



# Our Church Circular

December 16,  
2009 / 16  
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

### DOMINGO CELEBRACIÓN

**20 de Diciembre – 9:30 a.m.**

**¿Estamos cerca del final?**

Cada día escuchamos más voces que nos dicen que nuestro planeta esta en el final de su vida. ¿Esto es real o solamente es producto de nuestros propios miedos? Vengan a compartir un mensaje de amor y esperanza.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

**Are we close to the end?**

Every day we hear more voices which tell us that our planet is on the final of its life. Is it real, or just fear? Come and share a message of love and hope.

Worship leader: Roberto Padilla

**11:00 a.m.**

Services in English

### 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

See page 5 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

## SAVE THE DATES

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

**December 20**, 1:00 p.m., JUUST Peace Action Group, Ramsden Fireside Room.

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

**January 3**, Sunday 12:30, Band of Writers, Youth Room

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Jantg@yahoo.com)

**January 10**, Sunday, 4:00 p.m., ordination of Sonya Greiner Sukalski at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. RSVP to [sonyaordination@gmail.com](mailto:sonyaordination@gmail.com) or 925.426.9789 by January 3.

**January 14**, Thursday, Listening Campaign training session. Mary Idso, [mridso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mridso@sbcglobal.net)

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

## SERVICE AUCTION ELVES NEEDED!

Hello friends, We've got a great service auction catalog ready for your perusal, thanks to everyone who offered something for the catalog, and we're going to have a great time on January 9! And now...**can you help set up, decorate tables, cook, or clean up on the day of the auction, Saturday, January 9?**

If you can just offer an hour of help on that day, from about 10:00 am onward, through finishing cleanup at about 10:00 pm, I'd really appreciate it. I especially need people to help cook, from about 1:00 pm on, or make the desserts on Friday January 8th. Just email Jan Theiss-Guffey at [jantg@yahoo.com](mailto:jantg@yahoo.com). Thank you! ●

## 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](mailto:lowen@data-time.com) or Bob Miess at [bob@floweringenterprises.com](mailto:bob@floweringenterprises.com)



*As we build  
the beloved  
community...*

By Mary Idso, Rick Merritt, Diana Wirt,  
and the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

*Mientras construimos  
nuestra querida  
comunidad...*

Por Mary Idso, Rick Merritt, Diana Wirt y la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

## FUCSJ's Listening Campaign 2010:

### Deepening Relationships, Sharing Our Lives, Building Our Justice Work from Our Common Flame

*"The first duty of love  
is to listen." – Paul Tillich*

*"When we are listened to it creates us;  
it makes us unfold, expand."  
– Anonymous*

Here at the First Unitarian Church of San José, we know the power of listening to help each of us to heal and to encourage each of us to grow. We listen on Sundays as congregants light candles to share a joy or concern. We listen in our Small Group Ministry sessions as participants share the stories of their lives and their thoughts and feelings on topics of ultimate importance. We listen when we let each other know that we are "here if you need me."

In the first months of the New Year, we will expand these sacred practices of listening-in-community with a one-to-one Listening Campaign, coordinated by FUCSJ's Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the region's faith-based community-organizing group, People Acting in Community Together (PACT). We hope to include as many FUCSJ members and friends as possible as we launch this mutual listening process.

### The Listening Campaign 2010 has two overarching goals:

1. To connect with each other intentionally so that we deepen our relationships in sustainable ways. Wouldn't it be wonderful, for example, to be able to enter into Social Hour following worship on Sundays and see there not a crowd of near-strangers or even clusters of "friendly acquaintances" but a room full of folks with whom you are in deep relationship, whose pain and joy you know and empathize with, as they do with yours? Just one conversation cannot, of course, work such transformation – but if these intentional connections become a way of being in this congregation . . . ah, what love, depth, and hope we will all experience then!
2. To transform how we do social justice work in this congregation by connecting with what is most alive – what is most painful, most real – in our lives. From such deep knowledge of the issues that affect us most, we will discover the common flame in these experiences and let that flame direct us in choosing the social

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## Campaña de Oyentes de la FUCSJ 2010:

### Profundizando Relaciones, Compartiendo Nuestras Vidas, Construyendo Nuestro Trabajo de Justicia desde Nuestra Flama Común

*"El primer deber del amor  
es escuchar." – Paul Tillich*

*"Cuando nosotros estamos escuchando,  
esto nos crea, nos hace desplegar, expandirnos."  
– Anonymous*

Aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José, sabemos del poder de escuchar para ayudarnos entre nosotros a sanar y alentarnos a crecer. Escuchamos los domingos como los congregantes encienden las velas para compartir una alegría o una inquietud. Escuchamos en las sesiones de nuestro Ministerio de pequeños grupos, como los participantes comparten las historias de sus vidas, sus pensamientos y sentimientos sobre temas de máxima importancia. Escuchamos cuando mutuamente dejamos saber que estamos "aquí si me necesitan."

En los primeros meses del nuevo año, expandiremos estas prácticas sagradas de escuchar en comunidad con una Campaña de Conversación mutua de uno a uno, coordinada por el Comité Local de Organización (CLO) de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José FUCJS (por sus siglas en inglés) para el grupo regional de organización comunitaria con inspiración religiosa, People Acting in Community Together (PACT). Esperamos incluir a tantos miembros y amigos de la FUCSJ como sea posible cuando iniciemos este proceso de conversación mutua.

### La campaña de oyentes 2010 tiene dos objetivos generales:

1. Para conectarse con otro intencionalmente para que profundicemos nuestras relaciones en forma sostenible. ¿No sería maravilloso, por ejemplo, poder llegar a la hora social los domingos después del servicio religioso y ver ahí no una multitud de extraños cercanos o incluso grupos de "amistosos conocidos" sino una sala llena de amigos con quienes se está en profunda relación, cuyo dolor y alegría usted conozca y simpatice, como lo hacen ellos con los suyos? Sólo una conversación no puede, por supuesto, realizar tal transformación: pero si estas conexiones intencionales se convierten en una forma de ser en esta congregación... ah, cuanto amor, profundidad y esperanza experimentaremos todos entonces!
2. Para transformar cómo hacemos a la justicia social trabajar en esta congregación para conectar con lo que está más vivo — lo que es más doloroso, más real — en nuestras vidas. Desde tal conocimiento profundo de los problemas que nos afectan más, descubriremos la llama común en

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# Join the Fun in Producing the First Annual FUCSJ Year Book!

by Henry Ruddle, POC member for Stewardship

Great memories and great fun are an active part of congregational life, and starting in 2010 we are going to record them in beautiful color! The first annual FUCSJ Year Book will be available for purchase by the end of the 2009-2010 church year in June. (Did I mention that it is also a fundraiser?)

