



Our Church Circular

February 17,
2010 / 17 de
Febrero 2010

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

February Theme: Becoming a People So Bold! Dismantling Divisions, Celebrating Diversities Inside and Out

Tema de febrero: Llegar a Ser un Pueblo tan Osado!

Desmantelando las divisiones, celebrando la diversidad adentro y afuera

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

DOMINGO DE LA TEOLOGÍA

21 de Febrero – 9:30 am

Questionando el Privilegio

Mientras llegamos a ser un “pueblo muy osado”, trabajando para dismantelar las divisiones, para derribar sistemas de opresión y construir comunidades amadas, encontramos radicalmente diferentes perspectivas, incluyendo diferentes respuestas a los propios términos “opresión” y “privilegio”. ¿Cómo enriquecer diariamente nuestras vidas y agrandar nuestro trabajo para mantener más de una perspectiva a la vez? ¿Un servicio animado que nos lleva hacia las soluciones espirituales para los “ismos” que nos dividen!

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

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

THEOLOGY SUNDAY

February 21 – 11:00 am

Questioning Privilege

As we become a “people so bold,” working to dismantle divisions, to tear down systems of oppression, and to build up beloved communities, we encounter radically different perspectives, including different responses to the very terms “oppression” and “privilege.” How does it enrich our daily lives and our larger work to hold more than one perspective at once? A lively service leads us toward the spiritual solutions for the “isms” that divide us!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Worship Associate: Luther Jackson

DOMINGO DE COMPAÑERISMO

28 de Febrero – 9:30am

Entre dos montañas

Me siento como un río que esta entre dos montañas, en una montaña está la gente inquieta y en otra está la gente tranquila. Me gustaría poder invitarlos a todos al río para que nademos juntos.

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Between two Mountains

I feel as a river that is between two mountains, one mountain is the restless people and another is the quiet people. I would like to invite them all to the River to swim together.

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

February 28 – 11:00 a.m.

When UUs Go to the Movies: Expanding Our Vision, Extending Our Compassion

With stories from our daily lives, and from movies, currently capturing the public imagination, we look at recent messages about race and class that are in the air we breathe. When do these messages divide us, and when do they bring us hope? Once we wake up to these subtle messages—and to multiple points of view about them—what kinds of choices do we gain for how we want to live? You don't need to have seen Oscar nominees such as Avatar, The Blind Side, or Precious, Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire in order to be fully engaged in this service! We'll find common ground as we take a Unitarian Universalist approach to the movies and other popular media.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Worship Associates: Carolyn Bowman and K'Ailsa Rowan

See page 2 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

February 25, Thursday, 7pm,
Listening Campaign wrapup,
Ramsden Fireside Room

February 28, Sunday, 3pm,
Transylvanian Woodwind
Experience wit the Presidio
Quintet, Sanctuary

March 5-7, UUA Women and
Religion retreat, Enchanted
Hills, near Napa

March 7, Sunday, 12:30pm, UU
Band of Writers, Youth Room

March 18, Thursday, 7-9 pm, Es-
tate Planning Seminar, Rams-
den Fireside Room

March 26, Friday, Benefit Concert
for Haiti Earthquake Relief,
Sanctuary

April 4, Sunday, 12:30pm, UU
Band of Writers (with Jean
Embree), Youth Room

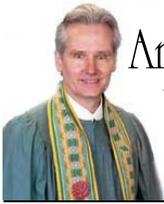
April 30-May 2, UUA District As-
sembly 2010, Newark, CA

June 27-30, FUCSJ Junior High
Backpack Trip. Contact Pam
Pell at johnpell@aol.com

July 14-18, Wednesday-Sunday,
Church Campout 2010, McCon-
nell State Recreation Area,
Turlock, 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 or Bob Miess at bob@floweringenterprises.com



Articulating Our Unitarian Universalist Faith

By the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

La articulación de Nuestra Unitaria Universalista Fe

para el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Standing on The Side of Love Affirmation

I want to stand on the side of love for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. They should have the right to marry and have their relationships afforded the same benefits of the law as heterosexual marriages.

