



# Our Church Circular

October 17,  
2007 /  
17 de Octubre  
2007

## SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

**E**n nuestra comunidad Unitaria Universalista, nos juntamos las mañanas de domingo para la música, la reflexión, la comodidad, el desafío, y el compañerismo; nos unimos para buscar la verdad y el significado, para compartir nuestras vidas, y animarnos los unos a los otros para crecer. Cada servicio religioso es único, preparado por los líderes y los asociados de culto para conectarnos con las principales preguntas de nuestras vidas. Tu puedes leer los sermones pasados en [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org) ... ¡esperamos verte ahí!

**9:30 a.m.**

*Servicios en español/Translation into English*

**21 de Octubre** — 9:30 y 11 a.m.

**¿Quiénes Estamos?, ¿Rotos o Enteros?**

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

**28 de Octubre** — 9:30 a.m.

**Enfrentando Nuestras Pérdidas**

Dirige: Dolores González y Martha Barahona;  
Asociados de Culto: Miembros de SSM

**Confronting Our Losses**

Worship Leaders: Dolores González and  
Martha Barahona; Worship Associate: SSM  
Members

**4 de Noviembre** — 9:30 a.m.

**Día de Muertos:  
Nuestros Ancestros Están Vivos**

Dirige: Roberto Padilla; Asociados de Culto:  
Miembros de SSM

*Por favor traiga las fotos o algún recuerdo  
de los seres queridos que usted ha perdido  
para colocarlos en el altar antes del servicio.*

**Day of the Dead:  
Our Ancestors Are Alive**

Worship Leader: Roberto Padilla; Worship  
Associate: SSM Members

*Please bring photos or mementos of loved  
ones you have lost, to place on the altar  
before the service*

**I**n our Unitarian Universalist community, we gather on Sunday mornings for music, reflection, comfort, challenge, and companionship; we gather to seek truth and meaning, to share our lives, and to encourage each other to grow. Each worship service is unique, prepared by worship leaders and associates to engage with the major questions of our lives. Read past sermons on-line at [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org)... We hope to see you there!

**11:00 a.m.**

*Servicios in English*

**October 21** — 9:30 and 11 a.m.

**Who Are We? Broken or Whole?**

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

**October 28** — 11:00 a.m.

**Association Sunday**

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Worship  
Associate: the Rev. Donna Lenahan

**Domingo de Asociación**

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Asociada de Culto:  
la Rev. Donna Lenahan

**November 4** — 11:00 a.m.

**Day of the Dead: The Ancestors' Breath**

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;  
Worship Associate: Dena Dickinson

*Please bring photos or  
mementos of loved ones you  
have lost, to place on the altar  
before the service.*

**Día de Muertos: El Aliento  
de Nuestros Ancestros**

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; Asociada de  
Culto: Dena Dickinson

*Por favor traiga las fotos o algún recuerdo de los  
seres queridos que usted ha perdido, para  
colocarlos en el altar antes del servicio.*



## SAVE THE DATES

**October 26, Friday, Family  
Fun Night** — Halloween  
Party, 6-8 pm, at the church

**October 28, Sunday, Family  
Circle Potluck**, 12:30 - 2 pm,  
downstairs classrooms 3-4

**October 28, Sunday, Covenant  
of Unitarian Universalist  
Pagans (CUUPs) Samhain  
Ritual**, 7:30 pm, in the  
Sanctuary

**November 2, 2007, Día de  
los Muertos Cultural and  
Social Awareness Exhibi-  
tion**, 6:30-8:30 pm, in  
Hattie Porter Hall

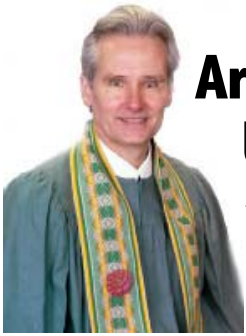
Come share the experience of this first time public event in the heart of downtown San Jose! View moving altars depicting various social issues, sample Mexican bread & hot chocolate, and participate in the community altar — a traditional display honoring our ancestors and those who have passed away. Bring a photo of a loved one or an item to remember them by and place it on the community altar. There is no cost to participate. All faiths, cultures, ages, everyone is welcome!

