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis, V Kingsley**

To participate in junior or senior high youth group activities, contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, 292-3858, ext.25 or [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org)

## Holiday Play

### 2008

Since the Holiday Play falls on December 21, the first night of Chanuka, this year we will be performing "Chanuka Oy Chanuka", an original play, with eight songs, that explains the story and traditions surrounding the Jewish holiday of Chanuka.

### Rehearsals will be held:

Dec. 7 Parts assigned: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Dec. 14 Rehearsal: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Dec. 20 Dress rehearsal: 9:00-noon

Dec. 21 Performance @ 11am service

All children will need to learn the songs. There is no separate choir this year. CDs of the songs will be available Sunday, Nov. 16, or mp3's of the songs can be obtained by emailing **Cordelia Willis** at [phoebenpiper@juno.com](mailto:phoebenpiper@juno.com)

## January Is Open Enrollment Month for Small Group Ministry!

Our Small Group Ministries (SGM) program is an exciting opportunity to meet other people who are interested in Unitarian Universalism, to get to know people in this congregation in a deep and meaningful way, and to discuss and learn more about our own and one another's personal spiritual paths. "Intimacy and ultimacy," some folks say when they try to sum up what participation in Small Group Ministry offers.

**During the month of January, we welcome everyone who would like to enroll in our small groups.** If you are not currently active in a small group, you can sign up at the SGM table during Social Hour following the 11:00 am service any Sunday in January. Watch your e-mail and look at the mid-December newsletter for more information about the openings and the location for our current small groups.

Generally, Small Groups meet twice a month for a two-hour time slot, usually during the first and third weeks of the month, although some of our small groups follow a slightly different schedule. We ask for a commitment to good attendance to your group for a year. "Small" means a membership of six to ten people, generally of diverse backgrounds. Each session is devoted to a theme that holds some significance in our lives.

Participation in Small Group Ministry encourages skills of "deep listening" to each other and is a significant way we build the interdependent web of our community. Through Small Group Ministry, we create a deeper connection to our own best self as well as to others in our congregation. Check out the SGM portion of our website for more information: [www.sanjoseuu.org/FUCSJSGM/index.html](http://www.sanjoseuu.org/FUCSJSGM/index.html)

### We are also looking for more Small Group Ministry leaders.

SGM leaders and co-leaders are fully participating members of their group, and they also share responsibilities for letting their group know about upcoming session topics and ensuring that members receive the Preparation sheet. They make sure that the Order of Service for each session gets printed out; and they help facilitate the listening and sharing during the group sessions. They receive training with Rev. Nancy and other leaders; and they (or a representative of their group) come to the monthly Small Group Ministry Leader Gathering, an evening with Rev. Nancy that is designed to nourish and support the leaders and keep our groups interconnected. If you are interested in becoming a Small Group Ministry leader, please write Rev. Nancy at [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com)



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

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# UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

Here is the December hiking schedule. As usual, please call if you want to hike, so I will know to look for you at the car pool spot. If you are a regular (and you know who you are) you don't need to call unless you are not coming, so we won't wait for you if you are late. You can call me on my home phone from 6:30 until 7:30 am when I leave. After 7:30, call my cell phone. If you want to email me that you are coming, that is fine. I try to remember to check my email the morning of the hike.

My phone numbers are: 408 730-1052 (home) and 408 507-7052 (cell). In case of rain I frequently change the venue to the Stanford Dish, which is paved and solves the mud problem. I will cancel if we have a big wind and rain storm. If you wonder what decision has been made, give me a call the morning of the hike.

See you on the trails!

## Wednesday, December 3

Stevens Creek/Fremont/Older Park, 5 miles, moderate. Please note this hike will start at 9:00 am. Meet at parking lot at Stevens Creek County Park at 9:00 am.

## Saturday, December 6

Mission Peak, 6 miles, moderate-to-strenuous. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capital at Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

## Wednesday, December 10

Windy Hill, 7-8 miles, moderate. We will do the longer hike. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

## Saturday, December 13

Sierra Azule, 6-8 miles (we can decide that morning how much we want to do) Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am.