I want to stand on the side of love for those who feel complete in themselves because they can express their love in committed relationships with more than one person.

I want to stand on the side of love for immigrants as people with rights to self-determination and the pursuit of happiness. I want to give them the chance to create a life for themselves and their families in this country if that is their dream. I will not lose out because they win. I won't have fewer lattes or less air to breathe because I share it with them.

I want to stand on the side of love because I believe with Richard Smoley that "Love is that which unites self with other while maintaining the integrity of each. . . It may be love in this sense that sustains the universe; preserving all things both from the annihilation of assimilation and from the death that lies in total separateness."

I want to stand on the side of love because love is not a finite resource that we must hoard and protect. I will sing with Unitarian troubadour, Malvina Reynolds that "love is something that when you give it away you end up having more." And wherever there is a possibility to bring more love into the world I will not hold back!

I want to stand on the side of love because it is the only thing that makes sense in this topsy turvy world. With love on your side all things are possible.

You too can stand on the side of love by signing the Petition for Full Equality at http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/t/9818/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1382

Afirmación de Estar Parados del Lado del Amor

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor por las personas de todas las identidades de género y orientaciones sexuales. Deberían tener el derecho a contraer matrimonio y que a sus relaciones se les otorguen los mismos beneficios de la ley que a los matrimonios heterosexuales.

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor para aquellos que se sienten completos en ellos mismos, porque puede expresar su amor en relaciones comprometidas con más de una persona.

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor por los inmigrantes como personas con derecho a la libre determinación y la búsqueda de la felicidad. Quiero darles la posibilidad de crear una vida para ellos y sus familias en este país, si ese es su sueño. No perderé porque ellos ganen. No tendré menos café con leche o menos aire para respirar porque lo comparto con ellos.

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor porque creo con Richard Smoley que "El amor es lo que une a uno mismo con otros y mantiene la integridad de cada uno. . . Puede ser el amor en este sentido el que sostiene el universo; preservando todas las cosas de la aniquilación de la integración y de la muerte que se encuentra en total separación."

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor porque el amor no es un recurso finito que debemos atesorar y proteger. Cantaré con la trovadora Unitaria, Malvina Reynolds que el amor es algo que cuando más lo das, terminas teniendo más." Y dondequiera que haya una posibilidad de traer más amor al mundo no me detendré!

Quiero estar parado del lado del amor porque es la única cosa que tiene sentido en este mundo patas arriba. Con el amor de su lado todas las cosas son posibles.

Usted también puede pararse al lado de amor al firmar la Petición de la Completa Igualdad en: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/t/9818/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1382

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Continued from page 1

28 de febrero — 11:00 a.m.

Cuando los UUs Vamos al Cine: Expandiendo nuestra Visión, Extendiendo Nuestra Compasión

Con historias de nuestra vida cotidiana y de películas que actualmente capturan la imaginación pública, miramos los recientes mensajes sobre raza y clase, que se encuen-

tran en el aire que respiramos. ¿Cuando estos mensajes nos dividen, y cuando nos trae esperanza? Una vez que despertamos a estos mensajes sutiles— y a los varios puntos de vista acerca de ellos—¿Qué tipos de opciones ganamos para cómo queremos vivir? No es necesario que hayan visto a los nominados al Oscar como Avatar, The Blind Side, o Precious, Basada en la Novela Push

por Sapphire para poder participar plenamente en este servicio! Encontraremos una base común, mientras nos aproximamos a un enfoque Unitario universalista de las películas y otros medios de comunicación popular.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Carolyn Bowman y K'Ailsa Rowan



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Welcome New Members



Carolyn and Emma Bowman, Lauren and Kathryn Axtell

Kathryn Axtell

Kathryn Axtell and her nine-year-old daughter, **Lauren Axtell**, are excited to become official members of this Unitarian Universalist community.

Kathryn is 47 and a native of Wisconsin. She came to California 22 years ago in search of adventure and found absolute paradise here in the Bay Area.

