



Circular

December 17,
2008 / 17
de Diciembre
2008

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

21 de Diciembre — 9:30 am

El mejor regalo de navidad

A través de un cuento, busquemos en nuestros corazones y en nuestras mentes, cuales ha sido las lecciones que la vida nos ha estado presentando a través de la historia de la humanidad. Unámonos en este servicio prenavideño para reflexionar sobre nosotros mismos, en lo que realmente queremos llegar a ser y en cual es el mejor regalo navideño que podemos dar a la humanidad.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

The best Christmas gift

Through a story, we look for in our hearts and in our minds for what has been the lessons that life has been presenting us through humanity's history. Join us in this pre Christmas service to reflect on ourselves, in what we really want to be, and which is the best Christmas' gift that we can give to humanity.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

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.

See SUNDAY SERVICES, page 7

SAVE THE DATES

December 7-31 — Guest at Your Table fundraising event

December 11, Thursday — Green City PACT-LOC, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room

December 18, Thursday — La Posada, a celebration with the Third Street Community families

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

January 9, Friday, Birthday Party, in Hattie Porter Hall, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

January 31, Saturday — Tea for Partner Church Visit, 1:00 - 4:00 pm in the Hattie Porter Hall. Suggested Donation: Adult: \$20, Youth: \$10

March 6-8, 2009 — Women & Religion Retreat at Enchanted Hills (near Napa). Early Bird registration, \$230; after February 2, \$250.

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

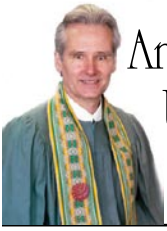
Join us as we sing those old familiar carols and bring forth the light within our sanctuary and into our lives. The choir and soloists will lift our spirits with the singing of angels. And we will hear that timeless story of the birth of new hope in the baby Jesus and in new lives everywhere. We recount 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 traera 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.



Articulating Our Unitarian Universalist Faith

By the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

The economy is on the ropes and jobs are falling like autumn leaves after a blustery wind.

But we are not giving up our *Faith*. In spite of all evidence to the contrary our souls are not set to financial indexes but to what is good and beautiful about this wonderful life we have been gifted.

The darkest day of the year approaches in the Winter Solstice and our hearts may be heavy with loneliness and painful memories of seasons past that we can't just shake.

But we will not let ourselves fall into the abyss of despair because *Hope* will not let us go from its warm and comforting arms.

Hope is the flower blooming out of the ice and snow of difficult times.

We look all around at families sharing the little that they have without hesitation.

We look all around at families sharing the little that they have without hesitation.

We see a smile emerge from a whiskered old man walking the streets when we stop to offer a kind word. We may have to dig deep within ourselves to find the *Love* that is always there for the taking and the sharing. We will not give up because we know that there is more love somewhere—for each one of us.

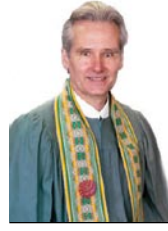
When we feel the California sun shinning on our faces when every where else mufflers and scarves hide tender and sensitive skin from winter's freezing cold we can count our blessings and rejoice in what we have and who we are. There is a great *Joy* for all us to partake in this holiday season. It is in the faces of the people we see at First Unitarian every Sunday. It is in the wonderment of children sitting on the labyrinth. It is in the knowing that together we have something precious—a community that believes in us.

No matter if our stockings are stuffed and overflowing or tattered and torn *Faith, Hope, Love and Joy* will always be guests at our table sharing the bounty of life's promise.

May the light of the Spirit guide our way home to another year filled with friends from our spiritual community helping us to be all that we were meant to be.

With all my love,

Geoff ●



Articulando Nuestra Fe Unitario-Universalista...

Por el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

La economía está en las cuerdas y los trabajos están cayendo como las hojas del otoño después de una tormenta de viento.

Pero no estamos dejando nuestra fe. A pesar de toda la evidencia, por el contrario nuestras almas no se fijan a los índices financieros pero lo cuál es bueno y hermoso sobre esta vida maravillosa de que hemos sido dotados.