As you would expect, the Year Book will highlight events major and minor during the church year, along with the accomplishments of leaders, volunteers, and other dedicated folks who add so much life and energy to our congregation and community spirit.

The exact format of the Year Book will take shape over the next few months, and I'd like your help.

First, writers, designers, photographers, and, well, really anyone excited by the prospect of an official Year Book, are sincerely implored to let me know of their interest in helping out. I promise small assignments and very few meetings. Personally, I'd love it if the whole thing could be done over the phone and by e-mail, and much of it will be, but, alas, all or parts of the Year Book team will have to meet in person now and then.

Second, whether you think you can help out or not, send me your ideas and, if you have them, pictures. What events should be highlighted? Should it attempt to include year-book-style mug shots or just photos from events? Do you want to read reflective essays on the past year's accomplishment, or just photo captions? Let me know. What should it be, in your opinion?

Send your suggestions, comments, and offers of assistance to **Henry Ruddle** at [stewardship@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:stewardship@sanjoseuu.org) or call Henry at 408-234-3670. ●

## As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3

justice issues through which we help to heal the world. Our work for Marriage Equality is a shining example of how we have worked for justice because we share that common flame: this issue touches the vast majority of us in our very skin, our hearts, our lives. It is so real to us, individually and collectively, that we are committed to transforming the whole system of injustice, not just to affecting a single vote or event. When we focus our social justice work on issues that are real and pressing for many of us in the congregation, then we not only build a stronger community for ourselves but we also become more cohesive, passionate, and effective agents for change.

There is a story in the Hebrew Scriptures that serves as a wonderful metaphor for this process: In the book of Exodus, the Hebrew slaves had suffered in slavery for years and years—but it was only when they began to groan together that they were able to create their liberation!

In this month of December, our PACT LOC will begin recruiting volunteers who are willing to be listened to and volunteers willing to do the deep listening. We will host a training session for listeners on January 14, 2010. The one-to-one listening sessions will be conducted through February. In March and April we will report back what we have learned.

If you would like more information about the Listening Campaign 2010 or if you want to get involved, please contact **Mary Idso**, [midso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:midso@sbcglobal.net); **Rick Merritt**, [rmerritt@techinsights.com](mailto:rmerritt@techinsights.com); **Diana Wirt**, [diwirt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diwirt@sbcglobal.net); or our local PACT organizer **Karen Belote**, [karenbelote@pactsj.org](mailto:karenbelote@pactsj.org).

"The first duty of love is to listen," the twentieth-century theologian Paul Tillich said. Come, let us listen to one another!

*Mary Idso, Rick Merritt, Diana Wirt, and the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones ●*

## Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad, continúa para la página 3

estas experiencias; entonces permitiremos que esa llama nos dirija en la elección de los temas de justicia social a través de los cuales ayudamos a curar al mundo. Nuestro trabajo por la igualdad de matrimonio es un brillante ejemplo de cómo hemos trabajado por la justicia porque compartimos esa llama común: este problema afecta a la mayoría de nosotros en nuestra alma, nuestros corazones y nuestras vidas. Es tan real para nosotros, individual y colectivamente, que estamos comprometidos a transformar todo el sistema de injusticia, no sólo afectando a un solo voto o evento. Cuando nos centramos en nuestro trabajo de justicia social sobre cuestiones que son reales y urgentes para muchos de nosotros en la congregación, entonces no sólo construimos una comunidad más fuerte para nosotros mismos, sino que también nos convertimos en más cohesionados, apasionados y efectivos agentes para el cambio.

Hay una historia en las escrituras hebreas que sirve como una metáfora maravillosa para este proceso: en el Libro del Éxodo, los esclavos hebreos habían sufrido de esclavitud durante años y años, pero fue sólo cuando empezaron a quejarse juntos, que ellos fueron capaces de crear su liberación!

En este mes de diciembre, nuestro PACT local comenzará a reclutar voluntarios que están dispuestos a ser escuchados y voluntarios dispuestos a escuchar profundamente. Nosotros seremos anfitriones de un entrenamiento para oyentes el 14 de enero del 2010. Las sesiones para escuchar de uno a uno, se llevará a cabo a través de febrero. En marzo y abril informaremos lo que hemos aprendido.

Si usted desea más información acerca de la Campaña de oyentes 2010, o si desea involucrarse, por favor contacte a **Mary Idso**, [midso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:midso@sbcglobal.net); **Rick Merritt**, [rmerritt@techinsights.com](mailto:rmerritt@techinsights.com); **Diana Wirt**, [diwirt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diwirt@sbcglobal.net); o a **Karen Belote**, nuestra organizadora local de PACT, [karenbelote@pactsj.org](mailto:karenbelote@pactsj.org).

"El primer deber del amor es escuchar," el teólogo del siglo XX, Paul Tillich dijo. Vengan, permitámonos escuchar los unos a los otros!

*Mary Idso, Rick Merritt, Diana Wirt, and the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones ●*



## “The Gift That Keeps On Giving”

*The Story of Philo Hersey, Benefactor*

By Gordon Smith and Claire Wagner

**C**olonel **Philo Hersey** was a veteran of the Civil War who became a prominent citizen of San Jose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, winning district election in California as a Republican (the party of Lincoln, remember?), serving as President of the Santa Clara County Fruit Exchange and co-founding the San Jose Country Club.

However, in 1920, just prior to his death, Col. Hersey did something to guarantee that local Unitarians would remember him even when his other accomplishments were forgotten: he established an endowment fund to support liberal religion in San Jose.

Nearly 90 years later, the Philo Hersey San Jose, Calif. Service Fund is still maintained in accordance with his wishes: that the principal be preserved in perpetuity and that the income be paid quarter-annually to our church for the purposes of maintaining Unitarian services in the City of San Jose.

Today the fund has nearly tripled in value while still continuing to pay several hundred dollars to the church each quarter. And through the continued stewardship of the UUA managers of the UU Common Endowment Fund, it will benefit our congregation long after all of us are gone, too.

