



Our Church Circular

November 18,
2009 / 18 de
Noviembre

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

November Theme: *Simplicity*

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

DOMINGO DE COMPAÑERISMO

November 22 – 9:30 a.m.

**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: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

November 22 – 11:00 a.m.

**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

See page 5 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

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 Associ-
ate. For info, call Mary Martin at
354-8878.

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

December 6, Sunday, 4-7 pm, Ordi-
nation of Suzanne Marsh, FUCSJ

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

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

December 13, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
to 3:00 p.m., Fireside Gift Faire,
Hattie Porter Hall

December 17, Thursday, Third
Street Annual Posada

December 20, Sunday, Children's
Holiday Play, 11:00 a.m.

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

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

January 9, Saturday, 5:30 pm, An-
nual Service Auction and Dinner,
FUCSJ

FUCSJ Stands on the Side of Love

On Monday, November 2, an interfaith group rallied for a march and vigil to “Keep the Faith for Marriage Equality.” FUCSJ's ministers Rev. Geoff and Rev. Nancy, and Spanish-speaking Ministries Coordinator Roberto Padilla, all had speaking parts, and many FUCSJ members showed up to swell the crowd outside City Hall to about 200. We are standing on the side of Love! – NPJ



Rev. Diana Gibson, Santa Clara County Council of Churches (event sponsor)



From left to right: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Roberto Padilla, Rev. John Freeseemann (Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church), Rev. Marietta Borgel (Center for Spiritual Enlightenment), Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

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



As we build
the beloved
community...

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...

Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Simplicity:

A Few More Steps on the Journey

In the last edition of the newsletter, I began to ponder this month's theme of "Simplicity." My blog, <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/rev-n-pjblog/>, holds both the poem and the essay that I offered then; look for "Simplicity: The Complex Task of Living a Balanced Life." Will you walk with me now as we continue this journey?

Here is what we have been exploring: What happens when we develop the spiritual practice of sitting still—sitting still long enough and often enough to begin to notice how we are spending our resources? Not just our money resources but also the resources of our thoughts, emotions, time, and physicality—our energy. How are we spending each of these resources each day? Each week? How are we replenishing them each day? Each week?

Are we living within our means? Are we living a sustainably? Are we replenishing our resources at a "richer" rate than we are spending them? Do our thoughts, for example, bring us more energy, more insight, more joy or depth—or do they deplete us? We have a choice about how we "spend" our thoughts. And what resources have we discovered for replenishing our thoughts? A well-written book; a piece of art; a loving conversation; active engagement for the good of others; the practice of centering meditation when we take a break from "thinking"? Our thoughts are a resource that can be spent wisely or poorly, and that need replenishing. Isn't this a mind-boggling idea?

The same is true of our feelings: On which feelings do we dwell; which ones do we encourage? How do we "replenish" our feelings?

So, too, with our time: Which uses of our time bring us closer to our authentic self? Which ways do we spend our time that distance us from what we value most? How do we replenish a sense of spaciousness in the time we are given each day?

And which uses of our body, of our physical energies, actually give us more energy? Which uses deplete us? How are we restoring these energies?

Earlier this month, I chose to spend part of my time cleaning out my e-mail in-box. My in-box was like a room in the house where we toss all our clutter until finally we dread opening the door. There are valuable treasures in that room—we know there are—so we can't just haul everything away. Just so, my e-mail in-box was stacked high with messages that were no longer "new" but that I couldn't simply delete. Most of them had been skimmed and responded to, but some of them had arrived on days when I couldn't even get into that room; they were still bright bold, "unread." Some of those e-mails were being temporarily stored, waiting to be filed—except that "temporarily" had now stretched into months. Many messages needed to be deleted, but I had never formed the habit of getting rid of them right away. My in-box once again held thousands of e-mails.

