



Our Church Circular

March 18,
2009 / 18 de
Marzo 2009

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

22 de Marzo — 9:30 a.m.

**La energía de la suficiencia:
¡Somos suficientes!**

Esta mañana lanzamos nuestra Campaña Anual de Recolección de Fondos con reflexiones en el “alma del dinero.” ¿Cómo el dinero y el espíritu están conectados? ¿En épocas económicamente difíciles, cómo descubrimos la verdad de que tenemos y somos suficientes? ¿Cómo Jesús alimentó a toda esa gente con tan poca comida? Ven: ¡permitámonos crear nuestros propios “milagros,” basados en tierra sólida!

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de los SSM

29 de Marzo — 9:30 a.m.

**Afirmación VI:
Servir a la Humanidad Juntos**

El “servicio es nuestra oración”, decimos en nuestra afirmación, entonces, casi al final, prometemos “servir a la humanidad juntos.” ¿Qué significa “juntos”? ¿Quiénes son nuestros compañeros cuando prometemos ofrecer nuestros dones a la humanidad? ¿Y que significa realmente toda la humanidad? ¿Cómo hacemos esta promesa del tamaño de la vida sin abrumarnos? En este domingo, exploramos lo que puede significar un acercamiento Unitario Universalista al servicio.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

5 de Abril — 9:30 a.m.

El legado de Harvey Milk en mi vida

Muchos homosexuales hemos llegado aquí, sin estar muy conscientes de aquellos que nos trazaron el camino—hoy yo les celebro su arduo trabajo y su memoria.

Dirige: Annette Falcón; Asociados de Culto:

Miembros de SSM

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

March 22 — 11:00 a.m.

**The Power of Sufficiency:
We Are Enough!**

This morning we launch our Annual Giving Campaign with reflections on the “soul of money.” How are money and the spirit connected? In tough economic times, how do we discover the truth that we have and we are enough? How did Jesus feed all those people with so little food? Come: let us create our own “miracles,” based on solid ground!

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: Kelly Burnett and Colleen Cabot

March 29 — 11:00 a.m.

**Affirmation VI:
To Serve Humankind in Fellowship**

“Service is our prayer,” we say in our Affirmation, and then, almost at the end, we promise “to serve humankind in fellowship.” What does “in fellowship” mean? With whom are we partnering when we promise to offer our gifts of service to humankind? And do we really mean all humankind? How do we make this promise life-sized, instead of overwhelming? On this Sunday, we explore what a Unitarian Universalist approach to service might mean. We will also welcome this year’s team of Worship Associates.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship

Associate: Dena Dickinson and Jeff Norment

April 5 — 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Milk’s legacy in my life

Many homosexuals have come here without being very conscious of those who paved the way—today I celebrate Milk’s arduous work and his memory.

Leadership: Annette Falcón; Leadership

Associates: Members of SSM

SAVE THE DATES

March 19-21, Thursday-Saturday,
March to Mark the 6th Anniversary
of the Iraq War.

March 21-24, Saturday-Tuesday,
lobby your representatives in
Washington, DC, to pass the
Responsible Education About Life
(REAL) Act

March 22, Sunday, Neil Kelly/2nd
Annual Local Composer Showcase,
2-4pm, the Improv, 62 S. Second
St, San Jose

March 23, Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Social Justice Council Meeting,
Board Conference Room

March 23-24, Monday-Tuesday, GLBT
Sex Ed. Days

March 28, Saturday, HSSV Open
House, Milpitas, 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

March 28, Saturday, Earth Hour—Lights
Out, Worldwide! 8:30-9:30 p.m.

March 29, Sunday, Seder: “Exodus
from Poverty,” Peninsula Temple
Beth El, San Mateo, 4-6:30 p.m.

April 5, Sunday, 12:30 p.m., UU Band
of Writers, Youth Room

April 16-17, Thursday-Friday, “Queer
On Their Feet,” performing at Don
Quixote’s Music Hall, Felton, April 16
at 7:30 p.m. and at the UU Church of
Palo Alto, April 17 at 8:00 p.m.

April 18, Saturday, Let Justice Flow—
Water Justice & Climate Change
Workshop, Mount Diablo UU Church,
Walnut Creek, 9:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

April 20, Monday, Poverty Simulation,
Rotunda, San Jose City Hall, 2:00-
5:00 p.m.

April 24, Friday, Making the River
movie and Q&A Panel, in the Sanctu-
ary, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

April 26, Sunday, 13th Annual Rivers
of Chocolate Festival: fundraising
event for the Youth Division of EHC
LifeBuilders, The Mountain Winery,
Saratoga, 1-5 p.m.



As we build
the beloved
community...

By the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...

Para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones



Announcing the JUUNTOS/ Together Project!

This year, we launch the JUUNTOS/Together Project, a program designed (1) to strengthen our own relationships in this multicultural congregation and (2) to form partnerships with Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the country as we bring Unitarian Universalism closer to its vision of multicultural inclusion. In the wider UU world, we here at FUCSJ are considered heroes for the steppingstones we have in place and for our intention to be a more inclusive multicultural congregation! Now this project asks, "How can we UUs be truly juntos/together?"

You can participate in one or all of these ways:

- To measure where we are as this project begins, take the JUUNTOS/Together survey, available in orders of service in late March and in newsletter at the beginning of April.
- Attend the Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other retreat on Saturday, April 25, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. here at the church. An extraordinary program, led by Rodrigo Garcia, brings us together to share conversation, fun, and food and to build on the foundation we have laid for a diverse community. Participants from our full range of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are warmly encouraged to attend. (A small band of members will take part in a pilot retreat on March 28.)
- Come to General Assembly, June 24-28, in Salt Lake City (register at www.uua.org). Help Rev. Nancy, Roberto, and members of FUCSJ lead worship for the Multicultural Track of UU University on Thursday afternoon, June 25. Then participate in our JUUNTOS/Together workshop on Saturday, June 27, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

To find out more, to sign up for the retreat, and/or to help with the worship/workshop at GA, please contact the members of the JUUNTOS/Together Multicultural Leadership Team:

Madeline Morrow: madelinemorrow@earthlink.net

Marla Scharf: marla.scharf@gmail.com

Laura Diaz Shadeed: l_diazshadeed@yahoo.com

Roberto Padilla: paor69@yahoo.com

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones: revnpj@yahoo.com

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.

