



Our Church Circular

January 6,
2010 / 10 de
Enero 2010

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

January Theme: *The Hopeful Heresies of Our Heritage:
Unitarian Universalist History and Theology*

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español

DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

10 de Enero — 9:30 a.m.

Dudas

Duda y escepticismo han caracterizado la fe de los Unitarios y los Universalistas durante cientos de años. Veamos las raíces de nuestro escepticismo moderno y exploremos las muchas caras de la duda — del dolor a la pasión, de la cabeza al corazón, del miedo a la libertad. ¿Hay un momento en que el escepticismo no nos sirve? Encontraremos fuentes de energía para el nuevo año explorando las ¡"esperanzadoras herejías de nuestra herencia"!

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

DOMINGO DE LA TEOLOGÍA

January 17 — 9:30 am

Dentro de nuestros corazones y fuera de nuestras cabezas: Nuestro Núcleo Universalista

Nuestra herencia Universalista es tan profunda como la hebra Unitaria de nuestra denominación, pero su énfasis en la centralidad del amor y la que-rencia de todos los seres es revolucionario incluso ahora. ¿Que experimentaremos en el 2010 cuando vivamos desde nuestro núcleo universalista? Debemos abrir nuestros corazones y abrir nuestras mentes a una forma más profunda de amar y de hacer nuestro amor manifiesto en este mundo.

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

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

SOURCES SUNDAY

January 10 — 11:00 a.m.

Doubt

Doubt and skepticism have characterized the faith of Unitarians and Universalists for hundreds of years. Let's look at the roots of our modern-day skepticism and explore the many faces of doubt—from pain to passion, from head to heart, from fear to freedom. Is there a time when skepticism does not serve us? We'll find sources of energy for the new year by exploring the "hopeful heresies of our heritage"!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Associates: Donna Lenahan and Henry Ruddle

THEOLOGY SUNDAY

January 17 — 11:00 am

Into Our Hearts and Out of Our Heads: Our Universalist Core

Our Universalist heritage is as thoughtful as the Unitarian strand of our denomination, yet its emphasis on the centrality of Love and the belovedness of all beings is revolutionary even now. What will we experience in 2010 when we live from our Universalist core? Let us open our hearts and open our minds to a deeper way of loving and of making our love manifest in this world.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Worship Associate: Mary Martin ●

SAVE THE DATES

January 7, Thursday, Women's Alliance, 7:15 - 9:15 pm. For directions or more information email nbcoleman@gmail.com

January 7, Thursday, Folk Dancing, Beginner Dances, 8-10 pm, Hattie Porter Hall

January 9, Saturday, Church Benefit Silent Auction, 4:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Live Auction 7:00 pm. RSVP for the dinner to Jan Theiss-Guffey, jantg@yahoo.com

January 14, Thursday, Listening Campaign training session. Mary Idso, midso@sbcglobal.net

January 24, Sunday, Welcoming Congregation Sexual Orientation Class, 2-4:30 pm, Hattie Porter Hall, continuing next 3 Sundays.

January 30, Saturday, 1-4 pm, Hattie Porter Hall, Annual Fund-raiser Tea to benefit PACT

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

April 30-May 2, UUA District Assembly 2010, Newark, CA

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

EVENTS COMING UP THIS WEEKEND!



**Saturday,
January 9**

Service Auction
and Dinner
(see page 6)



Sunday, January 10
Star Trek Exhibit (see page 6)



*As we build
the beloved
community...*

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

*Mientras construimos
nuestra querida
comunidad...*

Por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

A New Day, A New Year, and the New Century Summit

“**H**ope is my philosophy, just needs days in which to be. Love of life means hope for me, borne on a new day.” These lyrics, from the song “You Are the New Day” by Airwaves, underscore a common theme that runs through all the spiritual practices that I know. Whether our spiritual practice involves meditation or yoga, running or reading, singing or simply sitting, these daily or weekly practices promise to reconnect us with what we hold of highest worth, with our spiritual center or source. Through that recentering, we tap into a deep well of hope and compassion for ourselves and others. In the Present of such centering, we experience each new day as a gift; we recognize where we have choice about how to spend this new day, as well as where our choices may be limited but are present nonetheless. “Love of life means hope for me, borne on a new day.”

