



Our Church Circular

December 2,
2009 / 2 de
Diciembre
2009

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

December Theme: *What Can Jesus Teach Us UU's?*
Tema de Diciembre: *¿Que Puede Enseñarnos Jesús a los UUs?*

9:30 a.m.
Servicios en español

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

6 de Diciembre – 9:30 a.m.

¿Que puede enseñarnos Jesús?

Este diciembre echamos una mirada fresca a lo que Jesús tiene para enseñarnos a los Unitarios Universalistas en el siglo XXI. ¿Si seguimos en nuestra propia búsqueda del “Jesús histórico”, cual será el momento y el lugar en que el Jesús de las historias apareció primero para decirnos cómo entender estas historias? ¿Qué es lo duradero y relevante sobre estas antiguas historias? Vamos a enfocarnos en la persona de Jesús, no sobre la religión (realmente, en las religiones, en plural) que crecieron después de que él había desaparecido. La bella música ofrecerá su propia lengua de interpretación y significado!

Las clases de desarrollo de la fe para nuestros niños y jóvenes se llevarán a cabo en su tiempo regular este domingo.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

11:00 a.m.
Services in English

DOMINGO CELEBRACIÓN

December 6 – 11:00 a.m.

What Can Jesus Teach Us?

This December we take a fresh look at what Jesus has to teach us Unitarian Universalists in the 21st century. If we go on our own quest for the “historical Jesus,” what will the time and place in which the Jesus stories first appeared tell us about how to understand these stories? What is lasting and relevant about these ancient stories? We will focus on the person of Jesus, not on the religion (really, religions plural) that grew up after he was gone. Beautiful music will offer its own language of interpretation and meaning!

Lifespan Faith Development classes for our children and youth take place at their regular time on this Sunday. Our monthly “Celebration Sunday” will feature the Holiday Play on December 20!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Worship Associates: Bob Miess and Bob Owen

See page 5 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

December 3, Thursday, Women's Alliance meeting at the home of Jean vonKaenel 7:15 pm, for details see page 8

December 5, Saturday, 5 pm, Hattie Porter Hall: Handprints Spaghetti Dinner--For more information and to RSVP, please contact Meg Trask, meg.trask@yahoo.com.

December 6, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Fireside Room: Brainstorming about Music for the SSM Service, for details see page 6

December 6, Sunday, 12:30 pm, Band of Writers, Conference Room

December 6, Sunday, 1:00-2:30 pm, Spirit in Practice Workshop, Looking Back and Looking Forward, Youth Room

December 6, Sunday, 4-7 pm, Ordination of Suzanne Marsh, at the church

December 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Common Security Club Introductory Meeting, lower classrooms

December 13, Sunday, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, Fireside Gift Faire, Hattie Porter Hall, see page 4

December 17, Thursday, Third Street Annual Posada, 6:00 pm at the church

December 20, Sunday, Children's Holiday Play, 11:00 am, see page 6

December 31, Thursday, final day for Frieda C. Fox Foundation challenge grant donations to Third Street Community Center

January 5, Tuesday, Yoga Sutras Study Group begins; every Tuesday in January and February, 7:30-9:00 pm, the Rev. Donna Lenahan, djlenahan.com

January 9, Saturday, Church Benefit Silent Auction, 4:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Live Auction 7:00 pm. RSVP for the dinner to Jan Theiss-Guffey, Jantg@yahoo.com

January 30, Saturday, 1-4 pm, Hattie Porter Hall, Annual Fundraiser Tea to benefit PACT, see page 8

Help for Those in Need: Survival Sacks

New member **Joy Butler** and our Social Justice Council are collecting items for backpacks full of life's necessities which will be distributed to our neighbors most in need through a nonprofit organization. Joy will be collecting items for these Survival Sacks during Social Hour following the 11:00 am worship service, every Sunday in December! Items include men's and women's socks, small roll blanket, first aid kit, 3 oz. bar of soap, toothbrush--and much more. Stop by the Social Justice table to find out more about it! Let's make our care and compassion tangible this holiday season by contributing to these Survival Sacks! ●

Related: See Guest at Your Table, page 6

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

You make FUSJ what it is! Whatever your talent and availability, there is an opportunity for you to serve. Contact Volunteer Coordinating Team members Liz Owen at lowen@data-time.com or Bob Miess at bob@floweringenterprises.com



*As we build
the beloved
community...*

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

*Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...*

Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Living the Questions: Exploring Jesus' Teachings

At some point in a worship service during this month of December, hundreds of Unitarian and Universalist congregations, all around the world and in many languages, will share a common reading as part of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists' Global Chalice Lighting Project.¹ Just imagine: from Norway to South Africa, from New Zealand to Japan, in India and Indonesia, Pakistan and Poland, the Philippines and Finland, Burundi and Brazil, Canada and the Congo, the United Kingdom and the United States, people who share our multifaceted faith will be pondering the same words at just about the same time.

