



Our Church Circular

October 7,
2009 / 7 de
Octubre

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

October Theme: *The Power of Love*

9:30 a.m.
Servicios en español

11 de Octubre—9:30 am

¿Que Hace Posible al Amor?

A veces los Unitarios Universalistas nos preguntamos: ¿es realmente posible estar a la altura de nuestro primer principio, “afirmar y promover el valor inherente y la dignidad de cada persona”? ¿Esto significa que se supone que estamos capacitados para AMAR a todo el mundo, demasiado? ¿Incluso quisiéramos ser esa clase de Santo? ¿Encontramos desalentador: la llamada al honor, al respeto y tal vez incluso a amar a todos, frente a nuestra certeza de que no somos lo suficientemente grandes, lo suficientemente buenos, lo suficientemente fuertes o lo suficientemente inteligentes como para responder a esa llamada con todas nuestras mentes, corazones, cuerpos y almas? Buscando en las profundidades que nuestras fuentes pueden mostrarnos (budismo, humanismo y más), tener una mirada honesta de lo que hace que sea posible, incluso en las más difíciles circunstancias, para encontrar algunos consejos que nos moverá un poco más al amor de satisfacer lo mejor de nosotros mismos.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociados de Servicio: Miembros de nuestros Ministerios en Español.

11:00 a.m.
Services in English

October 11—11:00 am

What Makes Love Possible?

Sometimes we Unitarian Universalists wonder: Is it really possible to live up to our first principle, “to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person”? Does this mean we are supposed to be able to LOVE everyone, too? Would we even want to be that kind of saint? Do we find it discouraging—the call to honor, respect, and maybe even love everyone, vs. our certainty that we are not big enough, good enough, strong enough, or wise enough to answer that call with all our minds, hearts, bodies, and souls? Drawing on the depths that our sources can show us (Buddhism, humanism, and more), let’s take an honest look at what makes love possible, even in the toughest of circumstances, to find some tips that will move us a little closer to fulfilling our best selves.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associate: Alice Lynch.

See page 7 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

October 15, Thursday, PACT prayer vigil/rally for immigration reform at 5:00 pm on the corner of Homestead and Lafayette in Santa Clara

October 16-18, Friday-Sunday, 13th Annual PCD Men’s Retreat, Westminster Center, Alamo, CA (See page 8)

October 18, Sunday Reading with Rev. Nancy: The Arc of the Universe Is Long, 1:00 –2:30 pm, Youth Room

October 24, Saturday, All-Church Potluck—A Taste of Small-Group Ministry, 5:30 pm, Hattie Porter Hall

November 4, Wednesday, TSCC Share the Magic Fund-raiser at Morocco’s Restaurant, 86 N. Market Street, San Jose

November 7, Saturday, Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat, 8:45 am – 12:30 pm, FUCSJ

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

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

FUCSJ Classifieds—New and Revised!

In this edition of our newsletter, we bring back an old practice in a new way! We all have needs to be filled, and we all have gifts to share. How can we bring these needs and gifts together to create an even more vibrant, healthy, and whole community? The FUCSJ Classifieds will offer a space where we can share these needs and resources, helping us to make life-giving connections and to offer our care and assistance where we can.

Here is what we imagine this space will be. It will include brief “ads” from members and friends of the congregation: For instance, someone in our community needs a place to live; someone is looking for work; someone has started a new business that could be useful to others if only they knew about it. We have not set all the parameters for these new and revised Classifieds yet. We invite you to help us draw the boundaries so that we create something truly useful and community-building. Space is very limited; we won’t be able to include every posting in the very next edition. The editors and others will work with members to craft an ad that fits the space. Please send your contribution and/or your thoughts on this new feature to circular.editors@gmail.com. And do read on!

SEEKING WORK: Loving mom and long-time member of this congregation, **Martha Barahona** brings energy, enthusiasm, caring, and years of experience in school district and community work, parent education and coaching of children of all ages. She is now seeking work to help our community’s parents and children in a variety of ways. Can provide after-school assistance, from picking up children from school, to assisting with Spanish homework and conversation, and more. Help parents with housecleaning, organizing, starting an organic garden. Assist seniors with shopping, trips to the doctor, hairdressing, massage (certified), and more. Bilingual. Hours flexible. References and résumé available. Please contact martha_bara@yahoo.com; 408-849-1689.



As we build
the beloved
community...

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...

Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

“Amen—I Love You”:

The Power of Love

For thirty years, the **Rev. Dr. Forrest Church** ended every sermon he preached at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist congregation in New York City with the words “Amen. I love you. And may God bless us all.” These are good words with which to open the month of October, when we will be pondering “The Power of Love.”

