



Our Church Circular

February 6,
 2008 /
 6 de Febrero
 2008

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

10 de Febrero — 9:30 y 11:00 am

La Etica del Amor Para Vivir

Dibujando en las riquezas de la exploración del amor en nuestra cultura de la teórica visionaria Bell Hooks, nos preguntamos, “¿Hey —el amor es realmente todo lo que necesitamos?”

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociados de Culto: (9:30) Miembros de SSM (11:00) Mary Martin.

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

February 10 — 9:30 and 11:00 am

An Ethic of Love to Live

Drawing on riches from visionary theorist Bell Hook’s exploration of love in our culture, we ask, “Hey — is love really all we need?”

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associates: (9:30) Members of SSM (11:00) Mary Martin.

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We Can All Shine on Monday, Feb. 25! Find Out How...

by Genie Bernardini

This is our chance to show San Jose that Unitarians really live their values of “respect for the interdependent web of all existence,” with service as our prayer. Rev. Lindi Ramsden urged us last Sunday to act courageously in supporting and promulgating such UU values. We have an opportunity to do just that on Monday, February 25. The PACT Local Organizing Committee of our church is sponsoring a community action meeting with Mayor Reed to review his Green Vision for San Jose. This will be a time to let the mayor know how strongly we feel about making sure that the steps taken to green San Jose will benefit people of all income levels. (The Mayor’s complete Green Vision is available at www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor/goals/environment/GreenVision.pdf)

There will be enlightening presentations, lively music, and green give-aways. Please make every effort to come to this all-church, all-community event and bring a friend as well. We want to fill the sanctuary!

*Mark your calendar today:
 Monday, February 25 at 7:00 pm.*



SAVE THE DATES

February 7, Thursday, 7:15

pm, Women’s Alliance Meeting: “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” Curriculum, in Hattie Porter Hall. All are welcome.

Contact Nancy Coleman at (408) 985-5778 or nancycoleman@mac.com for further information.

February 10, Sunday, after coffee hour at the church; Let Freedom Ring: Marriage Equality Now presentation by Equality California. See article page 8.

February 22- 24 (Fri-Sun): UUA Conference: Leading Our Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future, Doubletree Hotel, San Jose (See article in this issue of the online newsletter or the newsletter of December 19, 2007)

February 25, Monday, PACT Action, Sanctuary; Greening from the Grassroots: Join the Mayor of San Jose and our PACT Local Organizing Committee in this discussion of how we can “green” our city and create economic justice, too.

July 20-23, Junior High Backpacking Trip. Contact Pam Pell at johnpell@aol.com for further information.

July 9-13, All-Church Campout, McConnell State Recreation Area. Watch for complete information in future newsletters.



As We Build the Beloved Community...

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Being the Change We Want to See—Part I

The second sermon I ever wrote was about change. It was delivered on a hot and sticky Sunday morning in August, and the sermon’s message was “Change is hard. Change is really, *really* hard.” It included lots of examples and had a somewhat happy ending, but basically, that was it, for 24 uncomfortable minutes: “Change is hard.”

It wasn’t a very good sermon.

Yet now, years later, I still believe that it’s fundamentally true: Change is hard—at least the kind of change that Harvard professor Ronald Heifetz calls “adaptive change.” Heifetz contrasts adaptive change with “technical changes,” for which there are clear steps to take and a fairly certain outcome. Changing an electrical fuse that has burned out, or

taking some medicine known to cure what ails us, could be called a “technical change.” But to accomplish adaptive—or *transformational*—change, we have to change a complex series of behaviors and attitudes, and the outcome cannot be completely predicted ahead of time. Changing careers

is a transformational change; adjusting to the loss of a loved one is another. Getting sober is a transformational change; so is developing environmentally sustainable habits of living or changing civil rights laws. We may have a few ideas about the steps we need to take in order to make such changes, and in community we will find allies, teachers, and companions to help us and cheer us on—but to accomplish transformational change, there is no “quick fix.” It takes heart, time, hope, commitment . . .

In January, my clergy colleagues and I

spent a couple of days with Unitarian Universalist minister and Alban Institute presenter, the Rev. Dr. Larry Peers, at a workshop called “Sacred Shifts.” Larry offered a fresh approach to transformational change that I find rich and inspiring. Let me sketch it out for you.

Often when we think about making big changes in our lives, in our community, or in our world, we think about the *results* we want—we create a *vision* of the outcome—and then we form an *action plan* to get us there. If our actions don’t quite produce the results we’d hoped for, we may figure that we need to rededicate ourselves to our vision, and/or we may come up with a new series of actions to take. This businesslike approach can be productive, says Larry, but if we focus solely

on actions and results, we may be leaving out a deeper and more essential truth: When we’re talking about making a transformational change, we’re talking about changing our very *way of being*. This is what makes transformational change a “sacred shift.”

So let’s step back from the “strategic plan” for a moment and, with an attitude of nonjudgmental curiosity, take a look

at who we are as we enter into a process of change. Let’s describe our “being” using three interconnected aspects of ourselves that we can actually observe:

- What is the language we’re using to describe where we are right now? If we are facing a big personal change, we may hear ourselves saying, “It’s too hard. It’ll take too much time. My family won’t like it. I don’t have the skills.” If we want societal change, we may find ourselves saying, “That will never happen. It’s human

nature to do it the way we’ve always done it. It’s too complicated. I don’t know where to start.”

- What is our mood about this change? Are we feeling depressed or confused? Are we feeling resistant or angry? Are we feeling hopeful or excited?
- What is the feeling and posture of our body when we think about this change? These postures may literally be visible, or we may feel them internally. Are our shoulders slumped, our arms crossed across our chest? Do we feel “stuck in the mud,” like our feet buried in cement? Are we stepping boldly forward, head up, eyes bright, even though we’re not sure where the path of change will take us?

