



# Our Church Circular

April 7, 2010  
/ 7 de Abril  
2010

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

APRIL THEME: Creativity as Our Spiritual Practice  
TEMA DE ABRIL: La Creatividad Como Práctica Espiritual

**9:30 a.m.**

Servicios en español

### DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

**April 11** – 9:30 am

#### Recordando el Holocausto

Cuando todo a nuestro alrededor se va más obscuro, es el momento de poner a trabajar nuestros dones y poderes. Vengan y celebremos la creatividad humana en medio del horror y la muerte.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

#### Remembering the Holocaust

When darkness grows all around us, it is time to put our gifts and powers to work. Come and celebrate human creativity in the midst of horror and death.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

Worship Associates: Members of SSM

### New Church Board Members Elected

The Congregational Meeting for the election of new officers on March 28th resulted in the approval of our new President, **Madeline Morrow**; three new board members: **Rodrigo Garcia, Rick Morris, and Nancy Taylor**; and three new Nominating Committee members: **Melanie Landstrom, Jeff Norment, and Jean Embree. Dena Dickinson** graciously agreed to remain as our Financial Officer for a second year. We still need to find candidates willing to serve as Treasurer and Personnel Officer for this coming year. Can YOU help? ●

**11:00 a.m.**

Services in English

### SOURCES SUNDAY

**April 11** – 11:00 am

#### Mysticism and the Creator in Each of Us

We are all artists, for we are all taking part in a great creation, even if we would never dare to call what we produce “art.” We have everything we need to help make this world more beautiful, if we will only access it. What spiritual practices will put us in touch with the creative spirit in each and every one of us? On this Sunday, we invite mystics of many cultures to guide us as we seek the deep sources of joy and creativity together. Come, “open the window in the center of your chest,” as Rumi says, and let our spirits fly!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associate: K'Ailsa Rowan

#### Misticismo y el Criador en Cada de Nosotros

Todos somos artistas, porque todos tomamos parte en una gran creación, incluso si nunca queremos atrevemos a llamar lo que producimos “arte”. Tenemos todo lo que necesitamos para ayudar a hacer de este mundo más hermoso, si sólo accediéramos a él. ¿Qué prácticas espirituales pondremos en contacto con el espíritu creativo en todos y cada uno de nosotros? Este domingo, invitamos a místicos de muchas culturas para guiarnos como buscar juntos las profundas fuentes de la alegría y la creatividad. ¡Vengan, “abran la ventana en el centro del pecho,” como dice de Rumi, y dejemos que nuestros espíritus vuelen!

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociada de Culto: K'Ailsa Rowan

See page 7 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

## SAVE THE DATES

**April 8**, Thursday, 7 pm, PACT meeting, at the church

**April 10**, Saturday, Music Summit, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Come help strengthen our music programs!

**April 11**, Sunday, UU Band of Writers meeting, 12:30 pm, Youth Room

**April 25**, Sunday, Dollar-a-Book Used Book Sale to benefit the church, noon-3:00 pm in Hattie Porter Hall; training course on working with our homeless guests, 1-3 pm in the Sanctuary

**April 30-May 2**, UUA District Assembly, Newark, CA. More info at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2010/index.htm>

**May 8**, Saturday, K-5th Grade Review and Planning Meeting for 2010-11 Lifespan Development Sunday program; 9 am-noon, Lower Level classrooms

**May 9**, Sunday, New Member Ingathering, Mother's Day Service

**June 5**, Saturday, meditation retreat, led by Swami Dada Nabhanilananda; 10 am-5 pm, Hattie Porter Hall, see article on page 8

**June 23-27**, UUA General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN. See page 8.

**June 27-30**, FUCSJ Junior High Backpack Trip. Contact Pam Pell at [johnpell@aol.com](mailto:johnpell@aol.com)

**July 14-18**, Wednesday-Sunday, Church Campout 2010, McConnell State Recreation Area, Turlock, CA. Email [mm@feldmo.com](mailto:mm@feldmo.com)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

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



As we build  
the beloved  
community...

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos  
nuestra querida  
comunidad...

Por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

## Creativity as our Spiritual Practice

*Don't worry about saving these songs!  
And if one of our instruments breaks,  
it doesn't matter.*

*We have fallen into the place  
where everything is music....*

*So the candle flickers and goes out.*

*We have a piece of flint, and a spark....*

*Poems reach up like spindrift and the edge  
of driftwood along the beach, wanting!*

*They derive*

*from a slow and powerful root  
that we can't see.*

Jelaluddin Rumi,  
"Where Everything  
Is Music," in *The  
Essential Rumi*, trans.  
by Coleman Barks,  
with John Moyne,  
A. J. Arberry, and  
Reynold Nicholson  
(San Francisco:  
HarperSanFrancisco,  
1995).

“We have a piece of flint, and a spark!” the Sufi poet Rumi cries. We can touch a deep source—in ourselves, in this world, in Life—from which the creative spirit in each and every one of us is longing to spring forth. We are all artists, even if we never dreamed to call ourselves that, for we are all taking part in a great creation, and we have everything we need to help make this world more beautiful. Don't worry about the details and the logistics, the poet says; once we release into this place “where everything is music,” then “even if the whole world's harp should burn up, there will still be hidden instruments playing.”

