

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

650 343-3694 • email: info@ccsm-ucc.org • website: www.ccsm-ucc.org

Vol. 58

Issue #15 • October 12–November 1, 2009

Pick-A-Party Sun., Oct. 18

By Carol Henton

It will soon be time for you to select whatever “parties” you wish to purchase at our annual church fundraiser—affectionately known as Pick-A-Party. The fun begins on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 9:45 a.m. (Sharp!) in Kloss Hall. There is competition for the parties, so don’t be late that morning.

We have a long list of parties again this year—there are many old favorites plus several brand new parties! We also have parties for children this year.

Your information packet, with your name on it, may be picked up on Sunday, October 11 in the Loggia. Take it home, study the list, and mark the parties you hope to purchase and attend.

If you cannot be at CCSM on Oct. 18 when we pick our parties, we encourage you to arrange a proxy. Don’t forget to bring your checkbook!



Sunday Celebrations

- Oct. 11** *How do I Suit Up for Life,*
Marge Boyd
- Oct. 18** *What Is My Response—ability as a*
Human Being? Rev. Nixon
Pick-A-Party Sunday 9:45a.m.
Community Fall Fiesta 2-4 p.m.
- Oct. 25** *Why Is There Suffering in the*
World? Rev. Nixon
Second Chance Pick-A-Party
- Nov. 1** *Is There Life After Death?*
Rev. Nixon
All Saints Day
Multi-Faith Children’s Festival
Family Shelter begins

Notes from Penny



I’ve been wondering how CCSM members have been experiencing our multi-faith journey so far. I have already had a number of spiritual experiences and insights. While the series has required a lot of additional time studying on my part, I have enjoyed delving more

deeply into other traditions. I am finding my own faith enriched. When Imam Anwar began to speak in church this past Sunday, giving his testimony of faith, I could feel the tears come to my eyes. Tears of gratitude that we have created a religious environment where he can feel welcome and safe, but also tears of sadness for how rare it is to see an imam, or a rabbi, or a monk, speak in a church. And yet the great religions, at their best, all strive for such similar goals.

One of my hopes in doing this series was to help all of us *see* and *hear* differently. To put on new glasses of faith, as it were, in how we viewed God, the world and ourselves. As Imam Anwar stood to give his testimony, one child whispered, “Look, there’s Jesus!” A new way of seeing the divine in an unguarded moment, a way of seeing through a child’s eyes. A child who has not yet learned to be influenced by racial profiling, or religious prejudice or political parties.

This evening I had the wonderful opportunity to once again listen to and learn from our rabbi-in-residence, Jhos Singer. He helped over 40 of us understand the Big Jewish Idea of the high holy days, and what repentance means and the issues of justice—balancing the right and wrong of the universe. What struck me most was his explanation of corporate, or collective repentance; how standing *naked* before God together helps to break the *cadence of wrong* so prevalent in our own lives and in the world. My eyes were opened in a new way to understand generosity, forgiveness and connection. I feel so enriched to be on this journey. I hope you do too.

Youth & Family News

Youth News

Senior High Upcoming Events

Sat. Oct 10, Car Wash Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

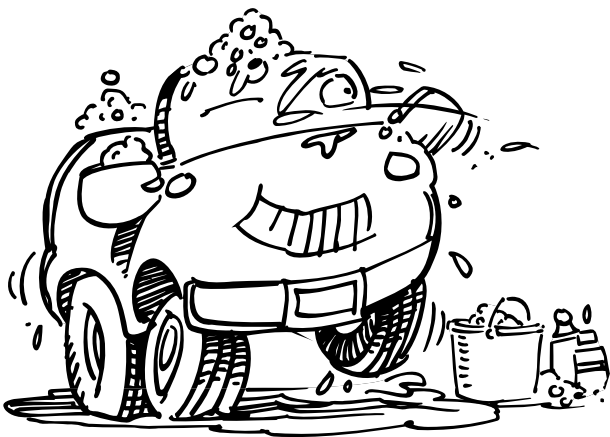
(Students arrive at Parking lot at 8:45 a.m.)