OK, those are our tools. Now, here’s the fun part! Larry suggests that as we contemplate a transformational change that we would like to make—either a personal or a societal one—we can make great discoveries by **imagining the end of the process before we begin**. What does this mean?

First, we start by imagining *our way of being after the change has been made*. What will our bodies feel like, what will our posture be then? What will our mood be? What kinds of things will we be saying to ourselves and to each other when we have made this change that we want to make?

Second, imagine *what the results of this new way of being are* for ourselves and our community. Picture it thoroughly. What are the new behaviors and relationships that announce, “We are now the change we’ve wanted to see”?

Third, with this new way of being and these results in mind, *now tell a story about the process of change itself*. What were some of the obstacles we faced along the way, and how did we overcome them? What were we

See BELOVED, page 10



Mientras Construimos Nuestra Querida Comunidad...

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Iniciando el Cambio que Queremos Ver-Parte I

El segundo sermón que escribí fue sobre el cambio. Fue entregado en una mañana caliente y pegajosa de un domingo de agosto y el mensaje del sermón era Cambiar es difícil. Cambiar es realmente, *realmente* difícil. Incluía muchos ejemplos y tenía una conclusión algo feliz, pero básicamente, eso fue, 24 minutos incómodos: Cambiar es difícil.

No fue un sermón muy bueno.

Aun ahora, años más tarde, todavía creo que esto es fundamentalmente cierto: El cambiar es difícil-al menos la clase de cambio que el profesor Ronald Heifetz de Harvard llama cambio adaptable. Heifetz contrasta el cambio adaptable con los cambios técnicos, para lo cuál allí están claros los pasos a tomar y un resultado bastante cierto. Cambiar un fusible eléctrico que se ha quemado, o tomar alguna medicina sabiendo que cura lo que nos aflige, se podría llamar un cambio técnico. Pero para lograr adaptar-o transformar-un cambio, tenemos que cambiar una serie compleja de comportamientos y de actitudes y el resultado no se puede predecir completamente. Cambiar carreras es un cambio transformacional; el ajuste a la pérdida de un ser amado es otro. Estar lucido es un cambio transformacional; esto es desarrollando hábitos ambientalmente sostenibles para vivir, o de cambiar las leyes de los derechos civiles. Podemos tener algunas ideas sobre los pasos que necesitamos tomar para realizar tales cambios y, en comunidad, encontraremos aliados, profesores y compañeros para ayudarnos y para animarnos-pero para lograr el cambio transformacional, no hay arreglo rápido. Toma corazón, tiempo, esperanza, compromiso.

En enero, mis colegas clérigos y yo pasamos un par de días con el ministro Unitario Universalista y presentador del Instituto Alban, el Rev. Dr. Larry Peers, en un taller llamado Cambios Sagrados. Larry ofreció un acercamiento fresco al cambio transformacional que encuentro rico e inspirando. Permítanme bosquejarlo para ustedes.

A menudo cuando pensamos en realizar grandes cambios en nuestras vidas, en nuestra comunidad, o en nuestro mundo, nosotros pensamos en los resultados que queremos-creamos una visión del resultado-y entonces hacemos un plan de acción para lograrlo. Si nuestras acciones no producen absolutamente los resultados que habíamos esperado, podemos calcular que necesitamos reenfocarnos en nuestra visión, y/o podemos acercarnos con una nueva serie de acciones por tomar. Este eficiente acercamiento puede ser productivo, dice Larry, pero si nos enfocamos solamente en acciones y resultados, podemos dejar fuera una verdad más profunda y más esencial: Cuando estamos hablando acerca de realizar un cambio transformacional, estamos hablando de cambiar nuestra propia manera de ser. Esto es lo que hace a un cambio transformacional en un cambio sagrado.

Entonces regresemos al plan estratégico por un momento y, con una actitud de curiosidad objetiva, echemos una ojeada a quiénes somos para que entremos en un proceso de cambio. Describamos nuestro ser usando tres aspectos interconectados de nosotros mismos que podemos realmente observar:

■ *¿Cuál es el lenguaje que estamos utilizando al describir donde estamos ahora?*

Si estamos haciendo frente a un cambio personal grande, podemos escucharnos decirnos a nosotros mismos, es muy difícil. Tomará mucho tiempo. A mi familia no le gustará. No tengo las habilidades. Si deseamos el cambio social, podemos encontrarnos diciendo, Eso nunca sucederá. Es parte de la naturaleza humana el hacerlo de la manera en que lo hemos hecho siempre. Es muy complicado. No sé por dónde comenzar.

■ *¿Cuál es nuestro estado de humor para este cambio?* ¿Nos estamos sintiendo deprimidos o confundidos? ¿nos sentimos resistentes o enojados? ¿nos sentimos esperanzados o emocionados?

■ *¿Cuál es la sensación y la postura de nuestro cuerpo cuando pensamos en este cambio?* Estas posturas pueden literalmente ser visibles, o podemos sentirlas internamente. ¿Están nuestros hombros caídos, nuestros brazos cruzados sobre nuestro pecho? ¿Nos sentimos pegados en el fango, como si nuestros pies estuvieran enterrados en el cemento? ¿Estamos caminando audazmente hacia adelante, con la cabeza levantada, los ojos brillantes, aun cuando nosotros no estemos seguros a donde el camino del cambio nos llevará?

De acuerdo, éstas son nuestras herramientas. ¡Ahora, aquí está la parte divertida! Larry sugiere que como contemplamos un cambio transformacional que quisiéramos hacer-cualquiera, personal o social-nosotros podemos hacer grandes descubrimientos **imaginando el final del proceso antes de que comencemos**. ¿Qué significa esto?