How do we live so that we hear this “music” and help to make it more often? What spiritual practices will put us in touch with this deep source of joy and creativity? I talk a lot about how we can make “life-giving choices,” rather than life-suppressing ones, in our daily lives. Life-giving words and deeds, thoughts and actions, bring us closer to the fullness of life—“the terrifying greatness of life,” as A. Powell Davies put it—rather than separating us from our best selves, from each other, from the earth itself. Some of us may produce poetry or music or paintings with these life-giving choices, but we don't have to produce actual “art” in order to add to the fullness of life. We just need to be in touch with that creative source that resides in each of us, and let it flow.

In order to touch that source, we need air and breath, relaxation and laughter, the wisdom and guidance of the life-giving artists who have gone before us, and hearty companions who will find the humor and the beauty in all of life's raw material. All that is exactly what we will be discovering in our Sunday worship services in April!

“Stop the words now” is how Rumi ends his poem. “Open the window in the center of your chest, and let the spirits fly in and out.” So come, “open the window in the center of your chest” with us this April, and sense our spirits fly!

With love,

Nancy ●

## La Creatividad es nuestra Practica Espiritual

*No te preocupes por conservar estas canciones!  
Y si uno de nuestros instrumentos se rompe,  
no importa.*

*Hemos caído en el lugar donde todo es música ...*

*Así, la llama de la vela titila y se apaga.*

*Tenemos un trozo de pedernal y una chispa....*

*Los poemas, deseosos llegan como la rociada del mar y el reborde  
de maderas que la marea deposita en las playas.*

*Proviene*

*de una raíz lenta y poderosa  
que no podemos ver.*

“Tenemos un trozo de pedernal y una chispa! el poeta sufí Rumi pregona. Nosotros podemos tocar una fuente profunda— en nosotros mismos, en este mundo, en la vida— desde el cual el espíritu creativo en todos y cada uno de nosotros es anhelo que salta hacia delante. Todos somos artistas, incluso si nunca soñamos llamarnos a nosotros mismos así, todos estamos participando en una gran creación y tenemos todo lo que necesitamos para ayudar a hacer a este mundo más hermoso. No se preocupen acerca de los detalles y la logística, el poeta dice; una vez que nos liberemos en este lugar “donde todo es música,” entonces “incluso si las arpas de todo el mundo deberían quemarse, todavía habrá instrumentos ocultos tocando”.

¿Cómo vivimos para que escuchemos esta “música” y ayudar a hacerlo más a menudo? ¿Qué prácticas espirituales nos pone en contacto con esta profunda fuente de alegría y creatividad? Hablo mucho acerca de cómo podemos “darle vida a las opciones”, en lugar de suprimirlas de la vida, en nuestra vida diaria. Que da vida a palabras y a hechos, a pensamientos y acciones, acercarnos a la plenitud de vida— “la terrible grandeza de la vida,” como Powell Davies lo pone en lugar de que nos separen de lo mejor de nosotros mismos, cada uno de los otros, de la propia tierra. Algunos de nosotros podemos producir poesía, música o pinturas con estas opciones que da vida, pero no tenemos que producir verdadero “arte” a fin de añadir plenitud a la vida. Sólo necesitamos estar en contacto con esa fuente creadora que reside en cada uno de nosotros y dejar que fluya.

Con el fin de tocar ese origen, necesitamos aire y respiración, relajación y risas, la sabiduría y la orientación de los artistas que dan vida, quienes nos han precedido y abundancia de compañeros que encontrarán el humor y belleza con todas las materias primas de la vida. ¡Todo eso es exactamente lo que descubriremos en nuestros servicios religiosos de los domingos en abril!

“Interrumpe las palabras ahora” es como Rumi termina este poema “Abre la ventana del centro de tu pecho y deja que los espíritus entren y salgan volando”. Así que vengan, “abran la ventana en el centro de su pecho” con nosotros este abril y sintamos nuestros espíritus volar!

Con amor,

Nancy ●



# Board Meetings of February and March 24th, 2010

By Bob Redfern, Secretary of the Board of Directors

I apologize for not turning in a report covering the February 24th meeting, but things happen and time races past, faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive, and my granddaughter is now one year old!

The February 24th meeting featured a presentation by our Senior Minister, **Rev. Nancy**, on her request for a sabbatical, tentatively running from December 25, 2010 until June 26, 2011. This includes five months of sabbatical credit for her five years of service to our community, as of August 2010, plus one month of vacation time. The Board gave its general consent to the plans and got down to the planning needs. We will establish a sabbatical committee, with duties parallel to those of the Worship Committee, including adjustment of duties and schedules. Discussion of varying the dates took place to accommodate one thing or another. In the end, the Board approved the plans as proposed and was grateful to have such a long head start towards arranging our varied ongoing needs.

Rev. Nancy announced that the PACT Tea Party held at the end of January closed the gap between our partial dues payment made in this year's austerity budget and a full contribution. The PACT operating committee consists of **Mary Idso, Diana Wirt and Rick Merritt**, joined by **Karen Belote** of PACT.