With my love,

Nancy ●

Anuncio acerca del proyecto JUUNTOS/Together Project!

Este año nosotros hemos lanzado el proyecto Juntos/Together, un programa diseñado (1) para fortalecer nuestras relaciones en esta congregación multicultural y (2) para crear una asociación con las congregaciones Unitarias Universalistas a través del país mientras traemos más cerca al Unitario Universalismo a su visión de la inclusión multicultural.

¡Para el resto del mundo UU, nosotros aquí en FUCSJ somos considerados héroes por los pasos que damos para progresar, que tenemos un lugar por nuestra intención de ser una congregación multicultural más inclusiva! Ahora este proyecto nos pregunta, "¿Cómo podemos los UUs estar verdaderamente juntos/together?"

Ustedes pueden participar en una o en todas estas formas:

- Para medir donde estamos mientras que este proyecto comienza, llene la encuesta sobre JUUNTOS/Together, disponible en las órdenes de servicio al final de marzo y en el Boletín de Noticias al principio de abril.
- Asistir al retiro Conociéndonos/Getting to Know Each Other el sábado 25 de abril, de 1:30 a 5 P.M. aquí en la iglesia. Un programa extraordinario, conducido por Rodrigo García, que nos traerá juntos a compartir la conversación, la diversión y la comida y construir la base que hemos puesto para una comunidad diversa. Se anima a los participantes de nuestra amplia gama de razas, etnias y orígenes culturales que con gusto asistan. (Un pequeño grupo de miembros participará en un retiro experimental el 28 de marzo.)
- Asista a la Asamblea General, del 24 al 28 de junio, en Salt Lake City (regístrese en www.uua.org). Ayude a la Rev. Nancy, a Roberto y a los miembros de FUCSJ a dirigir un servicio religioso por el sendero Multicultural de la universidad de UU en la tarde del jueves, 25 de junio. Entonces, participe en nuestro taller de JUUNTOS/Together el sábado 27 de junio: 3:00 a las 4:45 P.M.

Para averiguar más, para inscribirse en el retiro y/o para ayudar con el servicio religioso/el taller en GA, por favor, pónganse en contacto con los miembros del equipo Multicultural que dirigen JUUNTOS/Together:

Madeline Morrow: madelinemorrow@earthlink.net

Marla Scharf: marla.scharf@gmail.com

Laura Diaz Shadeed: l_diazshadeed@yahoo.com

Roberto Padilla: paor69@yahoo.com

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones: revnpj@yahoo.com

Este proyecto es financiado en parte por una beca del Fondo para el Unitario Universalismo.

Nancy ●



More Candidates for Church Office This Year

by Steve Madden, Nominating Committee Chair

This year we have the following positions to fill in the church leadership:

- One Board Director position (to replace **Marla Scharf**, who is completing her term)
- The Program Officer, to head the Program and Operations Council (to replace **Julia Rodriguez**, who is completing her term)
- The Financial Officer on the Program and Operations Council (to replace **Christopher Frey**, who is completing his term)
- Three members of the Nominating Committee (to replace **Gordon Smith**, **Barbara Derbyshire**, and **Stephanie Rynas**).

We are currently actively seeking nominations for the Program Officer and Financial Officer. If you would like to learn more about these positions or would like to nominate someone, please contact me at stevem@ucdavis-alumni.com.

Biographies of **Madeline Althof** (nominating committee) and **Dena Dickenson** (Worship position on POC) were published in the March 4 issue. Below are the biographies of some other of our nominees:

Bob Redfern has accepted the nomination for another term as Secretary:

I have attended First Unitarian Church since 1989, and signed the book about a year later. I have helped count money since 1995 and have recruited many fine and responsible church people to help at that necessary, but quiet* task. I have been active in the Men's Group since 1999, and I previously served as Secretary to the Board from 2001-2005. I appreciate the opportunity to serve another 2 years and I promise to continue keeping the congregation informed about the activities of our board.

I had a bumpy road in 2008 and several months went by without a report, due to a host of "issues" that came up, one after the other. So far, 2009 is looking like a better year for regular connection. Additionally, the conferencing device can help connect members out of town.

Thank you Steve & the nominating committee for your confidence in my service to the Congregation.

* **Money counters need to work in a quiet, out of the way corner. Who ever heard of a brash, swashbuckling bookkeeper?**

Cheri Goodman has accepted the nomination for another term as Board Director:

Cheri Goodman has been attending the First Unitarian Church of San Jose for around 18 years. She has served as a Worship Associate and was a member of the Committee on Ministry for two years. She has been involved in Religious Education since her 15-year-old son Rob was in Kindergarten, and now teaches her daughter Anna's 3rd-to-5th grade class. She is a member of the choir and has served on the Board for the past year.

Madeline Morrow has accepted the nomination for Board Director:

Madeline moved to California from upstate NY in 1994, and joined FUCSJ in 1995, drawn by the warmth and diversity of the worship and the congregation as well as its commitment to social justice. She has taught RE and is a continuing Chancel decorator and Caring Hands volunteer, and has helped with many Church special events.

Madeline is a former systems analyst turned stay-at-home mom and major school volunteer. She ended up on PTA, music boosters and education foundation boards (successively), serving terms as board member, secretary, treasurer and president. She also worked on two school bond campaigns. She is married to Jim Rumbaugh and has 2 boys, now in college. Since becoming an empty nester she has been exploring what her next role in life will be. Joining a small group, participating in the Building the World we Dream About course and becoming a member of the UU Knitters have deepened her connection to FUCSJ.

Madeline is also passionate about gardening with native plants. Her yard is 80% native, and that percentage will go up as she is killing her last patch of lawn. She is happy to talk to anyone who is considering eliminating their lawn!