El día más oscuro del año se aproxima en el solsticio del invierno y nuestros corazones pueden estar cargados con soledad y recuerdos dolorosos de épocas pasadas que no solo podemos sacudirnos.

Pero no nos dejaremos caer en el abismo de la desesperación porque la esperanza no nos dejará ir de sus brazos calidos y reconfortantes. La esperanza es la flor que florece fuera del hielo y de la nieve en tiempos difíciles.

Miramos todo alrededor de las familias que comparten lo poco que tienen sin vacilación.

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Vemos una sonrisa emerger de entre los bigotes de un hombre viejo que camina las calles cuando nos

paramos para ofrecerle una palabra amable. Podemos tener que cavar profundamente dentro de nosotros mismos para encontrar el amor que está siempre allí para tomar y compartir. No lo perderemos porque sabemos que hay más amor en alguna parte-para cada uno de nosotros.

Cuando sentimos el brillo del sol Californiano en nuestras caras, cuando en otras partes las bufandas y los pañuelos ocultan la piel delicada y sensible al frío del invierno que congela, podemos contar nuestras bendiciones y regocijarnos en lo que tenemos y en quiénes somos. Hay una gran alegría para todos nosotros de participar en esta estación festiva. Está en la cara de la gente que vemos en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria cada domingo. Está en el asombro de los niños que se sientan en el laberinto. Esta en el saber que juntos tenemos algo precioso—una comunidad que cree en nosotros.

No importa si nuestras medias están llenas y desbordadas o hechas andrajos y rasgadas, la fe, la esperanza, el amor y la alegría siempre huéspedes en nuestra mesa compartiendo la generosidad de la promesa de la vida.

Pueda la luz del espíritu guiar nuestro camino a casa hacia otro año llenó de amigos de nuestra comunidad espiritual que nos ayudan a ser todo que debemos ser.

Con todo mi amor,

Geoff ●

Happy Holidays



FUCSJ Receives Funding for the JUUNTOS/Together Project

A Celebratory Note from Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

In the fall, Carol Stephenson, Roberto Padilla, and I submitted a grant to the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program (UUFP) for the JUUNTOS/Together Project. Here is the description of the project:

“The ¡JUUNTOS!/Together! project is designed to help us transform the Spanish-Speaking Ministries of the First Unitarian Church of San José from a single-congregation project into a program benefiting the entire denomination. Through encouraging UU partnerships and sharing the program’s learnings, JUUNTOS will expand the embrace of our faith, bringing Unitarian Universalism closer to its vision of multicultural inclusion. It will help First Unitarian of San José bring its multicultural ministry into the 21st century in a sustainable way, through building relationships within and beyond our congregation and discerning the best ways to fulfill our own mission for inclusiveness and multiculturalism.”

Here’s the great news: We have received a \$9,000 check in the mail from the UUFP, *plus* a challenge grant of \$2,000, for our JUUNTOS/Together Project! If, through our ingenuity, creativity, and determination, we can raise an additional \$2,000, then our total funding for the JUUNTOS/Together project will amount to \$13,000. This is a terrific success in these tough times—and we are one of the 3 or 4 largest grant recipients from the UUFP this year. What a vote of confidence and encouragement this is—and what a call to us to fulfill our mission to become a multicultural congregation.

In addition, we have been selected by the Pacific Central District to offer a special workshop at General Assembly in Salt Lake City in June 2009 on “JUUNTOS/Together! A UU Multicultural Congregation in Action.” And next week a Listening Team is launching a multicultural Building Relationships Campaign to help us determine our next steps—in budgeting, structuring, and truly *being* with each other—for our Spanish-Speaking Ministries and the whole congregation. Stay tuned for more news of these face-to-face conversations.

In these hard financial times, we still have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate! Hallelujah, I say—or, to use my more usual vernacular: WHOOPÉE! ●

La Primera Iglesia Unitaria Recibe una Beca para el Proyecto JUUNTOS/Together!