The UUA extended our JUUNTOS grant into the current fiscal year to complete that work and convey the \$2,000 balance of the grant, wholly if independent matching JUUNTOS contributions are received, or partially if the JUUNTOS matching funds do not add up to the \$2,000 balance. Nancy will report the deadline when she finds out.

At our March 24th meeting, Nancy announced that on Saturday, June 5th, Swami Dada Nabhaniilananda, who co-led a service with Rev. Nancy on March 14th, will lead a meditation retreat.

We discussed a Program and Operations Committee (POC) report on a "One Sunday a Month Collection" earmarked for a specific non-profit group in the community. We will report on this further regarding any limitations or policy changes to enable such a step. This does NOT include special collections such as the recent generous and successful response to the Haitian earthquake.

The Congregational Meeting for the approval of new officers was set for March 28th. The date for Congregational consideration and approval of the budget was set for May 23rd.

**Rick Merritt** reported on his organizing of the March 28th meeting, even though he will be out of town. We will have a new President, Treasurer, two board members, and two nominating committee members. Elsewhere in this publication, I trust there will be a report on who was selected. March 28th is also the date Nancy initiates our input on the Immigration issue — a Postcard Campaign called "Standing on the Side of Love/ Standing with Immigrants." If you did not turn in your postcard, or were mulling it over, please turn it in ASAP at the church, or mail it directly to your Congressperson.

#### *Some other dates discussed at the meeting:*

- Music Summit on Saturday April 10th, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, to enhance, deepen and expand our music ministry.
- Special program on Homeless and Safety on Sunday April 25th, 1-3 pm, led by an Inn Vision caseworker.



Redfern granddaughter Rosie's first birthday.

- April 13th (Tuesday) deadline for Committee leaders to make budget requests to the POC.
- May 5th (Wednesday) deadline for completion of a tentative budget by the POC and special Board budget meeting.

For our incoming Board members, our goal is to provide each of them with a "Book" containing our Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Permanent and Current Policies, and the Bylaws. Previous Board members who received such a booklet found it extremely helpful.

**Tracy Avent** strongly advocated, in his final Board meeting as President, that a mid-year Budget review in November or December be institutionalized so we have no budget surprises such as the "YIKES" fund problems that occurred just as he accepted the role of President. We will work out the details with the POC and determine if any policy or bylaw initiatives are necessary.

Finally, the Board is working on making permanent the Draft policies that were adopted with our conversion to a Policy-based governance model. With Rick Merritt and **Madeline Morrow** leading the way, we finalized policies on Covenant and Commitment, Governing Style, Code of Conduct, and Committee principles as they relate to Board Committees (Temporary) and POC Committees (Semi-permanent).

Thanks to one and all who participated and voted (in person or absentee like myself) in the Congregational meeting. ●

## Spotlight on Social Justice

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

**Peacemaking Statement of Conscience** Are you aware of the UUS's Peacemaking Statement of Conscience (SOC)? You can read it online at: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml> If you would like to join our congregation's JUUST Peace group to discuss the statement and how to present it to the congregation, email **John Burke** at [socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org) for more information. ●



# Respondiendo a sus preguntas sobre el periodo sabático de la Rev. Nancy!

Por el Comité de los Ministerios de la FUCSJ

El Comité en los Ministerios (**Martha Barahona, Frank Bosche, Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Roberto Padilla, Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Patrick Smiley y Claire Wagner**) ha iniciado la planificación para el tiempo sabático de la Rev. Nancy que será en nueve meses. En esta columna, exploraremos sus preguntas sobre el tiempo sabático. Por favor envíe sus preguntas para futuros artículos a través del correo electrónico de Claire de Wagner, en [cwagner21@gmail.com](mailto:cwagner21@gmail.com)

## ¿Para que es el tiempo sabático?

El tiempo sabático ofrece a los Ministros un período de tiempo prolongado para salir de la exigencia y complejidad de su diario servicio en la vida congregacional, para que puedan aprender nuevas habilidades, profundizar en su vida espiritual, explorar nuevas prácticas en el ministerio, “pensar fuera de lo ordinario,” establecer un renovado equilibrio entre la vida personal y profesional y regresar con una fresca energía. Los ministros elijen

cómo utilizar su tiempo sabático basado en el tipo de descanso, renovación y educación para el mejor beneficio de sus ministerios y las congregaciones a las que sirven. El tiempo sabático no es un tiempo cuando cualquiera de los dos, el ministro o la congregación deban iniciar un cambio en su pacto del uno con el otro; nuestra denominación prohíbe específicamente ese tipo de consideración durante el tiempo sabático.

## ¿Cada ministro tiene un tiempo sabático—y generalmente que tan largos son?

Sí. Los tiempos sabáticos son una práctica habitual en la mayoría de las creencias religiosas en los Estados Unidos. El acuerdo de la Rev. Nancy con nosotros (su “contrato”) afirma que ella va a tomar un tiempo sabático después de su cuarto año de servicio, pero antes del séptimo año. La longitud del tiempo sabático depende de la longitud de tiempo que el ministro ha estado sirviendo. Por cada año de servicio, el ministro obtiene un mes de tiempo sabático, hasta un total de seis meses; el “reloj” sabático, entonces, se reinicia cuando el Ministro regresa. El Rev. Geoff, por ejemplo, completó su segundo tiempo sabático de enero a junio del 2008.