Forrest’s words—and his life itself—are resounding in my mind and heart these days. As I write this column, it is less than a week since Forrest passed away, and I am feeling both sadness and gratitude. Forrest was my first Unitarian Universalist minister. He became my teacher, my mentor, the person who offered me the chance to discover my true self and thus find my way to ministry. He was the kind of minister who, despite his natural reserve, lived his life right out loud. All of us in the All Souls family watched Forrest soar, stumble, fall, pick himself up again with the help of friends, family, and congregation, and work his way toward a deeper, truer life. He lived his life out loud these past three years, too, as he journeyed from a terminal diagnosis of cancer toward his dying, testing his theology every step of the way and sharing the journey with all of us through his sermons, pastoral letters, and other writings.

“Amen. I love you. And may God bless us all.”

That “Amen” was the final punctuation mark on yet another funny, thought-provoking sermon. It didn’t mean “And so the final word has been spoken,” but rather “That is what I have to say for now; that is my truth as I know it at this moment. Amen.”

Then, looking right out at the congregation, Forrest would add, “I love you.” The first time I heard him say it, in early March 1997 during a particularly hard time in my life, it took my breath away. It was so personal and specific, yet it was clearly intended to include the strangers in the crowd—strangers like me at that time—along with every single one of the other members, friends, visitors, and strangers who had shown up that morning to sit stiffly side by side in that spacious, formal, old sanctuary. Forrest seemed to be saying that he loved *each* of us, even if he didn’t know us. For some folks, it was the only time all week, all month, that they heard anyone say, “I love you”; I wonder how many of us came to church just to hear those words. And Forrest was also saying that he loved us as a *group*, even if we didn’t feel like a “group.” The words had a mysterious, marvelous effect: hearing them, we each felt more lovable and loving; we felt united into one large loving and lovable

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“Amen—Los Amo”: El Poder del Amor

Durante treinta años, **el Rev. Dr. Forrest Church** terminó cada sermón que predicó a la Congregación Unitaria Universalista de Todas Almas en la ciudad de Nueva York con las palabras “amén. Los amo Y pueda Dios bendecirnos a todos.” Estas son unas buenas palabras con las que deseo abrir el mes de octubre, cuando estaremos reflexionando “El Poder del Amor”.

Las palabras de Forrest — y su propia vida — resuenan en mi mente y en mi corazón en estos días. Mientras escribo esta columna, y a menos de una semana de que Forrest falleció, siento tristeza y gratitud. Forrest fue mi primer Ministro Unitario Universalista. El llego a ser mi profesor, mi mentor, la persona que me ofreció la oportunidad de descubrir mi verdadero ser y, por lo tanto, encontrar mi camino al ministerio. Fue el tipo de Ministro que, a pesar de su reserva natural, vivió su vida plenamente. Todos nosotros en la familia de Todas la Almas vieron a Forrest alzarse, tropezar, caer, y levantarse a si mismo nuevamente con la ayuda de amigos, familia y congregación y trabajar en su camino hacia una vida más profunda y real. Los últimos tres años vivió su vida plenamente, también, mientras él viajaba con un diagnóstico de cáncer terminal hacia su muerte, probó su teología en cada paso del camino, compartiendo el viaje con todos nosotros a través de sus sermones, cartas pastorales y otros escritos.

“Amen, Los amo, y pueda Dios bendecirnos a todos”.

Ese “Amén” fue la puntuación final en otro divertido y estimulante sermón. Esto no significa “Y que así sea,” sino más bien “Esto es lo que tengo que decir por ahora; esa es mi verdad como la sé en este momento. Amén.”

Entonces, mirando a la Congregación, Forrest añadiría, “Los amo”. La primera vez que lo escuché decirlo, a principios de marzo de 1997, durante un momento especialmente difícil en mi vida, esto corto mi respiración. Fue tan personal y específico, aun esto fue, claramente intentando incluir a los extraños en la multitud—extraños como yo en ese momento— junto con cada uno de los otros miembros, amigos, visitantes y extraños que habíamos aparecido esa mañana sentados rígidamente lado a lado en ese antiguo santuario, amplio y formal.

Forrest parecía estar diciendo que amaba a cada uno de nosotros, incluso si él no nos conocía. Para algunas personas, esto fue el único momento en que toda la semana, todo el mes, escucharon decir “los amo”; me pregunto cuántos de nosotros llegamos a la Iglesia sólo para escuchar esas palabras. Y Forrest también decía que nos amaba a nosotros como un grupo, incluso si nosotros no nos sentíamos como un “grupo”. Las palabras tuvieron un misterioso y maravilloso efecto: al escucharlas, cada uno de nosotros nos sentimos más adorables y amorosos; nos sentimos unidos en una gran comunidad amorosa y adorable. Las palabras de Forrest eran una declaración de fe, un

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Susan Burke-Diquisto Is Our New Office Manager!