Recently our church created a new endowment fund for the twenty-first century, in response to interest from current members who, like Col. Hersey, want to help ensure that the church remains a beacon of liberal religion in Santa Clara County. There are two options for contributing to this fund: a bequest in your will, or a gift (which may be for a specific purpose of your choosing, such as music or religious education). If you have any questions about how the fund works, even if you have already included the church in your estate plan, please email [gordonsmith100@gmail.com](mailto:gordonsmith100@gmail.com) or contact any of the members of the Planned Giving Committee: **Bob Owens, Jean vonKaenel, Gordon Smith or Claire Wagner.**

Also, due to the success of our first free estate planning seminar at the church in November, attended by over 20 members of the congregation, we'll be offering the same program early next year. Stay tuned for announcements.

**Interesting side note:** The familiar slogan in the title of this article has been informally linked to the Victor Talking Machines company, the leading American producer of phonographs and records during Col. Hersey's lifetime. ●

## “El regalo que se mantiene dando”

*La historia de Philo Hersey, Benefactor*

Por Gordon Smith y Claire Wagner

**H**oy, poco se sabe acerca de Coronel **Philo Hersey**, salvo que él era un veterano de la guerra civil que se convirtió en ciudadano prominente de San José a finales del siglo XIX y principios del XX, ganando las elecciones de distrito en California como un republicano (el partido de Lincoln, lo recuerdan?), sirviendo como Presidente de la Fruit Exchange del condado de Santa Clara y cofundador del Country Club de San José.

Sin embargo, en 1920, justo antes de su muerte, el Coronel Hersey hizo algo para garantizar que los Unitarios locales lo recordaran incluso cuando sus otros logros fueran olvidados: El estableció un fondo de dotación para apoyar la “Religión liberal” en San José.

Casi 90 años más tarde, la “Filón Hersey San Jose, California Service Fund” todavía es mantenida de acuerdo con sus deseos —el principal se conservara a perpetuidad y el ingreso debe ser pagado “trimestral-anualmente” a nuestra iglesia a efectos de mantener los servicios Unitarios en la ciudad de San José.

Hoy el fondo casi se triplicó en valor mientras continúa pagando varios cientos de dólares a la iglesia cada trimestre. Y a través de la administración continua de los administradores de UUA del fondo común de donaciones UU, beneficiará a nuestra congregación mucho después

de que todos nosotros hayamos desaparecido, también.

Recientemente, nuestra iglesia creó un nuevo fondo de donación para el siglo XXI en respuesta al interés de los miembros actuales de que, como el Coronel Hersey, desea ayudar a garantizar que la iglesia sigue siendo un faro de religión liberal en el condado de Santa Clara. Hay dos opciones principales para su contribución a este fondo: un legado en su testamento o un regalo (que puede ser para un propósito específico de su elección, como la música o la educación religiosa). Si tiene algunas preguntas acerca de las obras del fondo o incluso si tiene ya incluida a la iglesia en su plan de herencia, por favor mande un e-mail a [gordonsmith100@gmail.com](mailto:gordonsmith100@gmail.com) o póngase en contacto con cualquiera de los miembros de la Comisión de Planificación de Regalos: **Bob Owens, Jean vonKaenel, Gordon Smith o Claire Wagner.**

También, debido al éxito de nuestro primer seminario de planificación gratis del patrimonio en la Iglesia en noviembre, asistieron más de 20 miembros de la Congregación, estamos ofreciendo el mismo programa a principios del próximo año. Manténgase en contacto para los anuncios.

**Nota del lado interesante:** El lema familiar en el título de este artículo se ha vinculado informalmente a la empresa de Victor Talking Machines Company, el principal productor estadounidense de fonógrafos y discos durante toda la vida del Coronel Hersey. ●



Philo Hersey's Civil War uniform is on display at the Smithsonian's National Civil War History Museum.



# SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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**December 27** – 11:00 a.m.

## The Jesus Story: What Next?

This December we have been taking a fresh look at what Jesus has to teach us Unitarian Universalists in the 21st century. Now that Christmas Day, Hanukkah, and the Solstice have passed, and Kwanzaa has begun, it's time to reflect and respond. What has touched us, challenged us, moved us this particular season? What will we now carry forward into our post-holiday lives? We'll explore the next steps we might take to keep our connection with what has been meaningful alive, to grapple with what may have been unsettling, and to express our

Unitarian Universalist values more fully in our daily lives and in the world.

*Note: There will be no 9:30 AM Service this Sunday. Spanish Speakers are encouraged to attend the 11:00 AM Service, which will include simultaneous Spanish translation.*

**Worship Leader:** Bob Miess; **Worship Associates:** Dena Dickinson and Bob Owen

## ¿La historia de Jesús: ¿Que sigue?

Este diciembre hemos estado teniendo una mirada fresca de lo que Jesús tiene que enseñarnos a los Unitarios Universalistas en el siglo XXI. Ahora que Navidad, Hanuka y el solsticio han pasado, y que Kwanzaa ha comenzado, es tiempo para reflexionar y responder. ¿Que nos ha tocado, desafiado,

movido en esta particular temporada? ¿Ahora qué nos llevara adelante en nuestras vidas después de los días festivos? Exploraremos los próximos pasos que nosotros podríamos tomar para mantener nuestra conexión con lo que ha sido significativamente vivo, lidiar con lo que podría haber sido inquietante y que expresa nuestros valores Unitarios Universalistas más plenamente en nuestra vida diaria y en el mundo.

*Nota: no habrá servicio de las 9:30 AM este domingo. A los miembros en español se les alienta a asistir al servicio de las 11:00 AM, que incluirá la traducción simultánea al español.*

**Dirige:** Bob Miess; **Asociados de Culto:** Dena Dickinson y Bob Owen

*January Theme: The Hopeful Heresies of Our Heritage: Unitarian Universalist History and Theology*

## DOMINGO DE CELEBRACION

**3 de Enero** – 9:30 a.m.

### Iniciando un nuevo ciclo; Tiempo de esperanza y acción.

¿Cómo Unitarios Universalistas cuales son nuestros propósitos para este año que inicia?, cuales son nuestros deseos? y cuales son los deseos del resto de la humanidad? Que esperamos de la vida? Y cuales son las acciones que necesitamos tomar para que estos deseos se lleven a cabo? Iniciemos el año 2010 con esperanza en nosotros mismos y en el resto de los seres humanos.