So, for several hours a day over the course of several days, I en-

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Simplicidad:

Algunos Pasos Más en el Viaje

En la última edición del boletín, empecé a reflexionar sobre el tema de este mes de la "Simplicidad". Mi blog <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/rev-n-pjblog/>, contiene el poema y el ensayo que ofrecí entonces; buscando la "simplicidad: La Compleja Tarea de Vivir una Vida Balanceada." ¿Caminarán conmigo ahora mientras seguimos este viaje?

Aquí esta lo que nosotros hemos estado explorando: ¿qué ocurre cuando desarrollamos la práctica espiritual de sentarnos inmóviles— aún sentarnos el tiempo suficiente y a menudo lo suficiente para empezar a observar cómo estamos empleando nuestros recursos? No sólo nuestros recursos económicos, sino también los recursos de nuestros pensamientos, de nuestras emociones, de nuestro tiempo y nuestro físico— nuestra energía. ¿Cómo estamos empleando cada uno de estos recursos cada día? ¿Cada semana? ¿Cómo estamos reponiéndolos cada día? ¿Cada semana?

¿Estamos viviendo de acuerdo a nuestras posibilidades? ¿Acaso vivimos en una forma sostenible? ¿Estamos reponiendo nuestros recursos con un interés "más rico" de lo que los estamos empleando? ¿Nuestros pensamientos, por ejemplo, nos traen más energía, más comprensión, más alegría o profundidad — o se nos agotan? Tenemos una opción acerca de cómo "empleamos" nuestros pensamientos. ¿Y qué recursos hemos descubierto para reponer nuestros pensamientos? ¿Un libro bien escrito, una obra de arte, una deliciosa conversación, un activo compromiso para el bien de los demás, la práctica de la meditación enfocada cuando nos hemos tomado un respiro de "pensamiento"? Nuestros pensamientos son un recurso que pueden ser empleados mal o sabiamente, y que necesitan ser repuestos. ¿No es esta una emocionante idea?

Lo mismo ocurre con nuestros sentimientos: en qué sentimientos nos detenemos; cuales nos alientan? ¿Cómo "reponemos" nuestros sentimientos?

¿Así, también, con nuestro tiempo: Como usamos nuestro tiempo para acercarnos a nuestro auténtico yo? ¿De que manera empleamos nuestro tiempo que nos distancia de lo que más valoramos? ¿Cómo reponer el sentido de amplitud en el tiempo que se nos da cada día?

¿Y que utiliza nuestro cuerpo de nuestras energías físicas, realmente nos da más energía? ¿Cómo lo utilizamos que nos agota? ¿Cómo estamos restaurando estas energías?

A principios de este mes, decidí pasar parte de mi tiempo en limpiar la caja de mi correo electrónico. Mi correo era como un cuarto en la casa donde echamos todo nuestro desorden hasta que finalmente tememos abrir la puerta. En ese cuarto hay valiosos tesoros: sabemos que ahí están — por lo que simplemente no podemos transportarlo todo lejos. Por lo tanto, la caja de mi correo electrónico estaba apilada con mensajes que ya no eran "nuevos", pero que yo no podía simplemente eliminar. La mayoría de ellos habían sido leídos rápidamente y respondidos también, pero algunos de ellos habían llegado en días cuando yo no podía incluso estar en ese cuarto; estaban todavía brillantemente en negritas, "no leídos". Algunos de esos correos electrónicos estaban siendo almacenados temporalmente, esperando a ser archivados, excepto que "temporalmente" ahora se había estirado en meses. Muchos mensajes necesitaban ser eliminados, pero nunca me

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Third Street has a challenge for the holidays!

Dear Friends of Third Street, This winter, the Frieda C. Fox Foundation will match your contribution, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per person. The foundation, which supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for underserved youth, is sponsoring our Robotics Program for the second consecutive year. Third Street will receive a \$5,000 grant if we can raise \$5,000 by the end of December 2009.

