



# Our Church Circular

July 2, 2008  
/ 2 de Julio  
2008

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

**9:30 a.m.**

Servicios en español

**6 de Julio** — 9:30 a.m.

### Plato de segunda mesa

Desde hace siglos las mujeres hemos intentado combatir el patriarcado y hoy, 2008, continuamos en las mismas.

Dirige: Annette Falcón

### Second best

For centuries, women have tried fighting the patriarchal society, and today, 2008, we are still in the same boat.

Worship Leader: Annette Falcón

**13 de Julio** — 9:30 a.m.

### Época de cambios

Estamos viviendo en una época de cambios. Están cambiando las condiciones meteorológicas, están cambiando las leyes, están cambiando los precios de todo lo que consumimos en nuestra vida diaria, están cambiando los ritmos musicales que escuchamos en la radio. ¿Y nosotros, estamos cambiando también?

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

### Time of changes

We are living in a time of changes. The meteorological conditions are changing, the laws are changing, the prices of everything that we consume in our daily life are changing, the musical rhythms that we listen to on the radio are changing. And we, are we changing too?

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

**11:00 a.m.**

Services in English

**July 6** — 11:00 a.m.

### “The meaning of life”

Join us for a profound and joyous service focused on meaning-making. Seminarian Kathleen Bardin will present a sermon entitled “The Meaning of Life.” (Yes, Monty Python is involved.) You are invited to bring your whole self – both silly and serious – to this celebration of our spiritual community.

Worship Leader: Kathleen Bardin; Guest Worship Co-Leaders: Tracy Avent-Costanza and Claire Marie Costanza; Guest Worship Musician: Michael (Firefly) Perry

### “El significado de la vida”

Unámonos para un servicio profundo y feliz centrado en la significado-hacer. La seminarista Kathleen Bardin presentará un sermón titulado “El significado de la vida.” (Sí, Monty Python está involucrado.) Usted esta invitado a que traiga a su ego completo— ambos tonto y serio — a esta celebración de nuestra comunidad espiritual.

Dirige: Kathleen Bardin; Co-Dirigentes invitados: Tracy Avent-Costanza y Claire Marie Costanza; Musico invitado: Michael (Firefly) Perry

**July 13** — 11:00 a.m.

### Blessed by beauty

“To behold beauty dignifies your life; it heals you and calls you out beyond the smallness of your own self-limitation to experience new horizons. To experience beauty is to have your life enlarged.” *Beauty*, John O’ Donohue. I have been very fortunate to have been blessed by beauty during my sabbatical. In this, my first service back in First Unitarian’s pulpit, I invite us into a reflection of beauty. The cultivation of beauty is not only a joy to the senses but essential for a healthy spiritual life. Where do you find the beautiful?

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

See SUNDAY SERVICES, page 5

## SAVE THE DATES

**July 6**, Sunday, UU Band of Writers, 12:20 pm, Youth Room

**July 9-13**, All-Church Campout, McConnell State Recreation Area

**July 20-23**, Junior High Backpacking Trip. Contact Pam Pell at [johnpell@aol.com](mailto:johnpell@aol.com) for further information.

**August 2-8**, PCD Leadership School. Ask Joy-Ellen Lipsky for details ([jelipsky@successwithjoy.com](mailto:jelipsky@successwithjoy.com))

**August 3**, Sunday, 12:20, UU Band of Writers, Youth Room

**August 5-10**, Senior High Santa Cruz Island Campout

**October 3-5**, Friday evening through Sunday noon, All-Church Retreat at Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA

Send  
us your  
photos!



The *Circular* is always on the lookout for your photos of church-related events. If you have taken photos during any recent services, PCD, and especially Pride Sunday, please e-mail them to [uusanjose@gmail.com](mailto:uusanjose@gmail.com). We maintain an archive of church member and event photos, so please send us what you’ve got, especially if you have a favorite photo of yourself that you would like us to use next time you appear in Circling Around or another newsletter feature.

# 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](mailto:kelly@kellybur.com). Her telephone number is 408-810-3182, but she'd prefer to receive your news by email, if possible.

