



Our Church Circular

www.sanjoseuu.org

May 5, 2010
/ 5 de Mayo
2010

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

MAY THEME: Appreciating the Interdependent Web of all Existence
TEMA DE MAYO: Apreciando el Tejido Interdependiente de Todo lo Existente

9:30 a.m.
Servicios en español

DOMINGO DE LAS FUENTES

9 de Mayo – 9:30 am

La Risa de la Señora de las Estaciones: Una Celebración de la Divinidad Femenina

Basándose en la tradición pagana celta, este servicio nos acerca más a la tierra y sus estaciones y ofrece una manera muy fresca de celebrar el día de la madre. Bailaremos el Palo de Mayo y aprenderemos acerca de una práctica centrada en la tierra que puede abrirnos a toda la diversidad y la belleza de nuestras muchas teologías Unitarias Universalistas. ¿Qué se llevarán de este precioso día? Consulte la columna de la Rev. Nancy en esta edición del boletín para más pensamientos sobre el valor de ampliar nuestro círculo.

Dirigen: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y K'Ailsa Rowan

11:00 a.m.
Services in English

SOURCES SUNDAY

May 9 – 11:00 am

Lady of the Seasons' Laughter: A Celebration of the Feminine Divine

Drawing on the Celtic pagan tradition, this service brings us closer to the earth and its seasons, and offers a very fresh way of celebrating Mother's Day! We will dance the Maypole, and we'll learn about an earth-centered practice that can open us all to the diversity and beauty of our many Unitarian Universalist theologies. What will you take away from this precious day? See Rev. Nancy's column in this edition of the newsletter for more thoughts on the value of broadening our circle.

Worship Leaders: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and K'Ailsa Rowan

See page 7 for more SUNDAY SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES

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

May 14, Friday, Social Justice Council's Second Friday Event: About Haiti; 7 pm at the church

May 15, Saturday, deadline to register for PCD Leadership School; contact Claire Paul, Convener, at Claire4peace@yahoo.com for more information.

May 23, Sunday, 12:30 pm, Congregational Meeting to approve 2010-2011 Budget, End-of-Canvass lunch and music and celebration in Hattie Porter Hall afterwards.

June 5, Saturday, meditation retreat, led by Swami Dada Nabhaniilananda; 10 am-5 pm, Hattie Porter Hall.

June 23-27, UUA General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN. More info at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

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

July 14-18, All Church Campout. McConnell State Recreation Area, Contact Mary Mary Feldman at 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



SUNDAY, MAY 9

New Member Ingathering

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 ingathering 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

Make Your True Love Pledge

If you have not yet made your annual pledge to FUCSJ, download the information and forms at: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/AboutUs/Fundraising/pledge.html>

TRUE LOVE
FUCSJ 2010 Annual Pledge Campaign



As we build the beloved community...

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Mientras construimos nuestra amada comunidad...

Por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

May's Theme: Cherishing the Interdependent Web of All Existence

At our recent buck-a-book sale, I picked up a wonderful book of essays titled "Hard Blessings: Doing the Work of Love," by Unitarian Universalist minister Tom Owen-Towle.¹ Owen-Towle tells this story:

Not too long ago, a Methodist bishop in a Midwestern state received a letter from a rural congregation under his care. These good folks were worried that their church was being taken over by a new group of people—new members of the church whose worship style was very different from that of the long-timers. For instance: the new members had brought in a load of hay, spread it across the sanctuary floor, and then begun to roll in it "in fits of ecstasy."

"Bishop," the long-time congregants wrote, "we need you to tell these new people they don't belong in our church. Please kick them out!"

The bishop wrote back: "All I want to know is this: When they get up from rolling around on the floor, are they better partners? Are they better parents? Are they better citizens? If they are, let me know, and I'll send a bale of hay to every Methodist congregation in the county!"

Now, I confess: the mere thought of hay spread over (and then ground into) the beautiful labyrinth-inscribed carpet at the center of our sanctuary is almost enough to make me break out in hives. And I can hear our Building Committee hollering already!

But . . . I also believe that Methodist bishop has got it right. We need to ask ourselves: What are the effects of all that we experience together at the First Unitarian Church of San José? When we get up from our worship services and committee meetings, our Small-Group Ministry sessions and Social Hour, our Lifespan Faith Development classes and our social-justice actions, are we better partners, better parents, better citizens?