Please help us meet this challenge. Letters and envelopes are available near the bulletin board outside Hattie Porter Hall, and

there will soon be a link on our website at www.3street.org for online giving.

Another way you can help us meet this challenge is by forwarding our letter to your professional networks. We are hoping to attract new donors from local Silicon Valley technology companies to offset potential loss of funding from the City of San Jose, if they eliminate the San Jose After School grants. If you have other ideas how on you can help, please contact

Rosemary Baez at rosemary@3street.org.

Over the last three years, Third Street has improved the quality of our programs and increased the number of children served. Your support has made all this possible. Thank you to all the UU's who have already given to this challenge!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Baez ●

Thanks for Sharing the Magic

Thank you to everyone who attended Share the Magic on November 4! I hope you enjoyed the event as much as we, the staff and board of Third Street, did. We would like your feedback on the venue,

date and the food. If you have any suggestions or ideas that could help us next time around, please do let us know.

Tai Chi Classes this winter!

The Third Street Community Center is offering Tai Chi classes on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:15 p.m., through December 16 in Hattie Porter Hall, for adults ages 55 & over. The cost is only \$10 for 6 classes. Third Street families and FUCSJ members are welcome! Please sign up by contacting **Vanessa Alcantar** at (408) 295-8722 or Vanessa@3street.org. This is a pilot; continuation will depend on interest. If you are interested but the date / time doesn't work for you, please offer alternate dates that meet your needs. We cannot guarantee that the dates you select will work, but we'll definitely give it try!

Save the Date

Thursday, December 17 is the **Annual Posada!** Please join us this evening for a wonderful presentation by the children in the After School Academic Program and for a wonderful and healthy community potluck! Everyone is welcome. No cost to attend. ●

As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3

tered into a Zen-like mode of selecting, deleting, responding, and filing. My energy rose as the numbers fell. The old messages reminded me of some beautiful ways I had spent my resources in the past year—events and experiences shared with you or with our wider movement that were treasures, but that I had almost forgotten because I had allowed less important preoccupations to pile on top. I discovered a few messages from old friends who were still waiting for a response, and I reached out to restore those lifelines. I saw how busy we are here at FUCSJ—too busy and sometimes swamped by petty concerns—but I also saw the power for good that we have when we let our mission guide us. I wondered in which ways we most want to spend our resources so that our deepest values and highest purpose can be sustained. And I began to free up my own resources so that I could be responsive to what matters most.

This spiritual practice was time well spent. Already I have new and tender habits for how I manage this aspect of my life.

How about you? What steps have you taken on this journey toward a balanced and sustainable life?

With love and encouragement,

Nancy ●

Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad, continúa para la página 3

había hecho el hábito de deshacerme de ellos inmediatamente. Una vez más, mi caja mantenía miles de mensajes de correo electrónico.

Por lo tanto, durante varias horas al día a lo largo de varios días, entré en el modo Zen de seleccionar, eliminar, responder y archivar. Mi energía aumentó mientras los números bajaban. Los mensajes antiguos me recordaron algunas maneras hermosas en la que había gastado mis recursos el año pasado, eventos y experiencias compartidas con usted o con el resto de nuestro movimiento que eran unos tesoros, pero que casi había olvidado porque me había permitido que preocupaciones menos importantes se apilaran en la parte superior. Descubrí unos cuantos mensajes de viejos amigos que todavía estaban esperando una respuesta, y alcancé a restaurar esas líneas de vida. Vi cuan ocupados estamos aquí en la FUCSJ — demasiado ocupados y a veces inundados por pequeñas preocupaciones — pero también vi el poder para lo bueno que tenemos cuando permitimos que nuestra misión nos guíe. Me preguntaba de qué otras formas queremos gastar nuestros recursos de tal manera que nuestros profundos valores y más altos propósitos puedan ser sostenidos. Y empecé a liberar mis propios recursos para que pudiera responder a lo más importante.

