

Our Church Circular

December 5,
2007 /
5 de Diciembre
2007

SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Combined Service/Servicio Combinado 10:00 AM

December 9 / Advent II—Hope:
Candles in the Dark

Plus: New-Member Sunday!

When we are battered by the news of the day or when we are striving to heal a broken heart, what lights our path and brings us hope again? Come share in this reflective service, heartily welcome our new members, and stay to shop at the Fireside Gift Faire!

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

9 de Diciembre / Adviento II—Esperanza:
Velas en la Oscuridad

Además: Sabado de Nuevos Miembros

¿Cuándo las noticias del día nos lastiman o cuándo nos estamos esforzando en curar un corazón roto, qué alumbra nuestro camino y nos trae esperanza otra vez? ¡Ven a compartir en este reflexivo servicio una calurosa bienvenida a nuestros nuevos miembros y posteriormente puedes hacer algunas compras navideñas en el “Fireside Gift Faire”!

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociada de Servicio: Mary Martin.

9:30 a.m.

Servicios en español/Translation into English

16 de Diciembre — 9:30 a.m.

Ley de ATRACCIÓN

Somos lo que pensamos, queremos y deseamos.

Somos lo que creemos y lo que creemos ser.

Dirigen: Gustavo Gómez C. y Ervin Barrios

Law of ATTRACTION

We are what we think, want, and desire.

We are what we believe, and what we believe we are.

Leaders: Gustavo Gómez y Ervin Barrios



CHRISTMAS SERVICES, SEE PAGES 2-3

11:00 a.m.

Services in English

December 16 — 11:00 a.m.

Children's Holiday Play

Santa will take people's lists after the service.

Director: Dianne Saichek

Celebrando las festividades con los niños

Santa se llevará las listas de la gente después el servicio.

Director: Dianne Saichek

SAVE THE DATES

December 6, Thursday,
Women's Alliance Cakes for
the Queen of Heaven
session, Ramsden Fire Side
Room, 7:15 - 9:15 pm.

December 7, Friday, Dances of
Universal Peace, 7:00 pm,
sanctuary, under the dome



December 9, Sunday, Fireside
Gift Faire (formerly Holiday
Wanderers) after the
combined 10:00 am service
in Hattie Porter Hall

December 16, Sunday,
Children's Holiday Play at
the 11:00 am service

December 20, Thursday,
Church Board meeting,
7:00 pm, conference room

December 24, Christmas Eve
services, 5:00 and 8:00
pm, sanctuary

January 6, Sunday, UU Band of
Writers, 12:20 pm, Youth
room

January 14, Registration
Deadline for NCUCC Spring
Thing at Asilomar, April 18-
20, 2008, e-mail:
augobets@pacbell.net

January 30, Thursday, Church
Board meeting, 7:00 pm,
conference room

Deficit Budget? Yikes!

This year's Annual Giving Campaign came up \$21,000 short. Can you help? \$\$\$ If 100 members contribute \$200 to the "YIKES Fund," or 200 members contribute \$100, or—well, you get the idea—then we won't have to make budget cuts. \$\$\$ Can you help? Please make out your check, in any amount you can afford, to FUCSJ, with "YIKES Fund" in the memo line and send or deliver to the office: 160 N. 3rd St., San Jose, CA 95112. \$\$\$ Thanks in advance! ●





As We Build the Beloved Community...

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Let It Be a Dance We Do: A Late-Autumn Meditation

As I walked to work this afternoon, I received a call on my cell phone from an old friend whom I hadn't heard from in a couple of years. "I was just thinking of you!" I said joyfully. "Really? Whoa," she said, with the kind of awe that such synchronicities inspire.

It was true: I had just been thinking of her. During the previous week's move back into our condominium, Kevin and I had unearthed pictures of dear old friends, including hers, and placed them where we can see them often. We had unpacked prized mementos from our previous, separate lives and had shared again the stories that go with them. We had rediscovered family treasures that link us to something larger than ourselves and that help each of us to feel rooted. It had been a week of rummaging through memories, as well as belongings, for we had also recycled a small mountain of paper and had carted off to the Salvation Army several carloads of "loot" that we hope will make good and useful gifts for their new owners. I was feeling a new sense of organization—and a renewed strength in the lifelines that anchor us in friendships and life experiences.