I hope so. I believe so. But the question always bears asking. And it leads to these questions, too: Could other styles of worship, other classes, other actions and activities help us to live our faith and our love more fully? Or maybe, do we need fewer choices but more openness to the power of the experiences we already share?

In our worship services on Sunday mornings in May, we will deepen our experience of the interdependent web of all existence, and we'll ponder our human place in it. We will experience a more

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Tema de Mayo: Apreciando el Tejido Interdependiente de Todo lo Existente

En nuestra reciente venta de libros de uno dólar, recogí un maravilloso libro de ensayos, titulado "Bendiciones Difíciles: Haciendo el trabajo del Amor," por el Ministro Unitario Universalista Tom Owen-Towle. Owen-Towle cuenta esta historia:

No hace mucho tiempo, un obispo metodista en un estado del medio oeste recibió una carta de una congregación rural bajo su cuidado. Estas buenas personas estaban preocupadas de que su iglesia estuviera siendo tomada por un nuevo grupo de personas—nuevos miembros de la iglesia, cuyo estilo de culto era muy diferente de la que ya tenían desde un largo tiempo. Por ejemplo: los nuevos miembros habían traído una carga de heno, esparciéndolo a través del piso del santuario y, a continuación, comenzaron a rodar en él "al punto de éxtasis".

"Obispo", la Congregación durante mucho tiempo le escribió, "necesitamos que le diga a estas nuevas personas que no pertenecen a nuestra iglesia. Por favor ¡écheles!"

¿El obispo les contestó: "todo lo que quiero saber es esto: cuando ellos se levantan de rodar alrededor en el piso, son mejores parejas? ¿Son mejores padres? ¿Son mejores ciudadanos? Si es así, déjémelo saber y enviaré una carga de heno a cada congregación metodista en el condado!"

Ahora, confieso: el mero pensamiento del heno esparcido sobre (y luego en la tierra) el hermoso laberinto de la alfombra en el centro de nuestro santuario es casi suficiente para que me de urticaria. Ya puedo escuchar a nuestro Comité de mantenimiento gritar!

Pero . . . yo también creo que el obispo metodista está en lo cierto. Tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿cuáles son los efectos de toda la experiencia que tenemos juntos en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José? ¿Cuando nos levantamos de nuestros servicios religiosos y de las reuniones de Comité, de nuestras sesiones del Ministerio de pequeños grupos y la hora social, de nuestras clases de desarrollo de la fe y de nuestras acciones de justicia social, somos mejores parejas, mejores padres, mejores ciudadanos?

Eso espero. Eso creo. Pero la cuestión siempre lleva a preguntar. Y conduce a estas preguntas, también: ¿podrían otros estilos de culto, otras clases, otras acciones y actividades ayudarnos a vivir más plenamente nuestra fe y nuestro amor? O tal vez, ¿necesitamos menos opciones pero más apertura al poder de las experiencias que ya compartimos?

En nuestros servicios religiosos de los domingos por la mañana en mayo, profundizaremos nuestra experiencia del tejido interdependiente de todo lo existente y, consideraremos nuestro lugar humano en él. Experi-

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Upcoming Events: Our Church

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Reading "The Five Gospels" With Bob

Facilitated by **Bob Miess**, this group will meet Sunday, May 9, 6-8 pm. New participants are always welcome, so whether you've been participating up to this point or not, please come join us in our next session in the Fireside Room discussing our readings from *The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say? The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*. For our May 9 session, attendees should read as much as possible from the following sections:

- Preface (pages ix-xxii) and the introduction (pages 1-38)
- All of the Gospel of Mark (pages 39-127)
- The Chart of the Stages of Development of the Early Christian Tradition (page 128)
- The first 7 chapters of the Gospel of Matthew (pages 129-196)

We let the interests of those present guide the focus of our discussions, so in this session we can focus on any of the material in the preface, the introduction, the Gospel of Mark, and/or the first part of Matthew. We'll also have copies of "the Red Sayings" (which the Jesus Seminar judged as most likely to have been said by Jesus) handout that we looked

at in April. Some especially exciting topics to consider during the May 9 session are:

- The Stages of Development of the Early Christian Tradition
- The Story of the Birth of Jesus – Why did Matthew include one, when Mark did not?
- What is Matthew trying to say by including



it? What is missing in Matthew's story of Jesus' birth? Why would Matthew not include that?