**Dirige:** Roberto Padilla

### Starting a new cycle; Time for hope and action

As Unitarian Universalists, what are our purposes for this new year? What are our wishes? and what are the wishes of the rest of humanity? What do we expect from life? And what actions do we need to take to see that those wishes are realized? Let's start the year 2010 with hope in ourselves and in the rest of the human beings.

**Worship Leader:** Roberto Padilla

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY

**January 3** – 11:00am

### Prophetic Unitarian & Universalist Women And Men

At this Celebration Sunday, during which all ages will join together to begin a new year in religious community, we will hear stories and lessons of famous Unitarians and Universalists that have inspired us with their courage, creativity and passion for justice. This service launches a month long theme examining our Unitarian Universalist history, heritage, and practice.

**Worship Leaders:** Frank Bosche, Carolyn Bowman, and Marla Scharf

### Proféticas Mujeres y Hombres Unitarios y Universalistas

En la celebración de este domingo, durante el cual todas las edades se unirán juntas para comenzar un nuevo año en comunidad religiosa, escucharemos historias y lecciones de famosos unitarios y universalistas que nos han inspirado con su coraje, creatividad y pasión por la justicia. Con este servicio se inicia el mes examinando el largo tema de nuestra historia unitaria universalista, patrimonio y práctica.

**Dirigen:** Frank Bosche, Carolyn Bowman, y Marla Scharf

## DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

**10 de Enero** — 9:30 a.m.

### Dudas

La Duda y el escepticismo han caracterizado la fe Unitaria durante cientos de años. Veamos las raíces de nuestro escepticismo moderno y exploremos las muchas caras de la duda — desde el dolor a la pasión, desde la cabeza hasta el corazón, desde el miedo a la libertad.

**Dirige:** Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

**Asociados de Culto a las 9:30:** Mienbrps de SSM

## SOURCES SUNDAY

**January 10** — 11:00 a.m.

### Doubt

Doubt and skepticism have characterized the Unitarian faith for hundreds of years. Let's look at the roots of our modern-day skepticism and explore the many faces of doubt—from pain to passion, from head to heart, from fear to freedom.

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

**Worship Associates at 11:00:** Donna Lenahan and Henry Ruddle ●

**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](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com).



# 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, Greg Muller, 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](mailto: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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

## Dress Rehearsal This Saturday!

### Holiday Play: The Origins of Christmas

At this Holiday Play will be performed on Sunday, December 20, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The dress rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 19, from 9:00 am-noon in the Sanctuary. ●

## Workshop on the Spectrum of Sexual Orientation in January

Are there really more nuances to sexual orientation than being straight or gay? What is life like for people who realize they don't fit comfortably in either of these two categories? You can discover more about where you fall with the Klein Grid, a more detailed system than the familiar Kinsey Scale (don't worry, you won't need to reveal your results).

Our church's Lifespan Faith Development and Welcoming Congregation programs are offering a four-session class using Interweave Continental's Bisexuality Curriculum. Workshops are two and one-half hours each and meet on four consecutive Sunday afternoons, January 24 to February 14, in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Adults and senior high youth are invited to participate in these interactive, facilitated workshops, in a safe and welcoming environment. Please register in advance as space is limited.

Contacts: Rev. Geoff Rimositis 292-3858x25 [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org), or Frey Leigh 283-9383 [fleigh@att.net](mailto:fleigh@att.net). ●

## Help Bring The Spirit Alive With Our Children

Join the Music, Arts, Games or Drama teams that are working with our children in Kindergarten through fifth grade this year in our Sunday morning art and spirituality program. If you are a musician and / or singer, join us for 30 minutes each Sunday to help make the Spirit of Music come alive with our children—and still make it upstairs for the sermon!

Or join our children for a month and bring your special art activity that will be part of the Sunday worship experience. Or come down once a month and have fun playing games with the children as we bring the spirit alive with our holy laughter and in the midst of the fun talk about what's going on in our lives and how one lives a joyful and meaningful life. E-mail me at [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org) and let's talk about how you would like to help bring the spirit alive in your life and in our children's lives. ●





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](mailto:torchy.hunter@gmail.com). Ok, gentle readers, this week:

Who is stirring things up in Sacramento? ... Who knows an awful lot about Jesus? ... *A silent cat and a barking dog ...*  
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT DUBLIN? OH, THE IRELAND ONE! ... *As if the dogs aren't loud enough, who is taking up drums? ... Who is in love with her new home?*

**D**id not the whole gang turn out for **Suzanne Marsh**? Excuse me, The Rev. Suzanne. Why doesn't **Lindi Ramsden** look any older? You don't suppose she's doing something to her hair, do you? It's not something I know anything about, but just askin'. Did it take you back to have her at the pulpit shuffling papers? I talked to her about whether California needs a new constitutional convention. Turns out there's one a-brewing. Probably not much to come of it, and the usual denizens of the capital wouldn't know to be scared.



**Bob Meiss** gave me info on a topic I'd been thinking about:

bible history. I do, too, have thoughts about this. I was asking if all the early part of Jesus' life was made up by the gospel writers to fit some



old prophecy, like getting them to Bethlehem so he could be seen as the House of David, according to the prophecy. Bob said, "He was from Nazareth." "Oh," I said, catching on very quickly, "that's why he's called the Nazarene!" And then we said together "because people are called by the town they were born in!" I was also not aware that the nativity stories are different. One of them has angels and the other has shepherds. Same with the 3 Kings. I would hate to have to make a list of all the the topics I don't know about, but I'll let you know as they come up

When **Mary Martin** writes to me, I pay attention. Because she's such a great

writer." Every Sunday, while they're at church, **Carol and Bob Roszkowski** pick up the hymnals and assorted papers people leave in the hymnal holders. Neither of them is a Worship Associate; they just saw a need and quietly began to help out of the goodness of their hearts." Wow. What if stuff like this were to catch on? Then what?