Jan Theis-Guffey has accepted the nomination for member of the Nominating Committee:

So...I've been attending FUCSJ with my family since 1992, one of the people attracted by an article in the *San Jose Mercury News* about the **Rev. Lindi Ramsden** and the church. We stayed through the fire in 1995, lots of services and Easters at the St. James Community Center, and the move back into our beautifully-restored building. We began attending originally mostly because we were motivated to find a spiritual home for our sons. They received a wonderful spiritual education at First UU, and consider themselves Unitarians now.

I've been mostly involved with Religious Education, beginning as a teacher. We started the Religious Education Council in 2003, and I've been a member of that ever since. The RE Council provides a sounding board and support for Rev. Geoff as he ministers to our children and youth.

I've been on the Board, and the Program and Operations Council. I enjoy translating for the 9:30 services once a month. Last year's church budget shortfall ignited my involvement in long-term fundraising efforts, and I am currently one of the contact persons, along with Sherry Howd, for our marketing group, Giant Creative Services.

Hobbies? Swimming, reading, biking (the motorless kind), and I really enjoy teaching kindergarten.

In addition, **Patrick Myers** was recently appointed by the Board to the Facilities Ministry position on the Program and Operations Council (POC):

I grew up in a small town in Northern California, and graduated with a degree in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College in 1988. I joined this church with my fiancée Natasha Briggs in December 2008, after attending services periodically over several years. In addition to my role with the POC, I am also serving on the Annual Giving Campaign Committee and the Building Committee. I relish my involvement with the church as a way to engage with our community and to get to know more of our members. ●



Religious Education

Nursery (birth-4 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: Marta Jo Forse & Maria Elena Olvera

K-3RD GRADES, LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 2-3

Special times

March 22 The Gift of Family

3RD-5TH GRADES, LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 4-5

A stepping stone year

March 22 The Road to Olepanti

6TH-8TH GRADES, CONFERENCE ROOM

Building Assets Together

(Each week teachers bring alive *The Search Institute's 40 developmental assets with exercises and discussion.* <http://www2.searchinstitute.org/assets/>)

9TH-12TH GRADES, YOUTH ROOM

Senior High Youth Group

The youth group meets every Sunday after the first part of the service. The youth group provides a safe place for personal sharing and discussion of diverse issues affecting society and youth today.

8TH-10TH GRADES, LOWER LEVEL, ROOM 4-6

Coming of age

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR HIGH (6th-7th-8th Grades)

Advisor: Pam Pell

SENIOR HIGH (9TH-12 GRADES)

Advisors: Dani Hope, V Kingsley, 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

**REGISTER
ONLINE!**

Information sent only to the RE Minister.

<http://sanjoseuu.org/RE/br.html>



Service is Our Prayer Day

The Building Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to clean and maintain our facility at Service is Our Prayer Day on Saturday March 7, 2009.

Volunteers included: **Bill Ardrey, Javier Chavez, Gertrud Cory, Lloyd Eater, Nancy Hada, Bob Howd, Sherry Howd, Melanie Lanstrom, Gary McCumber, Alex MacLean, Mary Martin, Joyce Miller, Patrick Myers, Shawna Nixon, Michelle Nohavitza, Raun Nohavitza, Nancy Palmer-Jones, Catherine Pelizzari, Pam Price, Julia Rodriguez, Steve Saunders, and Steve Stein.**

Activities included: cleaning of the new stackable chairs, cleaning of the downstairs kitchen, repair of the downstairs oven, repair of the dripping faucets in the men's restroom, cleaning of various carpet spots, replacement of various burnt-out light bulbs, removal of handprints from the walls of Hattie Porter Hall, and various other general cleaning tasks.

Thanks also to Bob Howd for providing lunch for our volunteers!



You may not know her. She's quiet and very modest. But she seems to be anywhere there is work to be done, behind the scenes, providing the wind beneath the wings of our more visible contributors. Since she joined the church in 1997, **Catherine Pelizzari** has served us in a multitude of ways: as church archivist, Aesthetics Committee member and chair, Worship Host, Collection Counter, Choir member, Library Committee member, SIOP volunteer and Newsletter Editor. It is as newsletter editor that she has made her most notable contribution. As a former technical writer (now

Volunteer Recognition and Opportunities

By Genie Bernardini

For Recognition: Catherine Pelizzari – The Wind Beneath Our Wings

retired), she found this position fit her very nicely since she enjoys contacting church members for material, organizing information and editing the results. Catherine has been an editor an amazing 12 years, the first two all by herself! But with her usual generosity of spirit, she made sure I would honor the others who have also been a part of providing our wonderful "Circular": past editors, **MaryMary Feldman** and **Debra Fenzel-Alexander**; present co-editors, **Sherry Howd** and **Shirley Worth** and **Henry Ruddle**, who has "enormously improved the formatting and professional look," Catherine adds.

For giving us your talent and time and beautiful spirit we are profoundly grateful, Catherine.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Newsletter Co-editor: If you would enjoy interacting with people to gather news, organizing information and editing it, you might check out this position. Contact editors at circular.editors@gmail.com

Have you made your service contribution yet this year? Here are some possibilities:

- Sunday School Teacher
- Worship Host
- Coffee Hour Host
- Sound System "Technician"
- Offering Counter

For further information, contact Volunteer Coordinating Team members **Liz Owen** at lowen@data-time.com or **Bob Miess** at bob@floweringenterprises.com



As the new editor for Circling Around, I will be accosting people in Hattie Porter Hall wearing my "Tell Me Everything" sign, or, if you'd rather actually think about what you want in here, e-mail me at dzu@aol.com. 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. For example, in this issue:

Who has returned to the scene of former crimes against the state? Whose eyesight ought to be failing? Who suffers from unrealistic expectations? Read on.

Cinequest is over and the undisputed attendance champ is **Katy Dawson**. I saw about 20. One night I saw Dana Grover coming out of a theater and asked where Barbara was and he replied "with your husband!" It was choir practice night but the hip movie group didn't blink an eye.