- The Sermon on the Mount

– This is the first large block of red sayings with a lot of interesting questions about the picture of Jesus we get from them.

- The Lord's Prayer – Why is so little of it colored red?
- How has Matthew used Mark in these first 7 chapters, and how has Matthew reshaped Mark's message (so far)?
- Why did scholars conclude that Matthew copied Mark, and not the other way around?
- Was Jesus an apocalyptic prophet, warning of the end of the world, or a wise sage, challenging people to live a good life? Bring along any interesting things you noted in your reading, and questions that are arising for you. Questions? Contact Bob Miess at 408-781-7073 or Bob@FloweringEnterprises.com

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Women's Alliance

Please join us on Thursday, May 6 at 7:15 pm at the home of Jean vonKaelnel for our next session in the updated *Rise Up and Call Her Name*. Contact **Nancy Coleman** at nbc Coleman@gmail.com or 408 985 5778 for directions or more information.



SUNDAY, MAY 23

Congregational Meeting to Approve the Budget, Celebrate Over Lunch

If you are a member of FUCSJ, please mark your calendar to be at our next congregational meeting at approximately 12:30 pm on Sunday, May 23, after the regular 11 am service. We will review and put up for a vote our annual 2010-2011 budget.

This is a great time to hear more about what is going on in the church and get a look into our financial health. If you are not a member, you are still welcome to attend although you will not be part of the voting process. After the meeting, join us in Hattie Porter hall for lunch, volunteer recognition and entertainment at our annual End-of-Canvass celebration!

As We Build the Beloved Community, continued from page 3

embodied style of worship through our singing and movement; we will take up the strands of earth-centered traditions and paganism that are woven into our faith; we will celebrate the more-than-human parts of this great web. Will we come away better partners, better parents, better citizens—better lovers and friends? We hope so. We believe so. With your open hearts, minds, and spirits, we will travel together into the center of our web. May there be plenty of hay, metaphorically at least! May there be both ecstasy and grounded truth, and the transforming power of love!

Yours in the spirit,

Nancy ●

1. Adapted from Tom Owen-Towle, *Hard Blessings: Doing the Work of Love* (Carmel, Calif.: SunInk Publications, 1999)

Mientras construimos nuestra amada comunidad, continúa para la página 3

mentaremos un estilo más corporeizado de culto a través de nuestro canto y movimiento; tomaremos hasta las hebras de tradiciones centrada en la tierra y el paganismo que son tejidas en nuestra fe; celebraremos las partes más que humanas de este gran tejido. ¿Saldremos mejores parejas, mejores padres, mejores ciudadanos: mejores amantes y amigos? Eso esperamos. Eso creemos. Con sus corazones, mentes y espíritus abiertos, viajaremos juntos al centro de nuestro tejido. Puede haber ahí mucho heno, metafóricamente al menos! Pueden ahí estar ambos, el éxtasis y la verdad fundamentada y el poder transformador del amor!

Suya en el espíritu,

Nancy ●

First Unitarian Church of San Jose • 160 North Third St., San Jose, CA 95112 • (408) 292-3858 • www.sanjoseuu.org

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Upcoming Events: PCD and UUA

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

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 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 others 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. ●

B&B Adventure in Honolulu, Hawaii!

By Cilla Raughly, PCD Executive Director
from the April 12 PCD Currents

This is too good! Our Honolulu congregation is organizing a very special fund-raiser from September 22 to 29. Church members will provide B&B-style accommodation in their homes, a full seven nights stay, for just \$840/couple (or only \$490/single). Yup, that comes to \$120 a night for a couple, and \$70 a night for one.

For more information, see their flyer (<http://www.unitariansofhi.org/brochure-Port.pdf>), and contact **Carla Allison** at cbm@hawaii.rr.com with any questions. ●



TUESDAY, MAY 11

Julian Street Inn Mental Health Day

Join us in honoring our community partners, Valley Homeless Health Care Program and Gardner Family Health Network, Inc., who are sponsoring a Mental Health Day "promoting mental health awareness" on May 11, 2010, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Julian Street Inn, 546 West Julian Street, San Jose, CA. There will be food, live music, and client testimonials!!! RSVP Marian or David at 408.271.0820. ●



UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

By Joyce Miller

Here is the May 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, May 5

Calero County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza Shopping center at 8:30 am. Palo Alto folks may want to meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am to car pool to Almaden Plaza.