And now, here was my old friend on the phone. Sadly, she was calling to tell me of the loss of another old friend from college, who had died a few weeks earlier after eight years of wrestling courageously with breast cancer. I sat down on the steps of one of the buildings across from St. James Park to listen to my friend and to share our memories of the beautiful person I had known a little and she had known a lot. The world seemed a little dimmer without that person's light-filled spirit, and our mournfulness mingled with the autumn air. Still, it was good to be together in voice and spirit, even though my friend lives all the way across the country.

As we were speaking, shadowy movements in the windows of the Senior Center across the street caught my eye. Up and down the shadows went, in a rhythmic motion that surely couldn't come from the traffic. Finally I realized that I was watching a ballroom dance class in one of the center's large open rooms. Through the windows I could dimly see couples bobbing and turning slowly in the graceful rhythms of a waltz. Silent, peaceful, steady—their dance, from my vantage point, was a gift, hopeful and reassuring.

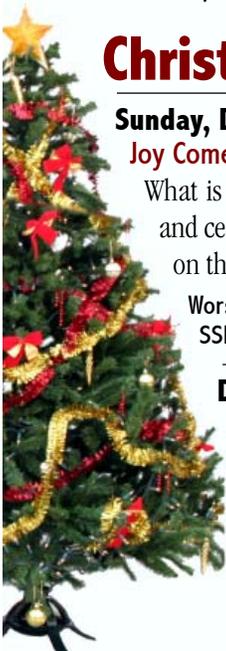
"Let it be a dance we do," goes one of our hymns, "may I have this dance with you? Through the good times and the bad times, too, let it be a dance." At this time of year, memories both sweet and bitter can visit us with renewed potency. At this time of year, our losses may mingle with happy surprises, and there is both wistfulness and anticipation in the air. At this time of year, we may be whizzing with energy and joy one moment, and utterly worn out and discouraged the next. How can we "let it be a dance"?

Here, with all my heart, is what I urge us to do: reach out. Grab hold of the lifelines that sustain you—relationships, activities, worship, community, rest. Offer an unasked-for gift of service to someone—anyone, whether stranger or friend. Cast your memory out across your long or short life, and give thanks for every gift of friendship and experience that you find. Look out at this present moment and notice that the world is just waiting for you to love it.

This month, as we explore the themes of faith, hope, love, and joy in worship, I look forward to seeing you here, so that we may gain strength, courage, and grace for this dance we do!

Warmly,

Nancy ●



Christmas Services

Sunday, December 23 — 9:30 a.m.

Joy Comes in the Morning: A Christmas Service

What is the meaning of this season for Unitarian Universalists? Come discover and celebrate new meanings with traditional music and brand-new reflections on the turning of the year and the possibilities for hope.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associates: Members of SSM

Domingo, 23 de Diciembre — 9:30 a.m.

La Alegría Viene por la Mañana:

Un servicio de Navidad

¿Cuál es el significado de esta estación para los Unitarios Universalistas? Vengan, descubran y celebren nuevos significados con música tradicional y nuevas reflexiones al fanal del año y las posibilidades de esperanza.

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

Sunday, December 23 —

11:00 a.m.

Joy

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Worship Associate: Frank Bosche

Domingo, 23 de Diciembre

— 11:00 a.m.

Joy

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Asociado de Culto: Frank Bosche





Mientras Construimos Nuestra Querida Comunidad....

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Deja que sea un baile lo que hacemos: Una Meditación de Otoño

Mientras caminaba hacia el trabajo esta tarde, recibí una llamada en mi celular de una vieja amiga de quien no había oído en un par de años “Estaba pensando justo en ti”, le dije alegremente. “¿Realmente?” “Guau,” dijo ella con la clase de temor que esas sincronizaciones inspiran.