From everybody's favorite reporter, **Lucy Proulx**: You probably know **Neil Kelly**, he's a great musician, music teacher at our church. His wife Jasmine writes poetry. They're a fairly young couple with little girls. Any-who, Neil is **Dave Proulx's** guitar teacher extraordinaire! Neil is going to be performing a piece he wrote for the Sunday Jazz Series—these were juried pieces and his was selected. Then they needed a guitarist to play it and asked him to perform as well!

A scoop! A scoop! A veritable scoop! (Extra points if you recognize the reference) From **Claire Wagner**: "Assuming no divine intervention of the obnoxious kind, **Greg (Ashley)** and I are moving back to San Jose around May 1. (That's a long story for another day.) Our house is rented out so we are asking if anyone knows of a modest rental house or apartment in or near downtown San Jose. It needs to accept a small dog and an occasional visiting cat. Please email cwagner21@gmail.com. We are so looking forward to being in our church community

again. Thanks for your love and support over the long distance this past year." So, anybody who knows of such a place in this area might be trampled by the crowds trying to rent anything affordable in this valley, but survivors should contact Claire. Soon.

Shelley Leiser had a sticker on her forehead at church, so I couldn't resist talking to her. Says she used to be outrageous (the very best kind—we should start a club). She was back with us after abandoning us for the Sunnyvale group years ago. Her daughter, she says, has the same sense of humor she does, but sometimes thinks that mom is too over the top for her. Isn't it every parent's goal to embarrass the children?

Ben Cadena, amazing musician, is playing at the GI Forum with his salsa group "Quattro con Tres" It doesn't really mean 4 with 3, but 4 people, one who plays an instrument called a "tres". A musical pun. Ben has returned to San Jose State in Journalism. The last time he was there (1966), he was expelled for demonstrating. Claims nothing has changed: a professor was claiming he was just an ordinary white guy, and Ben informed him he was "suffering from 'white privilege'" which brought a deafening silence from the class. In spite of all this, he'll graduate this time. Sounds like time for a party.



Quattro con Tres: back row, left to right: Clay Shanrock, bongo; Ben Cadena, baby bass; Johnny Saldivia, singer/sonero; Joe Brigandi, drummer. Front row, leader/founder Charlie Montoya on guitar; teacher/founder, tres player and singer Ed Robledo.

While stalking around Hattie Porter, I came upon two **Patricias: Ohanian-Coffey** and **Massey**, who were marveling at a friend who throws out old magazines the day the new one comes. We are not inviting such a person to dinner. P O-C said cleaning up after her father's death was nightmarish because he kept everything, including copies of letters and gewgaws like a telegram from MLK, and a Babe Ruth baseball inscribed to him. Beats my National Geographic collection.

Thanks to my contributors, and a request about White Light Corner: please tell me who belongs in here. White Light Corner: **Lucy & Dave Proulx**, and **Patrick Smiley** (beautiful service for **Marilyn**). ●

How To Be A Healing Presence – Training to be a Pastoral Associate

One Saturday morning a month for four months **Rev. Donna Lenahan**, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, will you help learn how to compassionately companion those who are experiencing health challenges at home, in the hospital or at a care facility.

We will be reading and discussing these three books that are included in the fee:

- *Sacred Dying; Creating Rituals for Embracing the End of Life* by Megory Anderson,

- *The Art of Being a Healing Presence* by James E. Miller
- *The Art of Listening in a Healing Way* by James E. Miller

This course will provide practical tools and rituals to help you learn to be a healing presence. Please speak with a current Pastoral Associate to get an idea of whether or not serving our beloved community in this way is for you.

Class will be held on the following five Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: April

25, May 2, May 16, and May 23. Payment is due by April 11.

The fee for the course is \$45 and includes the three books. You may register or pick up a brochure at the Pastoral Care Table in Hattie Porter Hall after the 11:00 service on Sundays.

If you have questions, please send Donna an e-mail at djlenahan@aol.com or phone her at (cell) 408-204-6565. The books will be available March 29 to get started with the reading. ●





Spotlight on Social Justice

by Lucy Proulx,
socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org

Making the River Movie & Q&A Panel—April 24, 7:00 p.m.

The Social Justice Council of our Church, in cooperation with San Jose State University's Sociology and Administration of Justice Departments, local peace, inter-faith, and social justice groups, is proud to announce it will be showing of the film *Making the River* on Friday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Jimi Simmons, star of the movie, will be there for the Q&A panel session which will immediately follow the viewing. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Donations gladly accepted.

An official selection of the United Nations Association Film Festival, the film is a dramatic documentary made by Jimi Simmons and Karen Rudolph of the transformation of Jimi's life and his search for justice. This powerful film deals with human rights, children's welfare issues, racism, prison reform, civil and religious rights, justice and freedom, twentieth century American Indian history and politics, and more.

In 1954, when Jimi was only seventeen months old the US government dissolved his tribe. His family was torn apart and Jimi became a ward of the state, moving from orphanages to foster homes to juvenile detention and state correctional facilities. In 1979, Jimi and his brother George were serving a sentence at Walla Walla prison for assault and robbery. Lloyd Broncheau, a young Native American prisoner, was killed in the Washington State Penitentiary for a twenty-five dollar debt. Three days later prison guard Sgt. William Cross was killed during a fight with Indian inmates. This led to the longest lockdown in Washington State history as well as an inmate class-action lawsuit against the State. George and Jimi Simmons were charged with first degree murder for the death of the guard. The State sought execution by hanging.

George Simmons was tried first and was found guilty and eventually committed suicide. When it was Jimi's turn, he was appointed an attorney who had never defended a felony case. Faced with almost insurmountable odds that he would be convicted and executed, the defense team was formed. In 1981, after spending two and a half years in solitary confinement, Jimi was tried and acquitted of first-degree murder.

Featured in the film are key people who helped Jimi find justice. Included are Karen

Rudolph, a San Jose native and feminist grassroots activist, who organized Jimi's defense committee and became his wife in 1987; and Leonard Weinglass, a prominent social justice attorney and civil rights activist who defended him and is also known for having defended Angela Davis, Daniel Ellsberg, and Tom Hayden, to name a few.

To view a Trailer visit: <http://tinyurl.com/MakingTheRiver>. For more information about the film visit: <http://www.makingtheriver.com/>.