Primero, comencemos *por imaginarnos nuestra manera de ser después de que se haya realizado el cambio*. ¿Qué le gustaría a nuestro cuerpo sentir, cual sería nuestra postura entonces? ¿Cómo estaría nuestro humor? ¿Qué clase de cosas estaríamos diciéndonos nosotros mismos ya otros cuando hayamos realizado este cambio que queremos realizar?

Segundo, imagínese *cuáles son los resultados de esta nueva manera de ser para nosotros mismos y nuestra comunidad*. Representélo perfectamente. Cuáles son los nuevos comportamientos y las relaciones que declarar, ¿ahora estamos en el cambio que hemos querido ver?

Tercero, con esta nueva manera de ser y estos resultados en mente, *ahora cuente una historia sobre el proceso del cambio por sí mismo*. ¿Cuáles eran algunos de los obstáculos que hicimos frente a lo largo del camino y cómo los superamos? ¿Que pudimos celebrar en el movernos a través de esta transformación?

Aquí está la gran ventaja de este acerca-

Voy QUERIDA, pagina 10



Religious Education

Nursery (birth-5 years) - Church's Lower Level

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support all children in initiating play activities at the developmental level they manifest. Structured activities, games, stories, and crafts are a part of the nursery experience.

Child Care Workers: **Stacey Vinyard** and **Mary Quéñones**

K-2nd Grades, Rooms 2- 3, Church's Lower Level

TREASURE HUNTING

Feb. 10 Our Meeting House

Feb. 17 What is Religion?

3rd-4th Grades, Rooms 4-5, Church's Lower Level

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE, TIMELESS THEMES

Feb. 10 Peter Cooper, Jello

Feb. 17 Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect

5th Grade, Room 6, Church's Lower Level

NEIGHBORING FAITHS

Feb. 10 Introduction to Hinduism

Feb. 17 Holiday Weekend, attend regular service

6th-8th Grades, Church Conference Room, Lower Level

TRADITIONS WITH A WINK!

Feb. 10 Congregation Survey: Predictions

Feb. 17 Congregation Survey: Survey Distribution

7th - 9th Grades (Parents Group meets concurrently)

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

Feb. 10 2:30 -5:30

Feb. 17 2:30 -5:30

9th-12th Grades, Upper Level, Youth Room

FILM AS THEOLOGY: MEDIA THAT MATTERS FILM FESTIVAL

This year we will be looking at short films, many made by youth, on social and ethical issues. We will engage in conversations about how those films reflect and inform our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists.

Youth Group Activities

To participate in junior or senior high youth group activities, please contact **Sonya Sukalski** 292-3858, ext.25, or [Sonya.sukalski@comcast.net](mailto:sukalski@comcast.net).

JUNIOR HIGH (6TH-7TH-8TH GRADES)

Staff: Sonya Sukalski

SENIOR HIGH (9TH-12 GRADES)

Advisors: Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis, Richard Gould

Leading Our Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: Now Is the Time!

**All day Friday, February 22, through midday Sunday,
February 24; Doubletree Hotel, San José**

Let's take an FUCSJ team to this engaging and transformative weekend conference! Spend Friday with the inspiring Rev. Jacqui Lewis; on Saturday, share practical workshops with UUs from around the country; and on Sunday morning, we have the honor of hosting the whole conference at our 9:30 worship service in Spanish (with English translation), so that all

Conduciendo a nuestras congregaciones hacia un futuro multirracial y Multicultural: ¡Ahora es el Tiempo!

**Desde el viernes 22 de febrero, hasta el medio día del domingo,
24 de febrero, en el Hotel Doubletree de San José.**

Llevemos a un equipo de la FUCSJ a esta atractiva y transformadora conferencia de fin de semana! Pase el viernes con la inspirada Rev. Jacqui Lewis; el sábado, comparta los talleres prácticos con los UUs de alrededor del país; y en la mañana de domingo, tendremos el honor de recibir la conferencia entera en nuestro servicio de las 9:30 en español (con la traducción inglés), de modo que todos puedan experimentar una

Sabbatical? Radical!

Our Associate Minister for Religious Education, the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, will be on sabbatical leave until July 2008. You can keep up with him on his spiritual journey at his blog on the church website at www.sanjoseuu.org/revgrblog/index.php

REGISTER ONLINE!

Information sent only to the RE Minister.



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



can experience a taste of multicultural Unitarian Universalism in action.

Register on-line now at www.uua.org/events/multiracialmulticultural/index.shtml. Then let Rev. Nancy know that you will be joining our team of FUCSJ leaders and ministers by e-mailing her at revnpj@yahoo.com.

probada de el multiculturalismo Unitario Universalismo en la acción.

Regístrese ahora a través del e-mail en: <http://www.uua.org/events/multiracialmulticultural/index.shtml>.

Entonces déjele saber a la Rev. Nancy que usted se unirá a nuestro equipo de líderes y de ministros de la FUCSJ enviándole un mensaje electrónico a: revnpj@yahoo.com.



So You Say You'd Like to Serve Our Beloved Community?

What Looks Interesting?

These are the volunteer positions most urgently in need of filling. Please take a moment to see if any of these service opportunities are right for you.