Una nota de celebración por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

En el otoño, Carol Stephenson, Roberto Padilla y yo, solicitamos una beca al programa Unitario Universalista de financiamiento (UUFP) para el proyecto JUUNTOS/Together. ¡El proyecto ¡JUUNTOS! ¡/Together! está diseñado para ayudarnos a transformar a los Ministerios de Habla Hispana de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José de un proyecto de una única congregación en un programa que beneficie a la denominación entera. A través de animar a la sociedad UU y compartir el aprendizaje del programa, JUUNTOS amplía el abrazo de nuestra fe, trayendo al Unitario Universalismo más cerca a su visión de la inclusión multicultural. Ayuda a la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José para traer a su ministerio multicultural dentro del siglo XXI de una manera sostenible, a través de construir relaciones adentro y más allá de nuestra congregación y de discernir las mejores formas de satisfacer nuestra propia misión de inclusividad y el multiculturalismo.

Aquí están las grandes noticias: ¡Recibimos por correo un cheque por \$9,000 de la UUFP, *además* del reto de una beca de \$2,000 para nuestro Proyecto de JUUNTOS/Together! Sí podemos recaudar \$2,000 adicionales, a través de nuestra ingeniosidad, creatividad, y determinación, entonces nuestro financiamiento total para el proyecto de JUUNTOS/Together ascenderá a \$13,000. Esto es un estupendo éxito en estas épocas difíciles—y somos uno de los 3 o 4 becarios más grandes de la UUFP este año. Qué voto de confianza y de estímulo es éste—y una llamada a nosotros para cumplir nuestra misión de llegar a ser una congregación multicultural.

¡Además, hemos sido seleccionados por el Pacific Central District para ofrecer un taller especial en la Asamblea General en Salt Lake City en junio de 2009 en “JUUNTOS/Together! Una congregación Multicultural UU en acción”. Y la próxima semana un equipo que escucha, estará iniciando una campaña multicultural para construir relaciones para ayudarnos a determinar nuestros siguientes pasos—en el presupuesto, la estructuración y verdaderamente *estando* el uno con el otro—para nuestros Ministerios de Habla Hispana y para la congregación entera.

¡En estas épocas económicamente duras, todavía tenemos tanto por que ser agradecidos y por celebrar! Hallelujah, digo—o, utilizando mi más acostumbrada expresión vernácula: ¡WHOOPÉE! ●

UUA Elections

Now that the US presidential election is over, it’s time to think about the UUA presidential election, which will take place at General Assembly, to be held June 24-28, 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Every congregation has votes based on their number of delegates. The congregation, the board, or the delegates may decide

how to vote. Be informed. On October 18, the candidates participated in a forum in Worcester, MA. A video is available for viewing in a variety of media formats. Also available is a transcript of the event in Word or PDF formats. Please see <http://tinyurl.com/UUAelections> for links and details. ●



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 21

Children's Holiday Play-NO CLASS

December 28

NO CLASSES

January 4

A Time for Giving Gifts-Epiphany

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

A stepping stone year

December 21

Children's Holiday Play-NO CLASS

December 28

NO CLASSES

January 4

Buddha's Birth Story And Yours

6TH-8TH GRADES, CONFERENCE ROOM

Building Assets Together

December 21

Children's Holiday Play-NO CLASS

December 28

NO CLASSES

January 4

Building Assets

9TH-12TH GRADES, YOUTH ROOM

Senior High Youth Group

December 21

Children's Holiday Play-NO CLASS

December 28

NO CLASSES

January 4

Class continues

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

January 23-25

PCD-COA "Social Justice" Retreat- San Francisco

January 18

Mentor/Youth Gathering after service (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

Happy Birthday, Everyone!

Do you have any leftover birthday party hats, or birthday party games? The Religious Education Council invites you to bring them to a church-wide birthday party on Friday, January 9, 2009, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, in Hattie Porter Hall. Whatever month you were born in, you are invited! We will provide pizza and beverages. Donations to cover the cost will be gratefully accepted. We'll have 12 areas set up for each of the months, so you can get to know the people who share your birthday month, if you wish. Bring a board game to play! If a few people from each month bring cakes, we'll have enough cakes for everyone. Sign-ups for cakes begin this Sunday in Hattie Porter Hall. Let's celebrate together!
Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Tamara Payne-Alex, and Jan Theiss-Guffey ●



Whatever you think of the war... Please take a moment and thank our soldiers.