She asked her husband, **Dave Axtell**, to marry her a few days after their first date. She bought the rings and they eloped to San Francisco City Hall a month later. They will celebrate their 20th anniversary this year.

Kathryn and Dave lived on their sailboat “Walkabout” in Redwood City until their oldest child, **Jameson**, was 1.5 years old before moving to their current Sunnyvale residence. Jameson and their middle daughter, **Roslyn**, are now teenagers and so far, can only be

coaxed to attend church, along with their dad, when their little sister is in one of Cordelia’s Holiday plays.

Kathryn has been a staunch supporter of California Theatre Center (children’s theatre) in Sunnyvale and is a parent aid at Lauren’s school—Christa McAuliffe in Saratoga. Many weekends find her on an outdoor adventure with the Boy Scouts or with the Y Guides. Kathryn’s most recent passions are gardening, building barn owl boxes, raising composting worms and getting backyard chickens. Favorite Color: Robin’s Egg Blue. Favorite Heroine: Rachel Maddow.

Mark and Robi McClure

Mark and Suzanne “Robi” McClure were high school sweethearts who dated for over a decade before marrying. Together since 1979, they both work in public education — Robi as an elementary school teacher, Mark as a school counselor. Together they enjoy camping, gardening, cooking and listening to music. Robi also enjoys running, and Mark, a passionate drummer, enjoys watching her



run. **Nathan** is their only child, a high school sophomore who is active in sports, music, Boy Scouts and eating. The entire family cares about local, national and global social justice, and participates regularly in local community service. Having attended FUCSJ off and on since 1999, the McClures have long felt a strong affinity for the church, its people and its principles. Together, they have decided at last that the time is right to declare their commitment to, and membership in, this community.

Judy Ross

Judy Ross was born and raised in Kansas City. She has lived in the Bay Area for over 30 years. She now lives in West San Jose. Judy is a psychotherapist by profession and also has a degree in Cultural Anthropology. And since high school, she has been keenly aware of social injustices and believes in fighting to rectify as many issues as possible. So when, in her old age, she felt the need for a spiritual community, FUCSJ was the obvious choice. After attending services for about a year, she has decided to join and feels very excited about discovering the different ways that she can be involved. ●

READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ?

Contact Rev. Geoff,
grimositis@sanjoseuu.org

Gift of Service
by Genie Bernardini

Do You Want to Express Your Appreciation?

Please send your one-sentence salute to me at geniebee@hotmail.com

A very big thank you from Kelly Burnett. . .

...to all of the loving and generous people who helped me get through my intense health issues and hospitalizations in 2009 and with my big move. I can’t find words to truly express my gratitude, but you have pulled me through hard times. You know who you are — from those of you who sat with my daughter, held me in the hospital and took care of me there and at home and those of you who cooked for me, helped pack, carry, move, unload and unpack boxes, to those who held me in their hearts and sent energy or prayed for me. My deepest thanks and gratitude to

you all. It is a humbling experience to receive such love and generosity.

Great TEAMwork!

Our People Acting in Community Together Local Organizing Committee (PACT LOC) thanks **Connie Bloch** from the bottom of our collective and individual hearts for generously and devotedly chairing the Benefit Tea. We are touched and heartened by all the work and expertise that went into the event so that our PACT dues can be paid up. It was amazing to see how many people swung into action, bringing food, loaning dishes, working and performing the day of the event. Many

thanks to all, especially Connie. (*See Connie’s Social Justice article for more detail.*)

— Diana Wirt

One-Sentence Salutes

“Thank you to **Liz Owen** for her conscientious support of choir logistics by coming early to open up and set out the music, copying music, putting the music away and finally locking up!”

— Dianne Saichek

“I thank **Donna Lenahan** for being such a wonderful leader and inspiration in the important area of pastoral care and for offering deep presence for those in pain.”

— Dena Dickinson ●

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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.