Esta práctica espiritual fue un tiempo bien invertido. Ya tengo nuevos y tiernos hábitos para como arreglármelas en este aspecto de mi vida.

¿Y ustedes? ¿Qué pasos han tomado en este viaje hacia una vida equilibrada y sostenible?

Con amor y ánimo,

Nancy ●



CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones
in the lives of the
First Unitarian Community

The all-new all-different Circling Around

by Torchy Hunter



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:

Who is the good /better/best writer at Pelizzari's? I have proof. Two upstanding ladies are trafficking in highly exotic stuff and probably thought I wouldn't tell. WHAT KIND OF MEETING SHOULD WE ALL ATTEND? DEPENDS ON WHOM YOU ASK. IF YOU TRY TIM.....

Somebody at Pelizzari's can write: I can't tell which one of them wrote this, but **Mike** signed it, and to even as picky an editor as I am, this is good writing. "On November 1, Michael Pelizzari celebrated his 60th birthday. His wife, **Catherine** treated him to dinner at Caffe Riace, the only authentic Italian restaurant in Palo Alto, where she granted him permission to gawk at the anatomically correct classical Greek statuery. Mike now has a crush on the larger-than-life maiden in the fountain, who is holding up and tilting a side-loaded washing machine with water pouring out of it. Michael owes his name

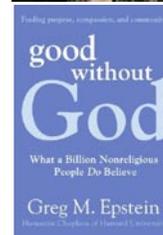


to the date of his birth, All Saints Day ("Saint Michael the Archangel, protect us in battle. Be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil"). He was disappointed at the absence of his winged, sword-wielding namesake from the Caffe Riace gardens."

Julia Rodriguez and **Genie Berardini** traffic in exotic recipes: how about one for a spice mix with 15 ingredients? Geez. The new Chipotle restaurant across from my studio has only the two colors of Tabasco sauce in their "Mexican" restaurant.

Here is one of the trifling, shallow, and lightweight topics **Tim Blackwood** sends about the Humanist group: "You are invited to hear Greg Epstein discuss his new book, "Good Without God," Cubberly Auditorium, 485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, 7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 18. Epstein has been called

"The most outspoken voice for Humanism in the United States." Tim Blackwood received the above announcement from Hershey Julien of the PAUU church's Humanist Roots group. See Epstein's Harvard chaplaincy page: <http://www.chaplains.harvard.edu/chaplains/profile.php?id=45> "Let me know if you would like to go. Perhaps we could carpool and even dine together before the talk." says Tim, tjb@timblackwood.com, H: 408-244-8580, M: 408-623-3168



For those of you who would like to see more entries here, please send them to dzu@aol.com or call Torchy at 408-929-0259 ●

Worship Associates!

The Worship Associate program provides an exciting opportunity for members of the First Unitarian Church of San José to help plan and present the Sunday-morning services that are at the heart of our Beloved Community. Worship Associates, who serve for one calendar year, work closely with the ministers on five or six services during that year. They also set up the worship space for another five or six Sundays. Ongoing training is provided in periodic gatherings. This year's application deadline is Dec. 1, but NOW is not too soon to apply. You'll find details on the church website at <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/OurWorshipLife/WorshipAssociates.html> Questions? Ask **Rev. Nancy** or **Rev. Geoff**, or phone **Mary Martin** at (408) 354-8878.

Classifieds

Clavinova Repair Needed

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

Church Photographer & Bulletin Board Designer Wanted

If you are an amateur photographer or just enjoy being a shutter bug, showcase your talent and camera skills by helping

to chronicle FUCSJ classes, social events, political rallies, etc. A Bulletin Board Designer could put scrapbooking skills to use posting photos on the bulletin boards near the stairs to the lower level. This would be a wonderful contribution to the life of our church. Please contact **Rev. Geoff** at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org or 408-292-3858, ex. 25

Garage space sought

A friend of the church is looking for a place to store her car – for free or inexpensively. A space in a garage, a spot in a driveway, or even street parking where her vehicle can stay parked. If you know of something, please call **Catherine Pelizzari**, caleeson@aol.com ●



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

SERVICE SUNDAY

29 Noviembre – 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

DOMINGO DE SERVICIO

November 29 – 9:30 a.m.