Do you sometimes take a second to forward a funny joke, a thoughtful article, or a political or social message to your friends? Consider taking time to forward a Thank You to our troops.

Xerox is making it easy. If you go to this web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com, you can pick out a thank you card designed by children across the country, Xerox will print it, and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. The web site shows messages from the troops expressing what these cards mean to them. How amazing it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! It is **free** and it only takes a few seconds. ●

REGISTER ONLINE!

Information sent only to the RE Minister.



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

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. 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. For information, email **Cordelia Willis** at phoebenpiper@juno.com ●



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

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Our Church Circular • December 17, 2008 / 17 de Diciembre 2008

Open Enrollment 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; "walking with each other through all of life's journeys" is another way to put it. Participation in Small-Group Ministry offers a sense of belonging and a chance to grow. It encourages skills of "deep listening" to each other and gives us a chance to be heard. 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/FUC-SJ_SGM/index.html

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.

Here are the groups that currently have openings, with their meeting times, locations, and leaders, and the number of openings available in each, so that you can be thinking about which group best fits with your life:

TIME	LOCATION	LEADERS	OPENINGS
2nd & 4th Mon. mornings	Bascom & Hamilton	Mary Martin	2
2nd & 4th Monday evenings	Almaden Valley	Rick Morris, Robin Beresford	1
1st & 3rd Monday evenings	Downtown San José	Alice Lynch, Matt Trask	1
1st & 3rd Monday evenings	Saratoga	Madeline Morrow	3
1st & 3rd Monday evenings	Bascom & Hamilton	Catherine Leeson	needs co-leader
2nd & 4th Tues. afternoons	Los Gatos	Leaders emerging	3
1st & 3rd Tues. evenings	Los Gatos, off Lark	Frank Bosche	2
1st & 3rd Tues. evenings	Downtown San Jose	Rob Strong, Frank Farris	3
1st & 3rd Sat. mornings	Downtown San Jose	Frey Leigh, Bob Miess	3

If none of these times works for you but you would like to join a group, please sign up at the Small-Group Ministry table in January, and we will try to find a group for you!



Some of these groups are looking for co-leaders. SGM leaders and co-leaders are fully participating members of their group. They share responsibilities for letting their group know about upcoming session topics and ensure that members receive the Preparation sheet. They make sure that the Order of Service for each session gets printed;

and they help facilitate the listening and sharing during the group sessions. They receive training with Rev. Nancy and other leaders; and they (or another 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. ●

The pleasure of your company is cordially requested...

by **Connie Bloch and Monty Low, Partner Church Committee Co-chairs**

Everyone is invited to a Tea presented by the Partner Church Committee! This event will raise funds for our villager visitors coming this summer. We will have musical and dance performances for your entertainment. A variety of tasty treats will be served and of course, Tea. We suggest a ticket to the Tea as stocking a stuffer for family and friends.

January 31 (Saturday), 1:00 – 4:00 pm in the Hattie Porter Hall.

Suggested Donation: Adult: \$20, Youth: \$10

Planning for the villager visit this summer is now in full swing. We are currently working to secure visas for our visitors and a preliminary itinerary for our guests is being planned. For further information, contact **Monty Low** low.monty@gmail.com or **Connie Bloch** connie_bloch@yahoo.com. ●

Women & Religion PCD Weekend Retreat

This year's Women & Religion Retreat will be held March 6-8, 2009 at Enchanted Hills (near Napa) and will feature workshops such as "Visualizing a World Religion Meaningful to Women (with the Rev. Shirley Ranck), "Introduction to Energy Medicine," "The Divine Feminine: Embracing Creative Energy to Heal our Planet," and "You, Too, Can Haiku," with our own Jean Embree.