## Wednesday, December 17

Skyline Ridge loop trail, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 at 8:30 am.

## Saturday, December 20

Joseph Grant County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capital at Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

## Wednesday, December 24

Saratoga Gap, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Downey Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

## Saturday, December 27

Calero County Park, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am

## Wednesday, December 31

Foothill Park, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 at 8:30 am.

## Making a World of Difference: Community Nonviolence Conference & Pre-Parliament of World Religions Event

Saturday, December 13 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm / At Santa Clara University - \$10 per person

Join Rev. Nancy, FUCSJ, and the Third Street Community Center as we discover the possibilities for deeper interfaith partnerships in our own community and as we sample a local "taste" of the Parliament of World Religions (which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, a year from now). Experience the difference that one community can make when those who are part of religious and spiritual communities, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, business, and grassroots community groups come together to reflect on issues of mutual concern, explore the good work that is currently being done in our community, imagine possibilities, and discover the inspiration to take simple but profound steps toward hearing each other and healing our earth.

### Featured Keynote Speaker, Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro

An inspiring internationally recognized speaker and leader currently serving as the Population Director of the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Dr. Kanyoro is a member of the Ethical Globalization initiative with Mary Robinson and Bishop Desmond Tutu

Dr. Kanyoro writes, *"In the face of (today's) challenges, a vision for an ethical approach to globalization is critically needed. Ethical globalization acknowledges shared responsibilities for addressing global challenges and affirms that our common humanity doesn't stop at national borders."*

Dr. Kanyoro will speak, along with the Rev. Dr. Bill Leshner, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Council for a Parliament of the World's



### WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

We will be meeting at the home of Jean von Kaenel to continue the newly revised *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum. Our December meeting will be Thursday the 4th, and our January meeting has been moved back to January 8. Please join us from 7:15 to 9:15 pm. For further information contact Nancy Coleman at 408 985 5778.

Religions, at the morning plenary

### Breakout Sessions

Conference participants can select from several options of panel discussions, workshops, and assemblies on the topics of:

- ~ Environmental Sustainability
- ~ Overcoming Poverty and the Millennium Goals
- ~ Social Cohesion in Diverse Communities
- ~ Women's Leadership in Local and Global Healing

### Youth Leadership Assembly Interfaith Dialog and Action

Youth leaders, ages 17- 24, convene to explore their inspiration and power to bring about positive change through skillful dialog and committed action. This gathering will take place during the morning breakout sessions of the conference.

Youth leaders will experience the invitation from the young people in Melbourne, Australia to attend the global parliament in 2009 and have a "taste of the parliament" as they focus on issues that connect our local community with people everywhere.

Those attending the Leadership Assembly will be able to explore the potentials for ongoing youth involvement in the San Jose / Silicon Valley World Parliament Partner City Program. If you will be attending this event, RSVP to Iris at [fucsj@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucsj@sanjoseuu.org) so that we know how many people from FUCSJ will be there. ●

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

## UU Humanist Meeting

In December we will continue a discussion on the Meaning of Life that we informally began in November. Although there is no required preparation, you will find it profitable to listen to the Philosophy Talk program on this subject, which lasts less than one hour (<http://www.philosophytalk.org/pastShows/MeaningofLife.htm>). Hope you can join us in the Fireside Room in some lively discussion on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30 pm!

The Los Gatos, Sunnyvale and Mission Peak (Fremont) congregations, will put a notice in their newsletters. ●





# Spotlight on Social Justice

By Carol Stephenson



## La Posada

On December 18 at 6 p.m. the families of Third Street Community Center together with First Unitarian congregants will gather at the church to walk the streets of downtown San Jose for our annual Posada. The Posada is a Latino tradition that recreates the story of Mary and Joseph looking for lodging. The

group, led by children dressed as Mary and Joseph, go to prearranged homes, ask to stay the night in song and are refused. Finally, they come to the house that represents the Inn where they are given refuge.

For us, this will be Hattie Porter Hall, where we then enjoy food, crafts, fun and a piñata! Join this wonderful tradition!