**Billie  
Wachter**



celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Happy happy birthday, Billie. Thank you for the light you bring to us all.

I know **Julia Richmond** would appreciate your get-well cards as she recovers.

**The All-Church Retreat** is being planned for the first weekend in October. Please let **Diana Wirt** ([diwirt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diwirt@sbcglobal.net)) know if you plan to join us.

**Diana Wirt** is having a momentous birthday on the 4th of July! Happy birthday, Diana!

I know you have all heard how rewarding it was to have all those wonderful **weddings** at our beloved church but I just want to say Yeah, FUCS!!! I am grateful to you all for having such big hearts.

Kelly Burnett

## Shaking loose our preconceptions

We give up our preconceptions reluctantly. Until now, most of us preconceived that presidents of the United States are white men. Until now, most of us preconceived that good gas mileage was a nice, but nonessential, car feature. Until now, most of us preconceived "marriage" in Ozzie and Harriet terms as a mom, a dad, 2.3 kids and a dog. Difficult as it has been, we have all had to exercise our minds to grow bigger, better ideas about presidents, cars and marriage. Exercise is good for you.

-- **Henry Ruddle**, published in "Letters to the Editor", *San Jose Mercury News*

## Metro Madness

Thanks to each and every one who wrote to the *Metro* to set them straight about our religion. (See the offensive cartoon on page 21 at [http://www.metropdf.com/0825\\_MT.pdf](http://www.metropdf.com/0825_MT.pdf), and the letter by **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** and **Carol Stephenson** on page 8, [http://www.metropdf.com/0826\\_MT\\_1\\_front.pdf](http://www.metropdf.com/0826_MT_1_front.pdf).)

## Sal and Bill Summit Africa's Highest Peak

Just wanted to let you all know that we made it to the top! The route, the weather, the group, the crew made this a trip of a lifetime (which is not something that we say casually...).

More later and much love,

Sal and Bill Souders



Next to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro (or Uhuru) in July: **Joyce Miller, Gary McCumber, Alice Lynch, Sandra Iwamoto** and **Dena Dickensen**. Good luck!

submitted by Colleen Cabot

## Wedding Bells

This announcement is from the Pacific Central District (PCD) *Currents* communication produced by **Cilla Raughly** at PCD Headquarters twice a month. Cilla writes (some of which Nancy told us last Sunday):

The excitement about the change in California law hit an even higher peak this week, and we continue to get lots of reports, photos, and very moving stories. The first photo here shows the Reverend **Lindi Ramsden**, the Executive Director of the UU Legislative Ministry of CA, and **Mary Helen Doherty**, who serves on our PCD Growth Committee. Signing their marriage license is Secretary of State and Unitarian Universalist **Debra Bowen**.

Continued on the following page



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

Page 2 • Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José

Our Church Circular • July 2, 2008 / 2 de Julio 2008



Supporters held signs saying, “May this marriage, these vows, this love be blessed”, and “Gay Agenda: spend time with my family; be treated equally; buy milk”.

This photo above shows the Reverend **Deane Oliva**, who has been the consulting

minister for our Santa Cruz congregation this past year, officiating at the wedding ceremony for **Julie Gill** and **Margaret Curry** (photo by Erica Crawford). Deane herself also tied that legal knot that very same day, at a ceremony officiated by San José’s minister, the Reverend **Nancy Palmer Jones**. In addition, San José hosted the ceremonies for seven couples that day, along with over 100 guests! The *Mercury News* has a very nice slide show about one of these ceremonies on their website.

### Last May, some music died

**Ric Masten**, ordained in 1971 as a specialized Unitarian Universalist minister, though he never graduated from college or seminary, died last May. He shared his poems and songs (including Let it



Be a Dance) with UU congregations, schools, and others all over the US, Canada and England since he launched his career in 1968, and has 23 books and more than a dozen CDs to his name. He shared his final journey with prostate cancer on his web site, <http://ric-matsen.net>. The *Monterey County Herald* ran an article [<http://tinyurl.com/4lkwvg>] on the memorial service led by the Reverend **Greg Ward** of the Monterey congregation for Ric on June 20, which would have been his 79th birthday.