Also from Mary: "In September we had to put down our beautiful cat, Licorice, who had renal failure. Having been born under our deck, he had spent his whole life with us, as has his half-brother, Thomas Gray (also born under the deck). To ease Thomas's despondency (and ours) we brought home a rescue kitty, Electra, who has livened things up around here. Her notable characteristics, in addition to a sweet personality, are a very long tail and an inability to meow, though she forms the word with her mouth at appropriate times." I certainly understand the grief-driven need to get another (rescue) kitty. Our grief-driven rescue dog, Alison, never stops barking. Never stops barking. We've decided she has PTSD.

**Good News Department.**

**Mary McGuinness** says "I have fully recovered from my two Melanoma surgeries, and am back at work full time. I now have a break from anything medical until January. I am going to take two weeks vacation and head home to Dublin, Ireland for the Christmas Holidays. I now have to go through drug therapy starting 1/4/10. I will receive high dose Interferon five days a week for four

weeks. . Interferon is not a chemo, but an immune booster, it will help my own body fight any residual Melanoma cells. My Mum and best friend -Anne Tobin- are coming out from Dublin to help me out, and many a friend have offered and lined up lifts back and forth to Stanford. I then will continue on the drug for 11 months, three times a week. I plan to go back to work at this stage. This treatment gives me the best long term options for a life long cure." Mary has further told me that she hopes it's appropriate to use the Newsletter as notification to her friends of how she's doing. I believe she has many more friends than just that frenzied mob reading this.

**Dan Zulevic** has recently spoken to

some new people from Maine. One of them was in a drum circle and he'd like to do it again. If any of you want to sit around pounding things, please contact Dan at [chs@netmagic.net](mailto:chs@netmagic.net).



**Kelly Burnett** is so happy in her new home, she wants to show everyone around. "I have just moved into a lovely senior commu-

nity and there are one bedroom apartments available. If you are interested, please let me know at [kelly@kellybur.com](mailto:kelly@kellybur.com) or call me at 408-971-9930 and I will take you on a tour and show you around."

**White Light Corner:**

For Mary McGuinness, of course. And a very happy New Year to us all. We need it. ●



# Upcoming Events

## 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 en 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



## Class: Reading the Five Gospels along with Bob

**Bob Miess** will guide this monthly discussion of *The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say? The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus* by Robert W. Funk.

This book includes five Gospels -- Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, and Thomas, with color coding to show the conclusion of the Jesus Seminar on each of Jesus' sayings: Red = Jesus very likely said something like this; Pink = Jesus may have said something like this; Gray = Jesus probably did not say this; Black = Jesus is very unlikely to have said this. It also includes an introduction to the principles used to draw these conclusions, and explanations of the scholars' reasoning about key sayings.

The time of the monthly meetings will be set after we know who would like to attend, so that we can accommodate the most participants. Contact **Bob Miess** at [Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com](mailto:Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com) or 408-781-7073. ●



## You are invited to the ordination of Sonya Greiner Sukalski

The members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore and the Unitarian Universalist church of Berkeley request the honor of your presence as we gather to celebrate the ordination of Sonya Greiner Sukalski the the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, Sunday, January 10 at 4:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lauson Rd., Kensington, CA 94707 and to the reception following. Childcare provided. RSVP to [sonyaordination@gmail.com](mailto:sonyaordination@gmail.com) or 925.426.9789 by January 3. ●



*“Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”*

—Dr. Howard Thurman



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

## Fundraiser Tea Planned

The Annual Tea on Saturday, January 30 from 1-4 pm will have great food, desserts, and entertainment, as well as an opportunity to meet folks involved with the leadership of PACT, and from other churches. The event benefits the paying of our PACT dues.

Mark your calendars, and if possible bring a friend. 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](mailto:Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com) or 206-2163. ●



## 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, JANUARY 9, STARTING AT 4:30 P.M.

# Come, join us for friendship, fun, and stewardship at the **FUCSJ SERVICE AUCTION**



To catch a glimpse of the offerings on which you'll be bidding, please take a look at the abridged Service Auction Catalog at right. The full catalog of auction offerings (available with the online newsletter) also includes a how-to guide for bidding and some thoughts about how to bid if you have to miss the auction itself. Take a look! Members who receive a printed copy of the newsletter will also receive a printed copy of the catalog.

Then please join us on Saturday, January 9, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Hattie Porter Hall.

**When:** Saturday, January 9th, 2010  
Silent Auction begins at 4:30 p.m.  
Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.  
Live Auction begins at 7:00 p.m. with our own **Dan Zulevic** as auctioneer!

**Where:** FUCSJ Sanctuary and Hattie Porter Hall, 160 N. 3rd Street, San Jose, CA 95112

**What to Bring:** Yourself, Your Friends, Your Children, A Donation for Dinner (if you can – otherwise, please come and be treated!)

**Dinner Menu:** Chicken Marsala or Spinach Filo; Rice Pilaf, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

**Suggested Donation:** \$12 – Please note: If you can contribute to the costs of dinner, for yourself and another, that is fantastic. If you can't, please know that everyone can sit at our Welcome Table!

**RSVP,** please, to Jan at [jantg@yahoo.com](mailto:jantg@yahoo.com)

**Child Care Available:** Beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please let Jan Theiss-Guffey know if your children will need child care:

## **Additional Offerings for the Auction:**

Whoops! Did you forget to get your own offering in for the silent auction? No worries! You can still email it to **Jan Theiss-Guffey**, [jantg@yahoo.com](mailto:jantg@yahoo.com) and we'll put out another catalog right before January 9th. ●

1 – **Carved Name Sign** (Alec MacLean) Min Bid \$25; Value \$50

2 – **Knife Sharpening** (Alec MacLean) Min Bid \$15; Value \$20

3 Live – **Bed & Breakfast in Rhode Island** (Barbara Derbyshire & Bev Harrison) Min Bid \$250; Value \$350

4 Live – **Condo in Lake Tahoe!** (Bill and Sally Souders) Min Bid \$300; Value \$1,500

5 – **"Secret Berrine" spread** (Bill Bowman) Min Bid \$15; Value \$20

6 Live – **Guest Room** (Bob and Jenny Redfern) Min Bid \$25/night; Value \$125/night

7 – **A Greater Legacy Workshop** (Bob Meiss) Min Bid \$20; Value \$25

8 – **English or Speech and Debate coach** (Brian Singer) Min Bid \$75; Value \$150