TAPE DUPLICATOR: make & provide tapes of services 1 Sun. a mo. in HPH after the service for 1 ½ hrs.; 1 yr. term

CHOIR MEMBER: no exp. nec., practice Wed. 7-9 p.m., perform Sun. lowen@data-time.com

COFFEE HOUR HOST: set out snacks, drinks before service; clean up after; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

LABYRINTH HOST: set up table & music and be present, 11:30-1:00; serve according to availability; 1 yr. term

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLER: fold, staple and stamp newsletters with amiable team; 1st or 3rd Tues. afternoon; 1 yr. term

WORSHIP HOST: greet & welcome people coming to Sun. service, collect offering; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR: operate sound system during 9:30 & 11:00 services ; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

CHANCEL DECORATOR: use creative talents to decorate chancel, using flowers, fabric, etc. ; serve when available; 1 yr. term

ORDER OF SERVICE ASSEMBLER: fold and assemble Order of Service Fri. morn.; much appreciated by Office Manager; 1 yr. term

NEWCOMER TABLE HOST: welcome newcomers, ask to fill out card, give info.; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

NEWSLETTER COPIER: copy newsletter on risograph machine for assemblers; 1st or 3rd Tues. of mon.; 1 yr. term

R.E. TEACHER or ASSISTANT: lead Sun. morn. sessions, using prepared curriculum; 2 hr. a mon.; 1 yr. term

LIVE YOUR VALUES—SHARE YOUR TALENTS—FORM WARM FRIENDSHIPS
Call Genie at (408) 997-6292
or Ed at 712-4157



Third Street Community Center Says: Thank You UUs

Once again, I have to start with thanking everyone for all the support over the last few months!

Third Street owes a very big thank you to **Carol Stephenson** (who recently joined our Board) and **Roberto Padilla** for making the annual posada a great success! Kids from our *After School Academic*



Program presented a very inspirational play focusing on the “birth” of Third Street and our combined struggle during the rebuilding of the sanctuary and for social justice. We had more families than anticipated and many brought homemade foods and “ponche” to share after stopping by **Barbara Grover’s**, who was kind enough to open her home to families during the neighborhood procession.

In December, we were in need of tutors for our kids as our regular SJSU students went on winter break. Thanks to **Tim Blackwood**, our kids had a wonderful mentor to help them with their homework and much more...just ask him how it went! **Tracy Avent** participated in our *Robotics Program* orientation in early January and we look forward to his service as a *Tech Challenge Mentor*. We currently have 35 students enrolled and we may have over 7 teams competing this year so be warned – expect to see and feel an abundance of energy every Saturday morning from now until May 3!

Other wonderful people have answered our call for ESL instructors due to the overwhelming demand for classes. Another very special thank-you goes to **Genie Bernadini** for leading a training session for soon-to-be ESL instructors. *ESL classes* will resume in February.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the UU’s who sent in contributions from our winter appeal letter. Your support not

only keeps our programs running, but it inspires me and motivates Third Street staff to continue our work. If you did not receive a letter in early December, I may not have you on our mailing list so please email me your information if you would like to be added to future mailings.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Baez

TSCC Service Opportunities

Early last fall, the Third Street Board decided to move *Share the Magic* to the spring of 2008. We are forming a committee to help with planning and would like to open this up to UU members who have time and would like to join this working committee. Some of the tasks include but are not limited to: coordinating and securing items for a silent auction, establishing and leading a decorating team, graphic design work, selling tickets, identifying sponsors, marketing and PR, and more. If you are interested, please contact Rosemary Baez at rosemary@3street.org or call (408) 295-8722 ext. 305.



Meet Our New Members



Linda Gonzalez

Linda spends her time improving herself and doing what she can to serve others. After 26 years, she has recently returned to school, at age 58, to get her CADAC degree to help women recover from their addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Linda has attended church faithfully since she was a child. However, it was not until she

stepped foot in this church that she found the unconditional love that we have in the First Unitarian Universalist faith. She says that we treat everyone the same, no matter what religion or background. She likes that she can choose her own definition of a Higher Power. She is joining now, after having attended our church for a few months, because of the acceptance and love that she sees and feels.

By nature, Linda is a healer and a helper, and she hopes to offer that to our community. Linda is an extraordinary woman with a very special personal history. I invite you to get to know her, and I ask you to join me in welcoming her to our church community.

Conozca a Nuestros Nuevos Miembros

Linda González

Linda pasa su tiempo superándose a sí misma y haciendo lo posible por servir a los demás. Después de 26 años, ha regresado recientemente a la escuela a la edad de 58 años, para obtener su diploma de CADAC para ayudar a las mujeres a recuperarse de la adicción a las drogas y al alcohol.

Linda ha asistido a la iglesia fielmente desde que era niña. Sin embargo, no fue sino hasta que puso un pie en esta iglesia que ella encontró el amor incondicional que tenemos en la fe unitaria universalista. Ella dice que tratamos a todos por igual, sin importar su religión o su formación. A ella le gusta saber que puede elegir su propia definición de un Poder Más Elevado. Ahora ella se está uniendo, después de asistir a nuestra iglesia por algunos meses, debido a la aceptación y el amor que ella ve y siente.

Por naturaleza, Linda es consoladora y cooperativa, y ella espera ofrecer eso a nuestra comunidad. Linda es una mujer extraordinaria con una historia personal muy especial. Les invito a que la conozcan más, y les pido que junto conmigo le den la bienvenida a nuestra comunidad religiosa. ●

High School Scholarships for Our Partner Church in Romania

By Connie Bloch

Our recent campaign to support our Partner Church youth through high school scholarships from our church donors has been extremely successful! We raised over \$2100, which will be used to fund scholarships for 6 students from our Partner church village in Homorod-szentmarton, Romania.

There is no high school in the village. One of the youth's few options is to attend a Unitarian boarding school in the region in Udvardhey. (There is no regular transportation.) The expenses of over \$1,000 a year make attendance very difficult or impossible for many of our Partner church's youth to attend.

However, they know that their economy is changing quickly. Recently, Romania was admitted to the European Economic Community, and the way the villagers make a living will have to shift to follow new regulations.

When we visited our Partner church this summer, Rev. Jozsef Szombatfalvi asked us if we could get our church members to sponsor scholarships for their youth. He felt that supporting their education was the #1 priority of any of the "projects" our two churches could work on at this time.