Here at FUCSJ, we are just now catching the crest of this wave. Looking back, I see that November's words came from Canada, joyfully welcoming "visitor, friend, or long-time member, believer or doubter, joiner or loner, full of energy or plain tired, seeking a vision or a rest. You are welcome to join us as you are."² The spirit of radical inclusion is universal in our faith, as this shared reading captures. Welcome home, everyone!

This month's Global Chalice Lighting reading is a bit more somber, perhaps honoring the "dying of the sun" with the solstice or the "dying" of the year. But they are good words for describing why we come together in community at any time of year. Submitted by our own Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, the words are by the Rev. Dr. Forrest Church. Imagine them echoing around the world, from congregation to congregation: "Knowing we must die, we question what life means. Final answers may elude us, but by living the questions, we create and discover meaning where we can."

I think these words offer a good introduction to this month's worship theme at FUCSJ: "What Can Jesus Teach Us UUs?" "Final answers may elude us" as we ask the question in this theme, but this month we will "live the questions" and discover meaning in new places. What will we discover from wrestling with and relishing Jesus' central teachings? When we strip away centuries of interpretation of these teachings, when we quiet the external voices that claim to tell us about Jesus and listen instead to our own internal wisdom, what surprises might we find? What can Jesus teach us about love? About radical inclusion? About the problems and the possibilities of being "in a body"? About the relationship between power and wholeness, between healing and community? About ways of relating to others that can create "heaven on earth"? How will this holiday season grow richer when we live these questions?

Continued on page 3

Viviendo las Preguntas: Explorando las Enseñanzas de Jesús

En algún momento de un servicio religioso durante este mes de diciembre, cientos de congregaciones Unitarias y Universalistas, alrededor de todo el mundo y en muchos idiomas, compartirán una lectura común como parte del proyecto Global del Cáliz Encendido del Concilio Internacional de Unitarios y Universalistas.¹ Imagínense: desde Noruega a Sudáfrica, desde Nueva Zelanda a Japón, en la India e Indonesia, Pakistán y Polonia, Las Filipinas y Finlandia, Burundi y Brasil, Canadá y el Congo, el Reino Unido y los Estados Unidos, gente quienes comparten nuestra multifacética fe estarán reflexionando acerca de las mismas palabras casi al mismo tiempo.

Aquí en la FUCSJ, estamos capturando la cresta de esta ola. Mirando hacia atrás, veo que las palabras de noviembre provienen del Canadá, dándole la bienvenida alegremente al "visitante, amigo o miembro desde hace mucho tiempo, creyente o con dudas, reunidos o solitarios, llenos de energía o totalmente cansados, buscando una visión o un descanso. Eres Bienvenido a unirse a nosotros como eres tú".² El espíritu de inclusión radical es universal en nuestra fe, como lo captura esta lectura compartida. ¡Bienvenidos a casa, todo el mundo!

La lectura global de la encendida del cáliz de este mes es un poco más sombría, tal vez para honrar al "moribundo sol" con el solsticio o la "agonía" del año. Pero son buenas palabras para describir el por qué pasamos juntos en comunidad en cualquier época del año. Presentado por nuestra propia Asociación de Congregaciones Unitaria Universalista, las palabras son del Rev. Dr. Forrest Church. Imagínenselas resonando al rededor del mundo, de congregación a congregación: "Al saber que tenemos que morir, nos preguntamos que significa la vida. Las respuestas finales nos pueden eludir, pero por vivir las preguntas, nosotros creamos y descubrimos el significado donde podamos".

Creo que estas palabras ofrecen una buena introducción al tema de culto de este mes en la FUCSJ: "¿Qué puede Jesús enseñarnos a los UUs?" "Las respuestas finales pueden eludirnos" mientras hacemos la pregunta en este tema, pero este mes nosotros "viviremos las preguntas" y descubriremos el significado en nuevos lugares. ¿Qué descubriremos de la lucha y el entusiasmo con las enseñanzas centrales de Jesús? Cuando nos quitamos de encima los siglos de interpretación de estas enseñanzas, cuando tranquilizamos las voces externas que pretenden decirnos sobre Jesús y escuchar en su lugar a nuestra propia sabiduría interna, ¿qué sorpresas podríamos encontrar? ¿Qué puede enseñarnos Jesús acerca del amor? ¿Acerca de la inclusión radical? ¿Acerca de los problemas y las posibilidades de estar "en un cuerpo"? ¿Acerca de la relación entre poder y plenitud, entre la curación y la Comunidad? ¿Acerca de las maneras de relacionarse con otros que pueden crear el "paraíso terrenal"? ¿Cómo esta temporada de vacaciones crecerá más rica cuando vivimos estas preguntas?

Continúa en la página 3



Church Board Meeting Minutes for September, October, November



By Bob Redfern,
Secretary to the Board.
November 26, 2009

I apologize for permitting 2 ½ months to elapse since contributing to our church community's knowledge about what transpires in our monthly board meeting. My only excuse is why I am preparing this missive from Albuquerque NM.