Hosted by the Third Street Community Center and the First Unitarian Church of San José. This program is funded in part by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program.

**November 2, Friday, Dances  
of Universal Peace**, 8:00  
pm, in the Sanctuary

**November 3, Saturday,  
Intensive on Unitarian  
Universalism**, 9 am - 3 pm,  
at the church

**November 4, Sunday, UU  
Band of Writers**, 12:20 am,  
Youth Room



# Articulating Our UU Faith

by the Rev. Geoff Rimositis

**“...our motivation for action comes out of a deeper part of ourselves, out of our compassion, our love, our awareness, and our wisdom, none of which are linked with holding to rigid views.”**

—Donald Rothberg, *The Engaged Spiritual Life*

**P**ut your hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. But what if the Bible is not your scripture, but a curious compendium of humanity’s struggle with the ultimate existential question: “How shall I live and how shall I die?” If there isn’t a holy scripture at your bedside what do you base your allegiance on?

Do you embrace Buddhism’s Four Noble Truths and Eight-Fold Path?

Christianity’s “Love thy neighbor as thyself”?

Do Unitarian Universalism’s principles that affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the interdependence of life guide your actions?

Can you rattle off without a second thought your philosophical stance to life, your rules for living? Or do you trust that the heart of life is good and let the meaning unfold day by day?

Take a moment and get out a sheet of paper and a pen or sit in a quiet place with your eyes closed. Make a list of your values: honesty, compassion, generosity . . .

Or let the people and things that you love wash over you in a flood of images and memories. Ask yourself the question: “How do I/can I live my life so that my values grow deeper within me and in the world?”

It is often said that Unitarian Universalism is a religion of deeds, not creeds. I say that it is both. We must know what it is that we believe. Each person must come to know what matters most in his or her life. And once we come to know our truth we must act on it if we are ever to feel complete and whole. There is so much healing to be done. Hearts need to be touched. Minds need to be opened. The world cries out for our love and we must respond. ●

# Articulando Nuestra fe Unitaria Universalista

por el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

**“... nuestra motivación por la acción viene de la parte más profunda de nosotros mismos, de nuestra compasión, de nuestro amor, de nuestro conocimiento, y de nuestra sabiduría, ninguna está ligada a sostener visiones rígidas.”**

— Donald Rothberg, *Va Vida Espiritual Comprometida*

**P**onga su mano en la Biblia y jure decir la verdad, solamente la verdad y nada más que la verdad. Pero sí la Biblia es no su escritura sino un compendio curioso de la lucha de la humanidad con la última pregunta existencial: “¿Cómo viviré y cómo moriré?” ¿Si no hay una sagrada escritura a su lado ¿usted en qué basa su lealtad?

¿Usted abraza las cuatro verdades nobles del Budismo y el camino de los ocho dobleces? ¿El amor Cristiano de amar al prójimo como a ti mismo?

¿Los principios de Unitario Universalistas que afirman el valor y la dignidad inherente de cada persona y la interdependencia de la vida que dirigen sus acciones?

¿Puede usted confundir sin un segundo pensamiento su postura filosófica a la vida, sus reglas para vivir? ¿O usted confía en que el corazón de la vida es bueno y deja que el significado se desarrolle día por día?

Tome un momento y tenga de una hoja de papel y una pluma o siéntese en un lugar tranquilo con sus ojos cerrados. Haga una lista de sus valores: Honradez, compasión, generosidad. . . O deje que la gente y las cosas que usted ama vengan sobre usted en un torrente de imágenes y de memorias. Hágase la pregunta: ¿“Cómo Yo/puedo, vivir mi vida de modo que mis valores crezcan más profundos dentro de mí y en el mundo?”