Simplicity and Serenity

As the season of Advent begins this Sunday, let us look at the simple side of life. Robert Louis Stevenson said this:

*The best things are nearest:
breath in your nostrils,
light in your eyes,
flowers at your feet,
duties at your hand,
the path of right just before you.
Then do not grasp at the stars,
but do life's plain, common work as it
comes,
certain that daily duties and daily bread
are the sweetest things in life.*

Let's take a closer look at that.

Worship Leader: Rev. Donna Lenahan

Worship Associate: Alice Lynch

Simplicidad y Serenidad

Mientras que la temporada de Adviento comienza este domingo, echemos un vistazo a la parte simple de la vida. Robert Louis Stevenson dijo:

*Las mejores cosas están más cerca
La respiración en sus fosas nasales,
La luz en los ojos,
Las flores a sus pies,
Los deberes en la mano,
El sendero del derecho justo antes que
usted.
Entonces no alcanzar a las estrellas,
Pero hacer de la vida simple, un trabajo
común, mientras llega,
Seguro que los deberes diarios y pan de
cada día
Son las cosas más dulces de la vida.*

Démosle una mirada más cercana a eso.

Dirige: Rev. Donna Lenahan

Asociada de Culto: Alice Lynch

*December Theme: What Can
Jesus Teach Us UUs?*

*Tema de Diciembre: ¿Que Puede
Enseñarnos Jesús a los UUs?*

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, December 6 – 9:30 a.m.

¿Que puede enseñarnos Jesús?

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

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

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

Sunday, December 6 – 11:00 a.m.

What Can Jesus Teach Us?

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

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

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associates: Bob Miess and Bob Owen

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

What Can Jesus Teach Us? Going Deeper ...

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

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

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Jeff Norment ●



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

The Arts & Spiritual Practice — Kindergarten to 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** (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.

Make A World of Difference— Asset Building Activities to Help Teens Explore Diversity — Grades 6 to 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 to 12 (Youth Group 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 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.

Youth Group Advisors: V Kingsley, Cordelia Willis, and Greg Muller

Our Whole Lives — Grades 7 to 9

Youth: Saturday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. to Sunday, November 21, 3:30 p.m., Isola Studio, Mountain View

Parent Group: Sunday, November 22, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Classrooms 4-6

Youth: December 6, 3:30-5:30, Fireside Room

Parents: December 6, 3:30-5:30, Classrooms 4-6

Theme: Sexual Decisions

Youth: December 13, 3:30-5:30, Fireside Room

Parents: December 13, 3:30-5:30, Classrooms 4-6

Theme: Celebration & Closure

Children's Holiday Play, December 20, 11:00 a.m.

The Origins of Christmas

Children and youth in Kindergarten through high school are invited to participate. We will sing! We will Act! We will read!

All skills and abilities are invited to participate. Rehearsals will take place outside of regular class time from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the downstairs classrooms on the following Sundays: November 22 and 29, December 6 and 13. Dress rehearsal will take place in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. to noon. RSVP to Director, **Cordelia Willis**, phoebepiper@juno.com ●

Spirit in Practice: Monthly Adult Program

Workshop 10: Looking Back & 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. ●

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 and let's talk about how you would like to help bring the spirit alive in your life and in our children's lives. ●





At our last Ingathering ceremony on Sunday, November 8, we were pleased to welcome two new members, **Madeleine Bodisco Alexander** and **Joy Butler-Kawahara**.