Dear Members and Friends,
With joy, Personnel Officer **Joyce Miller** and I write to announce that **Susan Burke-Diquisto** has been hired as the new Office Manager for the First Unitarian Church of San José. Over the past six weeks, Joyce and other congregational leaders have led us through a thorough search process, during which the interviewing team met several wonderful and talented candidates; we are grateful for everyone's interest. Susan's 32-year career in high-tech firms; her proven track record in strengthening the foundation of organizations through organizational skills, computer expertise, problem-solving ingenuity, and a gift for relating to and managing people; her wealth of experience in a wide variety of office applications and procedures; her knowledge of this church community, as a long-time member; and her warm friendly personality made Susan our first choice for the job.

When Susan was asked during her interview why she wanted this position, she spoke with special depth and thoughtfulness: She wants to work in a situation where all her gifts and experience can be brought to bear to add

value to this community, which she already loves. And at this point in her life, she places an especially high value on the personal and spiritual growth and learning that will result from working for FUCSJ.

Susan has been serving as Interim Office Manager for the past month, and she has already begun to reshape our office procedures. With Susan's leadership in the office, we look forward to developing a strong and enthusiastic volunteer staff to extend the office support not only to the ministers and church leaders but to everyone who comes through our door.

We are so fortunate to have Susan in this crucial role, and we look forward to a new

chapter in our congregational life. With your help, FUCSJ members and friends—through your engagement, feedback, and communication with Susan, with other members of our staff, with your ministers and congregational leaders—we will continue to learn and grow together, building a stronger, healthier, ever more effective Beloved Community.

Please welcome Susan Burke-Diquisto as our new Office Manager! You can reach Susan by e-mail at fucsj@sanjoseuu.org, or by telephone at 408-292-3858, ext. 21.

Warmly,
Rev. Nancy, with
Personnel Officer Joyce Miller ●

Wanted: 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. In addition to making a critical contribution to congregational life, participation in Worship Associates is a wonderful way to deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism. And you get to know some super people! 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.

As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3

community. Forrest's words were a statement of faith, a constantly renewed vow. I know they made Forrest himself a better person, and they invited us into renewed relationship with our best selves and with each other. They had power, those words of love.

Finally, Forrest would say, "And may God bless us all." As Forrest explained, "God is not God's name. God is *our* name for that which is present in each and greater than all." With this understanding of God, then "May God bless us all" means the same thing as "I love you," doesn't it? It means "May we know the love that we carry within ourselves, and may we share it. May we know the Love that surrounds us all, and may we live every day within it."

"Amen. I love you. And may God bless us all." Amen—this is what I know for now: I, too, love you, each of you and all of you, FUCSJ. May we, too, share the love we carry within ourselves and live in the Love that surrounds us. Come, let us explore the power of love together.

With my love and gratitude,

Nancy ●

Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad, continúa para la página 3

voto constantemente renovado. Sé que hicieron al mismo Forrest una mejor persona y nos invitaron a una renovada relación con lo mejor de nosotros mismos y con los demás. Tenían poder, esas palabras de amor.

Por último, diría Forrest, "Y pueda Dios bendecirnos a todos." Como Forrest explico, "Dios no es el nombre de Dios. Dios es nuestro nombre para lo que está presente en cada uno y superior a todos". ¿Con este entendimiento de Dios, entonces, "Pueda Dios bendecirnos a todos" significa lo mismo que "los amo," ¿no es así? Significa "Que podamos conocer el amor que llevamos dentro de nosotros mismos, y que podamos compartirlo. Que podamos saber del amor que nos rodea a todos y podamos vivir cada día dentro de él".

"Amén. Los quiero. Y pueda Dios bendecirnos a todos." Amén — esto es lo que sé por ahora: Yo, también los amo, a cada uno de ustedes y a todos ustedes, FUCSJ. Que podamos también compartir el amor que llevamos dentro de nosotros mismos y vivir en el amor que nos rodea. Vengan, exploremos el poder del amor juntos.

Con mi amor y gratitud,

Nancy ●





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 and/or what is a Jiggling Jenny? What does folk dancing have to do with blessed events? Who is going to start smoking big cigars? Which two very nice ladies are not nice to me? Why are librarians always like that?

Our partner church minister **Rev. Jozsef Szombatfalvi** and his wife **Erika** are expecting a baby around the end of March. This info was told to me by a little bird named Monty... Cute little thing. Can do folk dance. I just realized we can't send them congratulatory emails. Or can we?

From **Jenny Redfern**: "**Bob** and I will miss the wonderful service on 9/27 because we will be doing the Susan J. Komen 5K Walk for the Cure in San Francisco that morning. In fact, Granddaughter **Rosi** will be with us in her stroller, along with her mommy and daddy, **Joanna** and **Tom**, forming the team "Jenny's Jigglers" (yes that really is the name). It should be a lot of fun, not least because we have not quite figured out how to feed, change, and amuse a 6-month-old in a mob of people. But it will be for a good cause, raising funds to fight breast cancer." Oh, come on, Jenny. How quickly we forget. I flew to Italy with a 9-month old son and 2 large bags. Three objects, two hands. I often had strangers hold the kid instead of the luggage. You don't think this superchild's mom can figure out how to nurse while walking? Man, the human race would have foundered at Suez without that ability. I want to see the pix of how they did it.