Social Justice Benefit Tea Results, Thanks

by Connie Bloch

Many thanks to everyone who made the Benefit Tea a couple weeks ago fun and successful by all the assistance in time and talent, food, and also attending! We raised almost \$1900, which will be used to pay our membership dues to People Acting in Community Together (PACT, <http://www.pactsj.org>), some which was overdue from 2009.

We had a great time listening to the music from **Bev Clifford, Crystal Isola** and **Deb Frenzel-Alexander** and her string quartet. Also, we learned more about PACT from our organizer Karen Belote who liaisons with our church and reminisced by seeing the video of a large "PACT action" which filled our sanctuary with people a couple years ago when **Rev. Nancy** and others spoke about our "green vision" to the Mayor of San Jose.

Thanks to **Jenny and Bob Redfern** and **Liz and Bob Owen** who made sure we had plenty of apple strudel. **Vicki Merryman** and **Jean Von Kanel** were great mentors and consultants for giving a grand tea party. **Henry Ruddle** lent his expertise with publicity and flyers. **Joy Butler** and **Pam Price** did a great job with the decorations. **Deanna Latorre, Kim Aldridge, Coleen Cabot** and **Donna Lenahan** donated food as well. The tireless set up and clean up crew included **John Burke, Jean Embree, Melanie Landstrom, Deanna Latorre, Diana Wirt, Nancy Hada, Karen Conrotto, Mary Idso, David Proulx** and **Mike Pelazarri**. **Mary Mary Feldman, Rick Morris** and **Lloyd Eater** went above and

beyond with clean up and made sure not to leave the kitchen until every dish was washed!

Last and not least was my Co-chair, Diana Wirt, who was instrumental in organization of the Benefit Tea, and did so much on the day of the event to make sure everything went off so smoothly.

It is great to be able to gather and enjoy each other for the afternoon. What a church! ●

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Haiti Relief Fund

Unitarian Universalists throughout the country have overwhelmingly supported the UUSC/UUA Joint Haiti Relief Fund. All gifts made to the Haiti Relief Fund will support essential recovery work.

While responding to the critical need in Haiti, UUSC also maintains its ongoing human-rights work in other areas, such as advocating to secure workers' rights and a fair wage; and to ensure the human right to safe, accessible, and affordable water; and protect civil liberties.

To help us continue to offer assistance where it is needed most, please start or renew your UUSC membership today. You can even double your impact! Individual unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.

General membership is \$40. Talk to **John Burk** at church or email mus6@acweb.com and he'll give you more details. He also has stickers for members.

UUSC (<http://www.uusc.org>) is a membership-based organization, separate from and independent of the UUA. UUSC receives no funding from the UUA. ●

How does our church work ?

Our church adopted a system called "Policy Based Governance" in 2007. That means that our elected Church Board is responsible for asking such questions as "How are our core values expressed in our policies? What's our next step?"

The **Board** is the deliberative body of the church; the people on the Board do the deep thinking and planning necessary to move our church forward towards fulfilling our mission statement. The Board makes sure that the "means," or the way we get things done, and the "ends," or the reasons we do these things, are in sync with our values.

The **Program and Operations Council**, on the other hand, is the hands-on team of the church. They empower committees in various areas to make sure that the budget is on track, the facilities are maintained and the programs are running smoothly.

Right now, your Nominating Committee, consisting of Chairperson **Steve Madden, Bob Miess, Nancy Coleman, and Jan Theiss-Guffey**, is working hard on recruiting people for Board and Program terms, which begin in April of this year. We think you will be happy with the candidates who will be offered in nomination to you soon. We are still seeking people, however, for Treasurer (also on the Board), Personnel Officer, Lifespan Faith Development, and Inreach positions on the Program and Operations Council. Our church needs thoughtful, committed church members who enjoy deliberative discussions, and want to serve our church in a deep, meaningful way. We want to reflect evolving thinking in our leadership positions. Maybe you know someone who might be the perfect candidate for one of the leadership positions. Perhaps you would be interested. Or possibly you just want to learn more about the Board or the Program and Operations Council. Each term is only for two years. Please contact Steve, stevem@ucdavis-alumni.com; Nancy, nbc Coleman@gmail.com; Jan, jantg@yahoo.com; or Bob, Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com, with your thoughts. ●



Upcoming Events

Listening Campaign

We have trained a total of 27 Listeners and assigned about 200 folks for them to interview. We will wrap up at a meeting on Thursday, February 25, 7:00 P.M. in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Then trends in people's concerns and any other findings will be reported later to the congregation.