Saturday, May 8

Big Basin Berry Falls hike, 11 miles, moderate. This is a long and beautiful hike. It is not too hard just long. Plan to get back around 4:00 pm. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, May 12

Montebello/Grizzly Flat car shuttle hike, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

Saturday, May 15

Sierra Azule, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, May 19

Huddart County Park, 7 miles. This is the longer hike up to Skyline. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, May 22

Butano State Park, 9 miles, moderate. This is a longer day due to travel time and pie eating and a trip to Phipps ranch for bean shopping. Plan to get home around 4:30 to 5 pm.

Wednesday, May 26

Windy Hill, 7 miles, moderate. This is the longer hike. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

Saturday, May 29

Wunderlich County Park, 10 miles, moderate. I plan to do the long hike up to Skyline, but if anyone wants to do shorter hike, we can adjust car pooling to accommodate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.



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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.



Second Friday Event: Haiti

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 7:00 P.M., FIRESIDE ROOM

The Social Justice Council's Second Friday Event for May is about Haiti. At 7pm, we will begin socializing in the Fireside Room and go from there. Bring some food and drink for yourself and some to share. ●

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> or in the edited version below. 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 for more information. ●

Peacemaking Statement of Conscience

I. Where We Stand — We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace.

A. Our commitment to creating peace calls us to the work of peace-building, peacemaking and peacekeeping.

B. We advocate a culture of peace through a transformation of public policies, religious consciousness, and individual lifestyles. At the heart of this transformation is the readiness to honor the truths of multiple voices from a theology of covenant grounded in love.

C. We all agree that our initial response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods. Yet, we bear witness to the right of individuals and nations to defend themselves, and acknowledge our responsibility to protect our neighbors from aggression. Many of us believe force is sometimes necessary as a last resort, while some of us believe that nonviolence is adequate in all circumstances.

D. We repudiate aggressive and preventive wars, the disproportionate use of force, and targeting that includes a high risk to civilians. We support international efforts to curtail the vast world trade in armaments and call for ultimate nuclear disarmament and abolition of other weapons of mass destruction. We repudiate unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous

new forms of imperialism. In an interdependent world, true peace requires the cooperation of all nations and peoples.

E. For Unitarian Universalists, the exercise of individual conscience is holy work. Conscientious discernment leads us to engage in the creation of peace in different ways. We affirm a range of individual choices, including military service and conscientious objection (whether to all wars or particular wars), as fully compatible with Unitarian Universalism. For those among us who make a formal commitment to military service, we will honor their commitment, welcome them home, and offer pastoral support. For those among us who make a formal commitment as conscientious objectors, we will offer documented certification, honor their commitment, and offer pastoral support.

F. Our faith calls us to create peace, yet we confess that we have not done all we could to prevent the spread of armed conflict throughout the world. At times we have lacked the courage to speak and act against violence and injustice; at times we have lacked the creativity to speak and act in constructive ways; at times we have condemned the violence of others without acknowledging our own complicity in violence. We affirm a responsibility to speak truth to power, especially when unjust power is exercised by our own nation. Too often we have allowed our disagreements to distract us from all that we can do together. This Statement of Conscience challenges individual Unitarian Universalists, as well as our congregations

and Association to engage with more depth, persistence and creativity in the complex task of creating peace.

II. Historical and Theological Context — Our Universalist faith in the oneness of the whole human family teaches us that peace is necessary; our Unitarian faith in the sacred potential of each person teaches us that peace is possible.

A. Historical Practices — For two hundred years, Unitarians and Universalists have worked to build peace by removing the underlying causes of war. As early as 1790, Universalists gathered in Philadelphia declared "although defensive wars are lawful, there is a time coming, when the light and universal love of the gospel shall put an end to all wars." The Massachusetts Peace Society founded by Unitarians Noah Worcester and William Ellery Channing during the War of 1812, helped launch the first peace movement to include both those repudiating all violence and those supporting defensive wars; to welcome members of all religious persuasions; and to affirm that nonviolence is humanly possible as well as divinely commanded.