Era verdad. Yo había estado pensando en ella. Durante la mudanza de la semana anterior a nuestro condominio, Kevin y yo habíamos desenterrado cuadros de viejos amigos queridos, incluyendo el suyo y los colocamos donde podíamos verlos más a menudo. Habíamos desempaquetado los recuerdos estimados de nuestras previas vidas separadas y habíamos compartido otra vez las historias que van con ellas. Habíamos vuelto a descubrir los tesoros de la familia que nos unen a algo más grande que nosotros mismos y que ayudan a cada uno de nosotros a sentir una sensación de arraigo.

Había sido una semana de revolver memorias así como de pertenencias, nosotros también habíamos reciclado una pequeña montaña de papel y trasladado al Ejército de Salvación varias cargas del “botín”, que nosotros esperábamos serían buenos y útiles regalos para sus nuevos dueños. Yo sentía un nuevo sentido de la organización – y unas fuerzas renovadas en las líneas de la vida que nos anclan en amistad y experiencias.

Y ahora, aquí estaba mi vieja amiga en el teléfono. Tristemente, ella llamaba para decirme de la pérdida de otra vieja amiga de la Universidad, quién había muerto algunas semanas antes, después de ocho años de lucha valerosa contra el cáncer de seno. Me senté en los peldaños de uno de los edificios enfrente del Parque St. James para escuchar a mi amiga y para compartir nuestras memorias de la persona hermosa que había conocido un poco y que ella había conocido mucho. El mundo parecía un poco oscuro sin el espíritu lleno de luz de esa persona y nuestro luto se mezcló con el viento de otoño. Era bueno estar juntas en voz y en espíritu, aunque mi amiga vive en el otro lado del país.

Mientras hablábamos, unos movimientos de sombras vagas en las ventanas del Centro de Ancianos de la calle de enfrente captaron mi atención. Arriba y abajo iban las sombras en un movimiento rítmico que no podría venir seguramente del tráfico. Finalmente me percaté que miraba una clase de baile de salón en uno de los grandes cuartos abiertos del Centro. A través de las ventanas podía ver débilmente a las parejas menearse y dar vuelta lentamente con los agraciados ritmos de un vals. Silenciosa, pacífica y estabilizadamente- su baile, desde mi ventajosa posición, era un regalo de esperanza y tranquilidad.

“Deja que sea un baile lo que hacemos” dice uno de nuestros himnos “¿Puedo bailar con usted?” “Por los buenos y malos tiempos, deja también que baile”. En esta época del año memorias dulces y amargas nos visitan con potencia renovada. En esta época del año, nuestras pérdidas pueden mezclarse con sorpresas felices y hay melancolía y anticipación en el aire. En esta época del año, nosotros podemos silbar con energía y alegría un momento y completamente desgastados y desalentados el siguiente. “¿Como podemos nosotros “Dejar que sea un baile lo que hacemos”?”

Aquí, con todo mi corazón yo los impulso a hacer: Alcáncenlo. Agarren las líneas de vida que los sostienen, las relaciones, las actividades, la comunidad, el descanso. Ofrezcan un regalo o servicio –no solicitado a alguien - a cualquier persona, extraño o amigo. Eche su memoria a recordar a través de su larga o corta vida y dé las gracias por cada regalo de amistad y experiencia que usted encuentre. Mire hacia este momento actual y note que el mundo esta justamente esperándolo para amarlo.

Este mes mientras exploramos los temas de la fe, esperanza, amor y alegría en el culto, espero verlos aquí de modo que podamos ganar fuerza, valor, y tolerancia para este baile que hacemos.

Calurosamente,

Nancy

Christmas Services

Monday, December 24 — 5 p.m.

Let there Be Light and Love — A Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional candle lighting service.

Worship Leaders: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis and the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Worship Associate: Kelly Burnett

Lunes, 24 de Diciembre — 5 p.m.