Ah, I had my hands poised to type my wish that this New Year will bring you just such recentering, with its renewed hope, compassion, and empowered choice. But my fingers paused on the keyboard with this thought: We so often wish for what the New Year may “bring” to us. Yet such passivity doesn’t square with our Unitarian Universalist faith. We believe that it’s up to us to help make ourselves, each other, and this world a better place. So this year, let us focus on what we will bring to the New Year!

Here at the First Unitarian Church, we have much to offer each other in 2010: Through this winter’s Listening Campaign, we will offer the gift of deep listening; in the process we will build relationships and establish a renewed and strengthened foundation for our social justice work. With a much-anticipated (and still in the planning) Music Summit, we will look at how to enrich our music program for years to come. With each Monthly Worship Theme, we will nurture our spirits and discover new ways to help heal the world. With community events like the Service Auction (on January 9) and the PACT Tea (on January 30), we will enrich our friendships and our coffers so that we may continue to deepen and expand our shared ministries. Throughout it all, we will work and play, laugh and cry together, making meaning of the breadth and depth of our lives.

I am excited about a new resource for such meaning-making that we will be sharing at the Pacific Central District’s New Century Summit on January 29 and 30. We will take a team of congrega-

Continued on page 3

Un Nuevo Día, Un Nuevo Año Nuevo y la Cumbre Nuevo Siglo

“**E**speranza es mi filosofía, sólo necesita días para ser. Amor de vida significa esperanza para mí, que se trae al nuevo día.” Esta letra de la canción “Tu eres el Nuevo Día” por Airwaves, ponen de relieve un tema común que corre a través de todas las prácticas espirituales que conozco. Ya sea que nuestra práctica espiritual implique meditación o yoga, leer o cantar, o simplemente sentarse, estas prácticas diarias o semanales prometen reconectarnos con lo que tenemos de más alto valor, con nuestro centro espiritual o fuente. A través de esa reconexión, nos acercamos a un pozo profundo de esperanza y compasión para nosotros y para otros. En el presente de tal enfoque, experimentamos cada nuevo día como un regalo; reconocemos donde tenemos una elección de cómo pasar este nuevo día, así como en donde nuestras opciones pueden estar limitadas, pero no obstante están presentes. “Amor de vida significa esperanza para mí, que se trae al nuevo día.”

Ah, tuve mis manos listas para escribir mi deseo de que este Nuevo Año les traiga ese tipo de enfoque, con su esperanza renovada, compasión y facultada elección. Pero mis dedos se detuvieron en el teclado con este pensamiento: A menudo deseamos lo que el año nuevo podría “traernos”. Pero dicha pasividad no concuerda con nuestra fe Unitaria Universalista. Creemos que es nuestra decisión ayudar a hacer de nosotros mismos, a otros y a este mundo, un lugar mejor. ¡Entonces este año, enfoquémonos en lo que nos traerá el Año Nuevo!

Aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria, tenemos mucho que ofrecemos mutuamente en el 2010: a través de la campaña de conversación mutua de este invierno, ofreceremos el regalo de escuchar profundamente; en el proceso construiremos relaciones y estableceremos un renovado y fuerte cimiento para nuestro trabajo de justicia social. Con una muy esperada (y aún en planificación) Cumbre de Música, veremos cómo enriquecer nuestro programa de música en los años siguientes. Con cada tema mensual de culto, nutriremos nuestros espíritus y descubriremos nuevas formas para ayudar a sanar el mundo. Con eventos comunitarios como la subasta de servicio (el 9 de enero) y el PACT Tea (el 30 de enero), enriqueceremos nuestra amistad y nuestras arcas para que podamos continuar profundizando y ampliando nuestros ministerios compartidos. A lo largo de todo esto, trabajaremos y jugaremos, reiremos y lloraremos juntos, dándole significado de amplitud y profundidad a nuestras vidas.