9 – **Tips for Urban Bicycling** (Bruce Halen) Min Bid \$30; Value \$50

10 – **Spanish Language Tutoring** (Carol Greene) Min Bid \$40; Value \$60

11 – **Resume help** (Catherine Pelizzari) Min Bid \$25; Value \$100

12 – **Scrapbook Kit** (Cecilia Deck) Min Bid \$25; Value \$40

13 – **Framed photos from Dena's travels!** (Dena Dickinson) Min Bid \$40; Value Priceless

14 – **Hand-made baby afghan** (Donna Lenahan) Min Bid \$25; Value \$40

15 – **Handyman Service** (Edward Gardner) Min Bid \$25; Value \$40

16 – **Mess Mitigator** (Genie Bernardini) Min Bid \$20; Value Priceless

17 – **Spanish lessons** (Jan Theiss-Guffey) Min Bid \$30; Value \$60

18 – **Tarot readings** (Jean Embree) Min Bid \$5/reading; Value \$10/reading

19 – **Tarot Lessons** (Jean Embree) Min Bid \$10/lesson; Value \$10/lesson

20 – **Cake decorating for kids!** (Jenn Castro) Min Bid \$5 per child; Value \$10 per child

21 – **Home-made wine!** (Jenny and Bob Redfern) Min Bid \$5/per; Value \$10 each

22 – **Career Counseling** (Jerry Cluney) Min Bid \$100; Value \$400

23 – **Yard maintenance** (John Harris) Min Bid \$35; Value \$50

24 – **Lap or Baby Quilt or Table Runner** (Joyce Miller) Min Bid \$40; Value \$80

25 – **Computer help for your PC** (Julia Rodriguez) Min Bid \$25; Value \$75

26 – **Let's Make Bread Together!** (K'Ailsa Rowan) Min Bid \$10; Value \$40

27 – **Learn to Make Pesto!** (K'Ailsa Rowan) Min Bid \$10; Value \$40

28 – **Worm composting** (Kathryn Axtell) Min Bid \$20; Value \$48

29 – **Collection of fine wines!** (Kim Aldridge and Doug Gallinat) Min Bid \$50; Value \$200

30 – **Original oil painting** (Madeleine Bodisco Alexander) Min Bid \$100; Value \$1,000

31 – **Drawing lessons** (Madeleine Bodisco Alexander) Min Bid \$60; Value \$120

32 – **Jam/Preserves class** (Madeline Morrow) Min Bid \$20; Value \$50

33 – **Potted daffodils!** (Marcella Rossi) Min Bid \$10; Value \$15

34 – **Winter vegetable starts!** (Marcella Rossi) Min Bid \$10; Value \$15

35 – **Patterned baby blanket** (Marcella Rossi) Min Bid \$15; Value \$30

36 – **Hammock** (Maria Pereira) Min Bid \$40; Value \$100

37 – **Salvadoran beach towels** (Maria Pereira) Min Bid \$40; Value \$100

38 – **Tutoring math or physics** (Melinda Hoppe) Min Bid \$20; Value \$50

39 – **Home Handyman Labor** (Michael Payne-Alex) Min Bid \$90; Value \$200-\$300

40 – **Excel Lesson** (Mike Pelizzari) Min Bid \$30; Value \$60

41 – **Snowboarding instruction!** (Monty Low) Min Bid \$30; Value \$60

42 – **Ice skating lesson!** (Monty Low) Min Bid \$15; Value \$80

43 – **San Jose Giants Baseball tickets** (Patricia and Annette Ohanian-Coffey) Min Bid \$60; Value \$100

44 Live – **Creative Writing workshop with Reverend Nancy!** (Reverend Nancy Palmer-Jones) Min Bid \$10; Value \$40

45 Live – **A pie!** (Sally Cooperrider) Min Bid \$10; Value \$20

46 – **Colored pencil drawing** (Shawna Rose Nixon) Min Bid \$15; Value \$100

47 – **Software Coaching or General Organizing.** (Susan Burke-Diquisto) Min Bid \$40; Value \$100

48 – **One-hour ride on an EcoCycle** (Terra Wood-Taylor) Min Bid \$20; Value \$25-50

49 – **Child Care for 2+ hours!** (Terra Wood-Taylor) Min Bid \$15; Value \$20

50 – **House-sitting** (Terra Wood-Taylor) Min Bid \$15; Value \$30

51 Live – **Four-hour home fixup/cleanup/maintenance service** (Bob

Howd) Min Bid \$35; Value \$50

52 Live – **Two magical hours with Dianne Saichek!** (Dianne Saichek) Min Bid \$80; Value \$150

53 Live – **Professional Flier/Invitations** (Henry Ruddle) Min Bid \$20; Value \$200

54 Live – **Website Creation** (Henry Ruddle) Min Bid \$50; Value \$500

55 Live – **Italian Dinner** (Liz and Bob Owen, and Bob and Sherry Howd) Min Bid \$30 each; Value \$35/person

56 Live – **Landscape Consultation** (Liz Owen) Min Bid \$25; Value \$60

57 Live – **A Day of Beading with Mary Mary** (for up to 3 people) (Mary Mary Feldman) Min Bid \$30; Value \$60

58 Live – **Vocal technique, Latin American guitar, or Peruvian flutes!** (Nayo Ulloa) Min Bid \$40; Value \$60

59 Live – **Basic Living Trust** (Sally Cooperrider) Min Bid \$50; Value \$100

60 Live – **Last Will and Testament** (Sally Cooperrider) Min Bid \$50; Value \$200

61 Live – **Two Nights at a Mountain Cabin** (Susan Burke-Diquisto) Min Bid \$100; Value \$200

62 Live – **Petsitting** (Terra Wood-Taylor) Min Bid \$15; Value \$30

63 – **Private Yoga Lesson** (Shirley Worth) Min Bid \$20; Value \$45

64 – **Semi-private 45-minute Yoga Lesson** (Shirley Worth) Min Bid \$30; Value \$65

65 – **Not Your Mother's Cookies!** (Mary Martin) Min Bid \$15; Value \$30

66 – **Digital Camera Seminar** (Dana Grover) Min Bid \$15; Value \$35

67 – **Coaching in Chancel Decoration** (Steve Stein) Min Bid \$50; Value \$200

68 – **Private Interior Design consultation** (Steve Stein) Min Bid \$100; Value \$225 per hour

69 – **One Hour Massage** (Gary McCumber) Min Bid \$45; Value \$90

70 – **Circle Dinner** (The Grovers, Zulevic/ Hunter, Blackwoods, and Wymans) Min Bid \$40 per couple; Value Priceless!