## ¿No es demasiado pronto? ¿Nancy realmente lleva aquí ese tiempo?

Sí, ella lo tiene! Nancy comenzó oficialmente con nosotros el 15 de agosto de 2005, por lo que ella ahora está terminando su quinto año como nuestra Ministra Decana. Ella tomará su tiempo sabático a la mitad de su sexto año — justo a tiempo!

## ¿Díganme otra vez: cuando es que va a suceder?

El tiempo sabático de Nancy oficialmente inicia el 25 de diciembre de 2010, y ella podrá regresar el 27 de junio de 2011. Estos seis meses incluyen los cinco meses del tiempo sabático que ella ha ganado, además del mes de vacaciones que recibe cada año. Esto es una práctica habitual para que tanto el ministro como la congregación puedan recibir el beneficio completo del tiempo sabático.

## ¿Cual es el plan para el ministerio mientras que la Rev. Nancy está lejos?

El Comité en los Ministerios está sirviendo como el Comité de planificación para el tiempo sabático. Junto con la Rev. Nancy y el Rev. Geoff estamos escribiendo un detallado plan para cubrir todas de las responsabilidades de la Ministra Decana. El Rev. Geoff tomará algunas de estas responsabilidades; nosotros, los miembros de la Congregación colaboraremos en el Ministerio, también, permitiéndonos crecer y descubrir nuestros talentos. El Comité de planificación del tiempo sabático llevará una lista de extraordinarios ministros invitados para dirigir los servicios religiosos que habría dirigido Nancy. Es un momento de gran oportunidad para nosotros, y deseamos que lo sea! Los detalles del plan se compararán con ustedes antes de que Nancy inicie su tiempo sabático a finales de diciembre.

El tiempo sabático de nuestra ministra será un tiempo de crecimiento y de exploración para todos nosotros, así como para la Rev. Nancy. El Comité en los Ministerios está aquí para dar respuestas y apoyarla a ella y a todos ustedes. Por favor, permanezcan en contacto mientras hacemos este viaje juntos. ●

## Volunteer Recognition: One-Sentence Salutes

(Please send your salutes to [geniebee@hotmail.com](mailto:geniebee@hotmail.com).)

*“As Worship Host Coordinator, I thank the most frequently volunteering Worship Host, **Bill Bowman**, who has filled in about a zillion times in the last year when other hosts have needed a week off, a well as covered his usual once-a-month position.” --Steve Stein*

*“Thanks to **Susan Burke-Diquisto** who compiled information, made calls, filled shifts and updated web sites—all those things behind making the photo part of our upcoming Year-book happen.” --Liz Owen*

*“I thank **Alec MacLean, Gene Martin and Steve Saunders** for being brilliant stewards for our precious building for many years, and thanks to **Patrick Meyer** for joining this illustrious team.” --Dena Dickinson ●*

## Una Nota de la Rev. Nancy

Mi corazón está lleno de gratitud y amor, mientras comenzamos este viaje de preparación para el tiempo sabático. Me encuentro reenergizada por todo lo que podemos realizar juntos antes de que me vaya—y no puedo esperar para escuchar todo lo que ustedes realizarán mientras estoy lejos. En estos primeros cinco años juntos, me han ofrecido las más ricas, las más gratificantes y las más complejas experiencias de mi vida, por lo que estoy deseando el tiempo durante el periodo sabático para la reflexión sobre todo que he aprendido y cómo quiero crecer como una ministra para el siguiente capítulo de nuestra vida juntos. Gracias por su amable tradición de ofrecer el tiempo sabático a sus ministros. Manténgase en contacto para mayor información! ●



# Answering Your Questions about Rev. Nancy's Sabbatical!

By the FUCSJ Committee on Ministries

The Committee on Ministries (**Martha Barahona, Frank Bosche, Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Roberto Padilla, Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Patrick Smiley, and Claire Wagner**) has begun planning for Rev. Nancy's sabbatical, which is now nine months away. In this column, we'll explore your questions about the sabbatical. Please submit questions for future articles by e-mailing Claire Wagner at [cwagner21@gmail.com](mailto:cwagner21@gmail.com).

## What's a sabbatical for?

Sabbaticals offer ministers an extended period of time to step out of the urgency and complexity of their daily service in congregational life so that they can learn new skills, deepen their spiritual life, explore new practices in ministry, "think outside the box," establish a renewed balance between personal and professional life, and return with fresh energy. Ministers choose how to spend their sabbatical based on the kind of rest, renewal, and education that will best benefit their ministries and the congregations they serve. Sabbaticals are not a time when either the minister or the congregation should initiate a change in their covenant with each other; our

denomination specifically prohibits that kind of consideration during sabbaticals.

## Does every minister get a sabbatical — and how long are they usually?

Yes. Sabbaticals are standard practice in most religious faiths in the United States. Rev. Nancy's Letter of Agreement with us (her "contract") states that she is supposed to take a sabbatical after her fourth year of service but before the seventh year. The length of sabbatical depends on the length of time the minister has been serving. For every year of service the minister earns one month of sabbatical, up to six months total; the sabbatical "clock" then restarts when the minister returns. Rev. Geoff, for example, completed his second sabbatical during January to June 2008.