B. Theological Principles — This Statement of Conscience is grounded in the following Unitarian Universalist theological principles: The fundamental unity and interdependence of all existence. The transforming power of love. The inherent worth and dignity of all persons. Human freedom. Rejection of moral dualism. Cooperative power. Justice and peace. Humility and open-mindedness.

III. Calls to Action — Creating peace calls for action at all levels of human interaction.

A. Creating Peace In Our World — We covenant to advocate vigorously for policies and participate in practices that move our nation toward collaborative leadership in building a peaceful, just, and sustainable world, including:

- Supporting the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office
- Supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Participating in international civilian peace-building, peacemaking, and unarmed peacekeeping teams.

B. Creating Peace In Our Society

- We covenant to act in the wider community in reducing the causes of institutional and structural violence.

C. Creating Peace in Our Congregations

- We covenant to create peace through worship, religious education, and social action.

D. Creating Peace In Our Relationships and Peace Within Ourselves

In reverence for all life, we covenant to practice peace at all levels of human interaction. ●



Coming of Age Retreat Program

For 8th-10th grade youth in COA programs at their own UU church.

Mission Statement

To provide retreat experiences for youth that will further the depth of the Coming of Age programs at their respective congregations. The purpose of the retreats and of the Coming of Age programs is to help our youth integrate their childhood into their emerging adulthood, with a clear sense of themselves and their place in the Unitarian Universalist church and in the world.

Program Objectives

Retreats will help youth:

- ★ Explore their own spirituality.
- ★ Have a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism.
- ★ Appreciate and continue the lifelong process of values clarification.
- ★ Recognize and accept responsibility for decision-making.
- ★ Explore their options for service, both to their church and to the community.
- ★ Deepen their relationships with youth and adult members in other churches.
- ★ Come to a positive understanding of their personal capabilities and unique qualities.
- ★ Test themselves against their own preconceived limits.
- ★ Solidify their commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

For Further Information: Contact your church's RE program or Jeanelyse Doran Adams at the Pacific Central District office.
Phone: 925-381-3250
E-Mail: Jeanelyse@pcd-uaa.org

RETREAT OVERVIEWS

Threshold Retreat: Program kick-off weekend, emphasizing connection and challenge. Youth participate in a high ropes course with trust building exercises. We seek the level of challenge appropriate for each youth..

North Retreat: UU Church of Santa Rosa, October 8-10, 2010
South Retreat: UU Church of San Jose, October 15-17, 2010

Social Justice Retreat: Retreat emphasizes social and emotional awareness, going on a Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco. See www.faithfulfools.org for more information about the Fools.

North: Mt. Diablo , January 28-30, 2011
South: UU Church of San Francisco, January 21-23, 2011

Nature Vigil Retreat: A solo vigil is the highlight of this retreat. Youth spend over four hours alone in nature, under the care of their adult chaperone, with their journal and water. Saturday evening includes rituals honoring gender specific aspects of adolescence. The location of these retreats will be determined when camp sites can be reserved.

North: April 8-10, 2011
South: April 15-17, 2011

Coming of Age Sunday: Coming of Age Sunday at participant's home congregation in the morning. In the evening, gather for a Celebration Ceremony for participants, parents and mentors.

May 22, 2011

FAQ

Cost: \$350 per participant. Financial assistance available through your UU church or the Pacific Central District.

Chaperones: All retreats are chaperoned by adults from UU churches in the PCD who have undergone background checks. There is an average ratio of 8 youth to each adult at the retreat.

How do I register my youth? You can register with your religious educator or at the district web site. See www.pcd-uaa.org

Is my church in the North or the South?: Ask your religious educator which set of retreats your church is participating in.

Can my youth attend a retreat that our church is not attending? It is best for youth to stay with their group and attend all the retreats in the North or the South. If space is available, changes can be made. Check with your religious educator.

Can my youth still participate if he/she cannot make all the retreats? It is best if youth attend all of the retreats. If this is not possible, discuss it with your religious educator.

Does my youth have to be in 8th, 9th or 10th grade to attend? Yes. There are other district programs for youth in middle and high school who are not in 8th-10th grades.

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

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DOMINGO DE LA TEOLOGÍA

16 de May – 9:30 am

¡No mataras!