*Granddaughter **Rosi** is treating me (and **Jenny**) to her company and lust for life over this holiday.*

On September 20th we had a Congregational meeting. 85 people were present. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain the congregation's authorization to permit **Suzanne Marsh's** ordination in our sanctuary on December 6th (afternoon). **Tracy Avent** shared a curriculum vitae of Suzanne's life experiences with emphasis on her years in FUCSJ. **Michael Payne-Alex** is coordinating ordination activities, and said that contributions to defray the expenses were welcomed. Please make out your check with "Suzanne Marsh Ordination" in the Memo line. Volunteers to provide food, labor and set-up/take-down are wholeheartedly welcome. The vote of those present was in favor of authorization of Suzanne's ordination.

The **September 26th Board meeting** discussed the matter of safety of participants in activities sponsored and endorsed by the church. The specific result of this discussion was a message from **Rev. Nancy** that was

published here in October. The YWCA Teen Empowerment Group met with our Youth Group about these safety concerns. The Board endorsed the policy that an adult chaperone would always be alert and awake at outings. Michael Payne-Alex said that the six chaperones for the OWL retreat on September 20-21 pulled all-nighters in response to these concerns.

The Endowment Committee made two suggestions for bylaws changes to revise the clause that says a "Church Officer" may not sit on the Endowment Committee. Two revisions had consensus board support:

1. No check-signers can be on the Endowment Committee
2. No Program and Operations Committee member can be on the Endowment Committee.

Revision of Article XV is needed to accommodate these changes. The proposal will be included in the agenda for the next Congregational Meeting.

Diana Wirt discussed activities of PACT and a listening campaign for their program, tentatively scheduled this month (November). The main question is: What do church members feel strongly about in the realm of Social Justice? We thank Diana and her fellow Social Justice Committee members for the input and activism they show on behalf of all of us.

The Board discussed Program & Operations Committee (POC) feedback to the Board

on their specific areas of responsibility, and the Board's feedback to the POC on the activities reported on. This communication is to address a Culture of Accountability for leadership personnel in the church, a part of the Policy-Based Governance (PBG) regime that the POC and the Board agreed needed some further effort.

Cheri Goodman and **Rev. Geoff** discussed the "Draft Ends" PBG for Lifetime Faith Development, the area we concluded needed to most attention to make the "Draft Ends" Permanent Ends for Religious Education-Lifetime Faith Development.

At the time of this meeting, **Susan Burke-DiQuisto** had just started working as "Acting Office Administrator." After the meeting, her selection for the position on a permanent basis was agreed to by the POC, and we all applaud her arrival and efforts to get the business of our church office on an even keel.

The **October 28th Board Meeting** touched on several items of general interest. Rev. Nancy plumped for one and all to attend the November 2nd gathering "Keeping the Faith for Marriage Equality." **Joyce Miller** was the organizer.

The Pacific Central District is holding "New Century Summit Training" on Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Rev.

See **BOARD SUMMARY**, page 4

As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3

Join us for this month's explorations and meditations, for its stories, songs, simple pleasures, and sudden intuitions. "Visitor, friend, or long-time member, believer or doubter, joiner or loner, full of energy or plain tired, seeking a vision or a rest"—you are welcome here, just as you are. Welcome home!

With warmth and hope for a holiday season rich in meaning making,

Nancy ●

Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad, continúa para la página 3

Únansenos para las exploraciones y las meditaciones de este mes, para sus historias, canciones, placeres simples y repentinas intuiciones. "Visitante, amigo o miembro desde hace mucho tiempo, creyente o con dudas, reunidos o solitarios, lleno de energía o totalmente cansados, que buscan una visión o un descanso": eres Bienvenido aquí, tal y como eres tú. Bienvenido a casa!

Con el calor y la esperanza de una temporada de festividades rica en significado,

Nancy ●

[1] You can read more about the ICUU and see a map of all the member groups, emerging groups, and associates at www.icuu.net. To find the Global Chalice Lighting readings, just click on "Resources."
[2] Phrases extracted from the full welcome by Rev. Ray Drennan, Canadian Unitarian Council, available at http://www.icuu.net/resources/chalice_archives/GCL%2011-09.pdf.



Board Summary

Continued from page 3

Nancy is attending the “Minister’s Preview” on December 9th. Expect a call for volunteers to attend and participate. See more about this workshop at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/curents/summit.htm>.

Further news on the “Listening Campaign” brought up last month at the Board meeting, led by Diana Wirt, was the Board’s interest in broadening the campaign to include renewal and revisioning possibilities as a part of a church community-building exercise.

The safety concerns brought up at the September meeting were a part of the “Harvest of Power” long-term planning initiative presented by Rev. Geoff. **Madeline Morrow** suggested there was more merit to going over the initiative as a group, rather than parceling it out individually. This will be further discussed in December or January during those board meetings.