¡Que Ser Luz y Amor! — Un servicio en Vísperas de la Navidad

Nuestro tradicional servicio de alumbrado de velas.

Dirigen: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis y la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociada de Culto: Kelly Burnett

Monday, December 24 — 8 p.m.

Joy Comes in the Morning: A Christmas Eve Service

What is the meaning of this season for Unitarian Universalists? Come discover and celebrate new meanings with traditional music and brand-new reflections on the turning of the year and the possibilities for hope.

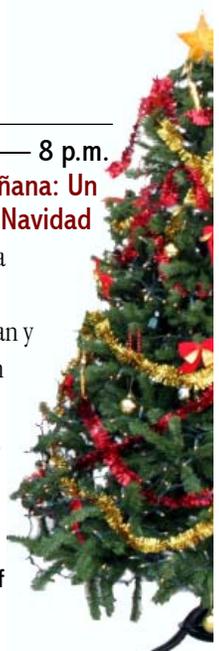
Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Worship Associates: Marla Scharf

Lunes, 24 de Diciembre — 8 p.m.

La Alegría Viene por la Mañana: Un servicio en Vísperas de la Navidad

¿Cuál es el significado de esta estación para los Unitarios Universalistas? Vengan, descubran y celebren nuevos significados con música tradicional y nuevas reflexiones al fanal del año y las posibilidades de esperanza.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y el Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Asociada de Culto: Marla Scharf



Religious Education

Nursery (birth-4 years) - Church's Lower Level

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support all children 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: **Stacey Vinyard** and **Mary Quéñones**

K-2nd Grades, Rooms 2- 3, Church's Lower Level

TREASURE HUNTING

Dec. 9 Laughter is Good Medicine

Dec. 16 Children's Holiday Play

3rd-4th Grades, Rooms 4-5, Church's Lower Level

FREE TO BELIEVE

Dec. 9 Hannukah

Dec. 16 Children's Holiday Play

5th Grade, Room 6, Church's Lower Level

NEIGHBORING FAITHS

Dec. 9 Integrating our Experience Attending the Antioch Baptist Church

Dec. 16 Children's Holiday Play

6th-8th Grades, Church Conference Room, Lower Level

TRADITIONS WITH A WINK!

Dec. 9 Winter Solstice

Dec. 16 Children's Holiday Play

**REGISTER
ONLINE!**

Information sent
only to the Rev.
Geoff Rimositis.



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

9th-12th Grades, Upper Level, Youth Room

FILM AS THEOLOGY: MEDIA THAT MATTERS FILM FESTIVAL

This year we will be looking at short films, many made by youth, on social and ethical issues. We will engage in conversations about how those films reflect and inform our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists.

Youth Group Activities

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

JUNIOR HIGH (6TH-7TH-8TH GRADES)

Staff: Rev. Geoff Rimositis

SENIOR HIGH (9TH-12 GRADES)

Advisors: Pamela Gehrke, Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis, Richard Gould

Intensive on Unitarian Universalism

Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 am to 3 pm
Lunch Provided/Child Care by Request

All are welcome (newcomers, friends, prospective and seasoned members) to spend a day in retreat at the First Unitarian Church of San José learning about the history, theology, and practices of Unitarian Universalism.



Come and become acquainted or reintroduced to the rich historical legacy of our faith. Wrestle together with age-old questions that religions have sought answers to for a millennium. Spend time in meditation, prayer and quiet reflection listening for that "still small voice" within, guiding us to healing and renewal. Join like-minded seekers of truth and spiritual pilgrims as we get to know one another in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Leaders: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis and Bruce Halen ●

Children's Holiday Play (Dec. 16)

Dianne Saichek, our esteemed Sunday pianist, who has directed children's plays and musicals in the South Bay, will be directing this year's children's holiday play on Sunday, December 16 at the 11:00 am service.

Children and youth in Kindergarten through high school have started rehearsals, which take place outside of regular class time in the downstairs classrooms. Remaining rehearsals:
Sunday Dec. 9 (9-9:40 am)
Saturday, Dec. 15, 9 am—Noon (Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary)

Staff: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, 292-3858, x25 or Rimositis@sanjoseuu.org ●

Wanted! Worship Associates!