UU folksinger and social activist **Bruce “U Utah” Phillips** died at 73 on May 23 in Nevada City, CA. The official obituary as written by his family can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/4d4yfn>, while the *New York Times* version is at <http://tinyurl.com/4r6599>. ●

## Summer 2008 at First Unitarian

### Worship

**Worship continues every Sunday at 9:30 in Spanish and at 11:00 in English throughout the summer!**

Come share in the beauties of thought and spirit led by our Worship Associates, seminarians, and ministers. We welcome many visitors during the summer; please offer your own special hospitality to newcomers throughout the summer months!

### 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).

**Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, Associate Minister for Religious Education, returns from his sabbatical on July 1 and is available for pastoral care and one-on-one counseling, as needed. You can reach him at (office) 408-292-3858, ext. 25; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org); (cell) 408-309-7796.

**Rev. Geoff** will cover pastoral care coordination while Rev. Donna is away from July 12-21.

For **pastoral care in Spanish**, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: (office) 408-292-3858, ext. 24; (home): (408) 251-1433; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Special Events, Parties, and Other Gatherings

Please check our on-line monthly calendar at [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org) or our newsletter for opportunities to gather for fun, learning, spiritual growth, and friendship throughout the summer.

### Staff Schedules

**Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**, Senior Minister, will be out of the office on vacation and study break from June 26 through August 3. She returns to the office the first week of August and to the pulpit on August 10 and 17.

**Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, Associate Minister for Religious Education, returns from his sabbatical on July 1. Be sure to come hear his first post-sabbatical sermon when he preaches on July 13. Geoff will be out of town for the junior high backpacking trip July 24-27, for a family wedding August 7-10, and for a professional workshop August 25-29.

**Iris Gonzalez**, Office Administrator, will be in the office throughout the summer. Best hours to reach Iris are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: [fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org), or by phone at 408-292-3858, ext. 10. In case of emergencies, you can reach Iris when she is away from the office at (cell) 408-228-7342.

**Roberto Padilla**, Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, will be on call for Pastoral Care in Spanish and will work his regular schedule throughout the summer.

**Carol Stephenson**, Social Justice Coordinator, will be out of the office in July and most of August. She returns to her new office schedule and refocused responsibilities on August 27. (Stay tuned for a full description of Carol’s new schedule and the revised focus of her responsibilities later this summer.)

**Edgar Cruz, Sexton**, will work his regular schedule through the summer, and **Sandra Sotelo** continues as our Weekend Custodian. ●



# Religious Education

## Nursery (birth-4 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**

## Summer Curriculum

### GRADES 1-8

**H**arry Potter has arrived for the summer! Children and youth entering grades one through eight have been enjoying creating their own "houses," and weaving our UU principles in with the wonderful Harry Potter stories.

The following is the RE schedule for the rest of the summer:

**July 6** – Hagrid and the Baby Dragon, Justice, Equity and Compassion

**July 13** – All-church campout, no RE

**July 20** – The Mirror of Erised, Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

**July 27** – Boggarts and the 'Riddukulus' Spell, The Right of Conscience and the Democratic Process

**August 3** – SPEW and Justice Making with Hermione, The Goal of World Community

**August 10** – Animugus, Care for the Physical World, Respect for the Interdependent Web of Life

**August 17** – The Great Feast, Closing Celebration

**August 24** – No separate Religious Education

**September 1** – Labor Day, no separate Religious Education ●

### SENIOR HIGH (GRADES 9-12)

Advisors: Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis, Richard Gould

**July 6** – Youth Group Activities as usual

**July 13** – All church campout, no youth group.

**August 5-10** – Senior High camping trip, Channel Island. See June 18 *Circular* for details.

### Youth Group Activities

Radical! Rev. Geoff is back from sabbatical! Our Associate Minister for Religious Education, the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, returned from a 6-month sabbatical on July 1. Welcome back, Rev. Geoff!