Rev. Jozsef writes that the hardest part was the selection of the students for the scholarships. Then comes the most important and beautiful part, which is the connection. Rev. Jozsef hopes that the students will build friendships with their supporter and a closer connection with the church.



We briefly mentioned this project during a couple of presentations on the return of our travelers from Transylvania. How generously our church community has responded! Four of these donations of \$300 came from families. Two came from

groups within our church, which included the Berryessa/Downtown "dinner" group, and a Sunday night Small Group Ministry.

Some donors may only be able to commit to one year, but it is hoped that most may be able to renew yearly until the student graduates from high school. Also; we hope to expand our program to additional youth in the following years.

I continue to be touched by the generosity of this church. Thanks to everyone for your support and interest in our Partner Church Scholarship program. If you want to learn more about our scholarship program or how to get involved, please contact [Connie. Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie.Bloch@yahoo.com) ●



Upcoming Events

Coping With Loss: A Grief Support Group for Adults

When: Fridays, 7-9 pm; 8 meetings, March 21 through May 9, 2008

Where: First Unitarian Church of San Jose 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112, Ramsden Fireside Room

Fee: No fee, but donations are welcome

The group will explore our feelings together by getting acquainted, telling our stories, remembering, sharing pictures, mementos, and other special treasures; sharing food; dealing with anger, guilt, fear, loneliness, unfinished business, our personal goals, and closure.

The group will be facilitated by Dolores Gonzalez and Joanna Keates, who are FUCSJ Pastoral Associates and experienced volunteers in grief support, trained at the Center for Living with Dying. The sign-up sheet will be on the Pastoral Care table for the next few Sundays. For more information please contact either Dolores at (408) 272-5465; email: dolores@ihot.com or Joanna at (408) 399-9235; email: Joanna@Keates.com ●

“Thank God for Evolution!” Friday, March 14, 7 to 9 pm, FUCSJ Sanctuary

Special Presentation— Free and Open to the Public!

Rev. Michael Dowd and his science-writer spouse, Connie Barlow, are America's Unitarian Universalist evolutionary evangelists, traveling the country for the past six years and speaking to a variety of denominations and communities, including 250 UU churches and fellowships. Their work was featured on the cover of UU World magazine; you can read the article at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/2679.shtml>.

Now Michael and Connie bring their inspiring presentation to our sanctuary on Friday, March 14, 7 to 9 p.m. in a free event based on Michael's new book, “Thank God for Evolution!” The book has been endorsed by five Nobel Prize-winning scientists (see <http://thankgodforevolution.com/nobel> for more);

and Buddhist writer and teacher Joanna Macy says that it

“moves us at last beyond false separations of science and religion.”

Save the date, and bring your friends and family to this lively, boundary-busting event! View the book's trailer at <http://ThankGodforEvolution.com/book-trailer.html>

We'd like to provide Michael and Connie with a home stay while they are in our area for 2 to 3 days. They have a van to be parked on the street or driveway and mostly need a room where they can plug into the internet and work through the day. Can you help? Please contact Rev. Nancy at revnpj@yahoo.com. ●



Winter Series on Non-Violence

In honor of the upcoming Season for Nonviolence, **Patrick O'Connell** is offering a new and fascinating series of free weekly classes that explore how the world has used nonviolent conflict to achieve democracy and human rights. Covering a wide range of topics, including the Chicano students' walkout in East LA and the process of Truth and Reconciliation, Pat will bring film, documentaries, and special guests and lead discussions about how we apply these lessons learned.

The next class will be held Tuesday, February 5 in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm and features a video that documents the spectacular defeat of Slobodan Milosevic in October, 2000, not by force of arms, as many had predicted, but by an ingenious nonviolent strategy of honest elections and massive civil disobedience. The following class, February 12, covers the Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Classes will continue every Tuesday until April 1st. For more information contact Carol at (408) 292-3858 x27 or socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org. ●

UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

by Joyce Miller

Here is the February hiking schedule. If you have any question about whether a hike is on or off, just give me a call. I rarely cancel but sometimes I change the venue if muddy trails seem likely. The backup hike is the Stanford Dish. And as usual, be sure to let me know if you are planning to hike, so I know to look for you. You can call me at home at (408) 730-1052 any time after 6:30 am or email me the day before. I turn on my cell phone when I leave the house the day of the hike so you can contact me if you get delayed or your plans change. My cell phone is (408) 507-7052. See you on the trails!

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Montebello/Grizzly Flat, 6 miles, moderate. This is car shuttle hike. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.

Saturday, February 9, 2008

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

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Fremont/Older/Stevens Creek, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at the parking lot at Stevens Creek park. Directions: From 280, take Foothill Expressway as though you were going to Rancho San Antonio, but go straight on Foothill, which becomes Stevens Canyon Road at McClellan. Continue about a mile to the entrance to the park, which is on the left. Parking fee is \$5.00

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Mission Peak, 5 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capital and Alum Rock at 8:00 am or at the parking lot at Ohlone College at 8:20 am.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Foothills Park, Palo Alto, 7.2 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.

Saturday, February 23, 2008

Big Basin State Park, Berry Falls, 12 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot behind Downey Bank in Saratoga at 8:00 am. This will be a long day due to length of hike and travel time. Plan to be back around 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Long Ridge Regional Space Preserve, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot behind Downey Bank in Saratoga at 8:00 am.



Let California Ring: Marriage Equality Now

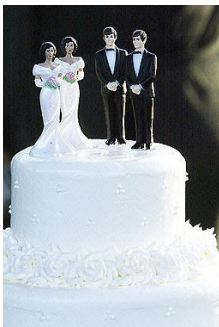
By Carol Stephenson

First Unitarian is extremely fortunate to have Equality California coming to talk with us about marriage equality after the coffee hour on Sunday, February 10. They have wonderful resources on their website at www.letcaliforniarig.org including the following FAQs.

