



Our Church Circular

November 4,
2009 / 4 de
Noviembre

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

November Theme: Simplicity

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

8 de Noviembre – 9:30 a.m.

Tiempo de crisis, tiempo de oportunidades

Estamos viviendo por un tiempo de crisis. Esto me recuerda las palabras de mi madre: “Al mal tiempo, buena cara.”

Exploremos como reaccionamos cuando estamos en tiempos difíciles.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Time of Crisis, Time of Opportunities

We are living in a time of crisis. This reminds me of my mother's words: “A hard time, a good face.” We explore together how we react in hard times.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

SOURCES SUNDAY

November 8 – 11:00 a.m.

Sustainable Living

“Sustainability is a practical principle, but it also has moral implications. For a culture to thrive and for there to be a general increase in happiness, measures to ameliorate inequality and injustice must be taken. A mountain of physical amenities is no substitute for a clear conscience.”—Rev. Michael A. Schuler, “Making The Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living.” We will look at the practical and the philosophical of what it means to live simply so others may simply live. How much is enough? How do we begin to make changes in our lives that will lead us to creating a sustainable world?

Worship Leader: Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Worship Associate: Jeff Norment

Vida Sustentable

“Sostenibilidad es un principio práctico, pero también tiene implicaciones morales. Para que una cultura prospere y para que haya un aumento general de felicidad, deberán adoptarse medidas para mejorar la desigualdad y la injusticia. Una montaña de comodidades físicas no es ningún sustituto para una conciencia tranquila.”— Reverendo Michael A. Schuler, “Haciendo la Buena Vida: Las últimas cuatro claves para una vida sostenible.” Veremos lo práctico y lo filosófico de lo que significa vivir simplemente para que otros simplemente puedan vivir. ¿Cuánto es suficiente? ¿Cómo empezamos a hacer cambios en nuestras vidas que nos conducirá a la creación de un mundo sostenible?

Dirige: Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Asociado de Culto: Jeff Norment

See page 5 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

November 8, Sunday, UU Band of Writers, 12:30, Youth Room

November 14, Saturday, Service is Our Prayer Church work party, 9 am-2 pm, FUCSJ

November 15, Sunday, Reading with Rev. Nancy, 1:00-2:30 pm, Youth Room

November 21, Saturday, 2-5 pm, Labyrinth Guild presentation about labyrinths and walking meditation

December 1, Tuesday, last day to apply to be a Worship Associate. For info, call Mary Martin at 354-8878.

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, FUCSJ

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

January 9, Saturday, 5:30 pm, Annual Service Auction and Dinner, FUCSJ

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

Photographer & Bulletin Board Designer Wanted

If you are an amateur photographer or just enjoy being a shutter bug taking pictures it would be wonderful to put your interests and camera to use in helping to chronicle the goings on at First Unitarian, e.g. classes, social events, political rallies, etc. And then you or a Bulletin Board Designer would take those photos and display them on the bulletin boards at the landing at the bottom of the stairs leading to the lower level classrooms.

If you are interested in taking pictures and/or using your scrap booking skills to display photos of the community than that would be a wonderful contribution to the life of our church. Please contact Rev. Geoff at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org or 408-292-3858, 25



As we build
the beloved
community...

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...

Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Simplicity: The Complex Task of Living a Balanced Life

| | |
|---|--|
| Can we you and I sit down and be still? What new habits of attention will awaken then? How then will we spend our thoughts emotions time money physicality each day? How then will we replenish them each day? | “Holy rest good work godly play” Barbara Brown Taylor, you say that’s the balance* So: what Calder shapes hang from the mobiles of our lives? What breath of attention will make them sway? What dance will swing our selves our world into sustainable beauty? Shall we you and I sit down and be still? |
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*Barbara Brown Taylor, “The Balancing Act: Holy Rest, Good Work, Godly Play,” Perdue lectures, Stone Church of Willow Glen, 23-24 October 2009.