Desde tiempos inmemorables el asesinato esta penado tanto por las leyes civiles como las religiosas ¿cual entonces es el castigo por matar a Dios?

Dirige: Roberto Padilla

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

Thou Shalt Not Kill!

Since the beginning times, murder has been punishable by both civil and religious law. What then is the penalty for killing God?

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla

Worship Associates: Members of SSM

THEOLOGY SUNDAY

May 16 – 11:00 am

Eco-Spirituality

The living tradition we share as Unitarian Universalists draws from many sources, including “Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.” In the west we have seen our relationship with nature as one of control. We manipulate the environment for our benefit. But what if nature manipulated us for its benefit too? Michael Pollan, in *The Botany of Desire* argues that the answer lies at the heart of the intimately reciprocal relationship between people and plants. The sweetness of apples, for example, induced the early Americans to spread the species, giving the tree a whole new continent in which to blossom. So who is really domesticating whom?” (–*Bookbrowse* review). We are a part of, not apart from, nature. An Eco-Spirituality acknowledges our relationship with the natural world and strives to deepen it by working to enhance life for the benefit of all.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Worship Associate: Jeff Norment

Espiritualidad Ecológica

La tradición de vida que compartimos como Unitarios Universalistas se basa en muchas fuentes, incluyendo las “Enseñanzas espirituales de tradiciones centradas en la tierra que celebran el sagrado círculo de la vida y nos instruyen para vivir en armonía con los ritmos de la naturaleza.” En el occidente hemos visto nuestra relación con la naturaleza como una de control. Nosotros manipulamos el medio ambiente para nuestro beneficio. Pero ¿qué sucede si naturaleza nos manipula nos para su beneficio también? Michael Pollan, en su libro *La Botánica del Deseo* argumenta que la respuesta se encuentra en el corazón de la relación íntimamente recíproca entre las personas y las plantas. La dulzura de manzanas, por ejemplo, inducida por los primeros americanos para difundir la especie, trayendo al árbol a un continente completamente nuevo en el cual florecer. Así que quien realmente domestica a quien?” (–*Bookbrowse* review). Nosotros no estamos separados de la naturaleza. Una espiritualidad ecológica reconoce nuestra relación con el mundo natural y se esfuerza para profundizarlo trabajando para mejorar la vida para beneficio de todos.

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

Asociado de Culto: Jeff Norment

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

23 de Mayo – 9:30 am

Los Miembros Más-que-Humanos del tejido interconectado

En este domingo celebramos a las muchas especies no humanas y su papel fundamental en el tejido interconectado de todo lo existente. ¿Qué hemos aprendido de los animales en nuestras vidas? ¿Cómo estamos nosotros los humanos conectados a nuestra naturaleza animal? ¿Qué tienen los animales que enseñarnos sobre el amor, el compañerismo y el perdón?

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

DOMINGO DE COMPAÑERISMO

May 23 – 11:00 am

The More-than-Human Members of the Interconnected Web

On this Sunday we celebrate the many non-human species and their foundational role in the interconnected web of all existence. What have we learned from the animals in our lives? How are we humans connected to our animal nature? What do animals have to teach us about love, companionship, and forgiveness?

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Worship Associates: Frank Bosche and Moria Merriweather ●



Chancel Decorators Needed

Decorating the chancel can be a meditation, an inspiration, a simple dash of color, an intricate weaving of elements. Come join our merry band of decorators! You can choose your own timing - decorating once a month to once in a while, on your own or with a partner, or diving in with our youth. Contact **Colleen Cabot**, Chancel Coordinator, colleencabot@earthlink.net, 408-251-2101. ●



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 Cotton

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

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

Contact Rev. Geoff,
grimositis@sanjoseuu.org

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, 408-292-3858, ext. 25. ●



Wake Up, Sun!

Amy Baldwin at Palo Alto Baylands Mayday morning performing with the Mad Molly Morris dancing group helping to wake up the sun.

Photos courtesy of Gene Martin ●



Board Meeting of April 28, 2010

By Bob Redfern, Secretary of the Board of Directors

The April 28th meeting was our first for our new incoming members **Nancy Taylor, Rodrigo Garcia, and Rick Morris**. Outgoing Board Member **Rick Merritt** and holdover Treasurer **Bob Howd** were present to witness the changing of the guard, and **Madeline Morrow** assumed the mantle of President

The Board approved renomination of **John Burk** and **Sherry Howd** as Program and Operations Committee (POC) members for Social Justice and Communications, respectively.