The Worship Associate program provides an exciting opportunity for members of the First Unitarian Church of San José to help plan and present the Sunday-morning services that are at the heart of our Beloved Community. Worship Associates, who serve for one calendar year, work closely with the ministers on five or six services during that year. They also set up the worship space for another five or six Sundays. Ongoing training is provided in quarterly workshops.

In addition to making a vital contribution to congregational life, participation in Worship Associates is a wonderful way to deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism. And you get to know some super people! This year's application deadline is December 15. You'll find details on the church website at <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/OurWorshipLife/WorshipAssociates.html>

Questions? Ask Rev. Nancy or Rev. Geoff, or phone Mary Martin at (408) 354-8878. ●



Classified Ads for Our Spiritual Cooperative

*Which Would
You Like to Try?*

These are the volunteer positions most urgently in need of filling. Please take a moment to see if any of these service opportunities are right for you.

CHOIR MEMBER: no exp. nec., practice Wed. 7-9 p.m., perform Sun. lowen@data-time.com

TAPE DUPLICATOR: make & provide tapes of services 1 Sun. a mo. in HPH after the service for 1 1/2 hrs.; 1 yr. term

COFFEE HOUR HOST: set out snacks, drinks before service; clean up after; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

LABYRINTH HOST: set up table & music and be present, 11:30-1:00; serve according to availability; 1 yr. term

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLER: fold, staple and stamp newsletters with amiable team; 1st or 3rd Tues. afternoon; 1 yr. term

WORSHIP HOST: greet & welcome people coming to Sun. service, collect offering; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR: operate sound system during 9:30 & 11:00 services; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

CHANCEL DECORATOR: use creative talents to decorate chancel, using flowers, fabric, etc.; serve when available; 1 yr. term

ORDER OF SERVICE ASSEMBLER: fold and assemble Order of Service Fri. morn.; much appreciated by Office Manager; 1 yr. term

NEWCOMER TABLE HOST: welcome newcomers, ask to fill out card, give info.; 1 Sun. a mo.; 1 yr. term

NEWSLETTER COPIER: copy newsletter on risograph machine for assemblers; 1st or 3rd Tues. of mon.; 1 yr. term

R.E. TEACHER or ASSISTANT: lead Sun. morn. sessions, using prepared curriculum; 2 hr. a mon.; 1 yr. term

**LIVE YOUR VALUES—SHARE YOUR
TALENTS—FORM WARM FRIENDSHIPS**
Call Genie at (408) 997-6292
or Ed at 712-4157

Request for the Newsletter on PAPER

ACTION is required! Because of church budget constraints, a yearly confirmation is now required to receive *Our Church Circular* on paper.

PAPER: please mail me a paper copy of *Our Church Circular* throughout the year 2008* (new request continuing subscription)

E-MAIL: Please “go green” and switch my subscription to e-mail only

Name(s) to whom the newsletter is sent (the first line on the mailing label):

To correct an address for continued mailings or provide the address for new requests, provide:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact phone number(s) _____

An annual donation of \$20 is suggested to help cover costs. Make the check payable to the **First Unitarian Church of San Jose** and note **Newsletter Fund**.

*Return this Request by December 9, 2007 to receive the paper version for the 2008 calendar year. The 2008 mailing list will be cleared of all names for those who do not return this request. Mail to: Newsletter Fund/Survey, First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

Go Green!

The Program and Operations Council recommends using the email and web-based versions of the newsletter to save money and environmental resources. If you do not currently get the newsletter via email, emessage steve.carr@earthlink.net.

Newsletter Survey

Please tell us how you use the newsletter, *Our Church Circular*, so we can provide the information you need and want.

What do you read?