Se dice a menudo que el Unitario Universalismo es una religión de hechos, no de credos. Yo digo que es ambos. Debemos saber en que creemos. Cada persona debe llegar a saber qué es lo que más le importa en su vida. Y una vez que lleguemos a saber nuestra verdad debemos actuar de acuerdo a ella si nos hace sentir completos y enteros. Hay tanta curación por hacer. Los corazones necesitan ser tocados. Las mentes necesitan ser abiertas. El mundo grita por nuestro amor y nosotros debemos responder. ●



Band of Writers

**Y**ou may know her as quiet, demure, sweet—our unassuming newsletter co-editor, **Catherine Pellazari**. If you had attended the last BOW gathering, however, and had heard her read her response to the optional homework assignment, My Accomplishments; you would have been amazed to learn that Catherine is a woman with a remarkable list of additional accomplish-

ments, not the least of which includes scuba diving and parachute jumping (twice)!

Such revelations about our fellow UU’s are just a few of the many benefits of attending BOW meetings. We meet the 1st Sunday of each month at 12:20 in the Youth Room, and newcomers are most welcome. Contact Genie at [997-6292](tel:997-6292) for further information. ●



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

# 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

**Oct. 21** The Importance of Feelings

*Theme: Unitarian Universalists treasure feelings because they help us know ourselves and others.*

**Oct. 28** The Responsible

Expression of Feelings

*Theme: Unitarian Universalists treasure the responsible expression of our feelings.*

**Nov. 4** Friendship

*Theme: Unitarian Universalists treasure friendship*

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

### FREE TO BELIEVE

**Oct. 21** Stone Soup

*Theme: We help each other to learn*

**Oct. 28** Day of the Dead

*Theme: We promise to try to live respectfully as part of the web of life. One of the traditions that we learn from is the harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life.*

**Nov. 4** Popcorn Sale

*Theme: Work for a peaceful free world*

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

### NEIGHBORING FAITHS

**Oct. 21** Catholic Visit

**Oct. 28** Catholic Wrap-up

## 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](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

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

**Staff:** Rev. Geoff Rimositis

**Nov. 4** Pagan Introduction

**Nov. 11** Pagan Wrap-up

**Nov. 18** Protestant Introduction

**Nov. 25** Combined Classes

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

### TRADITIONS WITH A WINK!

**Oct. 21** Memorial Services

*Theme: To understand the importance of being together at memorial services. To understand that Unitarian Universalists believe it is good to live life to its fullest and that death is a natural part of existence.*

**Oct. 28** Chalice in a Bag

*Theme: To understand the meaning and history of the chalice symbol.*

**Nov. 4** Introduction to the Bible

*Theme: Understand that the Bible is a collection of stories, written long ago. Unitarian Universalists believe the Bible is to be read critically for its wisdom and teachings that can inspire us through the ages. Understand that "truth" can mean a story that is true for us in meaning but not necessarily historical fact.*

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

### FILM AS THEOLOGY: MEDIA THAT MATTERS FILM FESTIVAL

*This year we will look at short films—many made by youth—on social and ethical issues, and discuss how those films reflect and inform our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists.*

### SENIOR HIGH (9TH-12 GRADES)

**Senior high overnight at the church** —

7 pm Friday, October 26 through 10 am Saturday, October 27. RSVP with the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, 292-3858, ext 25 or [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

**Advisors:** Diana Chung, Pamela Gehrke, Mike Williamson, Cordelia Willis, Richard Gould

**REGISTER  
ONLINE!**

Information sent  
only to the Rev.  
Geoff Rimositis.



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

## Family Fun Night: Halloween Party

Friday, October 26, 6-8 pm

All Ages Invited!

**DECORATE a Day of the Dead Altar for our deceased pets.** 🎃

Bring photos and mementos of your animal friends. 🎃 **EAT pizza and salad.**

🎃 **HEAR Halloween stories.** 🎃

**SING Halloween songs.** 🎃 **PLAY**

pin the tail on the devil and other games. 🎃 **PAINT pumpkins.** 🎃

**WEAR a costume.** 🎃 **HAVE fun!!!**

RSVP, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org),

292-3858, ext. 25

## Intensive on Unitarian Universalism

Saturday, Nov. 3, 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





by Iris Gonzalez,  
Office Administrator

I had a wonderful vacation this summer and it's great to be back! A sincere Thank You to those volunteers who covered the office while I was away. Your help was greatly appreciated!

A few reminders as we start off to a great church year:

If you're in need of a room for a meeting or event and you would like to reserve one, I am the official person to contact. The best way to contact me is by e-mail at [fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org).