(You can read a longer version of this column on Rev. Nancy’s blog, accessible from the home page of our website, www.sanjoseuu.org, or in the on-line, .html, version of this newsletter.) ●

Simplicidad: La Compleja Tarea de Vivir una Vida Balanceada

| | |
|---|--|
| ¿Podremos nosotros tú y yo y yo Sentarnos y ser todavía? ¿Qué nuevos hábitos de atención se despiertan entonces? ¿Cómo entonces gastaremos nuestros pensamientos emociones tiempo dinero físico ¿cada día? Como entonces los reemplazaremos ¿cada día? | “Santo descanso buen trabajo divino juego” Barbara Brown Taylor, tu dices que es el equilibrio* Lo: ¿qué formas cuelga Calder de los móviles de nuestras vidas? ¿qué soplo de atención ¿los hará balancearse? ¿qué danza nos balanceara a nosotros a nuestro mundo dentro de la sostenible belleza ? ¿Deberemos nosotros tú y yo sentarnos y ser todavía? |
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*Barbara Brown Taylor, “The Balancing Act: Holy Rest, Good Work, Godly Play,” Perdue Lectures, Stone Church of Willow Glen, 23-24 October 2009.

(Usted puede leer una versión más larga de esta columna en el blog de la Rev. Nancy, accesible desde la página de inicio de nuestro sitio Web, www.sanjoseuu.org o en línea, en versión .html, de este boletín.) ●

Chaplain Training 2010!

What is a chaplain training? Chaplain Trainings are small working conferences designed for youth and advisors to gain skills centered on the skills needed to effectively listen to, affirm, and emotionally support conferees at youth events. Chaplains are individuals who help manage crises, ensure a healthy and safe atmosphere, and bring spiritual resources and support to the community.

Chaplain Training focuses on the following:

- Understanding confidentiality—when to keep and when to break for safety concerns
- Maintaining appropriate personal boundaries (physical, emotional, etc.)
- Perceiving and responding to the needs of the conference community as a whole
- Developing communication skills: active listening, non-verbals, etc.
- Being an empathetic listener, understanding and accepting different emotional situations

- Working as a team with other chaplains, worship planners, and conference staff
- Legal and ethical considerations to ensure a safe and healthy conference community
- Responsible, intentional and culturally appropriate use of worship materials

Who can come? This event is being put on for members of the PCD YRUU Conference community. Both youth (14-20) and advisors (25 and older) are welcome, *with younger (14-17) youth and Adult Advisors especially encouraged to attend.* There are many spaces open, so if you are interested in

coming but not involved with PCD YRUU, you are still more than welcome.

Cost: If you would like to attend, the fee is a sliding scale from \$60-80, and need-based scholarships are available and given liberally.

To register, request scholarships, or ask questions, please contact the dean/registrar, Jason George, at george.jasonr@gmail.com or (707) 685-1648. Registration and payment will be collected at the door. Please come fed, no dinner will be served the first night. Registration deadline is December 25, 2009.



Ministers' Discretionary Fund

by the Committee on Ministries

Christmas Eve at First Unitarian is always one of the most magical and memorable evenings of the church year: Familiar carols joyously sung by all, special music by the choir, the ethereal solo of "O Holy Night" as the lights go down, the passing of the light from candle to candle, soul to soul, the evergreen decorations, the Offering (collection).... Well, maybe the Offering at both evening services isn't quite as memorable as some of our other traditions but it can do magical things! The contributions made that evening go to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund.

This fund gives our ministers a way to help those of us who may find themselves in a financial emergency where a small amount of money can bridge what seems to us an impossible gap. Especially in hard times when more of us are living on less and can be very vulnerable to unexpected expenses, we all need to remember that this resource exists as a ministry of our church community. If you are in need, or to get more information, please contact Rev. Nancy or Rev. Geoff directly. ●

Fondo Discrecional de los Ministros

La víspera de la Nochebuena en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria siempre es una de las noches más mágicas y memorables del año en la Iglesia: Villancicos familiares alegremente cantados por todos, música especial por el coro, el solo etéreo de "Noche de Paz" mientras las luces van bajando, el paso de la flama de vela a vela, de alma a alma, las decoraciones perennes, la ofrenda (colección).... Bueno, tal vez la ofrenda en ambos servicios por la noche no es tan memorable como algunas de nuestras otras tradiciones, pero pueden hacer cosas mágicas! Las contribuciones realizadas esa noche irán al fondo discrecional de los Ministros.