Rate on a scale of 1 to 5	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT	
	1	2	3	4	5
Weekly service listings	1	2	3	4	5
Ministers' columns	1	2	3	4	5
Religious Education class schedule	1	2	3	4	5
Religious Education event notices	1	2	3	4	5
Board minutes and reports	1	2	3	4	5
Social Justice column	1	2	3	4	5
Coming Events	1	2	3	4	5
Save the Dates	1	2	3	4	5
Volunteer portraits	1	2	3	4	5
Circling Around column	1	2	3	4	5

A computer is available where I/we can conveniently:

- YES NO download the .pdf file version of the newsletter.
 YES NO read the web-based version of the newsletter.
 YES NO access and log in to the church web site.

Name (optional): _____

Mail to: Newsletter Fund/Survey, First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

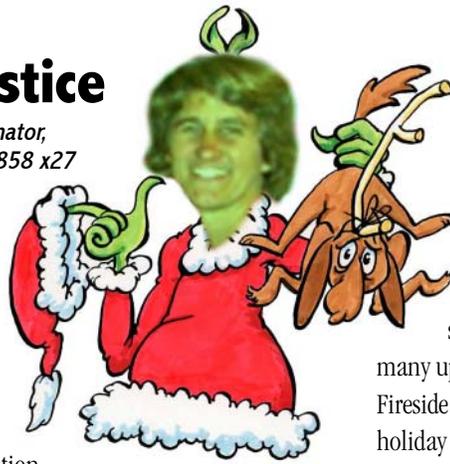




Spotlight on Social Justice

By Carol Stephenson, Social Justice Coordinator,
socialjustice@sanjoseuu.org (408) 292-3858 x27

Transformed Grinch



I am feeling like the Grinch this season. In years past, that would have meant the early Grinch, the one that wraps a branch on poor Max-the-dog's head and makes little Max haul all that represents Christmas out of the Valley of the Whos. That Grinch thought that the Whos loved the holiday because of all the food and toys and can only see the noisy annoying chaos. (He's got a point, too, because between Thanksgiving and New Year Americans will create 25% more waste than they do the rest of the year.)

But this year, I am the transformed Grinch, when his eyes turn blue and he carves the roast beast. You see, I thought that there were only two choices; either to indulge in the craziness of buying and eating and reveling or to be against *all* of it (a sort of Hate-ivity scene, if you will) by NOT buying, NOT eating and NOT reveling. Neither ever made me feel the joy of the holiday season nor goodwill to my fellows. Participating in consumerism just feels wrong but doing nothing feels like, well, nothing.

But 2007 is the year when my heart broke the box that measures such things. I will have a Christmas tree, I always have a Christmas tree. That is no longer the question and I need not be grumpy about it. *This* year, though I will have a pesticide-free tree from a local sustainable farm (see below). We'll make a day of it!

I will shop. I have children and, I admit, they *really* like Christmas. But I will shop with people I care about and I will go with questions in mind: What do you have here that is organic? Recycled? Where were these shoes made? It not only lets them know I want those options, it makes my choices so much easier. Hundreds of papers at Paper Craft? Only two were recycled, and how else would I be able to choose? At Willow Glen

Books I not only ran into Patti Massey, but we had a great conversation with Cathy, the owner, about where *are* the independent bookstores in the Valley and don't we all miss A Clean Well Lighted Place?

The thing is, I will choose my holiday on my terms. I will find a balance between all or nothing that works for me and my family. I will not complain about the waste, but I will do my best to minimize it.

The things I've learned can be found on my blog www.sanjoseuu.org/socialjusticeblog/. I welcome feedback for *your* sustainable holiday secrets that we can collect there. Through it all, I've come up with **Carol's Top 5 Makin' Holiday Who-y:**

- **Get an Organic Tree:** At Black Road Christmas Tree Farms just past Los Gatos off Highway 17 you can support a sustainable chemical-free Christmas tree farm, and have a picnic to boot! <http://www.christmas-tree-farms.com/about-us.html>
- **Now that you've cut down a tree, here's how to save some trees:** Go to 41pounds.org and for \$41 you can join a service that will get you off junk mail lists. Better yet, give that gift to people in your life that would appreciate the decluttering.
- **Give a Book to a Student:** For the third year in a row, the Social Justice Ministry will sell books at Coffee Hour December 16 to give to the students at Third Street Community Center. Choose a book you like and write a personal note inside to the child who will receive it.
- **Get Artsy:** At Art House Kids your children can make giftable gifts for family and friends at the Pizza and Gifts Party