Sun. Oct. 18, 2-4 p.m. Community Fall Fiesta

(Students arrive at 1:30 p.m.)

Sun. Oct 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m., 60 Minutes with Mike Mullery

Sun. Nov. 1, 6:30-8 p.m. Fellowship: Let Us Worship God.



Car Wash

Sat., Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Of course your car needs to get washed this Saturday! The Senior High Youth Ministry is holding a carwash fundraiser this **Saturday, October 10th from 9-1:00 p.m.** in the CCSM parking lot. Rain, shine, or cold weather we will be there!

World Peace Festival

On **Saturday, November 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m.,**

Kloss Hall will be transformed into a multi-faith experience. The six-foot banners for each faith will lead you through the Festival. Next to each banner will be symbols of that faith—foods, sacred texts and more. You will experience many faiths through touch, taste, reading and hearing. It's an event for all ages.

Family News

One Tree, Many Roots: Faith Literacy Curriculum for Children and Youth.

Our new Church School curriculum is off to a great start! Each week you will see a deepening of the concept, *One Tree, Many Roots*. Our children are learning about Christianity in the midst of Judaism and Islam. The curriculum will be framed by our Christian concepts. Through that lens, we will study the similarities with other faiths. Our hope is that this fall curriculum will assist our children in knowing their own faith while also having a greater awareness of the diverse faiths in their community.

Oct. 11: Multi-Faith Creation stories

Oct. 18: The Golden Rule in Many Faiths

Oct. 25: The message of Peace in Many Faiths

Homework Central begins again this week, Oct. 5th to 8th!

Homework Central is organizing for another great year of tutoring 60 neighborhood children. This is a great time to become a new tutor and help 3-5 grade children one day a week. Build a relationship with a little person who needs your smiling face, guidance, and support. If you would like more information, please talk to Lani Leydig or call Jill Wagner, Homework Central Volunteer Coordinator, 513-1643.

Homework Central Math Night, a Parent-Education Evening.

Tuesday, October 27: 6:00-7:30 p.m. Homework Central families are invited to a dinner and educational evening in Kloss Hall. The theme of the night is **Math is Fun**. We will be setting up learning centers for parents and kids to learn math together. There will be a measuring table where you will be measuring your hands and feet, an estimation table with many interesting items in jars, a conservation of liquids table and some terrific dice games. If you would like to be volunteer math mentor for this evening, please contact Betsy Woodward, 343-3694.

Little Ones Playgroup, Saturday, Oct. 24: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Kindergarten classroom.

Our playgroup for little ones four years old and younger will resume in October. The Little Ones Playgroup is an opportunity for parents of young children to get better acquainted and enjoy the fun equipment in the Kindergarten classroom. We gather to play, share ideas and have a snack. Please join us and bring a peanut-free snack to share. Email Renato Floresca (aka Sofia and Zack's dad) if you would like to attend. r_floresca@yahoo.com.

Multi-Faith Children's Festival in Kloss Hall. Sunday, Nov. 1.

On this Sunday, our Church School classes move to Kloss Hall. Everyone meets on the USA rug after the Children's Moment, and then they will have an opportunity to create symbols of different faiths—Jewish scrolls, Ramadan beads, Hindu points of light, Purim crowns, and Buddhist prayer bags. The 5-6 graders will also cook dinner for the shelter that night. This is a perfect occasion to invite new families to visit the church! If you wish to be a volunteer craft leader, please talk to Michelle O'Brien, 393-5525.

Adult Education Opportunities: Big Jewish Ideas on Monday Nights



October 5, 12, 19, November 2, 9, 16
7:00-8:30 p.m. Childcare available.