Can't gay people already get married? Can't you go to Canada? Or Massachusetts?

That's a good question. People have their homes, their family, their friends, their support systems where they live. If a gay or lesbian couple were to get married in Massachusetts or Canada it wouldn't be recognized in the state of California.

Having the same opportunities to realize hopes and dreams is a cornerstone of freedom. If two adult people want the responsibility and commitment of marriage, is it the business of government to tell them they can't marry, whether they are gay or straight?



Why do gays and lesbians want marriage? Do they really need it? Can't couples go to a lawyer to secure all the rights they need?

Without marriage, gay and lesbian couples can only put in place a few basic arrangements, such as naming each other in a will or a power of attorney. And even these remain vulnerable to challenges in court by disgruntled family members.

For example, when a gay or lesbian person gets seriously ill, nothing can make their partner eligible to take leave from work under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act because that law applies only to married couples. When a gay or lesbian person dies, nothing can extend to the surviving partner Social Security survivor benefits or the right

to inherit a retirement plan without severe tax burdens that stem from being "unmarried" in the eyes of the law.

Aren't domestic partnerships enough?

California does provide domestic partnerships. While they provide some benefits, they don't provide the same security as marriage. They exist to exclude people from marriage and create a two-tiered system at odds with the principle that separate is not equal. Domestic partnerships treat people as second

class citizens. Two people in a committed, loving, trusted relationship deserve the honor and support that only come with marriage.

Talking about marriage can be challenging.

It brings up a lot of strong feelings for people. The freedom to marry isn't just about the legal right to marry but about the opportunity to celebrate love and commitment in a supporting, understanding, and accepting society. ●



Spotlight on Social Justice

By Carol Stephenson, Social Justice Coordinator,
socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org (408) 292-3858 x27



Finding Inspiration, Even When You'd Rather Not.

A close friend of mine gave me an inspirational book for Christmas called "Three Cups of Tea." Now, you have probably heard about it, I seem to be the last, but it's about a man who has been building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan for about fifteen years. He learned about the great need for schooling for both boys and girls when he was on his descent from attempting a summit of K2.

What!? This guy climbs K2? Yeah, okay, you can stop right there because this story has nothing to do with me or what I can contribute to this world. No, really, I can already picture him; intense, obsessive, and doesn't need much oxygen to survive. And, let me guess, he was single and childless when he set out on this work? If that's what it takes to change the world, then fine, let those guys do it and I will read their books and cheer them on from the sideline. Humph.

Now, is that what you expected from your Social Justice Coordinator? I surprise even myself sometimes, but that is exactly what I thought when my good friend told me about this book.

But what can you do when someone gives you a gift that they just *know* you will love? So, I started reading it and I unfortunately have to admit that the story actually is inspiring. Not because this man does it all on his own, but because he readily admits that he had so much help. Oh, and failures, how I love to hear about the failures! It took years for him to build the first school and many more years to grow a viable organization. He even ends up getting married and having kids, but that's not easy for him or his family. He is intense and obsessive, but not everyone he works with is like him, and they each are just as important to how the story proceeds.

The crazy thing is, since reading the book, I have been calling on the lessons that "Mr. K2" learns on his long and lonely journey. People *will* help, or at least I can always ask. If it matters, I can miss a dinner with my kids or go to one extra meeting this week. We have to work hard to make the changes we want to see. We simply do. And *when* we do, we will see results. ●



CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones
in the lives of the
First Unitarian Community

by Kelly Burnett

Please Send **Kelly Burnett** your honors, joys, plans, and any other news that needs to be shared with our community so that she can keep us all informed. Her email address is kelly@kellybur.com. Her telephone number is 408-810-3182, but she'd prefer to receive your news by email, if possible.

Liz Shivell and **Kathryn Gilson** would like to

announce that they became domestic partners on New Year's Eve at San Francisco



Liz Shivell

City Hall with Josie Shivell as their witness and celebrated with crab, sourdough bread, chowder and Caesar salad afterwards. They share their time between Liz's home in San Jose and Kathryn's home on Russian Hill.

They are planning to be wed at the historic UU church in North Hatley, Quebec next fall.



Claire Wagner and **Greg Ashley** want to offer everyone a hearty THANK YOU for the wonderful send-off before their move to Baltimore. Their message continues: "The party was so much fun, especially the original entertainment: music, theatrics, stories, and heart-felt memories. The blessing in the service was very touching and it was a privilege, as always, to lead you in song. You are so much a part of our family and we will never be far away from you in our hearts.

Please stay in touch. Our address is:

836 Park Ave. Apt. D, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Claire's email is cwagner21@gmail.com and

Greg's is 1974sune@gmail.com.

And yes, it is incredibly cold this week...

but weather isn't everything. Or we are trying to convince ourselves of that. We are very im-

pressed with Baltimore and the First Unitarian Church community has been very welcoming. And we love our apartment, despite the 62 steps it takes to get up to it.

Remember to contact us if you are visiting the Baltimore or DC area!

Many blessings and lots of love,
Claire and Greg"

Mary Rico is doing her internship in Social Work at Independence High School Resource Center. She counsels high school students with emotional or behavioral issues that interfere with their success at all levels. As such, she is working on developing a lending library for the students, their parents, teachers, and high school staff that will educate them on issues related to topics such as mental health, adolescent development, communication techniques, anger management, learning disabilities, relationships, and sexual orientation.

Mary is looking for suggestions for books, pamphlets, videos, and DVDs for this library. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email her at maryerico@aol.com.