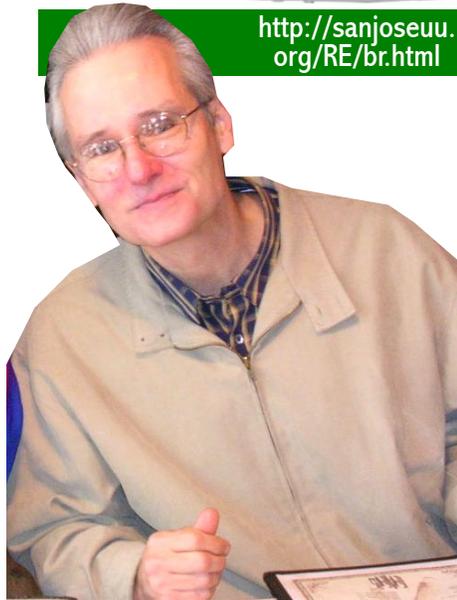
To participate in junior or senior high youth group activities, or for information about Religious Education, contact Rev. Geoff Rimositis, (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 or e-mail [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org). ●

## REGISTER ONLINE!

Information sent only to the RE Minister.



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



## Nation Full of Invisible UUs

By Henry Ruddle

**S**even out of ten Americans agree that "many religions can lead to eternal life" according to the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey released by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life on June 24. Surprisingly, 57% of evangelical Christian church members share the "many religions" view even though their church doctrines by and large state that theirs is the one true faith. In true UU dissenting tradition, 2% of "Unitarian and other liberal faiths" agreed that "my religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life" and 12% chose "neither/both equally." The survey polled 30,236 demographically and geographically diverse people on this question, although just 297 identified themselves as UU.

Evangelicals were more consistent with their church's position on the Bible, with just 7% agreeing with the commonly held UU belief that "the Bible was written by men and is not the word of God." One in three evangelicals consider the Bible literally true, while 30% consider it the word of God, but not "literally true." More Catholics showed skepticism of the Bible's literal truth, with just 23% choosing "literally true word of God," 39% selecting "the word of God, but not literally true" and 27% voting for the "written by men" option."

However, respect for the Bible does not necessarily translate into agreement with one's church leaders. "There is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of my church" was selected by 68% of evangelicals and 77% of Catholics.

Visit [www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org) to read the entire report. ●

### SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

The editors are planning an extra special edition of the *Circular* for Homecoming. Send your article suggestions to **Circular Editors** at [circular.editors@gmail.com](mailto:circular.editors@gmail.com)



**13 de Julio** — 11:00 a.m.

## Bendecido por la belleza

“Contemplar la belleza dignifica su vida; le cura y le llama hacia fuera más allá de la pequeñez de su propia auto-limitación para experimentar nuevos horizontes. Experimentar la belleza es tener agrandada su vida.” *Belleza*, John O’ Donohue. He sido muy afortunado de haber sido bendecido por la belleza durante mi tiempo sabático. En este, mi primer servicio de regreso al pulpito de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria, nos invito a una reflexión de la belleza. El cultivo de la belleza no es sólo una alegría a los sentidos, es esencial para una vida espiritual sana. ¿Dónde usted encuentra la belleza?

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

**20 de Julio** — 9:30 a.m.

## Cuestión de Conciencia.

Muchas veces la razón por si sola no es lo suficientemente fuerte para convencer a una persona de superar el peso de sus valores moralistas tradicionales. Pero la voz de la conciencia y el diálogo pueden lograr derribar las barreras del cambio como en el caso del Buen Samaritano.

Dirige: Ervin Barrios; Asociados de Servicio: Ministerios en Español

## A Matter of Conscience

Many times reason alone is not strong enough to convince a person in order to overcome the weight of their traditional moralist values. But the voice of conscience and dialogue can help to tumble down the barriers for change as in the case of the Good Samaritan.

Leader: Ervin Barrios; Worship Associates: Spanish Speaking Ministries

**July 20** — 11:00 a.m.

## Mystic voices in Unitarian Universalism

Let us reflect on direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, which moves us to a renewal of the Spirit and

an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.

Worship Leader: Joy-Ellen Lipsky;

Worship Associate: Mary Martin

## Voces místicas en el Unitario Universalismo

Permitámonos reflejar juntos en una experiencia directa de ese misterio y maravilla de la superación, que nos mueve a una renovación del espíritu y a una apertura de las fuerzas que crean y mantienen vida.