New Inter-Faith Project-Downtown Refugee & Homeless Program to Connect With!!

Pat Plant of the "Step Up Silicon Valley Campaign" and long-time affordable housing advocate, announced that she and her husband are moving downtown from Sunnyvale after 30 years to start a "worker house" and refugee and homeless transitional housing apartment building. It will be part of Catholic Charities Refugee and Homeless programs. They are looking for volunteers to become part of their Inter-Faith team to minister to the homeless. For more information contact her at: pat@sanjosephy.org; she's expecting your emails!

Let Justice Flow: California Water Justice & Climate Change Workshop April 18th

- Where does your household water come from?
- What happens to families in your community who can't pay their water bill?
- How safe is your water?

Learn how your congregation and community can ensure everyone has access to safe, affordable water and a say in water reforms being debated in the California legislature this year.

Join the UULMCA and UUSC for a day of learning and action on the water crisis in California Sat., April 18th, from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Mount Diablo UU Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment 15 states: "The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use." Learn from experts and activists in water planning and governance, conservation and the envi-

ronment, social justice and human rights in a day of sharing and mobilizing for California water justice. Cost: \$15, \$5 for students. Lunch provided. For questions and to RSVP, contact Kara Smith ksmith@uusc.org or call 617-301-4392. For a flier for this workshop, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/files/waterpraxis.pdf>. To learn more about UUSC's Environmental Justice Program, please visit http://www.uusc.org/content/environmental_justice.

New Yahoo! Group For Social Justice News & Events

Be up to date on social justice news and events of interest to UU's here at FUCSJ by joining the newly formed Social Justice Yahoo! Group. You'll be able to add your events to our calendar, e-mail us about events to keep us up to date, and add links and photos. To join the Social Justice Yahoo! Group, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjsjuu/> or email sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For help, or if you want only special notices or web only, email sjsjuu-owner@yahoogroups.com.

Call Your Members of Congress & Ask Them to Get REAL March 21st-24th!

From the UUA: Support the Interfaith Delegation at the Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) March 21-24 as Unitarian Universalist youth and adults lobby their representatives in Washington, DC to pass the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, soon to be introduced into the 111th Congress. REAL will provide funding to states for medically accurate, age appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education in public schools that includes information about abstinence and contraception from both values-based and public health perspectives. For more information visit: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/actioncenter/128860.shtml>, or <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/real.htm>. To find your reps visit: <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>

Free "I DO Support Marriage Equality" Stickers Available

We have obtained 50-100 "I DO Support Marriage Equality" stickers to share. They will be set out on the Social Justice Table in Hattie Porter Hall during coffee hour where you can get yours free while they last to show your support for this cause.



We All Need to Conserve Water NOW!

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will vote whether to recommend water restrictions on March 24. Parched California came a step closer to mandatory water rationing February 27 when Gov. Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency and ordered all government agencies to implement the state's emergency plan and provide help for people, communities and businesses impacted by the third consecutive year of drought. The Governor called for a statewide water conservation campaign and asked all urban water users to immediately reduce their individual water use by 20 percent. He asked all Californians (US!) to reduce our water use as much as possible. For more on this topic visit, <http://tinyurl.com/CAwater1> and <http://tinyurl.com/CAwater2>

Poverty Simulation Mon., April 20, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Rotunda, San Jose City Hall

“Step Up Silicon Valley’s Campaign to Cut Poverty in Half by 2020” will launch its campaign on Monday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Rotunda of San Jose City hall with a poverty simulation. Pre-registration is required. Participation is free. Check-in is 1:45 p.m. Program begins at 2:00 p.m. Our own **Rev. Nancy Palmer-Jones** has volunteered to participate, if you’d like to join her, email her right away at revnpj@yahoo.com.

This is an activity which paints a vivid picture of poverty in our valley and teaches or reaffirms how it is for the “least of these” in terms of hunger, housing, employment, and overall stress of life. After the simulation there

will be a discussion of their report and views on what can be done to remedy this difficult situation for one in four of our county residents. If you have questions or wish to RSVP, e-mail: povertysimulation@ccsj.org, and copy Pat Plant, Hunger Action Advocate at pat@sanjoseph.org so that she’ll know you plan on attending. For a flyer of this event to post, please contact Lucy Proulx at socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org.

State Legislature Goes On Record to Oppose Prop. 8

Both the California Senate and Assembly passed resolutions on Monday, March 2 opposing Proposition 8 as an illegal and unprecedented revision to the state Constitution. According to the resolutions, Prop. 8 illegally usurps the legislature’s role to vote on all fundamental revisions to the Constitution. By taking away the fundamental freedom to marry from one particular group, Prop. 8 alters the very intent of the Constitution, which is to treat all people equally under the law.

GLBT March Action of the Month: Sexuality Education Call-In Days

On March 23 and 24, ask your elected officials to support “Comprehensive Sexuality Education.” The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) views sexuality education as an issue of Justice. It is our religious faiths and values that compel us to support justice and equity for people of all genders, races, backgrounds, income levels, abilities, and sexual orientations. We urge you to ask your elected officials to support age-appropriate, medically accurate, and fully inclusive sexual-

ity education in schools and communities and congregations.