The board had a long discussion about the “Ends” report from the POC on the issue of Fellowship. Rev. Nancy discussed Executive Limitations and bi-monthly reports we are initiating to lay down an “accountability matrix”, or framework to allow future reports to be a simple process for those involved. Cheri Goodman discussed several Bylaws and Ends Policies in effect at other congregations, and the board went over them from the perspective of acceptability for our congregation adopting them.

Finally, we met **November 18th** (a week early due to Thanksgiving). We will also meet a week early in December, on the 16th, due to a conflict between the 4th Wednesday (our usual meeting) and the holidays.

Yoga For Beginners To Take Holiday Break

The Yoga for Beginners class will be held in the Sanctuary at the church Wednesday evenings December 2 and 9, 6:00 to 7:00 pm, but will then take a break for the holidays. Classes will resume in January. ●

Madeline synthesized a response to the POC about their report, received last month. The “suggested format” we had thought about using did not thrill anybody present, so we will continue to work it into a shape we can all live with. The issue of creating a foundation for POC-Board reports to lead into the future was discussed by Rev. Geoff. He repeated what we talked about two months ago, this time with some concrete results to consider.

Rev. Geoff also discussed the “Harvest the Power” plan to energize our membership and grow our membership and finances. This process came out of the “New Century Workshop” and Geoff will be looking for a dedicated team to help accomplish these goals and engage new community leaders.

This discussion led to more discussion by all present about our church’s mission, focus, direction, and growth opportunities. As an example, Rev. Geoff had discussed lower RE attendance in the lower grades. Reviewing the past and speculating about the reasons for this trend are less important than developing outreach methods, revitalizing music and following up on Listening Campaign input. That campaign will occur during the next three months. In December we will recruit listeners, in January they will attend training, and in February they will spread out to gather in what all members have to say to them.

Madeline led a discussion on Executive Limitations policy Section 2.1, Page 2. Pastoral Care is listed as the “Main Focus of Ministry,” while treatment of members, friends and newcomers is an “Important Component.” Since nobody agreed that

this hierarchy of limitations was what we want, and the POC had also brought up this topic for consideration and guidance. POC asked “Are we in compliance?” Madeline proposed the policy wording be changed to “Shall not fail to insure that Pastoral Care responsibilities are fulfilled.”

Cheri discussed Board Governance Policy, Section 4. She offered the opinion that this section does not seem to be the right place for listing responsibilities and duties for budgeting, finance and endowments. For our January meeting, various portions of Section 4 were split up for review and presentation. That Board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2010.

So there’s a summary of three months of Board meetings. Thank you for your patience as I did not forward them with the zip I expect of myself. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and best wishes in 2010. May our vision match the promise of the numerical year! ●

Sunday
Dec. 13
11 a.m.
to 3 p.m.

Fireside Gift Faire

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José
160 N. Third St.
San Jose, CA 95112

Handcrafted textiles, jewelry, dolls, pottery, soap, candles, holiday ornaments, toys.
Music, merriment, baked goods, tamales



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

SOURCES SUNDAY

Sunday, December 13 — Combined Service at a Special Time: 10:00 a.m.

What Can Jesus Teach Us? Going Deeper ...

We continue to explore what Jesus has to teach Unitarian Universalists in the 21st century. Are these teachings dogma, or a way of life? Can atheists and agnostics learn something from Jesus? What about Buddhists and Sufis? We weave the treasure hunt for our Unitarian Universalist Sources through this morning's worship, enlivened by the return of a favorite band. After worship, our Annual Fireside Gift Faire brings us beauties to enjoy in Hattie Porter Hall and the Fireside Room!

Lifespan Faith Development classes for children and youth take place from 10:30 to 11:30 on this special day.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Jeff Norment

DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

13 de Diciembre - Combinada de servicios en un momento especial: 10:00 am

¿Qué puede hacer Jesús nos enseña? Profundizando ...

Continuamos explorando lo que Jesús tiene que enseñar a los unitarios universalistas en el siglo 21. ¿Son estas enseñanzas dogma, o una forma de vida? Los ateos y los agnósticos pueden aprender algo de Jesús? ¿Qué pasa con los budistas y sufíes? Tejemos la búsqueda del tesoro de nuestras fuentes de la iglesia unitaria universalista a través del culto de esta mañana, animada por el regreso de una banda favorita. Después de la adoración, nuestra Anual Fireside Regalo Faire nos lleva a disfrutar de las bellezas en Hattie Porter Hall y el Salón Fireside!