Dirige: Joy-Ellen Lipsky;

Asociada de Culto: Mary Martin

**27 de Julio** — 9:30 a.m.

## To Be Announced / Se anunciará

**July 27** — 11:00 a.m.

## Hallelujah

The song “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen has been covered by numerous musicians and appeared in TV shows, movies, and last year was sung right here at FUCSJ. Today, let’s look again at what we can learn from this complex song as Lisa Hettler-Smith graces us with an encore. Rather than simple dualities between love and angry bitterness, the sacred and the secular, sexual union and deep betrayal, there are possibilities at the intersection to be explored. As Cohen has said, “The song explains that many kinds of Hallelujahs do exist. All the perfect and broken Hallelujahs have an equal value. It’s, as I say, a desire to affirm my faith in life.” Let us gather in community to affirm and honor the many layers of the holy and the human in our lives.

Worship Associate: Suzanne Marsh;

Worship Leader: Christy Baker

## Aleluya

La canción “Aleluya” de Leonard Cohen ha sido tocada por numerosos músicos y aparecido en programas de TV, películas y fue cantada el año pasado exactamente aquí en FUCSJ. Hoy, déjenos mirar otra vez lo que pudimos aprender de esta compleja canción mientras que Lisa Hettler-Smith nos honra con una repetición. Más que simples dualidades entre el amor y el amargo enojo, lo sagrado y lo secular, la unión sexual y la profunda traición, allí están las

posibilidades en la intersección para ser exploradas. Como Cohen ha dicho, “La canción explica que existen muchas clases de Aleluya. Todo lo perfecto y lo imperfecto de la Aleluya tienen un valor igual. Esto es, como digo, un deseo de afirmar mi fe en la vida.” Unámonos en comunidad para afirmar y honrar a las muchas capas de lo santo y lo humano en nuestras vidas.

Dirige: Suzanne Marsh; Asociada de Culto: Christy Baker

**3 de Agosto** — 9:30 a.m.

## El humanismo

El humanismo, nuevo o viejo, continúa siendo el corazón de la religión liberal, aún cuando intentamos aceptar una teología más subjetiva o una practica espiritual centrada en la practica (escrito por la Rev. Martha Hodges, UUC, Sacramento, CA, y traducido por Annette Falcón).

Dirige: Annette Falcón

## Humanism

Old or new, Humanism continues to be the heart of liberal religion, even while we embrace a more subjective theology and spirit-centered practice (written by Rev. Martha Hodges, Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUC), Sacramento, CA, and translated by Annette Falcon).

Worship Leader: Annette Falcón

**August 3** — 11:00 a.m.

## These are my people

We will explore “community” and the amazing power that it has to hold and support those who are experiencing challenging times. In particular, we will celebrate the power of our beloved community here at FUCSJ.

Worship Leader: Suzanne Marsh;

Worship Associate: Marla Scharf

## Esta es mi gente

Exploraremos “comunidad” y la asombrosa energía que esto tiene para sostener y apoyar a los que están experimentando épocas desafiantes. Particularmente, celebraremos la energía de nuestra comunidad querida aquí en FUCSJ.

Dirige: Suzanne Marsh;

Asociada de Culto: Marla Scharf ●





## Keep our church secure!

Occasionally our doors do not get locked. If you are the last person leaving the church and see that the church is not locked, please call a Program and Operations Council (POC) member or a Board member to lock the door. POC and Board member names are posted on the main floor, and the Church Directory is in the credenza in the Ramsden Fireside Room. ●

## San Jose Giants tickets



Offered like a service auction item

with proceeds going to the church: Baseball tickets (General Admission) for the San Jose Giants, for a minimum donation of \$9.00 a ticket (same as you would pay out at the ball park). Tickets are available for any game except July 4 and 5. Contact **Patricia Ohanian-Coffey** at [adcpa087@sbcglobal.net](mailto:adcpa087@sbcglobal.net). Make a donation to the church (put SERVICE AUCTION on the check line to help with book-keeping). It is as simple as that! ●



## Spotlight on Social Justice

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



### Grant awarded to continue The Beloved Community Project

Good news came in the mail in the form of a \$3,000 check! The Unitarian Universalist Funding Program awarded First Unitarian a grant for the second year of the Beloved Community Project. Last church year, the same funder provided \$4,000 toward our collaborative work with Third Street Community Center.