## Isn't it too soon? Has Nancy really been here that long?

Yes, she has! Nancy officially started with us on August 15, 2005, so she is now finishing her fifth year as our senior minister. She'll take her sabbatical in the middle of her sixth year—right on time!

## Tell me again: when is this going to happen?

Nancy's sabbatical will officially start December 25, 2010, and she'll return on June 27, 2011. These six months include the five months of sabbatical she has earned, plus the month of vacation she receives each year. This is standard practice so that both minister and congregation can receive the full benefit of the sabbatical time.

## What's the plan for the ministry while Rev. Nancy is away?

The Committee on Ministries is serving as the Sabbatical Planning Committee. With Rev. Nancy and Rev. Geoff, we are writing a comprehensive plan to cover all of the Senior Minister's responsibilities. Rev. Geoff will pick up some of these responsibilities; we members of the congregation will collaborate in the ministry, too, allowing us to grow and discover our gifts, as well. The Sabbatical Planning Committee will bring in a roster of extraordinary guest ministers to lead those worship services that Nancy would have led.

It is a time of great opportunity for us, and we are looking forward to it! Details of the plan will be shared with you before Nancy leaves for sabbatical in late December.

Our minister's sabbatical will be a time of growth and exploration for all of us as well as for Rev. Nancy. The Committee on Ministries is here to provide answers and support to her and to all of you. Please stay in touch as we take this journey together. ●

## UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the April 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!

### Saturday, April 10

Alum Rock Park, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA parking lot at Capital and Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

### Wednesday, April 14

Russian Ridge, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am. I have scheduled this hike even though we are going to Pinnacles on Friday.

### Friday, April 16

Pinnacles National Monument, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza Shopping center at 8:00 am. I will be sending out an email a couple of weeks before to see how many want to go and who will be driving. This is a long day if you decide to stay for an early dinner in San Juan Bautista (and most of us do).

### Saturday, April 17

No hike planned due to Pinnacles hike on Friday.

### Wednesday, April 21

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

### Saturday, April 24

Henry Coe State Park. The wild flowers are supposed to be great here so let's give it a try. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at 8:00 am

### Wednesday, April 28

Purisima Redwoods. This will be a long hike, 10 miles. We did it on the last schedule and everyone liked it. Plan to get back around 3:30 pm. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

## A Note from Rev. Nancy

My heart is full of gratitude and love as we begin this journey of preparation for the sabbatical. Already I find myself reenergized for all that we can accomplish together before I go—and I can't wait to hear about all that you will accomplish while I am away. These first five years together have offered the richest, most rewarding, and most complex experiences of my life, so I am looking forward to time during the sabbatical for reflection on all I have learned and on how I want to grow as a minister for the next chapter of our life together. Thank you for your gracious tradition of offering your ministers sabbaticals. Stay tuned for more information! ●



# 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

### The Arts & Spiritual Practice – Kindergarten-Grade 5 (Lower Level, Classrooms 4-6)

Each Sunday after they are sung out of the service, our children come together to make music with Nayo Ulloa (<http://www.nayoulloa.com/>), Sally Cooperrider and other volunteers for the first half hour. We sing, play with rhythm instruments, and have fun doing musical games. Occasionally throughout the year the children will present a musical offering in the Sunday service.

### Make A World of Difference-Asset Building Activities to Help Teens Explore Diversity— Grades 6-8 (Lower Level, Classrooms 2-3)

In this class, youth develop their skills as competent global citizens, able to understand many of the issues surrounding diversity and culture. The goal is to raise the level of awareness about diversity issues, while giving youth an opportunity to 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 help develop greater understanding about the diversity issues. They will learn about the broad definition of diversity that includes gender, age, religion, race, physical abilities, appearance, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Junior High Advisor: Pam Pell (and parents of youth leading classes)

### Senior High Youth Group— Grades 9-12 (Youth Room)

The senior high youth group meets from 11:30-12:30 most Sundays. The group offers its members a safe place to share their lives and find support and friendship among open minded and loving peers. The group engages in discussions about issues relevant to 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 YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). The youth group's empowering philosophy educates youth to be leaders within the group, church community and denomination.

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

### Kindergarten to Grade 5 – Review & Planning Meeting for the 2010-11 Lifespan Faith Development Sunday Program Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m.-noon (Church's Lower Level Classrooms)

Help us to envision the next stage in programming for the Kindergarten through grade five. With our new worship structure this year, including monthly themes and stories of the month, children in K-5 have had a half hour of worship followed by music, games or art. Let's explore what we have learned this year from this endeavor and together envision how we can best meet the spiritual and relational needs of our children and their families. Please RSVP to **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org), 408-292-3858, ext. 25. ●

## Financial Aid Available For Youth to Attend UUA General Assembly

**W**e want to see you at General Assembly (June 23-27 in Minneapolis)! You might be eligible to receive financial assistance from the UUA to attend. The Unitarian Universalist Association is committed to youth and young adult participation in issues of governance and Association life. So to increase the economic accessibility of General Assembly (GA), the UUA is offering many forms of financial aid to attend General Assembly, including:

- Youth and Young Adult Ministries Grants (Apply by April 20) <http://www.uua.org/events/youth/gacaucus/56024.shtml>