Madeleine Bodisco Alexander was born in Frankfurt Germany. Her father's tour of duty ended before Madeleine's first birthday, and the family returned to California. As a young girl, she loved the rituals and the calm she felt in the Catholic church they attended, and she thought of becoming a nun like one of her closest aunts, a Sacred Heart sister. Madeleine spent many summers working on social justice projects with these strong, independent women.



When Madeleine was 16 she came into conflict with the dogma and political stances of the pope against women, birth control and gay people. Ironically, this was encouraged in her liberal all girls school as part of finding true faith and becoming a strong independent woman.

Madeleine started attending pagan rituals about 10 years ago and enjoyed them, but was still looking for a regular spiritual home. Last year, **Bill Baldwin** brought her here. She knew almost right away that this was a place she felt the same sense of peace and welcome she felt as a child, although this time the feeling lasted even after learning more about the church's teachings.

With a BFA in ceramic sculpture (and a religious studies minor) and teaching credentials from San Jose State, she taught art and later US History in Morgan Hill. She worked as a teacher and union negotiator until 2 years ago, when she had to stop due to an autoimmune disease. Today she paints and will soon begin teaching private art lessons.

She is engaged to Robert, and will soon become a stepmother to his nine-year-old son Ryan.

Joy Butler-Kawahara was raised in San Jose, attending Trace Elementary, Hoover Middle School and Abraham Lincoln High School. She worked as an office manager of a floral wholesaler, administrative assistant, x-ray assistant and project manager in training before she decided to go to college.



As an adult, she moved out of the area for eight years and returned three years ago. She now lives with her husband Mike Kawahara and two cats, Samantha and Toby, in Campbell. She was raised in churches her whole life but discovered she was not pleased with those she had been involved with. She was looking for a church that draws from many religions, respects the rights of gays/lesbians, that was transparent and has a strong Social Justice Program. Fortunately, she found us!

Joy has already been very active with helping Inn Vision, Sacred Heart Community Center and RAFT (Resource Area for Teachers) and also had a personal project where she and several friends made up the emergency backpack supplies for the homeless and donated the backpacks to Sacred Heart Community Service. With Joy's encouragement, this is also a project our church has taken on. You can find Joy at our Social Justice table after church.

Joy will be graduating this fall with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Sonoma State University. She is currently exploring possibilities for her future. She is interested in joining a graduate program in social work or counseling, or working for a non-profit in the area. ●

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.

Website Spanish Pages Updated

Please help us update the English pages

The Webmasters are busy updating and improving our church's website. The webmasters are **Jim Guffey**, **Julia Rodriguez** and **Sherry Howd**. In supporting the website, **Henry Ruddle** posts the newsletters, creates buttons, and does many other difficult tasks. **Susan Burke-Diquisto**, Office Manager, enters the coming services, save the dates, and events.

To view the website, enter this URL in your browser: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/>.

Enhancements

Governance documents are available, for example, the By-Laws and Mission statement. (To reach these, go to the website, click About Us in the upper blue bar, and click Governance in the left column.) A great new picture of the Program and Operations Council is on the POC page. (About Us > Governance > Leadership > Program and Operations Council.) Soon, sermons will be available in audio format for your listening pleasure.

Especially exciting is the work on the Spanish side of the website. It is being substantially upgraded through grant funds for the UUJUN-TOS program. Julia is the webmaster for this project. Translators and writers are the other team members: **Ervin Barrios**, **Roberto Padilla** and **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**.

Action alert for you!

Keeping the English side of the website up-to-date requires comments from you -- the members of the congregation. Please review the areas of your concern; for example, pages related to a committee you serve on or Social Justice issues.

Send your suggestions to the webmaster: sanjoseuu@gmail.com. When doing so, please include the URL to the pages affected by your comments. To get the URL, just copy the URL (usually in the top of the browser window) and paste it into your message.

Happy browsing! ●



Got an event coming up? Hold it here!