She is making a request to other organizations as well and will share the list of compiled suggestions by request. If you have any new or used books or materials you are willing to donate, she will take those, too! Of course, she will be grateful for any help.

Torchy Hunter and **Dan Zulevic** hosted the Pierre family from Rhode



Island for more than week (at Dan and Torchy's insistence) and they loved them. You may remember receiving an email or some sort of communication asking for a place where a UU family could park their RV while touring and discovering the USA. The mom, Renee, and her two lovely daughters, Aiesha, and Soleil, (and the puppy, Cody, acquired in Wyoming) are truly out discovering America. Mom is home schooling the girls and it is quite an adventure. Here in SJ, they saw the Tech Museum, Happy Hollow, and a whole lot of Dan and Torchy's big screen TV. The girls fell in love with Torchy when she told them that she, too, watched "Ugly Betty." They live quietly, nothing like the bedlam with all the dogs barking at once at Dan and Torchy's house. They all had dinner with our part-time Rhode Islanders **Bev Harrison** and her partner **Barbara Derbyshire** at the Puerto Azule restaurant in Willow Glen. Torchy managed to get the family a contact in Tucson (you go, girlfriend!) and sadly waved them off to Santa Cruz and the Monterey Aquarium. What a treat they were.

The Pierres were in Church on January 20 and they sat in the very front row! What glorious smiles and loving people. I hope you will get a chance to meet them if they are able to come through San Jose again during their travels. (I also hope they will update us on their adventures. . . . Torchy???)

Don't forget to mark your calendar and to begin saving for the Annual All-Church Retreat at the end of September! ●



Our YIKES Fund Is Healthy, Thanks to YOU!

We are pleased to announce that the YIKES fund has grown to \$8,500! These monies have made it possible for us to avoid cutbacks in this fiscal year's budget. A big THANK YOU to those members

and friends who were able to contribute during this difficult budget time.

We will be looking with very clear eyes at our budget throughout this year's Annual Giving Campaign to help ensure that we avoid

budget crises in the future. In the meantime, it feels wonderful to be part of such a loving, generous, and responsible community!

Sincerely,

The Program and Operations Council and the Board of Directors ●

Nuestro Fondo YIKES Está Saludable, Gracias a Ustedes!

Tenemos el placer de anunciar que el fondo YIKES ha crecido hasta llegar a ¡\$8,500! Este dinero nos ha ayudado a evitar recortes en el presupuesto fiscal de este año. Sentimos un enorme agradecimiento a todos aquellos miembros y amigos que pudi-

eron contribuir durante esta difícil temporada del presupuesto.

Miraremos con ojos bien abiertos nuestro presupuesto durante la Campaña Anual de Donaciones de este año, para tratar de evitarnos una crisis presupuestaria en el futuro.

Mientras tanto, ¡es maravilloso ser parte de una comunidad tan amorosa, generosa y responsable!

Sinceramente,

El Consejo de Programas y Operaciones y El Consejo Directivo ●

Beloved Community...

Continued from page 2

able to celebrate as we moved through this transformation?

Here is the great advantage of this approach to transformational change: it leap-frogs us out of our "stuck" place and into a place of empowerment, hope, and joy. We begin our transformation from a very spiritual place: That is, in our imagination, we look down from the mountaintop of accomplishment, instead of looking up at the huge mountain we need to scale. From this empowered and joyful perch on the mountaintop, we can imagine new solutions for obstacles that we might encounter—obstacles that might seem insurmountable if we only count them up, down in the valley, before we even begin our climb. From the mountaintop, we can see that there is much to celebrate all along the way, rather than letting ourselves get discouraged by how much more there always is to do! Best of all, when we imagine our new way of being, we begin to integrate that being into our here-and-now lives; our language, mood, and posture begin to shift almost at once, and this makes the rest of the journey all the more possible.

Take a transformation you are longing for—in your personal life, or in our world. Walk through the steps that Larry has laid out for us and that I have listed here. What do you see? What do you learn, and how do you feel about it?

Then stay tuned: in my next newsletter column (and blog entry), I'll tell you about the transformational change I tackled during the workshop in January, and describe what I saw and what I learned. It was a breakthrough moment for me, as I join you in building the Beloved Community!

With warmth and gratitude,

Nancy ●



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

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Querida Comunidad...

Para pagina 2

miento al cambio transformacional: nos impulsa a salir de nuestra rutina y nos lleva a un lugar para otorgar el poder, la esperanza y la alegría. Comenzamos nuestra transformación desde un lugar muy espiritual: Es decir, en nuestra imaginación, miramos hacia abajo desde lo alto de la montaña de la realización, en vez de mirar hacia arriba de la enorme montaña que necesitamos escalar. Desde esta poderosa y alegre percha en lo alto de la montaña, podemos imaginar nuevas soluciones para los obstáculos que podremos encontrar—obstáculos que pueden verse insuperables si solo los contamos hacia arriba, abajo en el valle, antes de que incluso comencemos nuestra subida. ¡Desde lo alto de la montaña, podemos ver que hay mucho para celebrar a lo largo del camino, más que permitir sentirnos desalentados por lo que siempre hay más que hacer! Lo mejor de todo, cuando imaginamos nuestra nueva manera de ser, comenzamos a integrar nuestras vidas en el aquí-y-el ahora; nuestra lenguaje, nuestro humor, y nuestra postura comienzan a cambiar casi inmediatamente, y esto hace al resto del viaje sea más posible.

Tome la transformación que usted está deseando—para su vida personal, o para nuestro mundo. Camine con los pasos que Larry ha presentado para nosotros y que yo he enumerado aquí. ¿Qué es lo que usted ve? ¿Qué es lo que usted aprende y, cómo usted se siente con respecto a esto?