There are still a few weeks left in the Listening Campaign. If you have not been contacted by the time you read this, and would like to participate, please contact **Diana Wirt** at 993-1003 or DiWirt@sbcglobal.net.

The Band of Writers has a surprise!

It has been the purpose of the BOW to motivate and support people who enjoy writing. It has not been a place to learn how to become a better writer. Thanks to the generosity of Jean Embree, a professional writer and writing teacher, it will be from now on. Jean has agreed to offer guidance and critical analysis for part of each meeting, so if this is what you are looking for, please join us. Jean has another commitment in March but will be coming to the April 4th meeting. We hope to see you then, or better yet, on March 7th! Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 12:30pm in the Youth Room.

Women and Religion UUA Retreat

The UUA Women & Religion group will hold its annual retreat the weekend of March 5-7, 2010 at Enchanted Hills near Napa. The entire retreat costs only \$125, and is half price for newcomers. This fee includes all programs, six delicious meals, and private cabins with linens and bathrooms. Come and meet women from throughout our Pacific Central District. You can ride-share to Napa. For more information or to register, contact Registrar: Jewel Whitaker, 1512 San Carlos Lane, Modesto, CA 95355, (209) 578-5475. Or call Jean Embree at (408) 984-5838, Meg Bowman at (408) 292-1172 or Barbara Schonborn at (650) 967-6756.

THE PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE PRESENTS

A Transylvanian Woodwind Experience with the Presidio Quintet

The Presidio Quintet will perform a concert of mostly twentieth century music from central Europe all rooted in traditional forms and styles. Pieces will be performed from Ferenc, Fucik, Janacek, Hess, Danzi, Zemlinsky, and Milhaud. Guest artist Rachel Dusenbury will join the Quintet in performing Janacek's sextet 'Mladi' or 'youth' in Czech. The program will be light & entertaining (a Divertimento, a Humoreske, a movement about Jugglers, a piece by Hess with two Scherzos and a perpetual motion movement).

Date: Feb 28

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: First Unitarian

Church of San Jose, Sanctuary.

Suggested donation: \$10 - \$20

Information: Monty Low, [low](mailto:monty@gmail.com).

monty@gmail.com, 408 348-2778

Reception to follow

Proceeds will help with high school expenses and programs for the students of Homorodszentmarton, Romania.

The Presidio Quintet - based in San Francisco, formed in 2007, and is comprised of the principals from the Mill Valley Philharmonic.



Top: Claudia Engel, Oboe, Lisa Gerbracht, Bassoon, Mary Jane Evans, Horn; Bottom: Nance Becker, Flute, Peter Krag, Clarinet

AROUND OUR DISTRICT

The Pacific Central District (PCD) includes 38 congregations in northern Nevada, northern California, and Hawaii, and is home to the Church of the Larger Fellowship and two seminaries, the Starr King School for the Ministry and the Pacific School of Religion. To find out more about PCD, see <http://www.pcd-uua.org>. Click "PCD Currents" for current news.

UU Legislative Ministry Special Event



Tickets now available!
\$40 each. March 5, 2010 7pm to 10pm at the First UU Society of San Francisco. Come and meet the new UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales! Mingle with other UULM supporters! Dancing with music by "Backyard Shenanigans"

<http://site.backyardshenanigans.net/>

Go to our website: www.uulmca.org or call Saron Stone of the UULMCA at 916-441-0018. To contribute to the UULM Action Network CA and/or the UULM-CA, please visit our Donation pages. UULM Action Network, CA (non-tax deductible) UULM-CA (Tax deductible, for educational purposes). Monthly donors are vital to our work, and one time donations are also gratefully received.