## UUSC Guest at Your Table

Pick up a box for your family on Sunday, December 7 at Coffee Hour in order to participate in Guest at Your Table. Place the box at your dinner table and put some change or small bills in it daily for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which promotes human rights worldwide. So invite a Guest to Your Table this holiday season and pick up a box December 7! More info at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

## CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones in the lives of the First Unitarian Community

### The all-new all-different Circling Around

by Torchy Hunter



I want to be up to date with you, so here's what we need: birthdays (especially those with zeros), parties of any kind, promotions, college destinations, anything that you diverse groups are doing is interesting to everyone else. "Tell Me Everything" when you see me at church, or e-mail me at [dzu@aol.com](mailto:dzu@aol.com). Ok, gentle readers, this week:

## Who's New? Who is really, really old? What group is shameless about seeking publicity? Who is in for big trouble?

We have new members: **Laura Straub, Theresa Quigley, Sean and Riley**. Man, TWO little red-headed boys. Let's not tell them what we think the immediate future holds, or they'll head for Nebraska (gotta understand the folks who dropped off their teenagers).

Some recent Saturday just a whole bunch of us showed up at City Hall for a really fun "No on 8" rally. I even have pictures! (which might be in here someplace, *mirabile dictu*). I especially loved all the hand-made signs I saw, although **Dan** did get a little tired of holding ours over his head. He and I were standing in, yes, in the fountains watching two things occur: dogs peeing and kids taking a drink, oblivious. I am told **Rev Nancy** was one of the speakers, but it wouldn't be true

to say I "heard" her, or anyone else, due to inadequate bullhorn management. But what a trip to watch the columns converge on City Hall. As many of the signs said, "It's not over."

On Saturday last, our Circle of 8 dinner group convened, and demanded coverage here, because we have been together eight years, is what they said, only they all admitted they just wanted to see their names in print: **Barbara and Dana Grover, Madeline and Tim Blackwood, Pam and Vic** (salad maker supreme) **Wyman**, plus **Dan Zulevic** and moi. You see, there is a burden carrying all this power.

### Birthdays with Zeroes (a new feature!)

**Bob Redfern**, The Bobster, just had one. And no, I'm not going to say which one, but if you ask him, I think he'll say 40th, right

after he tells you that birthday parties are for people who make light of their age. With his trademark deadpan.

### Now you're cooking department.

Being the furnisher of yours truly with information, **Moria Merriweather** sends this information about her Small Group (all cleared with them) (that is, all of them warned this might happen).

--Happy news: **Frey Leigh** is recovering from surgery. . . . **Brenna Silberstein** is on her way home after several months working full time on the campaign of some Democrat. . . . **Karen Caoilfhionn** (which is pronounced like "KeeLan") (what is it with the Irish? And the Welsh? Do they just have extra letters on hand?) has recently uncovered the great healing potential of acupuncture. . . .

**Vera Sloan** is engaged, with a wedding date in June. . . . **Bob Miess** works as a Ministerial Settlement Representative. Is this like Fiddler on the Roof? He works with churches who are seeking a new minister. And this same Small Group is taking over the coffee host duties on 2nd Sundays next year. A big attaboy.

Now, all the rest of you can send me stuff to put in here. I'll get some of it right.



# SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

21 de Diciembre — 9:30 am

## A ser anunciado

Dirige: Roberto Padilla; Asociados de Culto: Miembros de nuestros Ministerios en Español.

### Holiday Gift Faire!

Our annual Holiday Gift Faire is coming Sunday, December 14, featuring the work of nearly 20 artists and crafters from FUCSJ and beyond: handcrafted soap, candles, mosaic art, dolls, jewelry, UUphernalia and more. Please plan on stopping by after the combined 10:00 am service. The fair will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and a tamale lunch, baked goods, and candy will be available to purchase. Please invite your friends too. All proceeds support our church.

You can contribute by donating new or gently used handmade, antique, or arty items to our Treasures Table. Please bring items to church the previous Sunday, Dec. 7 (find **Cecilia Deck** after service at Hattie Porter Hall), or just bring items on faire day.