March to Mark the Sixth Anniversary of the Iraq War – Vigil, Speakers & Leafleting

- Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice invites you to participate in one of the following Vigils on the Sixth Anniversary of the Iraq War:
- **Palo Alto:** Iraq War Sixth Anniversary Vigil, Speakers and Leafleting; Thursday, March 19, 6:00 p.m., Lytton Plaza (University Ave. & Emerson St.), Palo Alto. Sponsored by Peninsula Peace & Justice Center, Cosponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice. For more information see http://peaceandjustice.org/article.php?story=March_19_Vigil.
 - **San Mateo:** 24 Hour Silent Vigil for Peace. Friday, March 20, 1:00 p.m., Saturday, March 21, 1:00 p.m., College Heights Church, 1150 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo. The church will be open during these 24 hours for anyone who wants to pray, meditate, or reflect. People of all beliefs are welcome. Sponsored by Declaration of Peace-San Mateo County. For more information contact Anne Carey at abcarey41@comcast.net.
 - **San Francisco:** International Day of Action On the Sixth Anniversary of Iraq War, Justin Herman Plaza (Embarcadero), San Francisco, Saturday, March 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Carpools and Buses available, contact: 408-829-9506, ANSWERsouthbay@gmail.com

BONUS ARTICLES AVAILABLE IN ONLINE VERSION at www.sanjoseuu.org



Spirit in Practice – Monthly Adult Program Begins in March

Leader: Rev. Geoff Rimositis

“The idea of spiritual practices encourages individuals to take responsibility for their own spiritual development by spending time working on it, deliberating on its meaning and how best to pursue it, seeking to understand the sacred through reading and the counsel of others, and seeking to have contact with the sacred through personal reflection and prayer.”

—**Robert Wuthnow**, scholar of American religious history

The Spirit in Practice workshops helps Unitarian Universalists 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 of the workshops.

Please RSVP with **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org, 292-3858, 25

- **Workshop 1:** Toward a Rich and Meaningful Unitarian Universalist Spirituality
Sunday, March 15, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room

- **Workshop 2:** Personal Spiritual Practices
Sunday, April 5, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room
 - **Workshop 3:** Communal Worship Practices
Sunday, May 3, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room
 - **Workshop 4:** Spiritual Partnerships
Sunday, June 7, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room
 - **Workshop 5:** Mind Practices
Sunday, July 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room
 - **Workshop 6:** Body Practices
Sunday, August 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Ramsden Fireside Room
- Fall workshops yet to be scheduled will include: Soul Practices, Life Practices, Justice Practices and Looking Back and Moving Forward ●





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 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, April 1, 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**: 408-292-3858 ext. 24; 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**: 408-292-3858 ext. 24; 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.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Editors: Catherine Leeson Pelizzari; Sherry Howd, and Shirley Worth; Circular.Editors@gmail.com
Catherine will be editor for the April 1 and May 6, 2009 issues. Shirley will be editor for April 15 and May 20, 2009 issues.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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

Layout: **Henry Ruddle** henry_L@ruddle.com
 (www.ruddle.com) 408-234-3670

Translator: **Roberto Padilla**

Photographer: **Dani Hope**

Assembly: **Lloyd Eater, Ellie White, Deanna LaTorre, and Genie Bernardini**

Thanks for all the work you do and care you put into the newsletter.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Tracy Avent, darkmuzik@yahoo.com
SECRETARY
Bob Redfern, rredfern@charter.net
TREASURER
Bob Howd, BHowd@aol.com
POC PERSONNEL OFFICER
Joyce Miller, j408miller@sbcglobal.net
POC PROGRAM OFFICER
Julia Rodriguez, quixoposto@ix.netcom.com
POC FINANCIAL OFFICER
Christopher Frey,
cjfrey@cjfrey@alum.berkeley.edu

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister Ext. 23
 The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, revnpj@yahoo.com
Assoc. Minister For Religious Education Ext. 25
 The Rev. Geoff Rimositis, grimositis@sanjoseuu.org
Office Administrator Ext. 10
 Iris Gonzalez, fucs@sanjoseuu.org
Coordinator of Spanish Speaking Ministries Ext. 24
 Roberto Padilla, paor69@yahoo.com
Social Justice Coordinator Ext. 27
 Lucy Proulx, socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org

DIRECTORS

Cheri Goodman,
cheri.goodman@sbcglobal.net
Rick Merritt, rbmerritt@cmp.com
Michael Payne-Alex,
michaelpaynealex@yahoo.com
Marla Scharf, marla.scharf@gmail.com

Bookkeeper Sue Evanicky
Custodian Edgar Cruz
R. E. Assistant TBD
Nursery Staff Jusica Nunez & Maria Elena Olvera

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: (408) 292-3858 Fax: (408) 292-4744
 E-mail fucs@sanjoseuu.org
 URL <http://www.sanjoseuu.org>

Congresswoman Tauscher: End “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

The debate over whether gays should serve openly in the military is heating up again, as Bay Area Congresswoman Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a Walnut Creek Democrat with close ties to the military, pushes a new plan to end the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy—a goal President Barack Obama promised to pursue during his campaign. Tauscher is introducing a bill end the restriction on gays in the armed services. Under current policy, gays may serve only if they keep their sexual orientation private, and commanders and recruiters are barred from asking questions about their sexuality. “This is an important civil rights issue. We also need the strongest military possible, and we need to recruit the best and brightest Americans. Some happen to be gay,” Tauscher said. For more on this article, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/Tauscher>

Turn out your lights for Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m. March 28

Please join the UUA and countries all over the world in participating in Earth Hour by turning out your lights (etc.) for 1 hour on March 28 at 8:30 p.m.. World Wildlife Fund is asking individuals, businesses, governments and organizations around the world to turn off their lights for one hour—Earth Hour—to make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate commitment to finding solutions.

The Unitarian Universalist Association is an official supporter of Earth Hour. (<http://www.earthhourus.org/supporters.php>). An integral part of our faith is our Seventh Principle, which affirms the interdependent web of existence of which all beings, including ourselves, are a part. Recognizing that those who contribute least to the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change are often the most impacted by its effects, we work to reduce emissions as a matter of social justice. For more information about UUA Social Justice issues, visit <http://www.uua.org/>. For more information about Earth Hour visit: <http://tinyurl.com/WWFEarthDay>.

To see video of global participation from over 78 countries visit: <http://tinyurl.com/EarthHourYouTube>.

On the Affordable Housing Front

This can be viewed as semi-positive news: Yes, houses have dropped in value, but many entry-level homes are now selling

with multiple offers. In an article entitled, “Dramatic price drops bring San Jose homes within reach” by Christine Dugas, USA Today, she states, “The housing market in San Jose has turned upside down. Prices are plummeting, and sales are rising. Last year, the market headed in the opposite direction. Homes in San Jose had been so costly for so long that many families had been priced out of the market. Now that the median price is \$415,000, homes seem to be a bargain, and nearly 50% of the local population can afford to buy a home.” For more on this story visit: <http://tinyurl.com/SJHomes>.