In this series, we will explore a few Jewish concepts that are often expressed in a single Hebrew word, and yet have no simple English translations. In this six week class, we will tackle: Shabbat, Mitzvah, Tzedaka, K'vod, K'dusha, and Shalom. Maggid Singer (or Jhos, which ever you prefer) will employ scripture, commentary, chant, blessing each other to mine these rich veins of Judaic wisdom.

Adult Spiritual Education Hour: A Multi-Faith Journey

Sundays at 9:30-10:15 a.m. Child care available. Upcoming speakers for our series include:



October 11: Don Frew, Wiccan Elder
Donald H. Frew is a Wiccan Elder and High Priest of Coven Trismegiston in Berkeley, California. He is one of two National Interfaith representatives for the Covenant of the Goddess. He is active with a number of interfaith groups, and has served with the Parliament Assembly of the Parliament of the World's Religions, the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative, the board of directors of the Interfaith

Center at the Presidio of San Francisco, and the Expressing the United Religions Initiative in Music and the Arts. Frew is the founder and director of the Lost and Endangered Religions Project, focused on preserving and restoring the religious traditions of marginal communities.

October 18 No class, Pick-A-Party!



October 25, Sherrie Decker, Native American Spirituality
Sherrie Decker is a member of the Cherokee Nation. Her ancestry traces back to North Carolina in the 15th century and to the *Trail of Tears*, which brought some of her people to Oklahoma. She has led retreats for church groups in the SF Bay Area and was the spokesperson for the Cherokees of Northern Central Valley.

November Sessions:

- Nov. 1 Warren Jones, Baha'i
- Nov. 8 Sarabjit Kaurcheema, Sikh tradition
- Nov. 15 Sister Chandra, Brahma Kumaris
- Nov. 22 A guest from San Mateo Buddhist Temple

Membership Class, Save the Date!

There will be a membership class on Saturday, November 7th, 9-11:30 a.m., childcare provided. Bagels and coffee to be served.

There will be an opportunity to join the church on Sunday, November 15th.

Growing In Wisdom Through Loss: A Day Retreat for Seniors

Led by Rev. Charlotte Russell

On **Thursday, November 5, 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** in the Buckham Room, we will welcome you to this retreat. We all experience a myriad of losses: grieving the loss of a loved one through divorce or death, losing a job, adjusting to retirement, moving from the family home to a retirement community, losing physical strength through aging or illness, grieving the loss of friends, and countless others, both great and small.

Wherever you are in life's journey in the *senior years*, you will find this day a wonderful way to be in community and to learn more about this journey of life and faith.

A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office by November 1st. Charlotte Russell is the Minister of Seniors and Care at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Blessings of the Animals

By Steve Naylor

On Sunday, October 4, dogs, cats, and other animals descended upon the church lawn for a grand time of animal socializing and thoughtful blessings. As the animals and owners got to know each other, the ministers walked around sharing a sacred moment. There was even one car that came with three people and seven pets. It was an afternoon filled with joy as we shared in the love that animals bring into our lives. Thank you to the many pets and pet owners who helped make the afternoon so delightful.

May all pets, whether they were blessed or not, continue to bring happiness, joy, and comfort into the lives of the people they touch.



Sign up to Serve at our IHN Family Shelter

We are again hosting the rotating homeless shelter **November 1 through 8**, and need to fill the usual 70+ volunteer slots:

On the first Sunday 11/1, 2-4 people at 11:30 a.m. to bring down supplies (some heavy) from above the stage in Kloss Hall, and 6-8 people to unload/set up tents and beds at 1:30 p.m.

Each evening 11/1-7 (Sun thru Sat): 2 people to provide the evening meal (5:30-7:30 p.m.), 1-2 people to interact with adults (6:30-8:30 p.m.), 1-2 people to do homework/activities with children (6:30-8:30 p.m.), and 2 people to spend the night with the guests (8:30 p.m.-7:15 a.m.).