Here are three simple steps to follow before making any meeting place, day, or time official:

- 1) Check the church calendar online, at [www.sanjoseuu.org](http://www.sanjoseuu.org), to verify that your desired date, time, and space are available. Please be advised that although a space might be clear on the calendar, you need to check with me before assuming your requested space will be available, and especially before making any public announcement about your event/meeting.
- 2) Contact **Iris Gonzalez** by e-mail, at [fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org), to request a room reservation. When doing so, please send the following information:
  - date
  - official start time/end time, AND the time needed (if any) for set-up/clean-up
  - what type of event/meeting?
  - contact name, telephone number, and e-mail address
  - what room would you like to reserve?
- 3) If the room and time you requested is available, your request will be reserved as indicated in your e-mail, and a confirmation of your request will be sent to you via e-mail. If you don't receive an e-mail from me within 48 hours, please do contact me, as it is possible that I may not

have received your initial e-mail. Do not hesitate to call me, should you have any questions about the calendar: 408-292-3858, ext. 10.

If your request includes usage of the kitchen downstairs, please know that **you are responsible for cleaning the kitchen afterwards**. Please wash any dishes/utensils and pots/pans you use. This same rule applies if you attend any type of meeting at FUCSJ. If you are here for a meeting and make yourself coffee or tea, please be kind and wash any dishes/utensils you use. Please do not simply leave your dirty dishes in the sink as either Edgar or I end up washing them and it's really no fun to come in the next day to a pile of dirty dishes to wash. As the sign over the sink says, "There is no dish fairy!" Oh, and please don't leave a wet sponge in the sink. Please wring out the sponge and place it in the sponge caddy; nobody wants to use a smelly, germmy sponge. Also, if you borrow any items from the kitchen, please be sure to return them. (On a side note — this request also applies if you borrow any office supplies from the office or my desk. Please return any items you borrow from my desk.)

These guidelines have been set in place to better serve you and the FUCSJ community. Please be patient as I work out the kinks with our calendar and set a permanent system in place. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

I will be writing updates about and from the office from time to time, so please look for them in upcoming newsletters. If you have any suggestions or if there is an office topic you'd like to know more about, please let me know. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
**IRIS**

## Our Church Circular Archive on Church Website!

A newsletter archive, which is password protected, is now hosted on our [sanjoseuu.org](http://sanjoseuu.org) website. Have fun looking at the issues of *Our Church Circular*.

### To access the archive:

1. In your web browser, go to the church website:  
<http://www.sanjoseuu.org>.
2. In the bar at the top of the page, click **What's Happening**.
3. In the left panel, click **Newsletters**.
4. In the first paragraph, click **archives**.  
When prompted: for user name, type **sanjoseuu**; for the password, type **free2think**, and click **Okay**.
5. Then click the issue date you want to see.  
More issues will be added. ●

## ¡Archivo de la Circular de noticias en el portal de internet de la iglesia!

El archivo de la Circular de noticias, el cual está protegido con una contraseña, se puede encontrar ahora en nuestro portal de internet [sanjoseuu.org](http://sanjoseuu.org)

Entretente mirando las ediciones de nuestra *Circular de noticias de la Iglesia*.

### Acceso al archivo:

1. En tu buscador (web browser), ve al portal de internet de la iglesia  
<http://www.sanjoseuu.org>.
2. En la parte superior de la página, haz un clic en **What's Happening**.
3. En el lado izquierdo de la página haz un clic en **Newsletters**.
4. Haz un clic en **archives**.
5. Cuando se te indique: nombre del usuario (username) escribe **sanjoseuu**; y en contraseña (password) escribe **free2think** y haz un clic en **Okay**.
6. Entonces haz un clic en la fecha de la edición que deseas ver.