Applications Now Being Accepted for SJ Affordable Housing Community

The Fairways at San Antonio Court is now accepting applications for its Affordable Housing Community with an anticipated move-in date of May 1. There are 84 units available (13 Studio, 28 1BR, 15 2BR, and 30 3BR). Located at 305 San Antonio Court, there are five three-story buildings including a manager’s office, community room, tot lot, computer learning center/homework lab and underground parking. In order to qualify to occupy an income-restricted unit, your household gross annual income must not exceed specific income limits, based on the size of your household. For more information contact: (800) 801-8440, ext. 7641.

Celebrate Seder in San Mateo March 29

Peninsula Temple Beth El, San Mateo invites us to join them for their 2009 Freedom Seder whose theme this year is: “Exodus from Poverty.” The Seder is to be held on Sunday, March 29 from 4-6:30 p.m., at Peninsula Temple Beth El, 1700 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo. Cost for a Kosher meal is \$18 per person, but no one will be turned away due to an inability to pay. Seating is limited, please RSVP to JCRC: 650-961-1922 or kstiller@jcrc.org if you plan to attend.

A Passover Seder tells the story of the Jewish liberation and Exodus from slavery in Egypt. But people of all cultures and religions are still trapped by the bondage of poverty here on the Peninsula. And with our faltering economy, more people than ever will be struggling to keep themselves and their families from slipping into poverty. You are invited to come to the Freedom Seder to celebrate freedom and learn how you can help others make an exodus from poverty. Co Led by Rabbi Elisheva Salamo & Reverend Kristi Denham. Music led by Cantor Doron Shapira.

Neil Kelly FUCSJ Member Featured at 2nd Annual Local Composer Showcase

Sunday, March 22, 2:00—4:00 p.m., at the Improv, 62 S. Second St, San Jose

In late 2008, for the second year, composers from Silicon Valley were invited to submit their compositions to San Jose Jazz. A panel performed a blind selection of the compositions selecting the compositions to be performed by “A Touch of Brass,” a Bay Area 19-piece Big Band. with the composers joining the band in some cases. This concert features music by Neil Kelly, Michael Larson, Gus Kambeitz, Daniel Wood, Martie Vandry, Ken Mitchell, Lee Pardini, Wally Schnalle, and Sylvia Winsby. In many cases, this music will be heard for the first time.” Tickets \$30 (\$20 for students and members) At the Improv Box Office: 62 S. Second St., 408-280-7475. Online: www.symfonee.com/improv/sanjose. or phone: 408-288-7557 x2335 weekdays from 9 to 5. For more information about San Jose Jazz’s Sunday Series visit: <http://www.sanjose-jazz.org/sunday-series.html>

Queer On Their Feet Comedy & Improv Troupe in Felton & Palo Alto

Queer On Their Feet, a Gay Stand Up Comedy and Improv Troupe featuring Jennie McNulty, Jason Dudey and Diana Yanez, will be performing at Don Quixote’s Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 Felton on April 16, at 7:30 p.m.; and at the UU Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto, on April 17 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets online through Brown Paper Tickets (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/>) and at the door the night of the show. Cost varies by location \$10-\$20. College student discount with ID.

A traveling comedy troupe that performs nationwide to both gay and straight audiences, their show includes individual stand up from each of the main three performers as well as an improvisational game set performed with all three together using suggestions from the audience. While the troupe’s name is a play on “quick on their

feet” and all three of the performers are gay, the show’s performance is not all “gay” in nature. Straight audiences will and do enjoy the show as is evidenced by their wildly successful monthly show at the Improv in Los Angeles. Each of the performers has a “guy” or “girl next door” quality that bridges the gap between straight and gay and lets us all laugh at life’s daily craziness. Never offensive and always fun, *Queer on Their Feet* appeals to all audiences. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/queerontheirfeet.

March is Women’s History Month—Great Displays at King Library & “Works”

As you step off the elevator on the fifth floor of the King Library, you are greeted with two glass displays that are a part of the Women and Social Movements in San Jose exhibit. The exhibit’s collections reflect a timeline of important events that touch specifically on women in social movements in San Jose from the late 19th century until now. It includes photographs and documents covering the activities of working-class women, black women and lesbians, in addition to materials documenting the white, middle-class women’s clubs that became involved in reform efforts. San Jose is an example of what has happened in our country. This exhibit helps to show people’s mothers, sisters, aunts and nieces who have done extraordinary things.” The exhibit will continue through the end of March on the fifth floor of the library.

A quick search also turned up several websites celebrating the better-known accomplishments of women. The Library of Congress has a page recognizing women’s contributions to the arts <http://tinyurl.com/WHMarts>, while the National Women’s History Project is honoring women for their efforts in saving the environment <http://tinyurl.com/WHMenv>. I love to see high profile women get their due, but I think it’s equally important to honor the women in our own families. Although most of their stories are overlooked in the history books, their sacrifices and struggles helped make a better life for those of us who came after them.

Women Artists of San Jose Spread their Wings for SWAN Day

The women of Alameda ArtWorks are proud to offer an open invitation to join the celebration of women in the arts of many disciplines in San Jose’s first annual celebration of SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now!). This event is part of the second annual international SWAN Day celebration, taking place on the last Saturday of Women’s History Month. This day of celebration will help people imagine what the world would be like if women’s art and perspectives were fully integrated into all of our lives. The long term goal of SWAN Day is to inspire communities to recognize and support women artists as a basic element of civic planning.

All are welcome to attend the live musical performances, open artists studios with work available for sale, an art exhibit of over 30 women artists, live poetry readings, and two informative panels of speakers including Jane Przybysz, Ph.D, Executive Director of the Museum of Quilts and Textiles, and a special appearance by noted author Dr. Kate Evans.