Entonces estemos en sintonía: en mi próxima columna (y en el blog), les diré sobre el cambio transformacional que afronté durante el taller en enero y describiré lo que yo vi y lo que aprendí. ¡Esto fue un momento de avance para mí, mientras yo me uno a ustedes en la construcción de esta querida comunidad!

Con calidez y gratitud,

Nancy ●

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

17 de Febrero — 9:30 am

Todo Por Amor

¿Que somos capaces de hacer por amor? Vengan y busquemos juntos que es hay en nuestros propios corazones.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla; Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM.

All for Love

What are we willing to do for love? Come and let us discover together what is in our own hearts.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla; Worship Associates: Members of SSM.

24 de Febrero — 9:30 am

La Premisa y la Promesa, Construyendo el Mundo que Soñamos.

Cada uno de los seres humanos hemos soñado vivir en un mundo ideal. ¿Pero que estamos haciendo realmente por hacer de este mundo, el mundo que hemos soñado?

Dirigen: Roberto Padilla y la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociada de Culto: Carol Stephenson.

The Premise and the Promise, Building the World We Dream About

Every human being has dreamed of living in an ideal world. But what are we really doing to make this world into the world that we dream about?

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla and the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associate: Carol Stephenson.

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

February 17 — 11:00 am

Beloved Community as Spiritual Practice: Parenting Our Youth, Re-parenting Ourselves

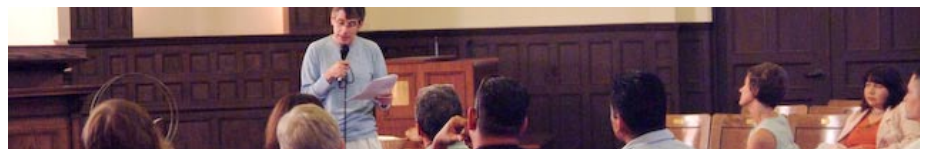
Has it always been so tough and risky to be a child or youth striving to grow up, making choices about what to do and how to be in this world? On this Sunday, we reflect on what our Unitarian Universalist faith asks of each of us—parents, children, adults, youth—and of our community in order to make all our journeys a little easier.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associates: Sonya Sukalski and Kristin Rivers.

Amada Comunidad como Práctica Espiritual: Ser Padres para Nuestra Juventud, Volver a ser Padres de Nosotros Mismos

¿Ha sido siempre tan difícil y arriesgado ser un niño o un joven esforzándose por crecer, tomando opciones sobre que hacer y cómo estar en este mundo? Este domingo, reflejamos en lo que pregunta nuestra fe de Unitaria Universalista de cada uno de los nosotros—padres, niños, adultos, jóvenes—y de nuestra comunidad para hacer todas nuestras jornadas un poco más fáciles.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociadas de Culto: Sonya Sukalski y Kristin Rivers.



February 24 — 11:00 am

The Way of Radical Hospitality

Can we listen and be a true companion to another? Can we truly welcome another? Our pulpit guest, the Rev. Dr. Steve J. Crump, minister of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has a unique perspective on this topic because his congregation welcomed evacuees from the hurricanes two years ago. Be prepared for a pop-quiz!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Dr. Steve J. Crump; Worship Associate: Mary Martin

El Camino de una Hospitalidad Radical

¿Podemos escuchar y ser un verdadero compañero para otros? ¿Podemos dar una verdadera bienvenida a otros? Nuestro invitado en el pulpito, el Rev. Steve J. Crump, ministro de la Iglesia Unitaria de Barton Rouge, Luisiana, tiene una perspectiva única en este asunto porque su congregación dio la bienvenida a evacuados de los huracanes hace dos años. ¡Esté preparado para un examen sorpresa!

Dirige: el Rev. Dr. Steve J. Crump; Asociada de Culto: Mary Martin.



by Henry Ruddle

The FUCSJ Choir and soloist *Bev Clifford* nailed (if I may be so modest) the gospel sorrow song *A City Called Heaven* on Sunday, February 3 at the 11 a.m. service., earning quite a few “that was the



best song I’ve ever heard you guys perform” sort of compliments afterwards.

While practicing its portion of the song, the choir was generally not impressed with the song. However, all of that changed once Bev came down one Wednesday to practice her solo part and we found out how the song is really supposed to sound.

“Wow” was the new consensus. Dan, as usual, kept us in stitches with his quirky analogies and tangents such as a comparison between the “surge singing” style used in *A City Called Heaven* and a recent troop surge of some note. Our next major project is a complicated arrangement of *Blackbird* (yes, the Beatles tune) which has us in fits so far. “You asked for harder songs,” quoth Dan. ●





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José
 160 North Third Street
 San Jose, CA 95112

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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, ext. 31.**

To receive the newsletter via email, emessage steve.carr@earthlink.net

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm, Wednesday, February 19, 2008

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, February 20, 2008

View this newsletter online in HTML or PDF format at:

<http://www.sanjoseuu.org/WhatsHappening/Newsletters.html>



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:** (cell) 408-841-1011; e-mail: paor69@yahoo.com.

Contacting the Ministers

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and **Sonya Sukalski** (for **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, on sabbatical) 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. **Sonya:** (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; e-mail: sonya.sukalski@comcast.net.

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:** (cell) 408-841-1011; e-mail: paor69@yahoo.com.

Contactando a los Ministros

La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y **Sonya Sulkalski** (para **El Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, sabático) 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 **Sonya:** (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; e-mail: sonya.sukalski@comcast.net.

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Sherry Howd, 257-6844, s_howd@msn.com
Sherry will edit the Feb. 20 and March 19 issues

Translator: **Roberto Padilla**

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our Church Circular is published on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Circulation is about 500.

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Thanks for all the work you do and care you put into the newsletter. **Assembly starts at 4:30 pm - your help is very much welcome!**

Mailing: **Libby Codd**

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