Grants from the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries pay for the cost of registration and up to \$500 of expenses to support congregations sending high school youth and young adults ages 18 - 35 who could otherwise not afford to attend General Assembly. ●

## PACT Report on the Listening Campaign

By Joy Butler-Kawahara, UU PACT committee

**D**uring the last few months, over a hundred of our members have participated in the Listening Campaign. The Listening Campaign, initiated by our PACT (People Acting in Community Together) members served a dual purpose. First and foremost it helps us as a congregation to connect with one another. Listeners (there were about 20 of us) called up other members from the congregation to make an appointment to meet for about 45 minutes. The meeting was then focused on listening to the individual, getting to know each other and learning about what concerns, both individual and societal, he/she had. The other purpose of the Listening Campaign was to gather the concerns in the hearts and minds of our members so that as a congregation we could discern what concern was

Continued on page 7



# SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

**April 18** – 9:30 am

## La Imaginación, un Don Divino

Decimos que estamos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Vengan y descubramos juntos parte de nuestra herencia divina.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

## Imagination, a Divine Gift

We say that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Come and discover together part of our divine heritage.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

Worship Associates: Members of SSM

**April 18** – 11:00 am

## Feast of Fools

*"I must learn to love the fool in me—the one who feels too much, talks too much, takes too many chances, wins sometimes and loses often, lacks self-control, loves and hates, hurts and gets hurt, promises and breaks promises, laughs and cries. It alone protects me against the utterly self-controlled, masterful tyrant whom I also harbor and who would rob me of human aliveness, humility, and dignity but for my*

*fool."*—Theodore Isaac Rubin, Love Me, Love My Fool: Thoughts from a Psychoanalyst's Notebook. Be ready for surprise—for an inside-out, tables turned, topsy-turvy, and paradigm-shifting service. Loosen up your laugh muscles and stretch your imagination. Down the rabbit hole we go!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Worship Associates: Bill Bowman, Henry Ruddle

## Festín de Tontos

*"Tengo que aprender a amar al tonto que hay en mí el que siente demasiado, habla demasiado, se arriesga demasiado, gana a veces y pierde a menudo, carece de autocontrol, ama y odia, hiere y es herido, promete y rompe las promesas, ríe y llora. Esto solo me protege contra el totalmente autocontrolado, magistral tirano a quien yo también albergo y quien podría robarme de la vivacidad humana, la humildad y la dignidad, pero por mi estupidez"*.—Theodore Isaac Rubin, Ámame, Ama mi Estupidez: Reflexiones del cuaderno de un psicoanalista. Estén listos para sorprenderse— para un cambio, mesas volteadas sobre sus cabezas, patas arriba y un servicio que cambia

el paradigma. Afloje los músculos de la risa y estire su imaginación. ¿¡Vayamos abajo por el agujero del conejo!?!

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Asociados de Culto: Bill Bowman, Henry Ruddle

**April 25** – 9:30 am

## Cuando Nuestros Espíritus Vuelan

¿Cuanta diversión podemos tener cuando nos sentimos libres, como los niños, para explorar y crear? A través de una serie de ejercicios, canciones y reflexiones que hablarán con el corazón, la mente y cuerpo, compartiremos en estos momentos creativos.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

**April 25** – 11:00 am

## When Our Spirits Fly

What fun can we have when we are set free, like children, to explore and create? Through a series of exercises, songs, and reflections that will speak to heart, mind, and body, we will share in these creative moments.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associates: Julia Rodríguez, Barbara Grover ●

Continued from page 6

most prevalent. This concern will then be chosen to work on for finding ways to effect positive change in our local or state policies during the upcoming years.

On March 11, many members of our congregation met rank the concerns that were heard and find the most critical concerns weighing on our members. The following list is the product of that meeting. I have listed the first 9 concerns in bold to signify that these appeared to be the most common personal and societal concerns among all the 100+ people that were listened to. But all the concerns listed are important and valid and we appreciate each and every one of you who spoke and shared these with us, your fellow congregants.

**Economic downturn/ Employment/ Foreclosure; Education Funding/ At-Risk Youth/ Children w/disabilities/Gang Involvement; Health Care Access/ Reform/Cost; Immigration Issues; LGBT Issues/Rights/ Marriage Equality/ Polyamory; Community Building/ Civility**

**& Communication/ Social Compact/ Loneliness; Homelessness & Poverty; Racism/ Cultural Awareness/ Police Profiling; Environmental Issues/ Climate Change;** Aging Information/ Education/ Retirement/ Housing; Corporate Influence/ Campaign Funding; Support for Mentally Ill; Women's Rights/ Abortion Rights; Animal Welfare; Concern about extreme conservatism and dismantling government; Life Stress/ Lack of time; National Debt/ Balancing Government budget; St. James Senior Center Closing; Ageism; Amnesty International-type work; Mass Transit; Public Safety; Third Street Community Center; World and Local Hunger; Public Defenders for all preliminary hearings; State Constitutional Reform.