Anybody but me see that really tall kid in HPH last Sunday? I went over to him wondering if he had any qualities but "tall." Turns out he actually does: he's in the graduate school at State in Library Science; named **Erik Solberg**. Seemed to have no sense of humor about my suggesting that libraries always needed someone to drop a whole bag of marbles down the stairs. Horror passed his

face. And when I wanted to know why you had to be quiet in libraries when every kid in one has plugs in his ears already hearing heavy metal, he then began to assume I was not a serious person, so treated me very gently, due to his good upbringing. Has been a UU since childhood, along with (right-thinking) parents, even though he needs more sense of humor about marbles and noise.

Another blessed event (must be the light that attracts them): **Lisa Hettler-Smith** has had septuplets and all are doing well and have beautiful coats. Australian Labradoodles. Visitors welcome starting next week.



Steve Madden, who usually tells me that nothing ever interesting happens to him, went on about his responsibilities as Producer for the Rolling Hills Middle School production of "Beauty and the Beast," in which both his

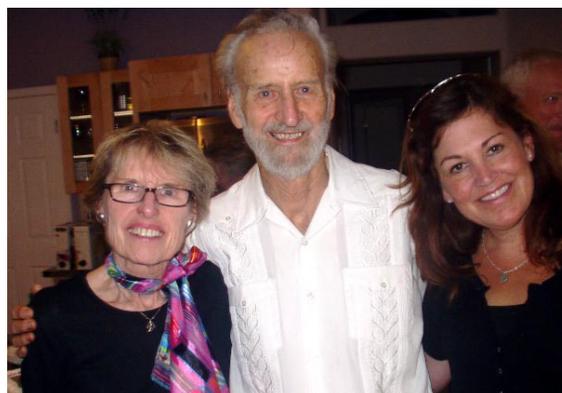
kids appear: **Sophie** is the Opera Singer and **Federico** is Chip the Teacup. Aren't producers supposed to wear pin-striped suits, flashy pinky rings, and big ceegars?

Always charming **Claire Wagner** told me how much she thought of me while visiting Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. I gritted my teeth.

Then, always-charming **Jo Balzer** told me they are heading off to InJuh for three whole weeks. I had to go home. The green mist of jealousy was interfering with my vision. And sense of well-being.

White Light Corner: **Lucy Proulx**. Took her a bouquet of my roses a week or so ago, and **Dave** got almost into her room before remembering she is allergic to them. While I was talking to her, she told Dave she wanted to sit up and hug me. Seemed not a good idea to Dave, so we just held hands. Many other folks are going to sit with her. Just shows how much she is loved. ●

Jeff White Celebrates 80 Years!



Ellie, Jeff White and their daughter, Kira.



Birthday Cake for Jeff whose real name actually is J. F.



SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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18 de Octubre—9:30 am

La Vida en Cuentos

Esto no es un cuento. Simplemente, es una vida en cuentos, que pudiera ser casi lo mismo, pero que - por varias razones - no lo es. Acompáñame. Pasemos por nuestros corazones - el de ustedes y el mío - varias historias. Para ello, sólo necesitamos abrir juntos todas las puertas y ventanas para que podamos entrar al amor, al humor, a la ternura y a los sueños, es decir: ¡hacia la vida de los cuentos!

Dirige: Roberto Padilla; **Asociados de Culto:** Miembros de nuestros Ministerios en Español.

Life in stories

This is not a story. It is simply a life in stories, which could be almost the same, but which - for various reasons - isn't. Come with me. Let us open our hearts - yours and my own, several stories. To do this, we just need to open together all doors and windows so that we can enter the love, the humor, the tenderness and the dreams; in other words: our whole life in stories!

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla; **Worship Associate:** Members of Our Spanish-Speaking Ministries.

October 18—11:00 am

Sacred Sexuality

"Sex is the most engrossing human act. Intimate touch involves all the senses. At the moment of pleasure, of shivering contact with a partner or a stolen moment of self-love, all our normal duties, tasks, fears, failures, all things we do drop away. This is life at its simplest, a time simply to be - to watch, listen, smell, taste, touch and feel, to focus on being a physical creature and experience the body's capacity for pleasure."
-Brandy Williams

We are all sexual beings from birth to death. We all have needs for sensuality—to touch and be touched. We can be partnered or single. We can have intimate relationships

with other people or be satisfied meeting our own needs. There is no one right way to embody pleasure and seek fulfillment as human beings. Each one of us must find how best to integrate our body-mind-spirit connection to achieve wholeness and happiness.

Worship Leader: The Rev. Geoff Rimositis; **Worship Associate:** Henry Ruddle.