Duración Fe clases de desarrollo de los niños y los jóvenes tienen lugar 10:30-11:30 am en este día especial.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Jeff Norment

DOMINGO DE LA CELEBRACIÓN

13 de Diciembre - 9:30 am

Sera anunciada/To be announced

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

December 20 — 11:00 am

Holiday Play! Little Albert's Tall Tale

Come 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 a play that tells the story of the origins of our Christmas traditions. We will hear from our children's choir under the direction of **Sally Cooperrider** and **Nayo Ulloa**. And don't forget to bring those wish-lists for world peace, economic recovery, and "Tickle Me Elmo," because 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

Obra Navideña! Historia Grande de Alberto el Pequeño

Ven a celebrar el comienzo de la temporada navideña con la obra anual de los niños. Este año tenemos un regalo especial: **Cordelia Willis**, miembro de la Iglesia, ha escrito una obra que narra la historia de los orígenes de nuestras tradiciones de Navidad. Escucharemos al coro de nuestros niños bajo la dirección de **Sally Cooperrider** y **Nayo Ulloa**. Y no olvide traer esas listas de deseos para la paz mundial, la recuperación económica y la de "Elmo hazme cosquillas" porque ese alegre y viejo duende de Santa Claus aparecerá después del servicio. Alegría al mundo. El amor ha llegado!

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

SPECIAL SERVICE

Thursday, December 24 — 5:00 and 8:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us as we sing the old familiar carols and bring forth the light—from the heart of our sanctuary into our lives! Ad Hoc singers and soloists will lift our spirits with the singing of angels. And we will hear the timeless story of the birth of new hope in the baby Jesus and in new lives everywhere. With Unitarian Universalist religious educator Sophia Fahs, we rejoice that "every night a child is born is a holy night." Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Worship Leaders: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Worship Associates: the Rev. Donna Lenahan, Jeff Norment

Servicios de vísperas de Navidad a la luz de las velas

Unámonos mientras cantamos los viejos villancicos familiares y hacemos nacer la luz: desde el corazón de nuestro Santuario al interior de nuestras vidas! Cantantes y solistas apropiados para la ocasión elevarán nuestros espíritus con el canto de los ángeles. Y escucharemos la historia intemporal del nacimiento de nuevas esperanzas en el niño Jesús y en las nuevas vidas en todas partes. Con la educadora religiosa Unitaria Universalista Sophia Fahs, nos regocijamos de que "cada noche un niño nace es una noche santa." Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Dirigen: La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Asociados de Culto: La Rev. Donna Lenahan, Jeff Norment

Classifieds

Clavinova Repair Needed

The electric piano in the downstairs conference room is broken. Nothing happens when the power switch is turned on. The church is looking for either 1) a member with the skills to diagnose and possibly fix the problem; and/or 2) a member willing to take on the project of getting the piano fixed elsewhere. Please contact **Liz Owen** lowen@data-time.com

Church Photographer & Bulletin Board Designer Wanted

Showcase your talent by helping to chronicle FUCSJ classes, social events, political rallies, etc. A Bulletin Board Designer could put scrapbooking skills to use posting photos on the bulletin boards near the stairs to the lower level. Contact **Rev. Geoff** at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org or 408-292-3858, ex. 25 ●



Lifespan Faith Development

Nursery (birth-5 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. Structured activities, games, stories and crafts are a part of the nursery experience. Child Care Workers: Maria Elena Olvera & Glynda Cotten

Youth Group Activities

Staff: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Junior High (6th-8th Grades)

Advisor: Pam Pell

The Junior High Youth Group meets the first Friday of the month for social and fun activities.

Senior High (9th-12th grades)

Advisors: V Kingsley, Dani Hope, Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis

To participate in junior or senior high youth group activities, contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, 292-3858, ext.25 or grimositis@sanjoseuu.org

The Arts & Spiritual Practice — Kindergarten-Grade 5

(Lower Level, Classrooms 2-6)

Each Sunday after they are sung out of the service, our children come together to make music with **Nayo Ulloa** (<http://www.nayoulloa.com/>), **Sally Cooperrider** and other volunteers for the first half hour. We sing, play with rhythm instruments, and have fun doing musical games. After we all do music, children choose to participate in community building games or an art activity that becomes part of the chancel decorations in the sanctuary.

Make A World of Difference- Asset Building Activities to Help Teens Explore Diversity— Grades 6-8 (Lower Level, Conference & Meditation Rooms)

In this class youth, develop their skills as competent global citizens,

able to understand many of the issues surrounding diversity and culture. The goal is to raise the level of awareness about several diversity issues, while also giving youth an opportunity to pause and reflect on their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The purpose of these activities is not to promote any particular idea, value, or point of view, but to give youth the opportunity to develop greater understanding about the variety of issues surrounding diversity. They will learn about the broad definition of diversity that includes gender, age, religion, race, physical abilities, appearance, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Senior High Youth Group— Grades 9-12 (Youth Room)

The senior high youth group meets from 11:30-12:30 most Sundays. The group offers its members a safe place to share their lives and find support and friendship among open-minded and loving peers. The group engages in discussions about issues relevant to their lives and communities. They plan social and service projects throughout the year. And they participate in youth conferences in area Unitarian Universalist churches under the auspices of the Pacific Central District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations and Y.R.U.U. (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). The youth group's empowering philosophy educates youth to be leaders within the group, church community and denomination.