The work is far from over. As you can see by this list we still have 9 concerns that we feel need more discussion and thought put into

before we decide on a particular issue to act upon. For this we would love to hear your thoughts and opinions. During the upcoming months we will be creating a space (most likely after church but could be a week night) where we will hold a discussion about these issues. We ask you to keep your eyes out for these dates in the newsletter and join us in the discussion. Also if you would like to get more involved in helping plan these discussions we could use your help. Our next PACT meeting will be on Thursday, April 8 at 7 pm. All are welcome. If you would still like to be listened to, you can swing by the PACT table after church and let us know so we can set you up with someone or you can email me at [joyfaith7771@yahoo.com](mailto:joyfaith7771@yahoo.com) and I will be happy to help. Thank you for your time and attention. ●



## Upcoming Events: Our Church

### Training for Working with Our Homeless Visitors

By Rev. Geoff Rimositis

The Pastoral Associates are offering a training course on working with our homeless guests on Sunday, April 25, 1-3 pm in the sanctuary. Our presenter is Marion Brown, case manager for Julian Street Inn for the Mentally Homeless, a program of InnVision.

I hope in particular that our Sunday morning volunteers will make a specific effort to attend the training so that we can think through how we can best provide a safe and hospitable environment for all those who grace us with their presence and worship with us. ●

### Fundraiser Book Sale Sunday, April 25

Is the spring-cleaning bee buzzing in your bonnet? Got too many books for your shelves? Well, here's the solution to your problem: Our church is holding a giant Buck-a-Book sale on Sunday, April 24 after the 11

am service – to which you can donate all those unwanted books.

All kinds of books are welcome—paperbacks, hardbacks, kids' books, fiction, and nonfiction.

On the two previous Sundays, April 11 and April 18, you can bring in all those books and give them to **Catherine Pelizzari** at the book sale table in Hattie Porter Hall before or after the service. Then on April 24, come and see what new book treasures you can acquire for only a dollar apiece. Tell your friends to join us for this great event, Sunday, April 24 at noon. ●

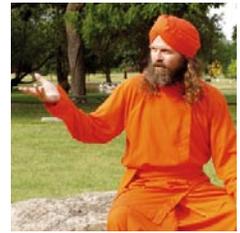
### New Member Ingathering, Mother's Day Sunday, May 9

Youth (14 years of age and older) and adults who have decided that this church community and faith deserves their commitment because it affirms the values that they hold most dear are invited to join The First Unitarian Church community as an official member. There will be a new member ingather-

ing on Sunday, May 9. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of this congregation, please contact the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, 408-292-3858, ext. 25, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org) ●

### Meditation Retreat

A meditation retreat is being offered on Saturday, June 5, 10am – 5pm in Hattie Porter Hall, led by Dada Nabhani-ilananda ([www.eternalwave.com](http://www.eternalwave.com)). Dada was a guest speaker at a Sunday service this past March. He is a monk, yogi and musician. For this retreat, you bring your own bag lunch (water and tea will be provided), a meditation cushion or pillow to sit on—and an open mind. Fee: \$43 (includes book); \$28 for students and low income. Please RSVP to the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, 408-292-3858, ext. 25, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org). ●



## Upcoming Events: PCD and UUA

### Power in Your Congregation (or Governance 101)

with Gini Courter, UUA Moderator

Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo  
300 E. Santa Inez Ave., San Mateo

On Saturday, May 15, 9:30 am-12:00 noon, UUA

Moderator **Gini Courter** will explore the foundations of governance in our liberal religious congregations. Gini Courter facilitates the democratic process for 5,000 UU's at our annual General Assembly. For information: [office@uusanmateo.org](mailto:office@uusanmateo.org) or 650-342-5946 x 11. This event is free, child care provided. ●



### Register for General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN, June 23-27

Register early to ensure the best housing possibilities. Visit <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml> --and stay tuned for more information about who else will be traveling to GA from FUCSJ.

For budget-wise ways to attend, see the February 22 issue of PCD Currents here <http://www.pcd-uua.org/currents/20100222.htm> and read **Cilla Raughley's** suggestions for substantially reducing the cost of this great experience. And note the discounted room rate of \$129 per night at the Crowne Plaza Northstar in Minneapolis, MN (<http://www.cpmnneapolis.com>). The Crowne Plaza features a Sky Walk that is connected to the Convention Center, shops, and entertainment, just a few blocks from the Convention Center.

Please also join Interweave on Saturday June 26th, 2010 for the annual Interweave Banquet and

Awards Ceremony. This year we are hosting an outdoor Brunch Buffet, in the beautiful Sky Garden at the Crowne Plaza. ●

### Pew Report on the Millennial Generation

Several informative videos are available online that explain the Pew Report on the Millennial Generation (those who have come of age during 2000-2010, our 18 to 29 year-olds), looking at their use of technology, their shaping of American politics, and more. Or see the report online at <http://pew-socialtrends.org/assets/pdf/millennials-confident-connected-open-to-change.pdf>. You can take the How Millennial Are You quiz at <http://pewresearch.org/millennials/quiz/intro.php> to find out how you compare with this special generation. ●





I want to be up to date with you, so here's what we need: birthdays (especially those with zeros), parties of any kind, promotions, college destinations, anything that you diverse groups are doing is interesting to everyone else. "Tell Me Everything" when you see me at church, or e-mail me at [torchy.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:torchy.hunter@gmail.com). Ok, gentle readers, this week:

## It's a Wild West Show! It's singing Reverends! It's Transylvanian babies! It's Starr King doings. (I could not make this stuff up.)