La Sagrada Sexualidad

"El sexo es el acto humano más fascinante. El contacto íntimo implica todos los sentidos. En el momento de placer, de tiritar en contacto con una pareja o de un momento robado de auto-amor, todas nuestras obligaciones normales, tareas, temores, fallas, todas las cosas que hacemos se desploman. Esto es la vida en su forma más sencilla, un tiempo simplemente para ser - mirar, escuchar, oler, probar, tocar y sentir, para enfocarse en ser una criatura física y experimentar la capacidad del cuerpo por el placer." -Brandy Williams

Somos seres totalmente sexuales desde el nacimiento hasta la muerte. Todos tenemos la necesidad de la sensualidad: para tocar y ser tocados. Podemos estar en pareja o solos. Nosotros podemos tener relaciones íntimas con otras personas o ser satisfechos juntando nuestras propias necesidades. No hay una forma correcta de expresar placer y buscar la realización como seres humanos. Cada uno de nosotros tiene que encontrar la mejor manera de integrar nuestra conexión cuerpo-mente-espíritu para lograr la plenitud y la felicidad.

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis; **Asociado de Servicio:** Henry Ruddle.

25 de Octubre —9:30 am

Estamos Preparados para Morir?

La próxima semana celebraremos juntos en inglés y en español "El día de los muertos". Ese solemne día en que recordamos con cariño a nuestros seres queridos que ya han fallecido. Pero ahora, nosotros, los que

estamos aun vivos, ¿estamos preparados para morir?

Dirige: Roberto Padilla; **Asociada de Servicio:** Maria Periera.

Are We Ready to Die?

Next week we will celebrate together, in English and Spanish, "The Day of the Dead." This is that solemn day when we remember with love our dear ones who have passed away. But this week let us ask ourselves this question: We, who are still alive, are we ready to die?

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla; **Worship Associate:** Maria Periera.

October 25—11:00 am

Nurturing Our Love Relationships

In worship on fourth Sundays of the month, we seek a depth (and a lightness) of thought, words, music, and story that can feed the most fundamental of life skills. In this month when we are focusing on the "Power of Love," what practical teachings might our faith and its sources offer us about how to nurture our loving relationships—whether these relationships are with a partner, a child, a parent, a pet, or even an institution?

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Carolyn Bowman.

Cultivando Nuestras Relaciones Amorosas

En el servicio religioso en el cuarto domingo del mes, buscamos una profundidad (y una luminosidad) de pensamiento, de palabras, de música y de historia que pueda alimentar la más fundamental de las aptitudes para la vida. En este mes cuando nosotros estamos enfocando en el "poder del amor", ¿qué enseñanzas prácticas podrían nuestra fe y sus fuentes nos ofrecen acerca de cómo fomentar nuestras relaciones amorosas si estas relaciones son con una pareja, un niño, un padre, una mascota o incluso una institución?

Dirige: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Asociada de Servicio:** Carolyn Bowman. ●



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 (6-8 Grades) Advisor: Pam Pell;

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

Senior High (9-12 grades) Advisors: V Kingsley, Dani Hope, Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis

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

The Arts & Spiritual Practice – Kindergarten - Grade 5 (Lower Level, Classrooms 2-6)

Each Sunday children in kindergarten through fifth grade will have the opportunity to choose a path in music, drama, art, or games. They will stay with their path (track) for the day but can choose a different path the following Sunday.

Each month we will have a Celebration Sunday when the whole community will worship together at 11:00 am. The children in the weeks leading up to Celebration Sunday will have been preparing the gifts they will offer the community at the 11:00 am service. They will create the chancel decorations, perform the special music and tell the story for all ages with skits, chancel dramas, and embodied experiences for the whole congregation.

Make A World of Difference: Asset Building Activities to Help Teens Explore Diversity — Grades 6-8

(Lower Level, Conference & Meditation Rooms)

Activities in this class will help 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. ●

FalCON Youth Conference

October 23-25, from 7:00 pm Friday to 2:00 pm Sunday
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin (UUCM)
240 Channing Way, San Rafael, CA 94903

Who may attend? Youth between the ages of 14 and 20

What is the cost of registration? PCD Conferences are \$40. Checks should be made out to PCD YRUU.

Scholarships are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Please contact our registrar if you need one! *New conferees will receive 50% off the registration price.*

How do I register? Contact Aaron Smith via email or phone before the registration deadline, **October 18**. Then bring a signed and completed registration form to the con, along with your registration fee and a copy of the **covenant**. *No walk-in registrations will be accepted. Please contact Aaron before the registration deadline.* Anyone registering after the registration deadline will be charged a late fee of \$10.

What is a conference? Conferences are a safe place for us as youth in our community to celebrate Unitarian Universalism, ourselves, and our diversity in a fun and spiritual weekend. The District's Youth Council plans four standard conferences throughout the year. We stay in a church for the weekend playing games, learning about social action issues, deepening our Unitarian faith, and hanging out with great friends. Since we believe strongly in youth empowerment, conferences are youth-planned and youth-led. We keep a strict youth-adult ratio of 10:1.