Church Campout 2010 – July 14-18

McConnell State Recreation Area, near Turlock, about 2 hours from San Jose, has it all: easy access to the Merced River with sandy beaches for the kids, a bath house with showers and flush toilets, lots of picnic tables, and running water right in the campsite. You bring your tent and sleeping bag; all the food and cooking equipment for communal meals is provided. This campout is easy camping for pretty much anyone of any age – and dogs!
Contact MM at mm@feldmo.com.



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. Music is the language of the soul and an important component of children's spiritual growth and learning. 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 several diversity issues, while also giving youth an opportunity to pause and reflect on their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The purpose of these activities is not to promote any particular idea, value, or point of view, but to give youth the opportunity to develop greater understanding about the variety of issues surrounding diversity. The 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

Help Bring The Spirit Alive With Our Children

Join the Music, Arts, Games or Drama teams that are working with our children in Kindergarten through fifth grade this year in our Sunday morning art and spirituality program. If you are a musician and / or singer, join us for 30 minutes each Sunday to help

make the Spirit of Music come alive with our children—and still make it upstairs for the sermon!

Or join our children for a month and bring your special art activity that will be part of the Sunday worship experience. Or come down once a month and have fun playing games with the children as we bring the spirit alive with our holy laughter and in the midst of the fun talk about what's going on in our lives and how one lives a joyful and meaningful life. E-mail me at GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org and let's talk about how you would like to help bring the spirit alive in your life and in our children's lives. ●

Common Security Club Canceled

The remaining sessions (Feb. 24, March 11) have been canceled. ●

FUCSJ Junior High Backpack Trip June 27-30, 2010

Lace up your boots, put on your backpack, and hike the High Sierra on this 4-day 3-night backpacking trip. We will cover about 13 miles over the course of 4 days as we backpack through the wilderness of Meiss Country near Carson Pass (Hwy 88). This trip is open to youth in our church entering grades 6-8 in the fall of 2010. For more information, contact **Pam Pell**: 408-287-4453 or johnpell@aol.com. An informational meeting will be held at church on Sunday, March 28th from 10:30-10:55 am. ●

Classifieds

Career Counseling

I am offering free career counseling to 3 people. I have a free trial of the new version of Skill Scan and I am looking for 3 different types of people, i.e. artistic, realistic, investigative, etc. I will also include Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and Strong Interest Inventory as well as personal counseling. Anyone who is interested should e-mail **Jerry Cluney** at cluneycluney@yahoo.com or call 408 292-1781.

Safe, reliable car for sale:

1997 silver Volvo 850 sedan, good condition, automatic transmission, power steering, air bags, ABS, cruise control, radio, CD player, just smogged. \$2800. Call **Catherine Pelizzari** at (408) 945-9848 or email to caleeson@aol.com ●





Missing in Action – for a good reason!

Torchy Hunter has been given the week off, to prepare for her opening February 13 at Expressions Gallery in Berkeley – “the first time I have ever submitted anything to a show when I didn’t already know the person.” She’s also currently showing at Evergreen College. Look for her sprightly prose in the next issue! ●

Ransom Grabeel: Preserving our Beloved Community and its Home

by Claire Wagner, Planned Giving Committee

Our congregation has been around since Civil War times, and our building was completed in 1892. You have probably noticed that it is California Historical Landmark No. 902. The person most associated with the effort to gain that honor in 1977 was the late **Ransom Grabeel**.



The church directories show Ransom for the first

time in 1970, living in Los Gatos, but a few years later he is listed as living in San José. After his first few years with the church, he is listed continuously as Church Archivist or Church Historian on lists of people occupying positions with the church.

Ransom obviously cared very much about preserving the congregation as well as its beautiful building on North Third Street. In our archives, we have a file with several copies

of his will, made shortly before he died in 1984, in which he left money to his nieces and nephews (he was unmarried, no children) as well as one nonprofit organization, and the rest to the First Unitarian Church of San José.