Holiday Play Rehearsal This Sunday!

At this Holiday Play rehearsal, 9:30 to 10:45 am, on Sunday, December 6, writer-director Cordelia Willis welcomes all children and youth participants for our annual Holiday Play, which will be performed on Sunday, December 20, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. A rehearsal will take place at the same time and place (downstairs classrooms) on December 13. The dress rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 19, from 9:00 am-noon in the Sanctuary.

Music for SSM Service

Sunday, December 6, at 10:30 am in Fireside Room we will be brainstorming about Music for the SSM Service as part of a larger congregational conversation we will have in the New Year about enhancing and expanding the Music Program at our church. This conversation begins by looking at ways to bring more music back to our first service—with money left over from our JUUN-TOS/Together Fund! For more information, or to send suggestions, please contact **Moria Merriweather** at moriam@earthlink.net, and do join us on December 6.

Our Whole Lives—7th-9th Grades

Youth: Sunday, December 6, 3:30-5:30 pm, Fireside Room; **Parent Group:** Sunday, December 6, 3:30-5:30 pm, Classrooms 4-6; **Theme:** Sexual Decisions

Youth: Sunday, December 13, 3:30-5:30 pm, Fireside Room; **Parents:** Sunday, December 13, 3:30-5:30 pm, Classrooms 4-6; **Theme:** Celebration and Closure

Spirit in Practice: Monthly Adult Program

The Spirit in Practice workshops help individuals develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Spirit in Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. Whether participants follow a path they identify as Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Theist, Atheist, Agnostic, Mystic, and/or any of the other paths we follow in our diverse congregation, the Spirit in Practice workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich your faith journeys. Workshops are suitable for a first-time visitor or a longtime member. You can attend one or more workshops. For more information contact the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org, 292-3858, ext. 25.

Workshop 10: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Sunday, December 6, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Youth Room ●





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 torchy.hunter@gmail.com. Ok, gentle readers, this week:

Somebody has a really bad job. No, really bad. Handy good woman tips below. Betcha don't know the name of the Western version of Tai Chi. I do. Who ELSE (besides me) had a zero birthday in November? HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE USE OF THE OBJECTIVE PRONOUN "WHOM"? You, even you, are expected at the cultural event of the season!!!

If you were in church last Sunday, you would have heard **Joanna Woodrow's** flute playing. Sounded like birds and angels. She began musical studies with the piano, and singing melodies. But her heart belongs to T'ai chi clique. This is the Western version of T'ai chi, that deceptively simple little exercise routine you often see people in SF do in public parks. I tried it once and discovered it probably takes years to develop, never mind refine. But ask Johanna if you are interested.



Liz and Bob Owen just came back from their farm in Missouri where they found a couple of changes. 18 inches of rain. Think about that in one storm. We get what, that amount in a good year? It washed out their dry creek, and marked up the rocks.

I was fishing around in my huge feedbag of a purse when I asked **Claire Wagner** what she did about overstuffed purses. She instantly opened her purse and whipped out her joey jr. A length of pockets with Velcro at the ends that makes into a circle and fits into your purse, with slots for phone, PDA, pens, bookie markers, credit cards, and can be simply lifted out when you switch purses. I was dumbfounded. She had promised herself not to spend any more of her life reaching around in the dark purse for anything. Do you get the name? A joey is a baby kangaroo which lives in mom's pocket, so this joey jr is.... get it, get it?

Liz Shivell solves her purse problems with different colored mesh bags, each containing keys, phone, bar bills, etc. I think I want to be organized, but I had no idea this problem has so many answers. Oh, by the way, remember the person who got herself backstage to meet

Ingrid Bergman? It was Liz Shivell. You will all say you knew that.

Speaking of answers, **Frances Schwab** is handing them out about at the National Hispanic University, where she's teaching a class in the level below English 101. When I taught it, it was called remedial, or developmental, or bonehead.

What's going on with Service is our Prayer day? Recently 10 men showed up to work, and no women. Maybe it's a novelty to guys. Is that a sexist remark? Well, at least I recognized it might be.

Try this for a horrible job. **Brian Singer** just stepped in to teach at Terra Bella. This is a county-run, not school-district-run, alternative school. The students (13-18) are on their very last chance at education. They've all been expelled elsewhere. Lotsa gang members. Brian says the only time there is trouble is when the balance of each gang in a class starts to become equal. That leads to fights. The previous teacher just up and quit. Now I'm a do-gooder, like all of us, but, wow, I don't look for the most uphill job around. Brian also says he loves it. A miracle for broken students in a broken system.

Circle Suppers! Ever been to one? They are really fun, and **Barbara Derbyshire** has been trying to keep them alive, but they need you. Somebody offers their house, and others bring pot luck. A fun way to get to know people. No Circle Suppers in December, but they are starting again in January. So should you. Contact Barbara at CircleSuppers@aol.com.

Gertrude Cory is the one with the zero birthday. Now she, too, is in the Big Time (**Carol Greene's** term).