To register, contact Aaron Smith, Aaron.Smith10@bcp.org, Cell: (408)394-9197

For general questions, or if you would like to be a youth leader, contact Testiclees Smith, foresthunter@comcast.net, (707) 287-8293 or Meg Trask, evilkitty004@earthlink.net (408) 544-0813

For Questions or concerns about PCD YRUU, or to contact Youth Council, contact Testiclees Smith, foresthunter@comcast.net, (707) 287-8293 or Branduin Stroud, branduinstroud@gmail.com (415) 205-3459

If you are interested in becoming an Adult Advisor, contact Jason George zehhet@hotmail.com (707) 685-1648

Conference Rules:

- Please no violence or drug use.
- Sexuality is a healthy part of the lives of youth, however, we discourage exclusive relationships or sexual behavior at conferences.
- Youth may not leave the conference site without prior arrangements.
- Discrimination based on age, sex, gender, orientation, religion, political party, physical capability, or anything else is not permitted at PCD YRUU conferences.

Breaking any of these rules may result in being asked to leave the conference at your expense

What to bring:

Weather appropriate clothing, pajamas, toiletries, sleeping bag and pillow, and something fun to share at Coffee House!

What not to bring:

Drugs or drug paraphernalia, amplified instruments, weapons, pets or unregistered friends ●



Upcoming Events

NEW ADULT LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASS!

Reading with Rev. Nancy: *The Arc of the Universe Is Long*

Third Sundays, beginning October 18,
1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Youth Room

The *Arc of the Universe Is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calgary*, by Leslie Takahashi Morris, Chip Roush and Leon Spencer

Some books cry out to be read in a group, and Rev. Nancy has found an important and riveting new book that she is eager to read with you! *The Arc of the Universe Is Long*, written by friends and colleagues of Rev. Nancy's, pulls together the voices, dramatic tensions, sad setbacks, and tender successes in the recent history of our Unitarian Universalist denomination, as we strive to undo racism and create more diverse commu-

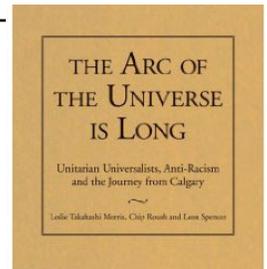
nities of love, justice, and faith. The writing is wonderful, the personalities are vivid, and the book, though long, is structured in sections that are easy to read. We will add art, music, movement, and film to our monthly discussions, which take place on third Sundays from October through May.

Please register for the course by sending an e-mail to Office Manager Susan Burke-Diquisto at fucsjs@sanjoseuu.org. Then join us for the introduction to this class on Sunday, October 18, at 1 p.m., in the Youth Room. We will have at least two copies of the book available for short-term checkout at the office's front desk; please check with Susan as we develop our

checkout system. If you can read the earliest pages (through the Introduction) before the first class, that's great. If not, come anyway!

You can help make this class possible for all who want to take part!

If you can, please purchase a book, and then lend it to the church for the duration of the class. *The Arc of the Universe Is Long* is available from the UUA Bookstore, www.uuabookstore.org, for \$24.00 plus shipping. If you can help by providing a book, please contact **Susan Burke-Diquisto** ASAP at fucsjs@sanjoseuu.org. ●



WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE 30 LUCKY ONES? / ¿USTED SERÁ UNOS DE LOS 30 AFORTUNADOS?

Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat

Saturday, November 7, 8:45 am – 12:30 pm, FUCSJ

“**E**l amor es la doctrina de esta iglesia. Love is the doctrine of this church.” Every Sunday our Affirmation reminds us that we are one congregation with two languages. But how do we really strengthen the bonds among us, discover our commonalities, and celebrate our differences? How can we really be *juntos/together*?

By having fun! Last spring's two **Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreats** gave 21 members and friends of many ages, cultures, colors, and physical abilities the chance to deepen connections, make new friends, explore the meanings of culture and identity, and apply our Unitarian Universalist principles—all by laughing, playing, thinking, and talking together. Now, we're bringing this retreat back by popular demand!

On Saturday, November 7, from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm, beginning in the Fireside Room and continuing in our sanctuary, we will offer a new and revised version of this lively, heart-opening, thought-provoking Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat. FUCSJ member and professional workshop leader **Rodrigo García** will once again guide Spanish- and English-speaking attendees through a series of fun and ever-deepening games and exercises. Honestly—you won't want to miss it!

But there are only 30 spaces available!

If you weren't able to attend one of the earlier retreats, you'll want to get your reservation in early! Participants from the first two Getting to Know Each Other retreats are welcome to return for more fun and an even deeper experience; be sure to add your name to the list, too!

RSVP to Roberto and Rev. Nancy at paor69@yahoo.com, revnp@yahoo.com. They will ensure a balance of diverse ages, cultures, countries of origin, abilities, and more, to make this retreat another truly transformative experience.