Este fondo proporciona a nuestros ministros una manera de ayudar a aquellos de nosotros que podemos encontrar en una emergencia financiera donde una pequeña cantidad de dinero puede salvar lo que nos parece una brecha imposible. Especialmente en tiempos difíciles cuando muchos de nosotros estamos viviendo con menos y podemos ser muy vulnerables a los gastos inesperados, todos debemos recordar que este recurso existe como un Ministerio de nuestra comunidad de la Iglesia. Si tiene alguna necesidad, o para obtener más información, por favor póngase en contacto directamente con la Rev. Nancy o el Rev. Geoff. ●

Service Auction Donations Needed!

by Jan Theiss-Guffey

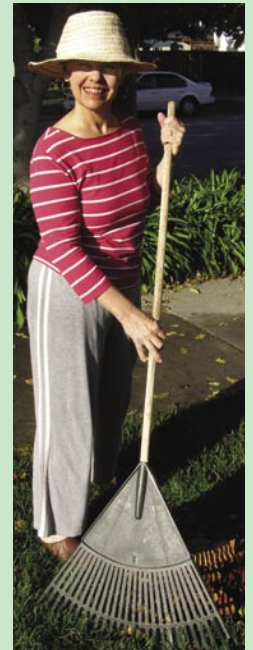
What can you give for the service auction? We need your entries today, so we can get the catalog ready! Can you offer:



Computer help?



Mending & alterations?



Handyman or gardening services? Photos by Jim Guffey.

Send me an email today! jantg@yahoo.com. I need: a description of the service, what you think the value is, what the minimum bid should be. Now is the time to decide what service you can offer in our silent auction, one of our biggest fund-raisers for our church! Thank you! ●

Postponed until Next Year: Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat

ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

In the interests of our theme for November—"Simplicity"—and because enrollment was a little low for this early Saturday morning time, we will postpone the Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat until a suitable time in spring 2010! Stay tuned for more news of this fun retreat—which offers a chance for "holy play"—after the New Year. ●

Aplazado Hasta el Próximo Año: Retiro Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other

ORIGINAMENTE PROGRAMADO PARA EL SÁBADO,
7 DE NOVIEMBRE

En el interés de nuestro tema para noviembre: "Simplicidad"—y porque la inscripción era un poco baja para este momento de la mañana del sábado, se aplaza el retiro Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other hasta un tiempo adecuado en la primavera del 2010. Esté atento para más noticias de este divertido retiro — el cual ofrece una oportunidad para "Santo juego": después de año nuevo. ●





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 looks like a dog and is proud of it. Whose work is showing in New York City? Somebody has a really rotten kid. I mean punks and thieves. WHICH ISSUE OF CIRCLING AROUND MENTIONS THE MOST CHURCH MEMBERS?

It's **Dana Grover's** work. One of his photos was in a show at the SF Museum of Art, and it is now in New York. This is hot stuff, people. Most photographers bask in the glory of all their relatives, but in New York!!!! Here's a link to the picture that made it: The assignment was to make a picture inspired by Ansel Adams' "Moon over Half Dome." Dana's is titled "Half Moon over Dome." Check it out at http://www.flickr.com/photos/d_grover/3821058346/

From **Rebecca Mason:**

jacob and **jessy** won the BARK IN THE PARK lookalike contest at the annual downtown bark event. **steve stein** and his dog **cosmo** had won a few years ago, and steve and **gary mccumber** arrived just in time to see jake win. it was very fun. i think i mentioned that 2nd place went to a woman who owned a butt ugly bulldog. she had a great sense of humor about it, they had identical round faces with no neck. her tongue did not stick out however. (Rebecca used up all her capital letters in one night in New Orleans.)



Ruby Delgros (age 12) is proud to be performing in the musical "Oliver!" with the Children's Musical Theater San Jose. She plays "Sammy," one of the Orphan Thieves (you know, those punk kids who hang around with old man Fagin, and that degenerate "Artful Dodger"). To purchase tickets for one of the December performances, you can go to <http://www.cmts.org/tickets/> (IMPORTANT: remember that Ruby's in the DICKENS cast) or you can just ask Ruby herself at church!

Last Sunday I asked members of our very own congregation the following question: If

you had a long weekend to yourself, where would you go and what would you do?

Seemed pretty easy to me, but then the Silicon Valley and the times checked in. I got lots of answers asking for more definition: How many days? Am I paying? Alone? How far can I go? All you analytics. I'm pleased to say that **Michael Payne-Alex** spontaneously said "one of those hotel rooms in Fiji that are on stilts in the water. I would meditate, read, write, and one further thing I can't mention here." Yeah! Not a single hesitation. And he could SEE it!

Anne Gunn thought for a long time and finally said a campground at Crater Lake. "I went there once and will never forget how blue that lake is. Blue blue blue." **Pam Price** would go to the ocean - Monterey.