Another way to contribute is by baking for our bake sale. Contact **Lori Zink** ([lorizink@att.net](mailto:lorizink@att.net)) or just bring pre-wrapped items. ●

December 21 — 11:00 am

## Children's Play: "Chanuka Oy Chanuka"

Come and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the annual children's play. This year we have a special treat. Church member Cordelia Willis has written an original play for the beginning of Chanuka—which happens to start on December 21. There will be singing and miracles, for the light will not go out in our lamps or in our hearts. And don't forget to bring those lists for world peace, economic recovery, and My Little Ponies—for that jolly old elf, Santa Claus will be making an appearance after the service. *Joy to the world. Love has come!*

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

## El Juego de los Niños: "Chanuka Oy Chanuka"

Venga y celebre el inicio de la época celebraciones con el juego anual de los niños. Este año tenemos un regalo especial. Cordelia Willis, miembro de la iglesia, ha escrito un original juego para el inicio de Chanukah— que comienza el 21 de diciembre. Habrá cantos y milagros, para que la luz no se apague en nuestras lámparas o en nuestros corazones. Y no se olvide de traer sus listas para la paz del mundo, para la recuperación económica y a mis pequeños ponis— para ese viejo duende alegre, Papá Noel hará presencia después del servicio. *Alegría al mundo. ¡El amor ha llegado!*

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

December 24 — 24 de Diciembre — 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us as we sing those old familiar carols and bring forth the light within our sanctuary and into our lives. The choir and soloists will lift our spirits with the singing of angels. And we will hear that timeless story of the birth of new hope in the baby Jesus and in new lives everywhere. We recount the timeless words of Unitarian Universalist religious educator Sophia Fahs who said that: "Every night a child is born in a holy night." *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

Worship Leaders: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Worship Associates: Kelly Burnett and Bruce Halen.

## Servicios a la Luz de las Velas de Vísperas de Navidad

Únase a nosotros a cantar esos viejos villancicos familiares y traer la luz dentro de nuestro santuario y en nuestras vidas. El coro y los solistas elevaran nuestros espíritus con cantar el de los ángeles. Y escucharemos esa historia intemporal del nacimiento de la nueva esperanza en el bebé Jesús y en las nuevas vidas por todas partes. Contamos de nuevo las palabras intemporales de la educadora religiosa Unitaria Universalista Sophia Fahs quien dijo: "Cada noche un niño nace en una noche santa." *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

Dirigen: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y el Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Asociados/as de Culto: Kelly Burnett y Bruce Halen.





**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José**  
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### Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, December 17, 2008

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**Remember to bring your recyclable bottles and cans to help us improve the print quality of this newsletter!**

### 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. For pastoral care in English, please contact our lay Pastoral Associate Coordinator, **Rev. Donna Lenahan**: (home) 408-354-9024; (cell) 408-204-6565; e-mail: [djlenahan@aol.com](mailto:djlenahan@aol.com). For pastoral care in Spanish, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-292-3858 ext. 24; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Contacting the Ministers

**Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** and **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** feel honored to serve this congregation, and we cherish your trust! Here is how reach us: **Nancy**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 Mon.-Thurs.; (cell) 408-952-9418; e-mail: [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com). **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; (cell) 408-309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

### Cuidado Pastoral

Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros. Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran necesitaren épocas difíciles. Para el cuidado pastoral en inglés, por favor, comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador Asociado Laico en Cuidado Pastoral, **la Rev. Donna Lenahan**: (casa) 408-354-9024; (celular) 408-204-6565; e-mail: [djlenahan@aol.com](mailto:djlenahan@aol.com). Para el cuidado pastoral en español, por favor comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador de los Ministerios en Español, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-292-3858 ext. 24; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Contactando a los Ministros

**La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** y **El Rev. Geoff Rimositis** se sienten honrados por servir a esta congregación, y nosotros apreciamos su confianza! Aquí nosotros estamos a su alcance: **Nancy**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 de Lunes a Jueves; (celular) 408-952-9418; e-mail: [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com) **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; (cell) 408-309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

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*Shirley will be editor for the December 17, 2008 and January 21, 2009 issues. Catherine will be editor for the January 7, 2009 and February 4, 2009 issues.*

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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

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