Early Bird registration cost is \$230; registration after February 2 is \$250. Registration includes delicious meals, linens, programs, a "No-Talent Talent Show," mini-boutique, book swap, Yoga, Tai Chi, and a silent auction. You will love it!

To register, send a \$50 deposit to Women & Religion, c/o Jeanne Orjas, 1408 California St. #408, San Francisco, CA 94109. For information, email Jeanne at nejaros@sbcglobal.net.

To apply for a partial scholarship, contact Clair Trujillo, 3006 Bonnie Lane, Stockton, CA 95204; (209) 943-6428.

To ride-share, contact **Barbara Schonborn** at (650) 967-6756 / bschonborn@sbcglobal.net or **Meg Bowman** at (408) 292-1172. ●





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 duz@aol.com. Ok, gentle readers, this week:

Who is not worse? Why colorblindness is bad for your health. Who has no idea what teenage girls are like?

How many respected UU's in this church are big time party crashers?

Read on!

What I Learned by Attending Church last Sunday: **Bruce Halen's** infected finger started small, like all bad things, but by the time **Meredy** saw it, she made him get off his bike and call the medico's, and they kept him at Kaiser two days and would have done three. We know how rare this is. Bruce claims he couldn't see that inflammation was halfway up his arm because he is red/green colorblind. **Carol Greene**, standing behind him at church, held up her bandaged finger and said she had the same thing, and they kept her a week because the staph antibiotics weren't working. I can't think of any risky behavior or habits the two of them share, so wash your hands... **Sally Souders** is back from what seems like years in Africa... **The church** has acquired a wheelchair to be used to get folks up the ramp and into the church, thanks to **Genie Bernardini, Jean von Kaenel, Bill Audrey** and **Gene Martin**. If you'd like to use it, merely ask an usher to get it. And no, you can't take it home, no matter how pitiful a story you tell... **Jean von Kaenel** told me that she recently had her eighty-first birthday and was amazed to find "I'm not worse!"... Being the suspicious type, I cornered **Carol Stephenson** to ask how she could leave us when we love her like we do, and she said she was leaving for "family reasons." When I remarked this was the excuse usually given when people are fired, she explained she has two daughters 11 and



A Bruce-Halen-bandaged-hand-simulation.

9, and to her surprise, finds that they seem to need more attention as they get older, not less, as she expected. Optimism and reality collide.

But They are Just Little Kids Department

Jerry and **Laura Cluney** claim their daughter, **Deborah**, is graduating from Cal in English and enrolling in State's Library Science program... **Colleen Cabot** is likewise under the delusion that her baby, **JD**, is at UC San Diego with nine suitemates, who have created such an atmosphere of scholarship that the RA holds meetings there (see pic)...



Obama News Bob & Sherry Howd

were in DC on election night and crashed a party sponsored by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic National Committee. As you may imagine, there was polite



applause when the victor was announced... **Luther Jackson's** kid, **Alex**, is going to the inauguration with a school group, neatly paralleling his old man who was at JFK's inauguration. **Patti Massey** says she's going, too, but ticketless, just to be there, with all of our hopes, as well. ●

Wedding Fairs...

Giant Creative Services will be hosting a promotional booth for the Unitarian Church at two upcoming bridal fairs in the Bay Area. The booth will be introducing the church not only to brides planning their weddings in 2009 and 2010 but also to other industry professionals. The first appearance will be at the Wedding Faire at the Santa Clara Convention Center on January 3rd and 4th, tickets are \$10 (to learn more, go to www.wedding-faire.com). On February 8th, the church will also have a booth at the Bridal Extravaganza at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, tickets to this show are \$12 (additional information is available on the Bridal Extravaganza website: www.bestbridalshow.com). ●



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

28 de Diciembre — 9:30 am

Jugando con fuego sin quemarnos.

En esta época invernal, donde los días son más cortos y las noches más largas, y el frío lo sentimos hasta los huesos, ¿que importancia tiene el fuego en nuestra espiritualidad? Unamos el fuego de nuestras almas para hacer más llevadera esta estación de oscuridad.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Playing with fire without burning ourselves.