Have a look at groupon.com. They give huge discounts on local services and food. Like \$7 tickets to San Jose Stage. Way cool.

Torchy Hunter is having her first ever one-man show at Crema Coffee Roasting Company, 950 The Alameda for the whole month of December. Here's the fun part: a reception on Friday night, December 11, from 6 to 9. Come, stare at the abstract paintings, guzzle cheap wine, and act like you go to openings all the time.

Jerry Cluney's mother, **Phyllis Cluney** died at 8:15 PM November 8, 2009. She attended First Unitarian until she had to move to Santa Cruz over 30 years ago for health reasons. Jerry has been associated with the church since 1967 when his mother took him to see the minister. She considered herself to be a Unitarian Universalist until she died.

The memorial service will be held Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary.

For more information or to donate to the memorial service fund call Jerry Cluney at (408) 292-1781 or e-mail at cluneycluney@yahoo.com.

She asked that this poem be included in her obituary and memorial service.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint in the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.*

White Light Corner: hold the President in the White Light these days. Also **Brian Singer**. And it's OK to be nice to everybody, the holiday season and all. ●



Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

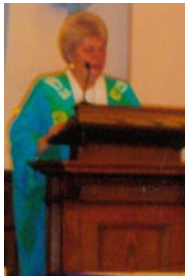
Women's Alliance

We will meet at the home of **Jean vonKaenel** on Thursday, December 3, from 7:15 to 9:15 pm to continue the session on Beginning the Journey in the revised Rise Up and Call Her Name curriculum. Please contact **Nancy Coleman** at nbc Coleman@gmail.com or 408 985 5778 for more information or directions to Jean's. ●

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Celebrate the Ordination of Suzanne Marsh!

On September 20, we voted to ordain **Suzanne Marsh** as a Unitarian Universalist minister. That means that we invited ourselves to the ceremony and to the reception after! So, save the date December 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm for this wonderful event. Please RSVP for the reception (suzannesordination@gmail.com) and contact **Kim Aldridge** at kimardie@hotmail.com to volunteer to bring appetizers for twelve and/or to help set up and clean up afterwards. See you there! ●



DOMINGO, 6 DE DICIEMBRE

¡Celebrar la Ordenación de Suzanne Marsh!

El 20 Septiembre, la congregación votó por la ordenación de Suzanne Marsh como una ministra Unitaria Universalista. Esto significa que estamos invitándonos a nosotros mismos a la ceremonia y a la posterior recepción. Entonces, aparte la fecha del 6 de diciembre de las 4 a las 7 pm para este maravilloso evento. Por favor reserve a la mayor brevedad posible para la recepción (suzannesordination@gmail.com, 408-363-1875) y contacte a **Kim Aldridge** (kimardie@hotmail.com) para averiguar que alimentos traer y/o ser voluntarios para ayudar a poner y posteriormente recoger. ¡Los verá ahí! ●

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Need a Dose of Passion, Torment, Death and Redemption?

No need to go to the opera. Just buy a copy of the UU Band of Writers collection, *What Lies Beyond*. There you will find them all in an amazing ballad by a writer you may be surprised to discover. You will also find stories, essays and poems to make you laugh, touch your heart and make you think. Copies will be available at the Fireside Gift Faire on Dec. 13. All proceeds go to our church. ●

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

What to do with those "Treasures"!

Each year at our annual holiday gift fair, to be held this year on Sunday, December 13, after the combined worship service at 10:00 am, we have a "Treasures Table" featuring donated arty and crafty items in very good condition such as wall art, collectables, knick-knacks, Christmas-themed crafts, cards, candles, jewelry and other treasures. **Cecilia Deck** will accept donations at a table in Hattie Porter Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service this week, Sunday, December 6. ●



SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Fundraiser Tea Planned

The Annual Tea will be Saturday, January 30th from 1-4 pm. This year's Tea will have great food, desserts, and entertainment, as in the past. We also will have the opportunity to meet folks involved with the leadership of PACT, and from other churches. Most of the time will be spent relaxing and enjoying the afternoon with our church friends and other church neighbors.

Please mark your calendars for this event, and if possible bring that friend you always wanted to show this church. Please buy your tickets early to support First Unitarian paying its dues to PACT. If enough people buy their tickets in December, we can pay part of our PACT dues before the end of PACT's fiscal year December 31.

Watch for ticket sale table at coffee hour. Also please consider making a donation to support our PACT dues. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact **Connie Bloch** at Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com or 206-2163. ●



JUNE 27-30, 2010

Junior High Backpack Trip 2009

Last June, 15 Junior High youth and 5 adult chaperones from our church ventured on a 4-day, 3-night backpack trip into the Grouse Ridge area of the Tahoe National Forest. We camped near the shores of two different lakes and slept out under the stars on two of the three nights. Only a few were brave enough to swim in the cold mountain lakes. We lost the trail to Glacier Lake and our youth put the democratic process to work as they decided what our next steps would be. Some trip highlights: taking off our backpacks when we reached each destination, experiencing the beauty of the High Sierra, finding great campsites, climbing on the boulders out in Island Lake, learning to be together, not seeing any bears, supporting each other, playing in the snow, feeling the warmth of the campfire and the sting of smoke in our eyes, stopping for lunch on the way home, and experiencing a sense of accomplishment.