Estoy entusiasmada por un nuevo recurso para tal creación del significado que estaremos compartiendo en la Conferencia Nuevo Siglo del Distrito Pacífico Central el 29 y 30 de enero. Llevaremos un equipo de

Continúa en la página 3



Gift of Service

by Genie Bernardini

Whom Would You Like to Thank?

I suspect you have noticed some ongoing service or little act of kindness performed by someone in the church but may not have acknowledged it. Well, now you have an opportunity to do so. If you express your appreciation in ONE SENTENCE and send it to me at geniebee@hotmail.com, it will be printed in the newsletter for all to see.

Here are some samples:

"I'd like to thank Gordon Smith for faithfully leading the Planned Giving Committee, especially his work in setting up the very successful seminar on estate planning in November."

--Claire Wagner

"I thank Joyce Miller for tenaciously persevering with very difficult personnel issues and revising the church Personnel Policies."

--Dena Dickinson

"Thank you, Gertrud Cory, and all the folks who staff the Visitors' Table every week, for giving newcomers a welcoming place to get information about UUism and our church."

--Mary Martin. ●

As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3
tional leaders and leaders-in-the-making to this summit, to take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. You can find out more about it at this web address: <http://www.pcd-uua.org/currents/summit.htm> and in the article on page 5. Please take a look, and if it calls to you, please contact Program Officer **Tamara Payne-Alex**, tpaynealex@gmail.com ASAP to join our team. If we take six or more people (and we surely will), the cost is \$50 per person—and my experience at the “preview” of the summit promises that it will be worth every penny.

With a love of life that is borne on the new day, and with gratitude for what we will bring to this New Year together, I send you my love and warmest wishes! Welcome to 2010!

Nancy ●

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 Survival Sack Packing January 10

Shopping List for the Homeless Donations Needed

U members and friends are making 50 survival sacks that will be passed out to homeless clients of Sacred Heart Community Service. These sacks provide vital hygiene items that are suppose to last 3 months. Please support this project by donating money or purchasing some of the most needed items and bringing them to church January 10 and giving them to **Joy Butler** at the Social Justice table. We will pack the sacks on Sunday, January



10 at 2:00 pm at Joy's home. Email Joy at joyfaith7771@yahoo.com for address and directions.

Here are the items we still need for the Survival Sacks for the Homeless:

- 20 pairs of socks
- 30 pairs of underwear
- 30 deodorants, at least 3.5 oz.
- 30 rolls of toilet paper
- 20 rain ponchos
- 20 first aid kits

Cash donations are also welcomed to purchase these items. A tax receipt is available upon request. ●



Help the UUSJ Year Book Project!

Join the year book committee to write articles, take photos, plan layouts and more.

Send photos you have taken at church events since June 2009.

Contact Henry at stewardship@sanjoseuu.org

Please don't for a minute imagine that the cover of the actual year book will look like the slapped-together mock-up at left.

Mientras construimos nuestra querida comunidad, continúa para la página 3 líderes congregacionales y líderes incipientes, que tendrá lugar en la Iglesia Unitaria Universalista de Berkeley. Puede encontrar más información acerca de esto en esta dirección web: <http://www.pcd-uua.org/currents/summit.htm> y en la pagina 5. Por favor revise esto y si le interesa favor de ponerse en contacto con la Oficial de programa **Tamara Payne-Alex** tpaynealex@gmail.com tan pronto como sea posible para unirse a nuestro equipo. Si llevamos seis o más personas (y seguramente las tendremos), el costo es de 50 dólares por persona, y por mi experiencia en el “adelanto” de la Cumbre esta promete que valdrá cada centavo.

Con el amor de vida que se trae al nuevo día y con gratitud por lo que traerá este Año Nuevo, les envío mi amor y mis deseos más calurosos! Bienvenido al 2010.

Nancy ●



Upcoming Events

Service Auction and Dinner January 9!

The Service Auction will be held this coming Saturday! Each year, the First Unitarian Church holds a Service Auction as a major fundraiser for our congregation. Our Service Auction features these fun elements: time for silent-auction bidding, then a delicious shared meal to bring our community together, followed by the fun and hilarity of a Live Auction.