Ransom apparently also had a wry sense of humor. A copy of the budget of another local church, which was very well-funded, was also enclosed in the file, with a hand-written annotation on it: “Read it and drool. RG”

The next year, our church formed its first property committee, the predecessor of today’s Building Committee. Using funds from Ransom’s estate, the church made critical seismic improvements to the building, including strengthening the balcony with steel beams and support columns. The balcony had actually been condemned and some believed it would have fallen in an earthquake. (The Loma Prieta earthquake was just four years later.) And of course, a decade later, the congregation began the long process of restoring and upgrading the entire building to be what it is today.

It’s interesting to note that during the 1970s there was talk of selling our old building and moving to the suburbs to escape what was at that time a rather desolate downtown area before redevelopment. Historical status would make the building nearly impossible to sell, but much more work had to be done to ensure that the congregation could continue to occupy that space.

Therefore, Ransom played a key role in preserving both the physical and spiritual legacies of First Unitarian Church of San José through both his tireless efforts and his bequest. Without him, the congregation would likely be very different and so might North Third Street. It shows how the passion and generosity of one individual can make an enormous difference in the life of a church for generations to come.

Special thanks to **Catherine Pelizzari, Mary and Gene Martin, and Jean vonKaenel** for contributing the information for this article. ●

January 27, 2010 Board Meeting

by Bob Redfern

We started off the meeting by approving the donation of our January 17th collection to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on behalf of the Haitian Earthquake Recovery.

We took a group picture (courtesy of **Rick Merritt’s** camera) for Susan Burke-DiQuisto, who is coordinating the picture directory currently being assembled.

Rev. Nancy discussed her joy about the turnout of Listeners for our Listening Campaign, which is now underway. More than 30 members turned out for the listener organizing meeting.

Rev. Nancy and **Claire Wagner** are working on revitalizing our music program. Nancy also discussed the January 29-30 “New Century Summit” program, and described developments of our Policy Based governance model. Please see Nancy’s columns for more details about her activities and goals taken away from the sessions she has attended over the last two months. Her final words on these organizational topics was that ministry is taught throughout our Congregation – there needs to be spiritual grounding in all the things we do.

Rev. Geoff was inspired by the excellent turnout for advancing our “Welcoming

Congregation” program, “Is this a safe place to discuss where you stand in those areas that make people diverse?”

Bob Howd, our treasurer, spoke optimistically about our pledge income and other financial issues. The Board has initiated discussion of restoring some budget cuts, working with the Program & Operations Council and Finance Committee. Bob also reminded all who bid and bought items at the service auction that the donation amount one reports on his or her tax return is the total bid, less the fair market value of the item bid and won.

On the task of converting our draft policies to permanent policies, we are reviewing Section 4 and changing the title of the policies by dropping “draft” from the title. Sections on Stewardship, Governing Style, Job Descriptions/ Roles of Officers, Code of Conduct and Non-personnel Complaints and Grievances are under review. Section 1.2, renamed Lifetime Faith Development, was adopted as permanent policy at this meeting.

Finally, with input from the Board and POC, **Susan Burke-DiQuisto** is completing our annual UUA recertification form, including membership numbers. ●





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San Jose, CA 95112

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Next issue assembly: Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

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Remember to bring your recyclable bottles and cans to help us improve the print quality of this newsletter!

For Pastoral Care

Our community strives to offer compassion, companionship, healing, and joy to all its members. Our pastoral care coordinators can help you find the listening ear or helping hands that you may need in difficult times. For pastoral care in English, please contact our lay Pastoral Associate Coordinator, **Rev. Donna Lenahan**: (home) 408-354-9024; (cell) 408-204-6565; e-mail: djlenahan@aol.com. For pastoral care in Spanish, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-991-3212; e-mail: paor69@yahoo.com.

Contacting the Ministers

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

Cuidado Pastoral

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

Contactando a los Ministros

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

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

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