OK, I'm really not going to judge people's dreams, but I think these answers could be easily sorted. Poor **Nancy PJ** - has to reach all her constituencies. **Sue Patrick** would go to the beach and watch **Robbie** run around in the surf. **Frank Bosche** would go to Death Valley for the silence and the peace, the simplicity of the landscape, and will never forget a trip there staying in a crummy motel in Beatty, Nevada (which I couldn't even find on a map).

Julia Rodriguez would take her knitting and go to her cabin. Claims she can walk and knit at the same time. **Bob Howd** would go to Zion to walk through the canyons. Because I've never been there, but want to, I found out if you want to drive straight through it's only 8-10 hours. It could happen.

Gene Martin would go to London - no hesitation- and spend as much time as he could cram in one day at the Science Museum! **Bob Redfern** would do silly little things at home. Oh, and then go to church. **Barbara Derbyshire** would stay home, garden, and read. **Bev Clifford** would have a Girls Party

with singing and poetry recitals, and music by Elton John, Creedence, and Dr. Demento.

Jan Theiss-Guffy would go to Santa Cruz for surf lessons and then get a massage from "a great big hunk."

Billie Wachter would go to Pacific Grove to look at the water. She has a couple of very good memories from there. **Frank Farris** would go to his office to catch up. Yawn. **Liz Owen** would go to a garden, of course, but England's Blenheim Garden. And finally, **Dena Dickinson** would go to Paris. To just selected museums and neighborhoods. As I left her, she was thinking of a tea place that gave you the history of tea, and had 60 different kinds of Darjeeling. . . . I think you could set up a pretty interesting dinner party guest list just from these answers.

And look what our former Social Justice Coordinator **Patrick O'Connell** is up to now! (Seems he hasn't really abandoned social justice work at all): "I now work from home with Pre-Paid Legal Services. PPL was founded in 1972 to make "equal justice under law" a reality in the US and Canada by making attorneys affordable for middle class people. Our month-to-month membership covers the entire family. Our members can call their law firm with any legal question, large or small, and have an attorney on call 24-hours-a-day for legal emergencies. Our attorneys also write letters or make phone calls, review contracts, and prepare wills, all for one low monthly membership fee. We also have a companion identity theft service as well." For more information, contact Pat O'Connell at 408-460-2935.

White Light Corner: **Mary McGuiness** has a lymph node affected by melanoma. She's back in the Bay Area and probably looking at chemo. Please surround her with a healing intense white light. ●



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

DOMINGO DE LA TEOLOGÍA

15 de Noviembre – 9:30 a.m.

Meditación I: Cuando el Silencio Habla

Las solicitudes de la Congregación para un servicio centrado en la meditación y en las prácticas meditativas se responden esta semana mientras exploramos los regalos del silencio. Permitámonos caminar por la “carretera hogar” (mientras el coro canta), a partir de fuentes budistas y otras, para descubrir nuestra propia “pequeña voz de adentro”. Vengan a experimentar la belleza y el poder de compartir una práctica meditativa en Comunidad.

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

THEOLOGY SUNDAY

November 15 – 11:00 a.m.

Meditation I: When Silence Speaks

Congregants' requests for worship centered on meditation and meditative practices are answered with this two-week worship series. This week we explore the gifts of silence. Let us walk the “road home” (as the choir will sing), drawing on Buddhist and other sources to discover our own “still small voice within.” Come experience the beauty and power of sharing a meditative practice in community.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Worship Associate: Mary Martin

DOMINGO DE COMPAÑERISMO

November 22 – 9:30 a.m.

El Poder de la Palabra

Comunicación es un tema de todos los días y de muchos debates. Las comunicaciones se dan entre los seres humanos a través de muchos medios electrónicos, nosotros nos comunicamos oralmente con nuestros seres queridos, amigos, compañeros de trabajo y con mucha gente con la que tenemos trato diariamente, ¿pero que es lo que comunicamos? ¿Realmente sabemos comunicarnos? Vengan y exploremos este tema de comunicación.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

The Power of the Word

Communication is something we do every day and is the subject of many debates. Communications occur between human beings through many electronic media; we communicate orally with our loved ones, friends, co-workers and many people with whom we have contact every day, but what is it that we communicate? Do we really know how to communicate? Come and explore this topic of communication.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