We look forward to seeing you there! ●

Sábado 7 de noviembre de las 8:45 am – 12:30 pm, en la FUCSJ

“**E**l amor es la doctrina de esta iglesia. Love is the doctrine of this church.” Todos los domingos nuestra afirmación nos recuerda que somos una congregación con dos idiomas. ¿Pero cómo podemos realmente fortalecer los lazos entre nosotros, descubrir nuestros puntos en común y celebrar nuestras diferencias? ¿Cómo podemos realmente estar juntos/together?

Mediante la diversión! Desde la primavera pasada dos Retiros Conociéndonos/ Getting to Know Each Other dieron a 21 miembros y amigos de todas las edades, culturas, colores y habilidades físicas, la oportunidad de profundizar las conexiones, hacer nuevos amigos, explorar los significados de cultura e identidad y aplicar nuestros principios Unitarios Universalistas — todo fue riendo, jugando, pensando y hablando juntos. Ahora, nos estamos trayendo de regreso este retiro por demanda popular!

El sábado 7 de noviembre, de 8:45 a.m. a 12:30 p.m., comenzando en el salón de la chimenea y continuando en nuestro Santuario, ofreceremos una versión nueva y revisada de esta animada apertura del corazón-reflexión del Retiro Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other Retreat. Miembros de la FUCSJ y Rodrigo García, líder profesional del taller, una vez más guiará a los asistentes de habla española e inglesa a través de una serie de divertidos y profundos juegos y ejercicios. Honestamente, usted no querrá perderse! Pero sólo hay 30 espacios disponibles!

Si usted no pudo asistir a uno de los retiros anteriores, deseará tener su reservación temprano! Los participantes de los dos primeros retiros Conociéndonos son bienvenidos a volver para más diversión y una experiencia aún más profunda; asegúrese de agregar su nombre a la lista, también!

RSVP con Roberto y/o Rev. Nancy at paor69@yahoo.com, revnp@yahoo.com. Ellos garantizará un equilibrio de las diversas edades, culturas, países de origen, habilidades y más, para hacer de este retiro, otra verdadera experiencia transformadora.

Esperamos verlo allí! ●

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Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 5 PM

PACT Action— Rally/Prayer Vigil for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

*Gather at the
parking lot on
the corner of
Homestead and
Lafayette in Santa Clara*

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones



Our faith-based community-organizing group, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), is co-sponsoring a rally and prayer vigil for comprehensive immigration reform in Santa Clara on Thursday, October 15. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano will be in Santa Clara to receive an award and speak about the future of immigration enforcement in this country. Outside the theater, people from many states, many faiths, and many walks of life will gather to prayerfully urge the creation and implementation of a more humane immigration system! As Unitarian Universalists, let us stand with our neighbors near and far in honor of each person's dignity, every family's safety, and our ultimate connectedness in systems of justice or injustice. Stay tuned for more information about this event, and plan to join us on October 15 as we put our faith into action. ●

UUA-PCD MEN'S RETREAT

The 13th Annual PCD Men's Retreat will take place October 16-18 at the Westminster Center in Alamo, California. This year's theme, *Happiness*, will be explored through experiential workshops and kinship groups, examining what happiness means to each individual, what obstacles are in the way, and "how to get there from here," along with the ever-popular No Talent Show on Saturday night. For more information, contact Harry Mersmann at pcdmensretreat@gmail.com ●

Yoga Classes

Third Street Community Center is sponsoring a free yoga class for seniors, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 to 10:30 am in Hattie Porter Hall. It's taught by **Shirley Worth**, who is also leading a Wednesday evening yoga class for all ages in the sanctuary (6:00-7:00 pm). She teaches Eischens Yoga, a style that is very well-suited to people who think they are not flexible enough to do yoga, and for people with some chronic pain issues. Drop-ins are welcome at all classes. ●



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 5:30 PM,
HATTIE PORTER HALL**

Save the Date: All-Church Potluck—A Taste of Small-Group Ministry!

Whether you are currently part of a Small Group or not, please join us for an evening of fellowship, fun, and conversations of depth! You will need to RSVP so that we can create tables where folks make new connections and truly get to know each other. Stay tuned for more information on how to RSVP! Meanwhile, please save the date and plan to join us! ●

Ready to Try Out Circle Suppers?

By Barbara Derbyshire

Circle Suppers offer an opportunity for church members to share a potluck in members' homes. The mix of people is different each time. People who attend have found this to be a good way to get to know others within the church community. Everyone on the Circle Supper list receives an email each month with the dates of the coming suppers. Some people participate regularly and others attend just occasionally. If you would like to join this program or if you have questions, please contact me at: CircleSuppers@aol.com. ●

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18!

Book Fair in HPH

This will be a fund-raiser with books chosen for especially for our wide-ranging interests by the "Book Elf" at Hicklebee's. Hicklebee's is an icon of children's bookstores located right in San Jose. It is an independent bookstore and is practiced at holding book fairs for local school fund-raisers. We will present books for children, youth, and adults.