(December 7) or the After School Art Class (December 12). Art classes for adults and children at Art House or University Art are another gift option and don't need wrapping paper

(arthousekids.com). Or support local artists at one of many upcoming fairs including our Fireside Gift Faire, the Art House Kids holiday sale on December 8 and 9, and the Peace and Justice Fair on December 13 and 14 (peaceandjustice.org) at the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center.

- **Join Our Annual Posada:** On December 19, First Unitarian in collaboration with Third Street Community Center will celebrate this Latin American Christmas tradition that recreates Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem. Come at 6:00 pm to practice the traditional songs before we set off at 6:30 to walk the neighborhood. We'll be back at Hattie Porter Hall at 7:15 for *tamales, piñatas y diversión*.

Social Justice Calendar

December 11, Tuesday, Inclusionary Housing Study Session, 7:00 pm, City Council Chambers

December 13, Thursday, PACT LOC meeting, 7:00 pm, conference room

December 16, Sunday, Book Sale for Third St. Students, Coffee Hour, Hattie Porter Hall

December 19, Wednesday, La Posada, Hattie Porter Hall — 6:00 pm practice songs, 6:30 Posada walk, 7:15 Fiesta

Church Board Meetings

The Board changed the meeting time of its next two meetings. They are scheduled for Thursday, December 20 and Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 pm. The primary focus of the December meeting is the Ends Policy. As always, Board meetings are open to church members.



UU HIKERS & FRIENDS

by Joyce Miller

Here is the December hiking schedule. In case of rain we might go to the Stanford Dish, where the trails are paved. If it is raining, call the morning of the hike to see where we will hike. I cancel only for a severe storm—wind and rain that makes being on the trails dangerous. And as usual, be sure to let me know if you are planning to hike, so I know to look for you. You can call me at home at (408) 730-1052 any time after 6:30 am or email me the day before. I turn on my cell phone at 7:30 the day of the hike so you can contact me if you get delayed or your plans change. My cell phone is (408) 507-7052. See you on the trails!

Saturday, December 1

Mission Peak, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Alum Rock and Capitol to carpool at 8:00 am or meet at the Ohlone College parking lot at top of hill at 8:15 am (email for directions).

Wednesday, December 5

Skyline Ridge Loop, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.

Saturday, December 8

Wunderlich County Park, 5 miles, easy. This will be a shorter hike to accommodate my sister, who will be visiting from Chicago. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, December 12

Almaden Quicksilver County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at my house at 7:40 am or at Bed, Bath and Beyond at Almaden Plaza Shopping center at 8:00 am to carpool.

Saturday, December 15

Alum Rock Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capitol and Alum Rock at 8:00 am. Alice Lynch is leading this hike, so let her know if you are coming. Telephone (408) 298-7050 or email at alice_lynch@hp.com.

Wednesday, December 19

Sanborn County Park, 7 miles moderate. Meet at parking lot behind Downey Bank (formerly Comerica) in Saratoga at 8:00 am.

Saturday, December 22

Sunol Regional Park, 6 miles, moderate, Maguire Peaks trail. Trailhead access is on Welch Creek Road. To meet at the trailhead, you can call me for directions.

Wednesday, December 26

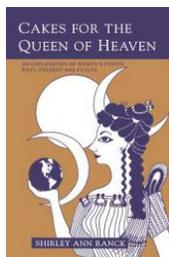
No hike planned.

Saturday, December 29, 2007

Santa Teresa County Park, 5-6 miles, moderate. Meet at Almaden Plaza Bed, Bath and Beyond at 8:00 am. Use the smaller parking lot just across the access road from the big lot. Or you can meet at the trailhead at 8:20 am (email for directions).