Building Member Rental Fee Schedule Updated

The Program and Operations Council (POC) in the October 27 meeting approved a new Pricing for Facility Use fee schedule. This schedule includes standard fees for many more uses that often arise but were never listed in the previous fee schedule. The advantages are:

- Member rental requests, except for weddings, can be handled promptly by the Office Manager.
- Wedding rental requests and non-member rental requests can be handled promptly, too, by Giant Creative Services, FUCSJ's Event Services provider. Because of the complexity of weddings, the rental contract requires that weddings use a professional host arranged by GCS.
- The rental fees are based on the room (or rooms) requested and the association of the booking client with FUCSJ, unlike the old fee schedule, which was wedding oriented.

Trained Volunteer Hosts Required

The Pricing for Facility Use fee schedule requires that trained event hosts oversee all facility use for events. To enable FUCSJ to accommodate member-sponsored events for Social Justice, non-profits and UU-related events, using volunteer event hosts is required to keep the fee for these events low. The

Facility Use Fee Schedule for Member, Member-sponsored & External UU Events

These events are not managed or hosted by GCS. Contact the office manager for questions and booking! *NOTE: Events must have a contract signed by a Church Member before space can be reserved.*

Room	Member Private Event (Non Wedding) Hosted by Church Member	Non-Profit* Organization Associated with and Hosted by Church Member	External Unitarian Universalist Events (Ordinations, Installations, CONS, PCD, etc) Hosted by Church Member	Refundable deposit
Sanctuary Only	\$100	\$2 per head to offset custodial services. Minimum \$50	Request donation to offset custodial services. Minimum \$50	None
Hattie Porter Hall, Fireside Room, & Kitchens	\$300			
Sanctuary, Hattie Porter Hall, Fireside Room & Kitchens	\$400			
Fireside Room & Upstairs Kitchen	\$100			
Classrooms 4-6	\$50/hour			

*Need Proof of Non-Profit Status / Note: FUCSJ program events are free

church has no budget for hosting events, and these hosts protect the church facility.

Training for Volunteer Hosts

If you are a member of a church committee that sponsors events, or if you are a member who wants to book personal events, please consider signing up for an event-host training class (about a 2-hour commitment), or ask a

friend to sign up for an event-host training class. The classes will be scheduled soon.

If you want to sign up for a class, contact our Office Manager, **Susan Burke-Diquisto** at fucsj@sanjoseuu.org as soon as possible so we know how many trainees to plan for.

Who to contact?

For booking member-sponsored events, church program-related and UU-related events, contact **Susan Burke-Diquisto**, Office Manager, at fucsj@sanjoseuu.org.

For any questions about the schedule and event-host training, contact any one listed below:

- Susan Burk-Diquisto
- Joyce Miller, Program Officer, at j408miller@sbcglobal.net
- Sherry Howd, POC, Outreach Representative, at s_howd@msn.com
- Jan Theiss-Guffey, co-coordinator for overseeing church-GCS relations, at jantg@yahoo.com

For questions about wedding rentals and nonmember events, contact **Annie Hermes** of Giant Creative Services at rentals@sanjoseuu.org or phone (408) 841-5442. ●

Our Labyrinth--Much More Than a Walk

Guest Book entries: "The powerful experience is overwhelming." ... "Felt at peace. Set the tone for my day." ... "I always gain something new." ... "I've become stronger after this experience." ... "I try to come every year on my birthday. Thank you for being here." ... "I'll be back for sure!"