We updated the offerings on which you'll be bidding! Please take a look at the Service Auction Catalog at http://www.sanjoseuu.org/auction/2010_Service_Auction_Catalog.htm It includes not only the offerings but also a how-to guide for bidding, and some thoughts about how to bid if you have to miss the auction itself. Take a look!

Register ahead of time! Email **Jan Theiss-Guffey** at jantg@yahoo.com. I just need your name, phone number and email address if you have one. Then please join us on Saturday, January 9, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Hattie Porter Hall!

Here are the details:

- Silent Auction begins at 4:30 p.m.
- Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.
- Live Auction begins at 7:00 p.m. with our own **Dan Zulevic** as auctioneer!

What to Bring:

Yourself, Your Friends, Your Children, A Donation for Dinner (if you can! Otherwise, please come and be treated!)

Dinner Menu:

Chicken Marsala or Spinach Filo; Rice Pilaf, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

Suggested Donation: \$12

Please note: If you can contribute to the costs of dinner, for yourself and another--that is fantastic. If you can't, please know that EVERYONE can sit at our Welcome Table!

Child Care Available:

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please let Jan know if your children will need child care. ●



The Benefit Tea and lunch on January 30 from 1-4 pm supports our church's ongoing PACT dues.

Through our PACT LOC (Local Organizing Committee), we have promoted the "greening" of San Jose, increases in after school programs for students, and much much more.

The event features great food and deserts, as well as musical entertainment and time to relax with our fellow church members and guests. It is a chance to show the church off to that friend or neighbor that you weren't quite ready to ask to attend a Sunday service.

If you buy tickets in advance, you will be sure to get your share of the ever-popular apple strudel! Please see us at the Social Justice table after church to purchase tickets or to volunteer! Contact **Connie** at Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com for more information. ●

Bring in your Guest at Your Table Boxes Sunday, January 10



Please remember to bring in the UUSC's holiday Guest at Your Table boxes that we distributed several weeks ago with the accompanying Stories of Hope. Our hope is that you put your box at your table at home for every meal throughout the holidays, and felt the connection to people around the world whose lives you can help change through your donations. We will collect these boxes on January 10, 2010. ●

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Women's Alliance Meeting

The Women's Alliance continues its exploration into the varied traditions in earth-based spiritualities. We will meet at the home of **Jean vonKaenel** in Los Gatos on Thursday, January 7, from 7:15 to 9:15 pm.

Please call **Nancy Coleman** at 408 985 5778 or email n Coleman@gmail.com for directions or more information. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4. ●

Join the UUSJ Star Trek Exhibit Group After Service Jan. 10



Fans of Star Trek plan to visit the sci-fi franchise's exhibit at The Tech after the January 10 service. We'll buy group tickets at the normal fee, then donate the savings to the church. Contact Henry Ruddle at 408-234-3670 or stewardship@sanjoseuu.org. ●

Peninsula Interweave Meetings Resume

By the Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern, Parish Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, www.uucpa.org, parishmin@uucpa.org, 650-494-0541 x26

Peninsula Interweave, the UU BGLTIQ and allies social group, is resuming regular monthly meetings on second Tuesdays on the month, 7-9 pm, Snacks and good company provided! Bring yourself and a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and/or hetero ally/friend.

Tuesday, January 12, UU Church of Palo Alto, 7-9 pm

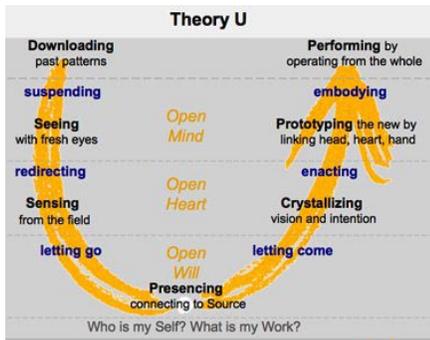
Directions are here: <http://www.uucpa.org/main/location.html>. We'll watch the segment of the ACLU Freedom Files called "Lesbian and Gay Families" and discuss.