Más ediciones serán agregadas. ●



# Urgent Call to Support ENDA

by Frey Leigh, Welcoming Congregation Committee



**Y**ou probably have seen little in the main-stream media about ENDA, the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, but it is currently a hot topic in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. This year ENDA, H.R. 2015, includes protection against discrimination in the workplace for gender identity and gender expression for the first-time since it was introduced in 1994 with protection for sexual orientation. ENDA has never made it through Congress. When it appeared in September to the political powers that be that removing transgender protection would improve ENDA's chances of getting through the House this year, a vote was postponed and two much weaker versions were created. This has brought such loud protests from over 200 LGBT organizations supporting the original H.R. 2015 that more time has been allowed for voices to be heard before moving any of these bills out of the House Committee on Education and Labor for a vote. Matt Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has called the effort to oppose exclusion of gender in the bill as a "watershed moment" in the LGBT civil rights movement.

You have an opportunity to speak up, but the time is short (and could even be over by the time you read this). Even if ENDA does not get through Congress this year, we still need to let Congress know there is widespread support for a fully inclusive ENDA, H.R. 2015.

**Call** (quicker than mail or e-mail) your congressional representative, and also call House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (1-202-225-4965) and Rep. George Miller, head of the House Committee on Education and Labor (1-202-225-2095).

Call no later than Wednesday, October 18, to have the most impact.

NCTE has an online petition you can sign: <http://www.nctequality.org/>

There are lots of websites where you can find information about ENDA. Also check out the information at the Welcoming Congregation table in Hattie Porter Hall.

All the major organizations that fight for LGBT civil rights are good sources, including: ACLU, NGLTF, Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Transgender Law Center, National Center for Transgender Equality, Equality California, Human Rights Campaign, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Search for bills on the Library of Congress' Thomas site: <http://thomas.loc.gov> ●



## Scholarships Sought for Partner Church HS Youth

**F**all is a time when our kids return to school. However, in our Partner church village in Homorodszentmarton, Transylvania, Romania, the village has no high school. Many have the hope to continue their studies, but attending a high school in another city is often beyond the means of the rural families.

When church members traveled to our partner church village this summer, their minister, Rev. Jozsef, asked that we help by furnishing partial scholarships to 4 youth.

Three hundred dollars would pay for about a third of the expenses per student for a year. This level of support would make a tremendous difference to enable the youth to attend a Unitarian boarding school in Udvarhely, about an hour from the village, since they have no regular transportation to commute.

We are looking for 4 families, or groups of families to sponsor these youth. We are hoping that the sponsorship individual or families will exchange letters and pictures throughout the year, and possibly for years to come, as the students progress in their studies.

The last 15 years in Europe has seen dramatic changes since the fall of the Berlin wall, and the restructuring of economies. We are hoping to help support and encourage their education to help in the future of their communities' life. We would like to match the donors and send the first sponsorship checks in a month.

*If you are interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a student, call 266-6504 or e-mail [Connie.Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie.Bloch@yahoo.com) for more information.* ●

## I Would Volunteer BUT. . .

**Myth #1:** If I accept a job that I find doesn't suit me, I'll be obligated to continue serving out my term anyway.

**Reality:** Our church is now dedicated to doing our best to see that each beloved volunteer finds his/her service is suitable and rewarding. Any time someone finds s/he is not happy with a particular service opportunity, s/he is urged to let the chair know. S/He will then be thanked profusely and graciously and "retired."

**Myth #2:** I would get sucked into something that would keep expanding and would go on forever!

**Reality:** We now have job descriptions that make clear just what the responsibilities are and how long a volunteer is asked to serve. ●

**BONUS ARTICLE: See Volunteer Classifieds in e-mail and online versions of this newsletter**



# Interested in Sing Along and Music Jam Sessions or in a Singles Group?

by Kathleen Bardin

There was some talk at the recent church retreat that I want to share with the wider church community. First, I am single and want to thank the other singles who inspired me to say that. Now I am interested in getting a UU singles group going.

Also, because so many of us enjoy the opportunity to sing along and music jam sessions, I would like to determine how many are interested in getting a monthly music

group going. I know that conversation began at the retreat and am now consciously opening up this conversation to the wider community.

If you are interested in expressing preferences about the meeting time and location of either of these potential groups, please let me know. You can contact me on my mobile, (408) 529-3478, or by e-mail at [kathleenbardin@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenbardin@yahoo.com).