**D**oes time roll on or not? **Laura and Jerry Cluny** were married 32 years ago on St. Paddy's day! They wore green boutonnieres, which isn't very amazing until you know Laura's maiden name was Green!

### Here's some awwwsome news from Transylvania:

*Dear Friends, with all the joy and happiness we feel, I would like to let you know that yesterday arrived the youngest József in the Szombatfalvi family. Both mother and baby are well and send their greetings to you, too.*

*With love, József Szombatfalvi*

Contact Elérhetőség: <http://www.szombatfalvi.tel>

This comes via our special correspondent for Transylvania, **Monty Low**, of course.

**And now for something completely different (drum roll, please):** a note from the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones:

*"Well, I finally have news that's fit to print for "Circling Around!" I thought folks might enjoy the news that I'll be performing (just a couple of songs) in one of Brad Handshy's shows in late April at the Theater on San Pedro Square. Here's the flyer to tell you all about it: [www.ted.to/questions](http://www.ted.to/questions) Shall we all troop over there in various costumes? It'll be fun to stretch the old muscles again and try to inhabit the stories that my two songs tell. (I really like them!)"*

We'll be focusing on the arts in worship during April--wish we could mount our own "show" in Hattie Porter Hall--but we need that elusive creative volunteer to take charge of such a project. Hmmm... Any suggestions? I can't remember who managed this the last time we did it, a couple of years ago . . . . And as I used to say to my kids while correcting their English, "We never close." Neither does the Rev. Nancy.

**Cathy Rion** was a UUthful Spirit or TNT-er a while back. She has a blog on Transylvania, and this is what **John Burk** sends from her:

*Dear friends,*

*...I'm graduating with my Masters of Divinity at Starr King School for the Ministry this May. I've learned so very much about myself, ministry, theology, patience, sustainability, hope, love, and community over the past 4 years -- in my classes, in kitchen conversations, pushing successfully for a living wage policy at the school, and working on staff for 6 months this year.*

*Meanwhile, I've tried to stay engaged with organizing work -- supporting POOR Magazine to build their fund-raising capacity and major donor base (you can give at <http://poormagazine.org>), building a team of folks at my church (UUOakland) to support the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports with the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, mentoring and taking classes with the Anne Braden Program of the Catalyst project, and having tons of conversations about disability/ableism, queer liberation, Christian hegemony, class, race, immigration and more.*

*What's next? In a couple days I leave for Transylvania (part of what is now Romania) on a fellowship to hang out with Unitarians there for a month, then travel in Eastern Europe for two more weeks (if you have suggestions for where to go, please send them!). You can read more about my trip now and while I'm there at <http://itsarealplace.blogspot.com>.*

*I'll return to graduate on May 20 at my church (First Unitarian Church of Oakland) with nearly thirty colleagues as well as honorary degrees given to Danny Glover and my mentor Rev. Lindi Ramsden.*

*Then I'll say a semi-permanent goodbye to the Bay Area and make my way to the East Coast*

*over the summer. In late August, I'll begin a full time ministerial internship at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood in New Jersey -- a mere 30 miles from Manhattan and two hours from my parents. It's a healthy congregation with a strong track record as a teaching congregation in a quite wealthy and white community. I look forward to delving into ministry and learning from tons of mistakes! After that, I still have to see the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (the credentialing body) before I can get ordained and find a job as a minister, so it'll probably be another two years before I can start my band: Reverend Cathy and the Masters of Divinity (yes, I'm looking forward to working as a kick-ass organizing/social justice minister too!)*

*Finally, for those of you who are local, put these dates on your calendar now:*

- Saturday May 22: Graduation and Going away party in Oakland
- Sunday May 30: Report-back/slideshow from my trip to Transylvania (late morning at my church)

A couple of weeks ago, **Colleen Cabot** swished by me in a turquoise leather jacket with six inches of fringe all over it. My fashion instinct sounded the alarm, and when I asked her about why she had such a jacket instead of me, she told me the following incredible story: Seems she used to live in Boulder, CO and severely misses the mountains, so when she saw this jacket at the Denver Airport, it was hers. And along these lines, she happens to drop the little nugget that her great aunt, one Flores La Due (seriously), a rodeo trick rider just 5 feet tall, and her husband started the Calgary Stampede!!!!

**Dani Hope** and **V Kingsley** are off on a trip to England, with kid in tow. England is great for kids. Yes, this is the same V Kingsley who just finished a round on chemo. ●





## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San Jose, CA 95112

### Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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

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

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

To receive the newsletter via email: [steve.carr@earthlink.net](mailto:steve.carr@earthlink.net)

**Next issue deadline:** 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2010

**Next issue assembly:** Tuesday, April 20, 2010

**Next issue mailing:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010

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](mailto:djlenahan@aol.com). For pastoral care in Spanish, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-991-3212; e-mail: [paor69@yahoo.com](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

### Contacting the Ministers

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

### Cuidado Pastoral

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

### Contactando a los Ministros

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

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*Shirley will be editor for the April 21 and May 19, 2010 issues. Catherine will be editor for the May 5 and June 2, 2010 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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