SWAN Day San Jose takes place on March 28th, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and is located at the Alameda ArtWorks, 1068 The Alameda. For more information, visit <http://www.womenarts.org/swan/>

Also, Amnesty International Group 35 and Works San José Art Gallery have teamed up with local and international artists to tell the stories of women facing and overcoming violence worldwide. Admittance to the exhibit at Works San José, 451 South 1st Street in San Jose, is free and runs until March 21st.

COSTCO Offers Solar Special Event

The same solar company that installed systems on many Naglee Park and other downtown roofs in group neighborhood purchasing programs last summer is now offering solar packages and installation through Costco. In their member magazine “Costco Connections” page 58 for March 2009, they show an example of a system in Colorado for a 3,080-watt DC/2, 578-watt AC solar electric system offered here in California, too, by REC Solar, Inc., the nation’s largest installer of

solar electric systems. The breakdown shows a total cost of \$22,860.19; then rebates and other credits are applied to reduce the cost to \$8,178.99. That’s a \$14,681.20 savings! If you are thinking of going green with solar, this might be something to look into.

Humane Society Goes Green—Open House Saturday, March 28

In March 2009, the Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) will make history when they open the nation’s first environmentally certified Green Animal Community Center that offers a full spectrum of pet and community services under one roof. Thinking outside of the cage with its new Animal Community Center, this regional center will serve people and pets throughout the Bay Area. The Open House will be held Saturday, March 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at 901 Ames Ave., Milpitas.

The 48,000 square foot center will be the first Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified animal welfare agency in the country to combine an adoption program with a full spectrum of pet and community oriented services under one roof.

Homelike habitats for dog, cat, and rabbit visitors; affordable spay/neuter services; innovative education programs; a healthy and humane pet supply store; dog grooming and day care; a dog park and pet-friendly cafe—these are just a few of the features that will make Humane Society Silicon Valley a place where people can find, bring, care for, learn about, and celebrate the animals that enrich their lives.

No more cages! With its enlightened architecture and design, the center will replace traditional chain-link cages with healthier, friendlier habitats – comfortable, homelike enclosures for dogs; condos and colonies, complete with climbing trees, for cats; and a rabbitat designed to reflect the warrens rabbits naturally inhabit. Animals will also have the opportunity to socialize and learn from each other, making them more adoptable. These new habitats will reduce stress and decrease incidents of illness for animals and will make HSSV a more people-friendly environment,

facilitating more human-animal matches. The Animal Community Center will be able to accommodate up to 10,000 animal adoptions a year. We believe this innovative center will be an inspiring model of humane care and community involvement for shelters nationwide.

The Animal Community Center is located on 4.8 acres of land near Milpitas Boulevard and Montague Expressway and is accessible to Highway 101 and Interstates 680 and 880. For more information visit: <http://www.hssv.org/>. (Source: Human Society Silicon Valley, Winter 2009, Pg. 3.)

Tell Your Representatives to Support Single-Payer Health Care!

Rep. John Conyers has reintroduced HR 676, The United States National Health Care Act, which would eliminate private insurance companies and create a national health care system that would guarantee that all Americans have access to high-quality health care. A single-payer system would be financed by taxpayers and would remove financial barriers, such as unaffordable co-payments and premiums, that prevent people from seeking needed care. Please, call your representative today regarding this crucial issue! Our goal is to flood congressional offices with calls so lawmakers understand how crucial it is to fix the health care crisis. For more information visit Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) Single Payer Health at: <http://www.uujec.org/campaign.html>.

Environmental Earth Day Network Efforts You Can Join

The Council of Churches of Santa Clara County urges you to sign up for the Earth Day Network's email so you can stay informed about ways to encourage your church, office, schools and friends about how to save creation. If we do not speed up our reduction of green house gases, our children and grandchildren will live in a world characterized by lack of resources and resulting wars for access to those resources. You can sign up at: EDN@mail.democracyinaction.org.

Help For Working Families To

Weatherize Their Homes

A major partnership between HUD and DOE will streamline and better coordinate federal weatherization efforts to make it much easier for families to weatherize their homes and spur a new home energy efficiency industry that could create tens of thousands of jobs. This high level interagency task force will coordinate home weatherization efforts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and leverage funds to build a home energy efficiency industry in the U.S. that will: create or retain tens of thousands of jobs, lower energy costs of vulnerable low-income households, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to sustaining homeownership; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information is at www.hud.gov and at espanol.hud.gov.

Learn Not to Fall—It Could Save Your Life

After breaking my hip in June 2008, I've become very weary of falling and have gotten stuck on the floor after bending to reach items more times than I want to remember. That's why I was so surprised to find that the number one risk facing seniors living at home is falling, whether it's slipping while getting out of the tub, catching a foot on a throw rug, or losing balance on the stairs (that's one that still happens to me!). According to the U.S. National Institute on Aging, falls are the #1 cause of injury among seniors, resulting in more than 1.6 million emergency room visits and 300,000 hip fractures each year. That's almost 1,000 hip fractures every day!

I found a very informative and user-friendly website called "Learn Not To Fall" (www.LearnNotToFall.com). The site features a personal falls risk assessment and offers suggestions on how to help prevent falls from happening in the first place. The site also includes a video and illustrated, printable PDF on how to get up from a fall, created by noted

expert on falling Dr. Dorothy Baker from the Yale School of Medicine. — *Lucy Proulx*. (Source: Spring 2009 *MedicAlert News*)

Lucy's NOT Dead!! The CaringBridge Site Just Got Messed-Up!

If you signed up for the "alerts" to let you know when I have updated my CaringBridge Journal, you're probably wondering if I died! Nope! What happened is that the Administrator of CaringBridge did an upgrade maintenance at the end of last year and it wiped out a portion of my update alerts file. If you still want to get the updates, or if you never got them in the first place and do want to know when I've updated the journal, you'll need to sign up to get them again at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lucyproulx>. Then you can read the updates in the journal and leave Dave and me messages. Remember, when I can't fill you in on what's going on, Dave will, as he's able to—like when I spent that week in the hospital fighting for my life in January. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the site. Sorry for the inconvenience, but I really have been posting—it just hasn't been letting you know. Really! It's not the "bring out your dead" cart coming 'round like in Monty-Python's Holy Grail! I'm not dead yet!