November 22 - 11:00am

Meditation II: Sacred Reading—When the Text Reads Us

Lectio divina, or sacred reading, is a meditative practice that opens our hearts and minds in new and deeper ways to the meaning and relevance of a text, whether that text is a story, a poem, or a part of scripture. It's almost as if the text is “reading us”! Enriching and often surprising, this spiritual practice is perfect for Unitarian Universalists. Let us enter into a season of gratitude with this new practice!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Donna Lenahan

Meditación II: Lectura sagrada: Cuando el Texto Nos Lee

Lectio divina o lectura sagrada, es una práctica meditativa que abre nuestros corazones y mentes de formas nuevas y más profundas para el significado y la relevancia de un texto, ya sea que ese texto sea una historia, un poema o una parte de las escrituras. Es casi como si el texto estuviera “leyéndonos”! Enriqueciéndonos y a menudo sorprendiéndonos, esta práctica espiritual es perfecta para los Unitarios Universalistas. Tenemos que entrar en una temporada de gratitud con esta nueva práctica!

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Asociada de Culto: Donna Lenahan ●

Should Children Walk the Labyrinth?

by Genie Bernardini

Here are some comments from those who have: “It was very, very, very, very, very FUN!” “It takes my mind away.” “I like it super much.” “Peace, joy and freedom to fly!” “It was interesting, relaxing, fun and really neat.”

To learn more about this community treasure, come to the Labyrinth Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 2:00-5:00 pm. For further information, contact

Karen Harper at owlharper@gmail.com. ●



The book fair fund-raiser in HPH held Sunday, October 18, featured books chosen for especially for our wide-ranging interests by the “Book Elf” at Hicklebee’s. Photo by Dani Hope.



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

Sunday Children's Classes

The Arts & Spiritual Practice – Kindergarten - Grade 5

(Lower Level, Classrooms 2-6)

Each Sunday after the children 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. The children will be presenting a musical offering for the Day of the Dead service on November 1. After we all do music, children choose to participate in community building games or an art activity that will become part of the Day of the Dead altar 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 Group Room)

The senior high youth group meets weekly from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 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 youth's 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.

Our Whole Lives – Grades 7-9

Youth: Saturday, November 7, 7:00 pm to Sunday, November 8, 3:30 pm, Isola Studio, Mountain View

Parent Group: Sunday, November 8, 1:30-3:00 pm Classrooms 4-6

Theme: Relationship Skills, Thorny Issues in Friendship, Dating and Lifetime Commitments

Youth: Sunday, November 15, 3:30-5:30 pm, Fireside Room

Parents: Sunday, November 15, 3:30-5:30 pm, Classrooms 4-6

Theme: Contraception (Guest: Planned Parenthood)

Youth: Saturday, November 21, 7pm to Sunday, November 22, 3:30 pm, Isola Studio, Mountain View

Parent Group, Sunday, Nov. 22, 1:30-3:00 pm, Classrooms 4-6

Theme: Unintended Pregnancy Options, Lovemaking is More Than Sex, Defining and Redefining Abstinence, Sexual Behaviors ●

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 5th 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. Email me at 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. ●



Dan Zulevic sang "In the Still of the Night" by Cole Porter at the October 18 service. Photo by Dani Hope.



Common Security Club Starting At the Church

Introductory Meeting:
Thursday, December 10, 7-8:30 pm
(Classrooms 4-6, lower level)

<http://commonsecurityclub.org/index.php>

What's a Common Security Club?

A place to:

- Come together to grapple with our personal security in a rapidly changing world.
- To learn about the root causes of our economic and ecological challenges.
- To explore ways to increase our personal/economic security through mutual aid and shared action.
- To build on what we have together — and strengthen the institutions that we all depend on.
- In the process, make friends, find inspiration, have fun, and strengthen community.

There are three basic components:

Learn: Through popular education tools, videos and shared readings, participants increase their understanding of the larger economic forces on our lives.

Mutual Aid – Local Action:

Through stories, examples, web-based resources, a workbook and mutual support, participants reflect on what makes them secure.

Social

Action:

Many of our challenges won't be solved through personal or local mutual aid efforts. They require us to work together to press for larger state, national and even global changes.

For more information, contact the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org, 408-292-3858, 25. ●



Gifts of Service by Genie Bernardini

Volunteer Recognition: Henry Ruddle--Talented, Thoughtful and Fun!

The professional-looking layout of the newsletter we are fortunate enough to enjoy each month is the work of this amazing man, **Henry Ruddle**. Not only does Henry very generously contribute his considerable skills as a marketing communications consultant to our publication, but he does so in addition to his full-time job and raising 7 children, from ages 2 to 17, with his wife **Michelle**!