Tuesday, February 9, First Unitarian Church of San Jose

Topics to be announced. ●



Upcoming Events



New Century Summit, January 29-30, 2010

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY (IN KENSINGTON)

For Unitarian Universalist Leaders in the Pacific Central District

The New Century Summit is a first-of-its-kind gathering for congregational teams who bring with them a commitment to learning and follow-through. It is for leadership teams who understand that we are better together, and who are ready to work across congregational boundaries on an ongoing basis, and in a new way. It is for those who want their faith to make a difference, and are ready to take on the challenge of their Call.

Our work will be guided by the Theory U model, a social technology being used around the world, particularly on issues related to justice and sustainability. It offers tremendous possibilities to groups of all kinds trying to reach across the things that divide us, to tap into our common heart and common dreams.

You're invited!

You are warmly encouraged to be part of FUCSJ's team at the PCD's New Century Summit Friday evening, January 29 6-9 pm and all day Saturday, January 30 (8:30 am- 4:00 pm) at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, in Kensington (carpooling available).

For a team of 6 or more people, cost is \$50 per person. RSVP ASAP to be a part of our Team to **Tamara Payne-Alex**, tpaynealex@gmail.com

The registration form (required) is available at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/register.pdf>. Make checks payable to "PCD" with "New Century Summit" in the memo line.

See <http://www.pcd-uua.org/currents/summit.htm> for more information. ●

UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the January hiking schedule. Be sure to call if you want to hike unless you are a regular, then let me know if you are not coming. Only big rain storms cancel hikes. In case of rain, call the morning of the hike to find out if we are changing the venue to the Stanford dish or if the hike is cancelled. My home phone is 408 730-1052 and cell is 570-7052. Use my cell phone after 7:30 am. All other times use my home phone. See you on the trails!

Wednesday, January 6

Purisima Redwoods, 6 miles, moderate. We will do the car shuttle hike. Meet at the Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, January 9

Santa Teresa County Park 6 miles mod. Meet at Bed, Bath, and Beyond at Almaden Plaza at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, January 13

This will be a long hike--about 10 miles. Let's do Saratoga Gap to Grizzly Flat and back through Long Ridge. This is long loop. No car shuttle needed. It should take about 5 1/2 hours. Meet at the former Downey Bank (now US Bank) parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

Saturday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 20

Arastradero Preserve, 5-6 miles, moderate. This is new hike for us. The trail head is very close to the Page Mill Park and Ride. We will still meet at Page Mill at 8:30 am. If you want to go directly to the trail head, let me know, so we are not looking for you at Page Mill Park and Ride.

Saturday, January 23

Sunol Regional Park McGuire Peaks trail, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capital and Alum Rock at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, January 27

Shuttle hike from Grizzly Flat to Montebello, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, January 30

Wunderlich County Park, 5-8 miles. I plan to do the long hike up to Skyline, but if anyone wants to do a shorter hike, we can adjust car pooling to accommodate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am. ●

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

Contact Rev. Nancy, revnpj@yahoo.com.



Excerpted from
PCD Currents by Cilla Raughley

<http://www.pcd-uua.org/currents.htm>

Funny or Sad?

Well, Garrison Keillor certainly caused a buzz to go through UU cyberspace this week. His mean-spirited essay, the one titled *Don't Mess with Christmas: It's a Christian holiday, dammit, and it's plain wrong to rewrite 'Silent Night.'* *Unitarians, I'm talking to you!* ran in a number of newspapers and on Salon.com. Some have suggested that this is nothing more than his standard satire, and after [viewing his actual appearance](#) at First Parish in Cambridge (which opens with a very funny "prayer" and ends with some charming Q&A with those in the pews), I'm inclined to think they're right--but then, could we not expect to have had some kind of an apology/correction issued by now? 12/21/09

. . . . Last week's issue reported on the controversy surrounding Garrison Keillor's recent essay that, among other things, chastised "Unitarians" for changing some of the words of *Silent Night*, a practice he discovered after visiting our First Parish congregation in Cambridge, Massachusetts. UU World brings us a [response from the Reverend Fred Small](#), who serves as the minister at First Parish. 12/21/09