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Upcoming Events



Cakes continues!

The Women's Alliance meets on Thursday, December 6, from 7:15 to 9:15 pm in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Our topic will be Woman Power in our continuing series of the newly updated *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum. Please join us. Contact **Nancy Coleman** at (408) 985-5778 or nancycoleman@mac.com for more information.

April 18-20, 2008

NCUCC* Spring Thing at Asilomar

A weekend in the beautiful seaside setting of the Asilomar Conference Grounds on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula. It is a relatively unstructured gathering of about 40 UUs and friends. The days are free for your own activities, exploring the Monterey area, with conversation and games in a friendly atmosphere in the evenings.

Cost is \$220 per person, double occupancy, for 3 days/2 nights, 6 meals, maid service, and use of the Asilomar amenities, including jitney service. Children (3-17 yrs.) - \$170, under 3 yrs. - free. **Registration deadline is January 14, 2008.** Ask Ursula for a registration form.

Ursula Gobets, Registrar, (408) 739-2787, 1155 Tucson Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089

e-mail: augobets@pacbell.net

* *The UU camps and conferences are now held under the auspices of Northern California Unitarian Universalist Camps and Conferences (NCUCC).*

Kudos for Service

A great big "Thank You" for these church friends and members who showed up for our November 17 "Service is our Prayer" day: Gene Martin, Bob Owen, Mary Martin, Steve Saunders, Bill Ardrey, Lloyd Eater, Liz Owen, Geoff Rimositis, Dena Dickenson, Pam Price, Joyce Miller, Martha, Ben Cadena, Carol Greene, Vicky Merryman, Barbara Derbyshire, Bev Harrison, Melanie and Jamie Langstrom. Among the tasks we were able to complete were wiping down the woodwork and ironwork; cleaning doors, windows, and ledges; staining the hymnal cart; touching up paint in Hattie Porter Hall; cleaning up the downstairs kitchen; cleaning the piano and organ keyboards, finding a duplicate key for a towel holder; replacing burned-out light bulbs; fixing leaky toilets in the bathrooms; oiling the boiler pump; and clipping back the landscaping.

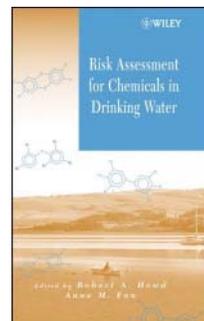
by Kelly Burnett

CIRCLING AROUND
Milestones
in the lives of the
First Unitarian Community

Please Send **Kelly Burnett** your honors, joys, plans, and any other news that needs to be shared with our community so that she can keep us all informed. Her email address is kelly@kellybur.com. Her telephone number is 408-810-3182, but she'd prefer to receive your news by email, if possible.

Bob Howd reports that his technical book, *Risk Assessment for Chemicals in Drinking Water*, edited by Robert Howd and Anna Fan, was just published by John Wiley and Sons. This book is intended for people and students with a professional interest in public-health, drinking-water issues. It's available through Amazon.com, if anybody would like to check it out.

Happy Holidays to this beloved community! Take good care of yourselves and your families. Remember to be thankful for each and every day and experience. You enrich my life and those around you.





FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José
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Written Request Required for Newsletter on Paper!

Be sure to turn in the **Request for Newsletter on Paper** to continue receiving the paper version in 2008. See the form inside. To get your newsletter via email, emessage steve.carr@earthlink.net

Next issue deadline: 3:00 pm Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Next issue assembly: Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Next issue mailing: Wednesday, December 19, 2007

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:** (cell) 408-841-1011; 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.; 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 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:** (cell) 408-841-1011; 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; e-mail: grimositis@sanjoseuu.org.

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Sherry Howd, 257-6844, s_howd@msn.com
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Translator: **Roberto Padilla**

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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Stapling and Addressing: **Deanna LaTorre, Genie Bernardini, Gretchen Leavitt, Madeline Morrow, and Lloyd Eater.**

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!****

Mailing: **Libby Codd**

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