On 11/8, the last Sunday, take down tents and beds (4-6 people) at 11:30 a.m., meet/load the van (2-4 people) at 1p, and 1-2 people to take sheets and pillowcases to be washed and returned.

Sign up in Kloss Hall after the service or contact Linda Kilby, 299-1531, kilbyl@sutterhealth.org or Joan Kilroe, 346-7230, joroe42@yahoo.com. Your participation blesses both the guests and you. You are the hands, feet, and face of Christ.

Neighborhood Outreach

Community Fall Fiesta

The Mission, Service, and Justice Ministry (MSJ) continues to carry out the congregation's desire to engage in more neighborhood outreach and connections. The **Community Fall Fiesta** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on CCSM's front lawn**. We hope you can join us, as we invite the neighborhood for an afternoon of fun and activities.

Immigration Forum

In conjunction with PIA's Local Organizing Ministry, we are planning an immigration forum on **Saturday, November 14th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Kloss Hall**. The forum's theme will be **Know your Rights under the Constitution** and is geared principally to non-American citizens. Immigration attorneys and advocates, as well as representatives from the Mexican Consulate, will participate. Following this Fall's theme of *One Tree, Many Roots*, this forum will also involve two Catholic San Mateo congregations. All of these activities are intended to continue our efforts to widen our connections and to follow our inclusiveness principle. For more information, contact Doris Godinez-Phillips at DorisGP@sbcglobal.net or Linda Kilby at KilbyL@sutterhealth.org.

Samoan/Tongan Relief Effort

The three islands of Samoa and Tonga have been devastated by the latest disasters. Please help by bringing non-perishable food items, water, clothes, pillows, blankets, household items, (no furniture) to Kloss hall or the narthex. We will have large boxes for the collection. For more information, please contact Pearly Masters 343-3694.

Haiti, International Outreach

By Jerri Handy

"With your roots in heaven, you bear fruit on earth." This is a statement of belief for CONASPEH: the Haitian national spiritual counsel of churches. In January, 2010, Jerri Handy, CCSM's clergy intern, will be leading a group from our CCSM community on a mission trip to Haiti. The purpose of the trip is to witness—a medical clinic, the seminary, a school for children who serve families as indentured servants, the "tap-taps," the poverty, the hope—and to tell the story of that witness to others. The saying "it takes a village to raise a child," is very true in the case of many Haitian children. It is also true that it takes a community to support a mission trip of this nature.

On **November 8** after church in the Buckham Room, Jerri will be hosting a presentation and dialogue about the January event. Come learn more about this poverty-stricken country filled with wonderful people and consider how you can financially and prayerfully help those making the trip as they partner with CONASPEH.



Completing Emotional First Aid

By Jerri Handy

We had a wonderful time with June Vining, COO of the Trauma Intervention Program Inc. earlier this year. One of the requests that came from the Emotional First Aid Training event was a desire for a place and time to "fill out the paperwork that families wish they had taken time to do before a loved one dies." As a follow-up to that training, Jerri Handy, CCSM's clergy intern, has scheduled two opportunities for anyone who wishes to complete the paperwork associated with end of life events, to do so in community. Completing one's will, medical instructions, or memorial wishes can be difficult tasks, made easier in the company of those who can offer counsel and provide answers to questions.

Please join Jerri on **Wednesday, November 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. in CCSM's Fireplace Room** or **Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to noon** in the Buckham Room to receive assistance with this important paperwork. Basic blank documents will be provided; RSVP to the church office (343-3694) no later than two days before the event you choose to attend so that enough copies can be obtained. If you have a request for assistance with specialized paperwork, please contact Jerri Handy at 503 421-5439.