Our church's next Junior High Backpack Trip will be June 27-30, 2010. Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who attend our church are invited to come along. More information will be available in late winter. If you have questions, please contact **Pam Pell**: johnpell@aol.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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Upcoming Events

Peninsula Interweave Meetings Resume

By the Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern, Parish Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, www.uucpa.org, parishmin@uucpa.org, 650-494-0541 x26

Peninsula Interweave, the UU BGLTIQ and allies social group, is resuming regular monthly meetings on second Tuesdays on the month, 7-9 pm, and rotating around to different congregations. Snacks and good company provided! Bring yourself and a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and/or hetero ally/friend.

Tuesday, December 8, UU Fellowship of Redwood City, 7-9 p.m.

Directions are here: <http://www.uufrc.org/contact.html>. We'll watch the segment of the ACLU Freedom Files called "Gay and Lesbian Rights" and discuss. This series of six half-hour films was made by Robert Greenwald, the activist documentary filmmaker who directed and produced *Outfoxed* (about Fox News); *Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Price*; *Uncovered: The War on Iraq*; and several viral videos connected to the 2008 election. Several of the Freedom Files are on LGBT issues and other closely related issues, and we can watch them all! You can read more about his work at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Greenwald



Tuesday, January 12, UU Church of Palo Alto, 7-9 p.m.

Directions are here: <http://www.uucpa.org/main/location.html>. We'll watch the segment of the ACLU Freedom Files called "Lesbian and Gay Families" and discuss.

Tuesday, February 9, First Unitarian Church of San Jose

Topics to be announced. ●

UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the December hiking schedule. Be sure to call if you want to hike unless you are a regular, then let me know if you are not coming. Only big rain storms cancel hikes. In case of rain, call the morning of the hike to find out if we are changing the venue to the Stanford dish or if the hike is cancelled. My home phone is 408 730-1052 and cell is 570-7052. Use my cell phone after 7:30 am. All other times use my home phone. See you on the trails!

Wednesday, December 2

Stevens Creek/Fremont/Older, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot at Stevens Creek County Park at 8:30 am. Take Foothill Expressway as though you were going to Ranch San Antonio. Don't turn off Foothill. Go about 1.5 miles to entrance to Stevens Creek Park on the left. You can see the parking lot below you as you go around a curve. Turn left and go straight ahead to the parking lot. There is \$6 parking fee.

READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ?

Please set up a meeting with Rev. Nancy, revnpj@yahoo.com.

Guest at Your Table Boxes and Stories of Hope

We handed out the UUSC's holiday Guest at Your Table boxes and the accompanying Stories of Hope last weekend—but we have lots left, so all can participate! You can find these boxes and the pamphlet that goes with them near either entrance to the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Put your box at your table at home for every meal throughout the holidays, and feel the connection to people around the world whose lives you can help change through your donations. We will collect these boxes on January 3 and/or 10, 2010. ●



Saturday, December 5

Sunol Regional Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capitol Avenue at Alum Rock at 8:00 am. We will do the McGuire Peaks hike.

Wednesday, December 9

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

Saturday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 16

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

Saturday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 23

Wunderlich County Park, 5 miles, easy. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, December 26

I will be in Long Beach. Contact Alice Lynch at 408 298-7050 or lynch.alice@gmail.com if you plan to hike. Calero County Park, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, December 30

I will still be in Long Beach, so this Wednesday hikers you are on your own. Foothill Park, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, January 2

I will still be in Long Beach. Check with Alice Lynch above. Almaden Quicksilver Park, 6 miles, moderate, Hacienda entrance. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am. ●

Spotlight on Social Justice



The Social Justice Council generally meets the second Friday of each month. See Online Calendar for all FUCSJ listings at:

<http://my.serviceu.com/public/frame.asp?OrgID=3442&bShowCalendar=True>

Social Justice BLOG on Church

Webpage at: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/socialjusticeblog/>.

YahooGroup For

Social Justice News & Events at: [sjsjuu-](mailto:sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

[subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). ●





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

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Want to Receive the Newsletter?

To receive the newsletter on paper, fill out the form at this link:

<http://sanjoseuu.org/form/index.php?sid=2>

or call (408) 292-3858, ext. 31.

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

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, December 16, 2009

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**: 408-991-3212; 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**: 408-991-3212; 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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Editors: Catherine Leeson Pelizzari and Shirley Worth; CircularEditors@gmail.com
Catherine will be editor for the January 6 and February 3 issues. Shirley will be editor for the December 16 and January 20 issue.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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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!**

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