Thomas Starr King Comes Home

Many may remember that the California State Senate voted at the end of 2006 to replace King's statue, which had long represented California in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C., with that of Ronald Reagan. The swap happened in June and since then Thomas Starr King had been crated and waiting for his return to Sacramento. Thomas Starr King's bronze statue has now been installed on the Capitol grounds in Sacramento. The installation occurred on December 8, 2009 with ceremony and eloquent words. Among the speakers were **Reverend Rebecca Parker**, President of Starr King Seminary; and **Reverend Lindi Ramsden**, Executive Director of UULMCA. There is an exhibit about King's life at the Capitol Museum which will run until June, 2010. ●



Lifespan Faith Development

Nursery (birth-5 years)—Church's Lower Level

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support each child in initiating play activities at the developmental level they manifest. Structured activities, games, stories and crafts are a part of the nursery experience. Child Care Workers: Maria Elena Olvera & Glynda Cotten

Youth Group Activities

Staff: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Junior High (6th-8th Grades)

Advisor: Pam Pell

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

Senior High (9th-12th grades)

Advisors: V Kingsley, Dani Hope, Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis

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

Sunday Programs

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

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. After we all do music, children choose to participate in community building games or art activities.

Make A World of Difference—Asset Building Activities to Help Teens Explore Diversity—Grades 6-8 (Lower Level, Conference & Meditation Rooms)

In this class youth, develop their skills as competent global citizens,

able to understand many of the issues surrounding diversity and culture. The goal is to raise the level of awareness about several diversity issues, while also giving youth an opportunity to pause and reflect on their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The purpose of these activities is not to promote any particular idea, value, or point of view, but to give youth the opportunity to develop greater understanding about the variety of issues surrounding diversity. They will learn about the broad definition of diversity that includes gender, age, religion, race, physical abilities, appearance, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Senior High Youth Group—Grades 9-12 (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 their lives and communities. They plan social and service projects throughout the year. And they participate in youth conferences in area Unitarian Universalist churches under the auspices of the Pacific Central District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations and Y.R.U.U. (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). The youth group's empowering philosophy educates youth to be leaders within the group, church community and denomination. ●

Workshop Series on the Spectrum of Sexual Orientation Starts January 24

Are there really more nuances to sexual orientation than being straight or gay? What is life like for people who realize they don't fit comfortably in either of these two categories? You can discover more about where you fall with the Klein Grid, a more detailed system than the familiar Kinsey Scale (don't worry, you won't need to reveal your results).

Our church's Lifespan Faith Development and Welcoming Congregation programs are offering a four-session class using Interweave Continental's Bisexuality Curriculum. Workshops are two and one-half hours each and meet on four consecutive Sunday afternoons, January 24 to February 14, in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Adults and senior high youth are invited to participate in these interactive, facilitated workshops, in a safe and welcoming environment. Please register in advance as space is limited.

Contacts: **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** 292-3858x25 grimositis@sanjoseuu.org, or **Frey Leigh** 283-9383 fleigh@att.net. ●



Common Security Club-Facilitated Sessions

January 14, 18, February 11, 25 & March 11— 7-8:30 p.m. (Come to one! Come to all!)

COMING TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL CHANGE

These are uncertain times. The economic crisis has reminded us of our vulnerabilities. Debt. Foreclosure. Evaporating Savings. Rising Costs. Job Insecurity. We can face these changes alone — or come together.

What is a Common Security Club?

- A place to come together to enhance our personal security in a rapidly changing world.
- A chance to learn about the root causes of our economic and ecological challenges.
- A way to be part of a national movement of common security clubs that are connected to religious, civic, labor and small business organizations — all working to transform the economy so that it works for everyone.
- In the process, a forum to get to know neighbors (co-workers, etc), find inspiration, have fun, and strengthen community. ●





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

What is your calm restrained orderly reporter deliriously happy about? Who has adopted a Broadway orphan?