Join the Fun! Join an Affinity Group Music And Arts Circle

Our October meeting features *Flowers In Her Hair*, a book of poems by **Bob Jarmusz** about his love for his wife Gail, and for all those who have lost loved ones. We will meet **Friday, Oct. 16 at noon** in the Buckham Room. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages are provided. Guests are welcome. Guests or new members please call Barbara Mollison at 349-0366 if you plan to attend.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

Monday, October 26: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Buckham Room.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group invites you to their *Day of the Dead Celebration*. The Day of the Dead is an annual event in many Latin American cultures. Coinciding with Halloween and All Saints Day, the Day of the Dead honors those in our families who have died. On this Monday evening in October, Clare Naegle and Betsy Woodward will lead a celebratory ritual that honors the lives and spirits of loved ones who are no longer with us. Please bring a photo, a memento, a piece of fruit, flowers and a candle. With these items, we will create an altar and share stories of our loved ones. All women are welcome to join us: just bring a quick and easy potluck dish for dinner. If you have questions, please call Shirley McKinnie, 349-3663.

Monday Night Book Group

Our next meeting is on **Monday, November 30, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room**. Our new book choice is *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. The story is set in New England and features a seventh grade math teacher who isn't very pleasant. The book is in paperback and a perfect solution for a chilly night—a good read by the fireplace! Please email Susan Stoehr to be included in our book group email, s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

20/30s Group

Saturday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m., Dinner Night at Steelhead Restaurant in Burlingame. This was a very successful event last year. Bring your friends, and let's enjoy a night of great food and friendship. RSVP to Steve Naylor at snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org.

Monday, Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. Theology on Tap with Rev. Penny Nixon, O'Neills Irish Pub.

Monthly Announcements Deadline Clarification

Please note: Our new monthly bulletin announcements system sometimes requires that bulletin announcements for the new month be in before the last Wednesday of the month. So instead, we are having specific date deadlines for each month. Please submit November announcements by October 28, and December announcements by November 23. Email to Zoe at zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org or leave in Zoe's box in the church office. Thank you!

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

Nancy Brock has moved in with her sister, Becky Maynard, at 625 18th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. Phone number 310 545-1335.

Becky Morgan married **John Medina** on September 19, 2009 at a lovely winery in Sonoma. Congratulations to Becky, John and Mom, **Genel Morgan**.

Carl Loschenkohl turned 91 on Sept. 25 and **Lorraine Gustafson** was 95 on Sept. 26 and **Jeff Winters** will be 98 on Oct. 6. Congratulations to all of you.

Barbara Mollison's broken rib is healing well and she is doing much better now.

Evelyn and Carl Loschenkohl appreciate all the kindness they have been shown this past year. The support of their CCSM church family means a lot during this difficult time.

Prayers of Comfort

Eiko Hayashi Fujimoto, David Hayashi's mother passed away on September 25, 2009. Cards of comfort may be sent to the Hayashi's at 517 Warren Road, San Mateo, 94402.

Prayers of Healing and Support

Scottie Scott is home now. Dotty says he is doing better. Continued prayers for healing.

Lynelle Bilsey is undergoing difficult dental surgery with more treatments to come. Give her many hugs as this is not fun.

Peggy Grier, Linda Grier's mother had major cancer surgery last week. The family is in our prayers.

Enzo Gallo, Tony Gallo's father, will begin cancer treatments soon. Prayers to the Gallo family.

Shaun O'Brien is still going through a series of tests to determine his treatment. Request prayers for healing light. Send cards of support to 612 Fathom Drive, San Mateo, 94404.

A note from Denis France:

"My mother, **Ingeborg France**, was a member of the CCSM church choir during the time when Pat Hudson was the choir director. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with the choir.... She is now 92, and losing her battle with cancer." Cards may be sent to Ingeborg at Pacifica Senior Living, 2325 St. Paul's Way, room 309, Modesto, CA 95355.

December Extravaganza Auction

Please save the evening for the December 5th extravaganza and art auction. We will have a fun-filled musical and artistic evening with a DJ for dancing, light food and desserts and beautiful art. In addition to fellowship and dancing, we plan to have many goodies and services for your holiday needs. Consider purchasing unique pieces of art as Christmas gifts from members and friends. All proceeds will benefit the programs supported by our Ministry of Mission and Social Justice's (MSJ).