The Social Justice Coordinator, Spanish Speaking Ministries Coordinator and Third Street staff worked closely together to put on the 2007 *Dia de los Muertos* Social and Cultural Exhibition in Hattie Porter Hall with altars depicting over a dozen different social justice issues. In December, we organized *La Posada* procession and party, and Third Street

students participated in the PACT Action in February. All year long, collaborative work and connections were improved with the help of these funds.

In the coming year, we will again hold a *Dia de los Muertos* exhibition and *La Posada*. This year, the extra funds will support "community dialogues" for the families of Third Street. Speakers on issues of concern to our downtown community will meet with Third Street families to provide information on, say, health, housing or immigration, and also hear their questions and concerns. Those speakers can use the information that has been offered by participants, and so can we, as a congregation that is working on these issues.

Anyone interested in working on any of these projects; *Dia de los Muertos*, *La Posada*, or the community dialogues is invited to contact **Carol Stephenson** at [socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org). ●

### SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER

The last Service is Our Prayer Day was on Saturday, June 7. We had a number of volunteers who helped to spruce up the church, including cleaning and pruning. A clothes hanger rack was installed in the bathroom to help with dressing before weddings and other events. Lunch was served. Volunteers who attended include (a partial list from memory) **Rosemary Baez, Bob Howd, Pam Price, Gene Martin, Mary Martin, Bob Owen, Catherine Pellizari, Mike Pellizari, Liz Owen, Lloyd Eater, Melanie Lanstrom, Jayme Lanstrom, Steve Saunders and Sundar Mudupalli.**

Our next Service is Our Prayer Day is on Saturday, September 6. Hope to see you there.

-- Sundar Mudupalli

## UUthful Spirits

UUthful Spirits is an inclusive group for fun and fellowship for young adults and the young at heart. These group events enable us to feel part of the church and empower us to take a greater role in the church.

### Our activities include:

- Game night, monthly every third Friday, coming next on July 18 at 7pm. Meet at church at 6:45pm and then go to Kathleen's.

- Sunday brunches, bimonthly on second and fourth Sunday, coming next on July 13 and 27. Meet in Hattie Porter Hall about 12:45 p.m.
- Happy hour, monthly on the first Friday, coming next on July 7 at Discovery Meadow and all other first Fridays at The Tied House.

Come join the fun. For more information, contact **John Burk** at [mus6@aceweb.com](mailto:mus6@aceweb.com) or the group at [uuthful\\_spirits-owner@yahoo.com](http://uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoo.com). ●

### TIGHT BUDGET SPURS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

As we begin this fiscal year with our newly balanced, lean budget, several fund-raising meetings have been held to find ways to increase our sources of funding. We generated many ideas and are currently working on a few of the most promising of them. The Wedding Task Force has held several meetings to find ways to raise our visibility and our wedding income. In addition, we've held very preliminary conversations about the possibility of renting space to another church. Come and help us move forward on fund-raising, Monday, July 7, 7:00 p.m., location to be determined.



## Meet our new members

Four new members were welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, June 15.

### Jamie Bleyer

**Jamie Bleyer** was born in Smithtown, New York. She grew up in a small family, with her mom, dad, and younger brother Keith. Jamie studied speech and special education in school. For many years, Jamie worked as a speech therapist in New York.

She and her partner Kate moved to the beautiful Bay Area in July 2003 as a result of Kate's job transfer. They were only supposed to stay in California for 18 months but fell in love with the area and the people.

Jamie is now living her dream of working with animals and is the owner of a pet-sitting business "Spoil 'em Rotten Pet Sitting Services." Hobbies include spending time with her family (animals and human), going to the movies, yoga, going to the beach, and traveling. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone in the FUCSJ community.

### Kate McMahon

**Kate McMahon** was born in Deer Park, New York. Her father was a lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department for over 30 years, and her mother was a housewife with the task of raising 6 children. A nice big New York Catholic family. The family stayed in Deer Park until one of the kids flew the coop.