Labyrinth Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 11:30-1:00; Sunday after service; every third Thursday 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. ●



Band of Writers Book

Oh, What You Will Learn About Some Members of This Church Community! How? By purchasing a copy of the collected works of the UU Band of Writers, *What Lies Beyond*, at the Fireside Gift Faire! You will find out who almost got blown up, who had a most unusual love affair, who can write like Billy Collins and many other equally interesting facts. You will enjoy beautiful poetry and clever essays, deep emotion and light humor. Please help us support our Beloved Community, as all the proceeds will be given back to the church. For advance orders, please contact **Genie** at geniebee@hotmail.com ●



Upcoming Events

Ordination: Suzanne Marsh

We are excitedly planning for **Suzanne Marsh's** ordination on Sunday, December 6, 4:00-7:00 p.m. All are welcome! We're trying to plan responsibly, so please RSVP to suzannesordination@gmail.com and contact **Kelly Burnett** at kelly@kellybur.com to volunteer to bring food..●



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13



Fireside Gift Faire by Cecelia Deck

Hattie Porter Hall will erupt in merriment again this year for the annual Fireside Gift Faire, a celebration of the holidays and a fundraiser for the church. On Sunday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can shop for handmade gifts and enjoy tamales, music and the festive atmosphere. Local vendors offer unique jewelry, toys, dolls, textiles, dyed fabrics, soaps and more. See you there!●

YOGA SUTRAS: BEGINNING JANUARY 5, 2010

There are two openings remaining for this *Lectio Divina* class: "The Cultivation of Awareness and Mindfulness" through *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*. Beginning in January, Pastoral Coordinator Rev. Donna Lenahan will facilitate an eight-week study of the first section of the Yoga Sutras to bridge the gap between Eastern and Western modes of thought. There will be meditation, journaling, silence, contemplation, and small group discussions. The focus will be on achieving inner peace and mental harmony. A belief in God is not a requirement to participate. The classes will be held in her home in Monte Sereno on eight consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 (all of the Tuesdays in January and February). The cost (\$50.00) does not include the two recommended books; either or both of which will be helpful for those attending. Please send an e-mail to Rev. Lenahan at djlenahan@aol.com for further information and registration before Thanksgiving. **Recommended reading:** *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* by Sri Swami Satchidananda (down to earth) and *How to Know God* (the Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali) by Prabhavananda & Isherwood (more spiritual).

Coming Together to Prepare for Economic and Ecological Change

Common Security Club Introduction

December 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m. lower classrooms; Conveners: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Jeff Norment

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 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.

Three Components of a Club

Learning Together: Through popular education tools, videos and shared readings, participants increase their understanding of the larger economic forces on our lives. Why is the economy in distress? How did these

Making Plans for Next Partner Church Visit

Now that the dust has settled from this summer's successful villager visit, we are planning our return trip to Homorodszentmarton, Romania in 2011. We are taking signups now. If interested, please contact **Monty Low** (low.monty@gmail.com).

Everyone is invited to a Partner Church meeting where we will be discussing current projects and beginning plans for the 2011 trip. The meeting will be on November 17 at 6pm in Hattie Porter Hall. ●

changes happen? What are the historical factors? How does this connect to the global economy? What are the ecological factors contributing to the changes?

Mutual Aid: What can we do together to increase our economic security at the local level?

Social Action: Many of our challenges won't be solved through personal or local mutual aid efforts. How can we work together to press for larger state, national and even global changes?

Structure of a Common Security Club

One of the primary goals of Common Security Clubs is to convene a public process for participants to challenge their feelings of isolation and helplessness. Clubs are self-managing; the participants themselves take on responsibilities to help coordinate, schedule and host meetings.

Participants will also help the facilitator to prepare for and lead the initial series of five meetings. After that series has been completed, a Club can decide whether it wants to continue meeting – with volunteers taking over facilitation responsibilities. Some Clubs may form self-organizing sub-groups to pursue specific activities and interests.

The Common Security Club Network

The Common Security Club Network is a pilot project of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies, On the Commons, and the Forum Organizing Project. Learn more at www.commonsecurityclub.org.●

Spotlight on Social Justice



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

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

Social Justice BLOG on Church

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

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

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





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Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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

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

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

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

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, December 2, 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
Catherine will be editor for the December 2 and January 6 issues. Shirley will be editor for the December 16 and January 20 issue.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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

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

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