Working on our newsletter, he says, “was a natural fit for me” since he has written, edited and designed thousands of them. And since he has experience in many areas of communication, he has shared his talents through the Website Committee and in making fliers, banners, signs, “whatever was needed,” for numerous church activities.

But this is not all. Henry also was on the Weddings and Events Committee and is now on the Membership Committee, singing in the choir and serving as a Worship Associate. He finds being a W.A. especially rewarding. “Working out themes and writing reflections has been a great stimulus to my search for truth in freedom, and it’s fun to make people laugh,” he says.

This man’s sense of humor and intellectual depth have been obvious in his reflections from the pulpit. And his explorations into our faith have led him to an appreciation of Unitarianism as he sees it: “our church has 300 members with 500 theologies. There’s no one who thinks like me or like anyone else. People are allowed to try new things, say what they feel and change things up. No two services are the same, and you have to be ready for anything. If we have any ‘true believers’ at our church, I don’t think I’ve met them (well, maybe on global warming or vegetarianism). Most of us seem to hold our beliefs somewhat provisionally. We are comfortable with them and believe they are correct, but keep an open mind to allow our ideas to change and grow. We seek for truth in peace.”

We are clearly very fortunate to have such a man as part of our Beloved Community, and we thank you, Henry, for all you have given us. ●



Rear (l-r): step-daughters Mariah, Mercediez, Kristina; Middle (l-r): nephew Michael, wife Michelle, Henry
Front (l-r): Lily, Jefferson, Zach

Spirit in Practice: Monthly Adult Program

Workshop 10: Looking Back and Looking Forward
Sunday, December 6, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Youth Room

The *Spirit in Practice* workshops helps 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. ●



Upcoming Events



Photo by Tracy Avent

Come Celebrate the Ordination of Suzanne Marsh!

by Michael Payne-Alex

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, 408-363-1875) and contact **Kelly Burnett** (kelly@kellybur.com or (408) 723-7237) to find out what food to bring and/or to volunteer to help set up and clean up afterwards. See you there! ●

Women's Alliance

We will meet at the home of **Jean vonKaenel** on Thursday, November 5, from 7:15 to 9:15. This second session from the revised *Rise Up and Call Her Name* curriculum focuses on the goddess Hecate and looks at goddess imagery from around the world. Please contact **Nancy Coleman** at nbcoleman@gmail.com or 408 985 5778 for more information or directions to Jean's. ●

¡Ven Celebrar la Ordenación de Suzanne Marsh!

Por Michael Payne-Alex

El 20 Septiembre, la congregación voto 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 Kelly Burnett (kelly@kellybur.com, (408) 723-7237) para averiguar que alimentos traer y/o ser voluntarios para ayudar a poner y posteriormente recoger. ¡Los veré ahí! ●

More About Ordination Help and Other Ways to Serve Our Congregation

By Kelly Burnett

For the ordination of **Suzanne Marsh**, to be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 6th, the committee planning finger food for the ministers before the ordination and the dinner after the ordination needs your help. We still need finger foods, 10-20 lasagnas to feed at least ten people each, and green salads. Please let **Kelly Burnett** at kelly@kellybur.com know or **Kim Aldridge** at kimardie@hotmail.com know what you will bring for this event as absolutely soon possible, preferably the day this you receive this newsletter.

We also need people who will help clean up after the ordination and ask you to contact Brian Singer at reedsinger@sbcglobal.net or Michael Payne-Alex at michaelpaynealex@yahoo.com if you can help with that.

Help is also needed for the PACT Tea in late January 2010 so please contact Diana Wirt at diwirt@sbcglobal.net or Connie Bloch at connie_bloch@yahoo.com if you can help there.

We are grateful for your generosity and participation so please don't make us come to your house! :-) ●

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>

Contagious Love Experiment

- Iraq Vets Biking for Peace

Saturday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m.
San Jose Peace & Justice Center, 48 S. 7th Street, San Jose

Veterans for Peace Chapter 101 will host Josh Steiber and John Curran, two Iraq war veterans traveling across the country on foot and on bicycle, talking about their experiences in the military and Iraq while promoting peaceful problem solving.