Our May, June and July meetings will feature training from church community members who have participated in the annual PCD leadership school held each July. **Joy Ellen Lipsky, Kelly Burnett** and **Crystal Lanier** will share their insights and perspective with the board. This falls under the "Harvest the Power" initiative, which Rev. Geoff is managing. The next three

meetings were set for May 26, June 16 (early, to accommodate attendance at GA) and July 28th. Each meeting will feature a different aspect of this program.

We will also have a budget meeting, including POC members, probably next week on May 5. Any later and we run the risk of not having the budget information in your hands before the Congregational meeting.

Bob Howd discussed budget issues in light of the canvass, and our stated goal, when the canvass started, to return our ministers to the UUA standards for pay to professional staff of churches our size. We hope that budget issue will be resolved by the time of our Congregational meeting on the budget, scheduled for Sunday May 23. After the Congregational meeting, we will have our end-of-canvass celebration. Finally, we hope that the offices of Treasurer and Personnel Officer will be filled

by community members who step forward to the Nominating Committee and agree to perform these critical duties for our community as a whole.

On Saturday, May 1, **Gini Courter**, Moderator of the UUA and Chair of the Board of Trustees and of the General Assembly, will meet with the Board, POC, and other interested community members from 1 to 3 pm and share wisdom, and on Sunday, May 2, she will speak to the congregation.

As part of President Madeline's personal goals for her presidency, she proposes to establish an annual operations calendar and complete the finalization process for our Board Governance Policies. Since we adopted the Policy Based Governance model for our community, we have operated with "Draft" policies, which we are revising to result in policies good for the long haul. I would say that Madeline is off on the right foot as our new Prez. Let's give her a round of applause for a good start! ●



CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones
in the lives of the
First Unitarian Community

The all-new all-different Circling Around

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.



by Torchy Hunter

We Goofed! An Apology for a Mistake in the Last Newsletter

You may have noticed that the last newsletter (April 21, 2010) was reissued, with a slight change, a couple of days after its original publication. Some of you who receive the newsletter by mail were sent the original version; others may have looked at the on-line version before the correction was made. Here's what happened:

There was a brief paragraph in the last Circling Around that spoke of visitor and friend Rosemary Frances's good work with folks living with developmental challenges. Although the intent of the note was lighthearted, it ran the risk of seeming insensitive or offensive. Both Torchy and Rev. Nancy agreed that such an impact would reflect the opposite of our Unitarian Universalist principles that recognize the worth and dignity of every person and that offer love and welcome to all, and they were eager to remove the note.

We heartily apologize for the mistake. Thanks for your patience and understanding! Torchy is taking some time off to entertain friends and pursue her artistic interests, but she'll be back with her column in the next newsletter. ●

Classifieds

Wine Country Excursions

Visit wineries, galleries and museums; bike, hike, or tour by car; chose a guided tour or find your own way. Stay up to three nights (breakfast included) with fellow UUs. Fees are below market rate for similar services, and all proceeds go to the UU Fellowship of North Bay in Napa. Available April through October. For complete details, contact Tom Wilson at 707-254-7743 or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net. ●

Gift of Service

DO YOU WANT TO EXPRESS YOUR APPRECIATION? Please send your one-sentence salute to **Genie Bernardini** at geniebee@hotmail.com





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San Jose, CA 95112

Want to Receive the Newsletter?

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

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

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

To receive the newsletter via email: steve.carr@earthlink.net

Next issue deadline: 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, May 19, 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**: 408-824-8831; 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 necesitar en épocas difíciles. Para el cuidado pastoral en inglés, por favor, comuníquese con nuestra Coordinadora Laica Asociada 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: 408-824-8831 (celular); e-mail: paor69@yahoo.com

Contactando a los Ministros

La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y **El Rev. Geoff Rimositis** se sienten honrados de servir a esta congregación y apreciamos su confianza! Aquí esta como puede contactarnos: **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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Editors: Catherine Leeson Pelizzari and Shirley Worth; CircularEditors@gmail.com
Shirley will be editor for the May 19 and June 16, 2010 issues. Catherine will be editor for the May 5 and June 2 and July 7, 2010 issues.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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