Who has the world's worst birthdays? Far out Christmas memories - we got 'em: Bikes, trains, trees, candles, snow, cookies, doll houses.

It seems some people had no particular difficulties in 2009, but I have found way too many whose New Years Toasts were like mine: It's over. Good Riddance.

But we always have wildly diverse memories of Christmas. Here are some responses to "When I say 'Christmas', what do you think of?" **Billie Wachter**: times with my mother. There was always a big turkey, and always presents. **Pam Price**: skiing in the Tetons in deep powder. **Inez Zapiola**: heat. (Inez has adopted a little orphan, Annie, (a dog). A spunky little girl with extra personality who sleeps in **Sophie's** room, and weighs 20 lbs. and four ounces (in case you don't know what new dog parents are like). **Jean Embree**: the grandkids, holiday candles on her birthday (24th) in the sanctuary

Moria Merriweather: a metallic red bike with a basket and silver fringe things coming out the end of the handlebars. **Kelly Burnett**: when her kids saw the doll house she made, constructing it at night. **Joyce Miller**: snow, winter, services in the cold, cider and cooking. She's the cookie maker. **Tim Blackwood**: Lionel trains. **Madeline Blackwood**: One Christmas year, her parents could not afford to buy a Christmas tree. Sad, but full of enterprise, she went to a neighbor's who had a huge pine tree outside. Getting

permission to take some branches, she made them into a tree. When she somehow got it to stand up and decorated it - "we had a beautiful Christmas tree."

Monty Low (Renaissance Man) says he was chatting with Rev. Jozsef the other day and he reports that there is quite a lot of snow in Homorodszentmar-ton this winter. He says that Erika is doing very well and is still on track for delivery in March. See pic for proof.

Mary Martin (our unofficial cub reporter) asks, "Did you know that:



1. "**Elara Rivers** was in the cast of A Christmas Story at the San Jose Rep." (OK, now



2nd from left: Elara Rivers as Helen Weathers in A Christmas Story. Photo by Kevin Berne

the Christmas play at church is one thing, but the REP?

2. "Two church members have had comments published in the Mercury News' "Mr. Roadshow" column:

A few days ago there was a letter from **Alec MacLean** (about rude people in heavy traffic who avoid getting into the off-ramp lane until the very last minute, cutting in front of all the people who got in the right lane early on).

A couple of weeks ago **Gene Martin** had a letter in the column about yellow lights--if it's early yellow he guns it through the intersection ever since someone rear-ended him when he was driving his truck with propane tanks in the back and slowed down so the load wouldn't shift. The woman who ran into him jumped out and yelled, "Why did you slow down? My car was in cruise control!" Finally a policeman who had witnessed the whole scene pointed out to her that she was at fault since a yellow light means "slow down." Can you just picture Gene's face as the woman is going off on him? Never mind somebody using cruise control in town."

The Merc never publishes any of the letters I send them. Maybe they are looking for clear, reasonable, dispassionate, statements.

White Light Corner: every one of us. We made it. A very Happy New Year to us all. ●

Interested in Raising Funds?

You can make all the difference. **Henry Ruddle**, the Stewardship and Fundraising member of the Program and

Operations Council (POC) is looking for ideas and for volunteers to join the new Fundraising Council and the 2010-2011 Canvass Committee. If you have a fundraising idea or are planning a fundraiser, let Henry know so it can be evaluated and perhaps calendared.

(Big idea for 2010: Advanced Planning.) If you are willing to help out either by serving on a committee or less formally, Henry promises a minimum of meetings and a maximum of action. Contact Henry at 408-234-3670 or stewardship@sanjoseuu.org. ●





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

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Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, January 20, 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. For pastoral care in Spanish, please contact our Spanish-Speaking Ministries Coordinator, **Roberto Padilla**: 408-991-3212; e-mail: paor69@yahoo.com.

Contacting the Ministers

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

Cuidado Pastoral

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

Contactando a los Ministros

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

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Shirley will be editor for the January 21 and February 17, 2010 issues. Catherine will be editor for the February 3 and March 3, 2010 issues.

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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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