During this winter time, where the days are shorter and the nights are longer, and cold we feel into our bones, that importance has the fire in our spirituality? Join the fire of our souls to make more bearable this darkness time.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

4 de Enero -- 9:30 am & 11:00 a.m.

Construyendo el Mundo que Hemos Soñado

Los graduados de la clase Construyendo el Mundo que Hemos Soñado con duración de un año—incluyendo a sus co-facilitadores Marla Scharf y la Rev. Nancy—traen sus mensajes de esperanza, desafío, aprendizaje y el deseo de que la congregación entera a partir del 2009 se inicie con la visión y el compromiso renovados. ¡Las canciones, las lecturas, los testimonios y las velas para compartir, iluminaran nuestro sendero—y una obra de arte redescubierta bendecirá nuestro altar! Juntémonos para un domingo unidos en cuerpo, mente y espíritu para que guié audaz y amorosamente nuestros pasos hacia el futuro.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociados de Culto: Miembros de la clase de Construyendo el Mundo que Hemos Soñado

11 de Enero -- 9:30 am & 11:00 a.m.

Afirmación III: El servicio es nuestra oración Domingo del Ministerio de Pequeños Grupos

Continuando con nuestra serie de servicios a través del año en la afirmación de nuestra congregación, esta semana nos sumergiremos en la tercera línea: ¿Como puede el servicio ser nuestra “oración”? ¿De que clase de servicio estamos hablando —y de que clase de oración? ¿Qué clase de vida nuestra afirmación nos llama a iniciar una y otra vez? Introduciendo rituales de nuestro programa del ministerio de Pequeños Grupos, consideraremos todo esto en nuestros corazones y encontraremos las maneras de aprender y crecer juntos.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM y del Ministerio de Pequeños Grupos

December 28 — 11:00 am

The Inner Divine Child

Christmas appears to be over and the New Year is about to begin. But, do the feelings that Christmas evokes in us really have to end? Do we have to put away the hope and joy, the mercy and compassion, and the peace and goodwill? And, what if the Divine Child is continuously being born in each one of us? Why can't we keep listening for the heralding angels, and be awestruck by the bright evening star on every holy night? Come, ponder these questions with us.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Donna Lenahan; Worship Associates: Dena Dickinson and Alice Lynch

January 4 -- 9:30 am & 11:00 a.m.

Building the World We Dream About

Graduates of the yearlong Building the World We Dream About class—including their co-facilitators Marla Scharf and Rev. Nancy—bring their messages of hope, challenge, learning, and desire to the whole congregation, as we launch 2009 with renewed vision and commitment. Songs, readings, testimonials, and Candles of Caring will brighten our path—and a rediscovered work of art will grace our chancel! Join us for a Sunday that unites us in body, mind, and spirit and that leads us on our next bold and loving steps into the future.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associates: Members of the Building the World We Dream About Class

January 11 -- 9:30 am & 11:00 a.m.

Affirmation III: Service Is Our Prayer Small-Group Ministry Sunday and New-Member Ingathering

Continuing our yearlong worship series on the Affirmation of our congregation, this week we dive into the third line: How can “service” be our “prayer”? What kinds of service are we talking about—and what kinds of prayer? What kind of life does our Affirmation call us to begin, again and again? Introducing rituals from our Small-Group Ministry program, we will ponder all this in our hearts, and find ways to learn and grow together. We will welcome new members who are ready to join our community, too!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associates: Carolyn Bowman and Members of our Small-Group Ministries





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José
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Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm, Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, January 7, 2009

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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. For pastoral care in Spanish, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-292-3858 ext. 24; e-mail: 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. **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; (cell) 408-309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@sanjoseuu.org.

Cuidado Pastoral

Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros. Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran 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. 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.

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 **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; (cell) 408-309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@sanjoseuu.org.

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Catherine will be editor for the January 7 and February 4 issues. Shirley will be editor for the January 21 and February 18 issues.

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

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