Calling All The Talented Artists and Art Collectors!

The Ministry of Mission, Service, and Justice is organizing a silent art auction and is looking for original pieces created by the many artists in our the congregation and works done by relatives and friends. We will gladly accept art in all forms ranging from paintings, sculpture, woodwork, weaving, quilting etc. The money raised will go towards the many valuable organizations that the MSJ ministry supports throughout the year. The silent auction will take place during the Dec. 5 Holiday Dinner Dance. Please contact Liz Henton, echenton@gmail.com or 346-3743 with questions and submissions.



Blanketeers Quilt Sale and Auction

Blanketeers will be having their annual quilt sale on **Sunday, November 22** in Kloss Hall following worship. We will offer a variety of quilts and handmade items for sale to replenish our funds for supplies. Blanketeers will give away 60-80 quilts every year to the IHN Shelter and the Adopt-a-Family program.

We will also have four

very special quilts offered through *Silent Auction* starting Sunday, November 8, 15 and 22. They will be on display in Kloss Hall for you to bid on each Sunday. Proceeds will benefit Homework Central and winners will be announced in Coffee Hour on Nov. 22.

Office Volunteers Needed!

We couldn't possibly run our church office without the help of our committed and reliable staff of volunteers! These multi-talented, resourceful folks perform many functions that allow the pastoral and office staff to focus on their duties. Can you help? Call the Church Office or Pearly Masters at 343-3694.

Front Desk Volunteer: manage the front desk one morning or afternoon a week: answer phones, help with mailings and miscellaneous jobs. No experience necessary.

Friday Bulletin and Copy Machine Volunteer: help copy the Sunday bulletin. Simple training provided.

Special Mailings: Copy, fold and stuff envelopes for large mailings on an as-needed basis.

Special Hospitality: arrange for a small meal, set up room and coordinate with administrator for events such as clergy luncheons.

Support CCSM: Sign Up For eScrip!

By Margreth Barrett

If you register your existing grocery store card, debit or ATM card, and/or credit cards with eScrip, and then use these cards, the participating merchants will contribute a percentage of the sales price to CCSM. Some of the participating merchants, and the percentage they contribute are: Safeway (up to 4%), Mollie Stone's (up to 5%), Lunardi's Markets (up to 4%), Piazza's Fine Foods (up to 5%), Trags Market (up to 4%) Round Table Pizza (up to 6%).

The best way to participate is to sign up online. There are three easy steps: 1) visit www.escrip.com and click on *sign up*, 2) designate the **Congregational Church of San Mateo (our Group ID Number is: 137105394)**, and 3) register your cards, debit, ATM and/or credit cards. *If you do not wish to sign up online*, there will be blue forms available in the Narthex. Fill out a form and mail it to: eScrip, P.O. Box 6988, Auburn, CA 95604.

Some participating merchants, like Safeway, require that you renew your sign-up every year. So if you have signed up for eScrip in the past, but it was more than a year ago, please visit www.escrip.com, have your Safeway card number handy, and click "Yes, Renew."

eScrip does not sell or rent any personally identifying information about program participants to third parties. The eScrip web site is a VERISIGN Secure Site. All information sent to this site is encrypted, protecting against disclosure to third parties. eScrip is a great way to support the church and its many worthwhile activities, with no cost to yourself! If you have questions, please call Margreth Barrett at: 650 312-8450.



The Pine Tree

A newsletter for the families & friends of the
Congregational Church Of San Mateo, U.C.C.

The Pine Tree (USPS 433-380) is published in the interest of Christian Fellowship by The Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, California, twice monthly. **Periodical class postage paid** at San Mateo, California. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Pine Tree, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE • TIME VALUED MAILING