A woman among warlords - Story of an Afghan woman who raised her voice

Saturday, November 7 at 3:45 p.m.
San Jose State University, Engineering Auditorium, San Jose

Malalai Joya has been called the bravest woman in Afghanistan. Elected to the Afghan parliament in 2003 and 2005, she was suspended in 2007 for challenging the presence of warlords in the Afghan parliament. She has been compared to the symbol of Burma's democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi. Malalai Joya will release and sign her memoir: "A Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice." This event is sponsored by South Bay Mobilization.

Caregivers Count

November 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This is a free full-day conference for families and friends caring for an aging loved one. Seminars include Self Care, Dementia Communication, Relaxation Techniques, Medicare/Medical, and Caregiver Stories of Healing and Hope. Registration is closed, but you can still sign up for the webcast.

For information, visit www.healthtrust.org/caregiverscount or call 559-5589. ●



UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the November 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, November 4

Long Ridge, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Downey Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

Saturday, November 7

Butano State Park, 6 miles, moderate. This is long day due to travel time and pie eating in Pescadero. Plan to get back around 4:30 pm. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, November 11

Almaden Quicksilver (Hacienda Entrance), 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza Shopping Center at 8:30 am or come to my house at 8:15 am to carpool from here.

Saturday, November 14

Mission Peak, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capitol at Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, November 18

Montebello Open Space Preserve, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, November 21

Sanborn County Park, 6-7 miles. Meet at Downey Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, November 25

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

Saturday, November 29

Almaden Quicksilver, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond in Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am. Or at the trail head at the Hacienda entrance at 8:15 am. ●

Our Church's Endowment Fund: Your Questions Answered

By Gordon Smith

In October 2007, the First Unitarian Church of San Jose set up an Endowment Fund, along with a Planned Giving Committee to raise money for it. This article deals with some of the most common issues and questions that we've heard about what the Endowment Fund is about and how it works.

How is the Endowment Fund different than the contributions I make every year during the pledge drive?

The annual pledge drive is all about raising money to meet the church's needs for operating funds for the short term — typically the coming year. These operating funds are used for everything from salaries to paying the PG&E bill. In contrast, the Endowment Fund is focused on creating a source of funds to meet the church's long-term needs. A long-term need might be anything from a capital project (such as a building renovation) to a new church social action project.

I'm not in a financial position to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund right now.

For most members of the church who take part in the Planned Giving program, this program is about a bequest in your will — it's not about making a contribution right now. You could of course decide to make a Fund gift contribution today, but that's less common than the bequest approach.

I'm not sure that there will be enough money in my estate to cover the needs of my own children, let alone make a bequest to the church.

You should of course make sure that you take care of the needs of your family first. One suggestion is this: Since it's not possible for most people to know exactly how much money there will be in their estate when they pass away, it may be best to specify a minimum threshold amount that must be paid to family heirs first — before any other beneficiaries receive anything. In that case, if and only if that threshold is exceeded would any bequest to the church take effect. You should talk to your own family and your lawyer before making any decisions on this matter.

What will prevent the Endowment Fund from being quickly depleted?

No money will be paid out from the Fund until it has reached \$1 million or until five years have passed, whichever comes first. From that point, money will be disbursed at a sustainable level, so that the Fund does not get depleted — and in fact continues to grow.

How do I go about making a bequest in my will?

Name the "First Unitarian Church of San Jose Endowment Fund" as a beneficiary in your will. Changes to your will require that you consult your lawyer and/or use the services of a notary.

Can I specify how the money in my bequest will be spent by the Church?

Yes. The Endowment Fund has been set up with money in two funds: an Unrestricted Reserve Fund and a Building Reserve Fund. The Unrestricted Reserve Fund can be used for any approved purpose (but NOT for the church's operating expenses except with the approval by a three-fourths majority vote at a congregational meeting). The Building Reserve Fund is to be used only for support of the church property. You choose which of these funds you want to contribute to.

If you want to specify in more detail how your bequest will be used, you can instead make it in the form of a Restricted Gift. You can indicate how you want the money to be spent, as long as it is for purposes in line with the church's mission and policies — such as support of Religious Education, Music Programs, Community Outreach, and so on.

If you have any questions, please email gordonsmith100@gmail.com or contact any of the members of the Planned Giving Committee: **Bob Owens, Jean vonKaenel, Gordon Smith or Claire Wagner.** ●





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

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, November 18, 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; Circular.Editors@gmail.com
Shirley will be editor for the November 18 and December 16 issues. Catherine will be editor for the December 2 and January 6, 2010 issues.

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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