71 – **Mosaic Chalice** (Kelly Burnett) Min Bid \$50; Value \$130

72 – **Day-of-event coordination services** (Erika Jackson) Min Bid \$200; Value \$750

73 – **South Bay Wine Tour!** (Christopher Frey) Min Bid \$55; Value \$100

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# TSCC Matching Gift Challenge Ends December 31

by Rosemary Baez

There is still time to have your contribution to Third Street matched by the Frieda C. Fox Foundation. Please have your donation doubled by giving before the end of this year. Letters and envelopes are available near the bulletin board outside Hattie Porter Hall. We also have a link at [www.3street.org](http://www.3street.org) for online donations. Please note that in order for your gift to qualify for the match, it must be received before December 31. And as always, a very heartfelt thank you to all those who already gave towards this challenge!

## Donate without spending a dime!

Many companies, especially technology corporations, offer grants to nonprofit organizations IF they are initiated by an employee. Right now, we are hoping to find Third Street friendly UU's at the following companies willing to inquire about grants on our behalf: SanDisk, Flextronics, Synopsis, Boeing, and GlaxoSmithKline. Third Street will write the proposal and get all the documentation you need. . . we just need a few good Third Street stewards. With the current state of our economy and increased competition for grants, many local companies are looking to their employees for recommendations on which nonprofits to support. If you work for one of these companies or know of other grant opportunities, please contact **Rosemary Baez**, [rosemary@3street.org](mailto:rosemary@3street.org).



## Annual Holiday Posada

Please join us on Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 pm for the Annual Posada! For those who have not experienced a posada, it is a festive family style gathering rooted in Latin American, especially Mexican, tradition and flavor. A posada brings together the entire family and communities to share food, sing and enjoy each other's company. However, this posada has a modern day twist. For example, this year in addition to our children's play, our Chinese elders will be part of the evening. Everyone is welcome. If you can and are willing, feel free to bring a healthy dish to share. There is no cost to attend.

## Volunteers Needed in January

January is a tough month to find volunteer for Third Street. We could use tutors to help with the After School Academic Program. This is a short term investment of time during our regular program hours Mon. – Thurs. from 3:30pm-6pm.

In addition, the Robotics Program starts in January. We are looking for individuals willing to commit 14-16 Saturday mornings to serve as Tech Challenge Mentors. Ideal mentors are either engineering students at local universities or professionals employed in Silicon Valley technology companies. Staff support is available and the experience is very rewarding, especially since Third Street youth are typically the underdogs at the highly competitive Tech Challenge! Last year, three out of the six Third Street teams that entered the competition won awards!

For more information on how you can serve as a tutor or mentor, please contact Kay at [volunteercoordinator@3street.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@3street.org). Information is also available at <http://www.3street.org/volunteer.htm>. ●

# Partner Church Sponsorship and Trip Update 2011

by Connie Bloch

Many thanks go out to the families or groups from our church who are sponsoring 10 scholarships for our Partner Church high school students in Romania. There is no high school in our Partner church village in Homorodzentmarton, and so many of the students attend a boarding school in another city, or have added expenses with high school that make attendance difficult.

This is the third year that our church has been sponsoring high school students with scholarships and many of our sponsors continue with the same student. With the economic conditions, we know it is challenging for folks to continue their sponsorships. However, most did continue, and we have even picked up a couple new sponsors. The sponsorships are \$300 per student.

We are taking signups for the 2011 trip to Romania. The trip is planned for high school age and up. Many people have responded and we are considering running two trips that are offset by one week with the first week more youth oriented. Please contact **Monty Low**, [low.monty@gmail.com](mailto:low.monty@gmail.com), 408 348-2778, if you are interested. The trip will be two weeks long and be scheduled between July 23 and Aug 13. The cost is estimated at \$2,600. Fundraising activities and scholarship help will be available for people who sign up early.

As tough as things are for us locally, things are even more difficult for our friends in Romania. That is why we want to thank everyone from this church for their continued dedication to our Partner church. If you want to know more about this program, or sponsor a student on the waiting list, please contact **Connie** at [Connie\\_Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com). ●



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## THE ILLUMINATED BIRTH

by Ellie White

The night of The Nativity  
Shines with angel-driven text.  
And beams through signs—as seen in dreams—  
Our search for Truth, the God-Mind Quest.  
As told plain shepherds faced in awe  
Angels voice God's PEACE decree.  
They found, where sent, a Savior Birth  
In manger-shown Simplicity.  
Today We shepherd forth Our world.  
Darkness yet holds heaven's herald.  
Would we each heed Our angel call,  
We'll find in Us our Savior Child.



Illustration by Ellie White's daughter.

## Gift of Service

by Genie Bernardini

### Do You Want to Express Your Appreciation?

If you have noticed some volunteer activity or kindness done by someone in our Beloved Community and you would like to say thank you, this is the place to do it. Whether it is big or seemingly small (and often hidden), it deserves our recognition. Just send your one-sentence salute to me at [geniebee@hotmail.com](mailto:geniebee@hotmail.com)

- "I thank David Sisson for consistently depositing our church's weekly offerings at the bank." — Bob Meiss
- "I thank John Harris for unfailingly pitching in to help when extra hands are needed." — Liz Owen
- "I thank Crystal Lanier for her exquisite presentation of 'Everything Is Holy Now' at Suzanne Marsh's ordination." — Genie Bernardini ●

## Classifieds

### Inexpensive/Interest Vacations

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) for an application. If you have questions, contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com) or call 828-281-3253.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2010 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card, or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 2880

### 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](mailto:lowen@data-time.com) ●

## Christmastime Donation Station

by Claire Wagner

Consider giving toys and clothing to The "Donation Station" for clients of Catholic Charities this year. They accept anything that does not require professional repair or cleaning, even e-waste. Only clients with an open case file receive goods, so your stuff is guaranteed to go to someone who really needs it. You will not receive an IRS donation receipt, due to rules about donating directly to clients vs. contributing funds to the agency. So this is just about giving.

Volunteers will sort the goods at a community event on December 19, where they hope to receive a lot of donations.