## The Heretic Song

Lyrics by Kathleen Bardin & Tracy Avent (To the tune of the Lumberjack Song – Thank you Monty Python!)

Oh, I'm a heretic & I'm okay;  
I read all night and I think all day.  
I wear a UU T-shirt,  
Hang out at coffee hours;  
My containers are recycled  
Because I love the flowers.  
Oh, I'm a heretic & I'm okay;  
My bumper sticker reads UUA.  
I vote in each election,  
And sometimes in between;  
I protest from a selection  
Of things I think are mean.  
Oh, I'm a heretic and I'm okay;  
I question orthodoxy every day.  
I love di-ver-si-ty,  
And thought that's free;  
And the right to marry  
Most def-in-ite-ly.  
Oh, I'm a heretic and I'm okay;  
I welcome anyone straight or gay.  
You should come and join us;  
You can have a vote.  
But go against our politics,  
And we'll throw you in the moat!  
Bridge:  
Our principles are sacred,  
And we find consensus quick.  
But smithing words for resolutions  
Will get kind of thick!  
We'd write social mores so fast,  
World leaders would be flustered!  
But ask a UU about Jesus Christ,  
And you'll get a filibuster!  
Oh, I'm a heretic & I'm okay;  
Buy fair trade products on Sunday.  
This song is almost over;  
It's very trite and witty;  
But UUs do not hold your breath,  
It's a motion in committee!  
THE END! ●



## Spotlight on Social Justice

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



Have You Called? It Matters.

I feel sorta bad about this, but I am simply flummoxed by all the messages in my e-mailbox to call my representatives about an

upcoming vote. Now, they are almost always important e-mails about critical issues that I care deeply about. But, honestly, there are a lot of people who I haven't called, but I should, so people like Zoe Lofgren and Arnold Schwarzenegger are even less likely to hear from me than my dentist or my best friend from college. So, how do those representatives making those decisions change from the people I *should* call to the ones I *do* call, like my child's dentist or my best friend *now*?

What changed for me this weekend was one person on one issue that looked me in the eye and said, "Have you called?" It finally registered that it matters. As much as making

dentist appointments, getting a babysitter or making sure my car insurance bill is paid.

First, remember that this congregation has hired me, made a significant financial commitment to make sure I learn and keep current on the issues you have chosen as a community. Now, imagine I am in front of you, and I look you in the eye and say:

**"Have you called the Governor to be sure he signs AB 43 for marriage equality?"**

**(1-916-445-2841 Governor's office)**

or

**"Have you called your representative in Washington to urge him or her to override the president's veto for children's health insurance?"**

**(1-866-633-6432 for all reps on**

**PICO hotline)**

or

**"Have you called Nancy Pelosi to pass ENDA for workplace protection for sexual orientation and gender identity?" (at 1-202-225-4965)**

Call one or all. Put down this newsletter and call now. Because it matters. ●



# Coming Events

## Family Circle Potluck

Please join us for the next Family Circle Potluck of parents and kids, after church on Sunday, October 28th from 12:30-2:00 pm. We will be meeting in the downstairs classrooms 3-4 immediately after RE.

We will use the potluck time to get better acquainted as families, and also to decorate pumpkins!

Our Family Circle potluck group generally meets in the evening in homes on Sundays, but this month, we're trying something different. Please RSVP to [Connie\\_Bloch@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie_Bloch@yahoo.com) so we have enough supplies for the pumpkins. Or phone 266-6504.

## CUUPs Samhain Celebration

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPs) will present a Samhain ritual—featuring a meditation journey through the world of the ancestors—on Sunday evening, October 28. The ritual will begin at 7:30 pm, in the sanctuary. Participants



are asked to bring food or beverages to share in the Ramsden Fireside Room after the ritual. Church members and friends are welcome to join CUUPs members in this ritual. For more information, contact Sandra Lewellen Jones, 408-573-7579, or [slewellenjoness@hotmail.com](mailto:slewellenjoness@hotmail.com).