Her interests are many; some call her a "gadget girl," always reviewing the latest and greatest technology. She loves sports and wished she had the energy to play tennis, golf, and basketball all in one day (like the good old days). The weekends are open for running. Kate has run the Nike Marathon and the Maui Half-Marathon. She is training this summer for the Nike Half-Marathon (she loves the Tiffany necklace at the end). The crazy thing is, running a marathon was never on her list of things to do.

Although focused on technology and running, Kate fills her day with number-crunching activities. She is the Manager of Financial Planning, Reporting, and Analysis at a tech firm in the valley—a position she loves, and she feels that her contributions to the company have a great impact.

With each passing year and a little more maturity Kate has realized it is not the destination, it is the journey. Now she is trying to rest, enjoy the quiet time, and work on balancing work and family life while living each day to the fullest.

Kate and Jamie reside in Campbell with their loving dog Jackson and adoring cats Mocha and Alex. They are thrilled to become members of such a loving and warm community!

### Michelle Lewis

**Michelle Lewis** has lived in Northern California basically her entire life. "I remember when this was called the suburbs, we had orchards, and the 280 freeway only had about 5 people on it at one time. I was raised being told 'what to believe' and 'how to worship,' which never felt right to me.

"After years of learning many other cultures, attending different worship services, and talking to many people about their belief systems, I finally feel like I 'fit' here. I can't express my joy and appreciation for a place that fills my soul. My lifelong passion is the emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children, and I feel honored to help make a difference in their lives. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful community."

### Pam Oliver-Lyons

**Pam Oliver-Lyons** describes herself as: My life is the gypsy life of a hi-tech nomadic camp follower/observer, following my husband's career, which in itself has followed a computer trail of sorts since 1970 to today. It started for us in Massachusetts and leads now, in our relative maturity, to the Silicon Valley.

I am very happy to be here, to be alive, and to find myself still trying to answer the poet Mary Oliver's question, "What will you do with your one wild and crazy life?" And to do so as an active member of the First Unitarian Church of San José.

Here at the First Unitarian Church, I find I can laugh, cry, and join in meaningful purpose with others of both diverse and like minds in order to participate in the life of this religious/philosophical beloved community. I am joining this particular church because—beyond my general obligation as a UU to support a Unitarian Universalist church wherever I move—there is another deeper reality: a personal commitment I have with myself to find that community where I find my bliss, a reality of the soul's journey.

So it is with a pure joy that I join this particular church. I have found joy here in the warm welcome of the Rev. Nancy and of the early Spanish-speakers' worship service as well as the later English-speakers' service, in the labyrinth planted at the center of this holy sanctuary, in this community's story of a church which built itself up from the ashes, in the prophetic work this church is doing, which I have seen in the Building the World We Dream About class, in the work on opposing the anti-equal-marriage amendment, in the lifelong nurturance of the youth ... I could go on and on. I know that there is so much I have not yet seen but will see by the grace of this membership and the wisdom of our ministers. I have a sure faith that there will be many future reasons for me to celebrate being here.

I hope to become a better person because of my acceptance of the invitation extended to me to join this congregation. I hope that I will be able to bring the love I find here to others outside this community so that those I meet will know, not through words but by my actions nurtured by the life of this church, that they have met a Unitarian Universalist. ●

## Expanding the circle

**For Volunteer Job Listings,**  
read the online newsletter at [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org).





**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José**  
 160 North Third Street  
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To receive the newsletter via email: [steve.carr@earthlink.net](mailto:steve.carr@earthlink.net)

**Summer Publishing Schedule**

*For July and August only, no mid-month issue will be published. The next issue will be August 6. Bimonthly publication returns in September.*

**Next issue deadline:** 3:00 pm, Wednesday, July 30, 2008

**Next issue assembly:** Tuesday, August 5, 2008

**Next issue mailing:** Wednesday, August 6, 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](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.; 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; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

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*Catherine Pelizzari and Carey Cress will edit the August 6 issue. There will be no mid-month Circular in August. Normal schedule resumes in September.*

**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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