We will need help picking up the books (get a preview before anyone else!), setting up the books, selling the books (get to use a little cash register! or a fun credit card machine!), recarting the books left over, AND publicity beforehand. Please contact **Deb Fenzel-Alexander** at sdsalex@comcast.net or (408) 267-8827 or see me on Facebook to help.

Our church had a book sale like this two years ago, which was well-attended, but we'll do better with more advance notice and more helpers. Thanks! ●



It's not too late for a fall retreat!

Dear Retreat lovers and wanna-bees, The raw outlines of the SJ UU Retreat are appearing but input is needed! Please contact **Deb Fenzel-Alexander** at sdsalex@comcast.net or (408) 267-8827 or see me on Facebook to put forth your good ideas and good efforts for the special fall '09 retreat!

Low cost will be the watchword as we see what can be done by and for our terrific community. High participation will be another goal. Themes around cooperation and evolution have emerged, including the evolution of cooperation. Seminar leaders, play-time coordinators, hike enthusiasts, musicians for all the main times and the times in-between, foodies, communication gurus etc. are needed to brainstorm, plan, and make it happen. (Tentative date in November.) Let me know how you can help bring this new version of our annual fall retreat into reality. ●



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Upcoming Events

UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the October 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, October 7

Huddart County Park, 8 miles, moderate. We will do the longer hike up to Skyline. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, October 10

Almaden Quicksilver Park, 6 miles, moderate. Mockingbird Hill entrance. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, October 14

Castle Rock State Park, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Downey Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

Saturday, October 17

Santa Teresa County Park, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, October 21

Stevens Creek/Fremont Older, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot at Stevens Creek park at 8:30 am. Directions: from 280 take Foothill Expressway as though you were going to Rancho San Antonio, but go straight on Foothill which becomes Stevens Canyon Road at McClellan. Continue about a mile to entrance of park which is on the left. Parking fee is \$7.

Saturday, October 24

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, October 28

Foothill Park, 7 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, October 31

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

Wednesday, November 4

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

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"A WARM, GENTLE SPACE FOR SLOWING DOWN"
 by Genie Bernardini
 This is how a person who walked our labyrinth described its value. Here are some other entries in the labyrinth Guest Book: "I came with a heavy heart and I leave filled with Light. Thank you." "It was so wonderful for my boys to experience the labyrinth in their own 'holy' way." "New insights--always!" 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.

Support Third Street! Upcoming Opportunities for Fun and Learning!

by Carol Stephenson, Third Street Community Center Board Member

Third Street Community Center continues to thrive and grow! While many non-profits are struggling, TSCC is adding programs and increasing the number of kids served after school in the church building! Every afternoon the basement simply buzzes with their energy.

You have ongoing opportunities to meet the people behind this good news and support their work. Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 4 for the annual Share the Magic dinner for an evening of Moroccan food and sociability. Tickets are priced at \$75 each and will be on sale at coffee hour on October 11. For a casual get-together, TSCC hosts a wine tasting fund-raiser every third Wednesday at A Perfect Finish, 55 South 1st Street, from 6:30-8:30 pm. A portion of the wine bar's proceeds go to Third Street operations.

Third Street Community Center brings FUCSJ into the downtown community and the community into FUCSJ. Every day children are growing, parents are learning, and college interns are developing professional skills through TSCC's network of services. Church members' participation has always been a critical part of the success of Third Street, so join us at our upcoming events.

The Song of the Service Auction!

by Jan Theiss-Guffey

*Do you have an aunt in Kalamazoo
 Who could host some UUs for an evening or two?
 Or maybe a friend with a view of the beach
 A timeshare, a rental, a weekend retreat?
 How about tickets, a concert, a play;
 Or a far-away place that some UU's could stay?
 For a few nights, a weekend, a fun thing to bid on
 While supporting our church, and the seats that we sit on.
 Saturday, January 9th will be Silent Auction Day
 But we need to know what you might donate right away.
 Services, baking, classes, and more
 Were part of the fun in the auctions of yore.
 By October 31st, that magical day,
 The catalog of services must be ready, we say!
 Please fill out the form that you see here below
 And email it to me, the queen of this show!*

jantg@yahoo.com

Our fourth annual First Unitarian Church of San Jose Service Auction will be held on Saturday, January 9th, 2010. Please support our faith community through a generous donation of a service or talent. Past Service Auctions items have included ice skating lessons, custom scrapbook, genealogy research, vacation getaways, massages, dinners and more. What will be your donation of talent or service?

Please cut and paste the information categories below into an email, fill out the information, and send to jantg@yahoo.com. Or phone Jan at (408) 293-5988 with your service auction offering.

Name: _____

The best way to contact you: _____

Donation Description: _____

Estimated Value: _____

Minimum Bid (Optional): _____





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, October 14, 2009

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, October 21, 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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Shirley will be editor for the October 21 and the November 18 issues. Catherine will be editor for the November 4 and the December 2 issues.

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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****Assembly starts at 4:30 pm - your help is very much welcome!****

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