The location is the CC offices at the corner of Zanker and Trimble in North San Jose. They will remain open until January 6, Dia de los Tres Reyes or Three Kings Day. Call **Ruben Solorio** at 325-5129 to check hours, or see <http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org>

Thanks for considering this and passing the message on to your friends and family. ●

## Spotlight on Social Justice



The Social Justice Council blog appears on the Church Webpage at: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/socialjusticeblog/>. You can subscribe to the YahooGroup For Social Justice News & Events at: [sjsjuu-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:sjsjuu-subscribe@yahogroups.com).

The **JUust Peace Action Group** will consider an overview of the Congregational Study Action Items of Ethical Eating and Peacemaking and the Statement of Conscience, Congo as well as other items based on the interests of participants. December 20 at 1:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireplace Room. Contact **John Burk** with questions, [mus6@aceweb.com](mailto:mus6@aceweb.com) ●





## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San Jose, CA 95112

### 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](mailto:steve.carr@earthlink.net)

**Next issue deadline:** 3:00 pm Wednesday, December 30, 2009

**Next issue assembly:** Tuesday, January 5, 2010

**Next issue mailing:** Wednesday, January 6, 2010

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<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**: 408-991-3212; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Contacting the Ministers

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

### Cuidado Pastoral

Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros. Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran necesitaren épocas difíciles. Para el cuidado pastoral en inglés, por favor, comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador Asociado Laico en Cuidado Pastoral, **la Rev. Donna Lenahan**: (casa) 408-354-9024; (celular) 408-204-6565; e-mail: [djlenahan@aol.com](mailto:djlenahan@aol.com). Para el cuidado pastoral en español, por favor comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador de los Ministerios en Español, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-991-3212; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Contactando a los Ministros

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

### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

**Editors:** Catherine Leeson Pelizzari and Shirley Worth; [Circular.Editors@gmail.com](mailto:Circular.Editors@gmail.com)  
*Catherine will be editor for the January 6 and February 3 issues. Shirley will be editor for the January 20 and February 17 issues.*

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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Layout: **Henry Ruddle** [Henry\\_L@ruddle.com](mailto:Henry_L@ruddle.com) ([www.ruddle.com](http://www.ruddle.com)) 408-234-3670

Translator: **Roberto Padilla**

Assembly Coordinator: **Gretchen Leavitt**

Assembly Crew: **Deanna LaTorre**

*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!\**

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
**Tracy Avent,**  
[darkmuzik@yahoo.com](mailto:darkmuzik@yahoo.com)

**SECRETARY**  
**Bob Redfern,**  
[redfern@charter.net](mailto:redfern@charter.net)

**TREASURER**  
**Bob Howd,**  
[BHowd@aol.com](mailto:BHowd@aol.com)

**PERSONNEL OFFICER**  
**Joyce Miller,**  
[j408miller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j408miller@sbcglobal.net)

**PROGRAM OFFICER**  
**Tamara Payne-Alex,**  
[paynealex@sprintmail.com](mailto:paynealex@sprintmail.com)

**FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**Dena Dickinson,**  
[dickiden@comcast.net](mailto:dickiden@comcast.net)

### DIRECTORS

**Cheri Goodman,** [cheri.goodman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cheri.goodman@sbcglobal.net)

**Rick Merritt,** [rbmerrit@cmp.com](mailto:rbmerrit@cmp.com)

**Michael Payne-Alex,**  
[michaelpaynealex@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelpaynealex@yahoo.com)

**Madeline Morrow,**  
[madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net)

### CHURCH STAFF

**Senior Minister** ..... The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones  
Ext. 23, [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com)

**Assoc. Minister For Lifespan Faith Development**..... The Rev. Geoff Rimositis  
Ext. 25, [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org)

**Office Manager**..... Susan Burke-Diquisto  
Ext. 21, [fucsj@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucsj@sanjoseuu.org)

**Coordinator of Spanish Speaking Ministries** ...Roberto Padilla  
991-3212, [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com)

**Bookkeeper**..... Sue Evanicky  
[bookkeeper@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:bookkeeper@sanjoseuu.org)

**Custodian** ..... Edgar Cruz

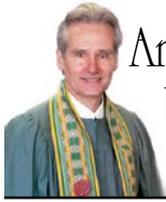
**Nursery Staff** ..... Glynda Cotton & Maria Elena Olvera

### CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: (408) 292-3858 Fax: (408) 292-4744

E-mail..... [fucsj@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucsj@sanjoseuu.org)

URL..... <http://www.sanjoseuu.org>



## Articulating Our Unitarian Universalist Faith

By the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

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As we approach the darkest day of the year let it be known that you, the members and friends of The First Unitarian Church of San José are keepers of the light. In the many ways you give of yourselves to the mission of this religious community you bring abundant light into the world. Sparkles of your light included the wonderful ordination service and celebration for **Suzanne Marsh** on Sunday, December 6.

Much thanks goes to **Michael Payne-Alex**, who coordinated the event and the many helpers who blinded us with their brilliance in creating a peak experience for Suzanne and our community. It means so much that our church honors the living tradition of ministry through the ages embodied in Sunday's rite— and the way we have kept the liberal religious light shining in our valley and beyond for the past 144 years.

On behalf of the church staff and our Third Street Community colleagues who share with us our office, building and vision of the beloved community, may this season of light, wonder and peace, fill your hearts to overflowing. And please do not keep that luminous spirit of yours under the bushel basket. Let it shine for all the world to see.

With deep gratitude, appreciation and heartfelt wishes for a happy holiday season and an abundant new year.

Geoff .



## Common Security Club- Facilitated Sessions

**January 14, 18, February 11, 25 & March 11— 7-8:30 p.m. (Come to one! Come to all!)**

*Coming Together to Prepare for  
Economic and Ecological Change*

These are uncertain times. The economic crisis has reminded us of our vulnerabilities. Debt. Foreclosure. Evaporating Savings. Rising Costs. Job Insecurity. We can face these changes alone — or come together.

### What is a Common Security Club?

- A place to come together to enhance our personal security in a rapidly changing world.
- A chance to learn about the root causes of our economic and ecological challenges.
- A way to be part of a national movement of common security clubs that are connected to religious, civic, labor and small business organizations — all working to transform the economy so that it works for everyone.
- In the process, a forum to get to know neighbors (co-workers, etc), find inspiration, have fun, and strengthen community.