## See Transylvania Pilgrimage Pictures!

Are you interested in hearing about our trip to Transylvania this summer? Then come to this presentation on Sunday, November 11, at 12:45 am. in the downstairs classrooms 2 and 3 All who are interested are invited. For more information, contact Monty Low, 408-348-2778, [low.monty@gmail.com](mailto:low.monty@gmail.com). ●

# CIRCLING AROUND

Milestones  
in the lives of the  
First Unitarian Community

by Kelly Burnett

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](mailto:kelly@kellybur.com). Her telephone number is 408-810-3182, but she'd prefer to receive your news by email, if possible.

Congregation member **Bonnie Preston** recently corresponded with the Rev. **Louise Ulrich**, who was our interim minister in 2005, and found that she is currently serving as an interim minister for the UU congregation in Edinburgh, Scotland! She is the first American minister and the first woman minister to serve as an interim in the UK. She writes, "There are many small Unitarian congregations here - perhaps 40 or so, but some of them number as little as 8! Edinburgh [congregation] is the largest in Scotland, and it numbers about 90!! Many of the [UU] ministers in the UK are part time, and serve 2-3 churches apiece!

"The church is located in the old part of the city, directly across from the [Edinburgh] Castle, to its west, on (appropriately enough) "Castle Terrace." I live in the manse, a (by Scottish standards) huge old sandstone building (walls are probably a foot and a half thick) with a lovely garden - not large - in back and a small greenhouse to boot. To my enormous surprise, the next-door neighbors have a palm tree in their back yard! ... Oh yes — no car, no dishwasher, no clothes dryer, so I am doing a lot of walking, taking the bus, and hanging clothes out on the line. Like my mother (and everyone else's mother) did during WW II!"

The e-mail address for **Rev. Louise** is still: [revcupcake@juno.com](mailto:revcupcake@juno.com). She'd no doubt be pleased to hear from you.

**Mary McGuinness** has been promoted to Assistant Patient Care Manager (APCM) on the same unit she has been working on at Stanford for the last six years. After being a staff nurse at Stanford for 20 years, this is her first step into a management position. She will be working eight-hour days, four a week. This will be a huge change for her, having done twelve hours for many, many years. The unit is for out-patients; they care for 23-hour stay patients (both medical and surgical), have nine infusion chairs, and do placement of a special type of IV catheter for patients

receiving long-term infusions. Mary will begin this new assignment in November. WTG, Mary!

**Mary Rico** has a new job as Program Coordinator for the California Lawyers for the Arts, Silicon Valley Region.

California Lawyers for the Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering creative people. C.L.A. provides lawyer referrals, dispute resolution services, education programs and publications, a resource library, and community development projects to more than 10,000 artists and arts organizations annually throughout the State of California.

There are a number of workshops set for both San Francisco and the San Jose area, including a Music Business Seminar on 10/20 and a workshop on contracts 11/13. Folks can check them out at [www.calawyersforthearts.org](http://www.calawyersforthearts.org) or e-mail [lightegle1@aol.com](mailto:lightegle1@aol.com) if they are interested in getting on our e-mail list.

"FORGOTTEN JOURNEY, The Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Saga" a documentary (which included

**Carol Stephenson's** ancestors she wrote about in a recent *Our Church Circular*), was shown Oct. 1 at 11 pm on KTEH, Channel 54. Heading into the unknown wilderness the summer of 1844, those true pioneers indeed blazed the trail to California.

**Kelly Burnett** sends her deepest thanks to all of you who care and continue to care for her during her recovery. She appreciates your gifts of time, advocacy, prayers, thoughts, cards, e-mails, calls, food, rides, hugs, and well wishes. You are her beloved community. ●



**Elisha Stephens, the (misspelled) namesake of Stevens Creek Blvd.**





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- Next issue deadline:** 3:00 pm, October 31, 2007
- Next issue assembly:** Tuesday, November 6, 2007
- Next issue mailing:** Wednesday, November 7, 2007
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**Remember to bring your recyclable bottles and cans to help us improve the print quality of this newsletter!**

**For Pastoral Care**

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

**Contacting the Ministers**

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

**Cuidado Pastoral**

Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros. Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran 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](mailto: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](mailto:paor69@yahoo.com).

**Contactando a los Ministros**

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

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**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

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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!\*\**

Mailing: **Libby Codd**

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