



February
Volume 15 Number 02

The Bell



UPCOMING WORSHIP

February 1

Judy Zlatnik is preaching.

February 8

"Our Lady of the Underground"
Psalm 19

February 15

"What Do You Want?"
Mark 9:2-9

February 22

"Identity"
Mark 1:9-15

AFTERNOON FOR FAMILY LUNCH & GAMES PLANNED

February 22

All kids and their families are invited for lunch and Bunco on Sunday, February 22, following worship until 1:30 p.m. All ages can play and learn Bunco. The event will be at the Hollowell's, 36575 Montecito Dr., Fremont. RSVP to Judy at judyhollowell@gmail.com or 510-791-1840.



CALL TO ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING February 8

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 Annual Budget meeting of Niles Discovery Church will be held on Sunday, February 8, immediately following worship, at 109 J Street, Fremont. Your attendance is prayerfully and urgently requested. Please pick up an annual financial report prior to the meeting.

LENTEN SERVICES PLANNED WITH LOCAL UCC CHURCHES



We will continue to share Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services with Filipino-America UCC, Little Brown Church of Sunol, Fremont Congregational Church, and Filipino-America Evangelical UCC.

The service on Ash Wednesday (February 18) will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Road. The service will be meditative and will include time for quiet reflection as we prepare to enter the season of Lent.

There will also be joint worship services during Holy Week – on Maundy Thursday (April 2) and on Good Friday (April 3). There will be more details in next month's edition of *The Bell*.

WORSHIP ON THE ROAD IS "WORKING"



"I think it's really working," Pastor Jeff Spencer said of the church's experience of holding Sunday morning worship services at the Macau Cultural Center, 109 J Street. "Attendance is holding steady and the choir is really helping out," he said.

"This is showing how the church really is the people and not the building," Pastor Brenda said.

Pastor Jeff has been arriving early to get the heat turned on. Volunteers are coming around 8:30 or 9:00 to set up chairs, the sound system, and the keyboard. Volunteers are taking care of clean-up, too. Many hands make this sort of work light, so more volunteers are encouraged.

VOLUNTEERISM IS SAVING THE CHURCH THOUSANDS

When Niles Discovery Church moved out of 255 H Street, there were many boxes to pack and move. The Ministry of Property Team decided to hire movers, but it was volunteers who stepped forward to do the packing. Team member Bill Palleschi figures the volunteers saved the church over \$1600.



Continued; See "Church Saves through Volunteers" page 4



THE CONSTRUCTION CORNER



Progress on Sanctuary Ceiling

If you've driven past the construction site recently, you've seen lots of activity happening outside. Exterior stucco and painting are complete, the fence around the east patio is finished, and the landscapers have been busy installing irrigation systems. The tower to hold our beautifully refurbished bell is up. The tile mosaic team has begun the work of selecting an artist for the tile that will adorn the patio. Orange cones and barriers are up for the sidewalk and street work that will be done this month along Niles Blvd. and Nursery Ave.



New bell tower shapes up

Inside, work continues at a brisk pace. The sanctuary ceiling is finished, the paneling is complete, and the vertical screen in front of the windows at the back of the chancel was installed. The final inspection for plumbing, heating, and electrical happened in late January, and the heat was turned on in anticipation of installing the flooring later this month.

Doors and trim, painting, cabinets, counters, and toilet partitions in the bathrooms, are also mostly complete, and all door hardware was installed. A subcommittee of the Construction Team has selected new office furniture. The hearing loop system will be installed at the beginning of the month, and our beautiful new sanctuary chairs will arrive mid-month.

The Construction Team volunteers many person-hours every week to coordinating the construction work, cleaning at the job site, and managing the construction budget. The team continues to be deeply grateful for the work of our project manager, Naomi Weinstein, our job foreman, Vince Pilotti, and our Team chairperson, Mark Twist. Without the hard work and diligence of this dedicated threesome, our building would not be nearing completion this month.

Pastor Jeff and Pastor Brenda have a friendly wager going about our move-in date; stay tuned to this spot to see who had to buy the other dinner!



Volunteers prepare wood for ceiling



East parking lot gets paved



Patio fence takes shape



Library niches



Kitchen with countertops



Beautiful natural light in west room



Spiritual Experiments

One of the things I've always struggled with as a Christian is how to follow the teachings of Jesus and put them into practice in our hectic, postmodern world. I do believe that Jesus truly meant for his followers to do the things he taught, and, since I call myself a follower of Jesus, I long to do what he says. But just how am I supposed to do that in a time and place that is so profoundly different from the world Jesus lived in?



Last fall, I read a book that sort of thumped me on the head and gave me a whole new way of looking at following Jesus. You might remember me mentioning Mark Scandrette's book, *Practicing the Way of Jesus: Life Together in the Kingdom of Love*, in a sermon in November. I have been so enthusiastic about it ever since, that Pastor Jeff and I decided to use it as a basis for our upcoming sermon series for Lent.

Mark Scandrette is the founder and executive director of an organization called Relmagine in San Francisco. Relmagine is a spiritual community that operates from the assumption "that Jesus of Nazareth demonstrated and taught a revolutionary way of love that is actually possible, alive with healing and hope, [and that] we need a path for experiencing that revolution in the details of our daily lives."¹

Scandrette suggests that the teachings of Jesus all relate to five basic themes of human experience. These five themes recur again and again throughout the Gospels, and they are also perfectly encapsulated in the Lord's Prayer. As we move through Lent this year, we will be exploring these themes in a five-week sermon series:

1. **Identity** (*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name*): Jesus suggests that we are God's beloved children; how do we embrace and live out that identity?
2. **Purpose** (*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*): Jesus taught that our purpose in life is to be agents of God's healing in the world; how are we to bring about the kingdom of God in postmodern society?
3. **Security** (*Give us this day our daily bread*): God provides for us abundantly; how do we learn to recognize and embrace that abundance and live generously?
4. **Community** (*And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*): Jesus offers instructions for living together and experiencing true community; how are we to do and be to experience belonging?
5. **Freedom and Peace** (*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*): Jesus offers a vision for achieving personal freedom and peace; what can we do about our temptations and suffering?

One of the ways that Scandrette encourages the folks at Relmagine to practice the way of Jesus is to undertake spiritual practices in the form of what he calls "experiments." Experiments are part of a study, action and reflection model: studying the actual words of Jesus, putting the words into action and practice, and then reflecting on the results. The key question that Relmagine participants ask themselves is, "How does what Jesus did and taught connect with the real circumstances of our lives and the needs of our world?"

Throughout Lent, Pastor Jeff and I will be trying some spiritual experiments ourselves and encouraging others to join us in the practice. If you're intrigued, I hope you'll pick up a copy of Scandrette's book and read along with us, and deepen your call as a follower of Jesus.

Pastor Brenda

¹All quotes are from Mark Scandrette's book, *Practicing the Way of Jesus: Life Together in the Kingdom of Love*



CHURCH ADDRESSES HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sister Caritas of the Sisters of the Holy Family is working with the Super Bowl Committee to Prevent Human Trafficking during the Super Bowl. To assist them, the Ministry of Social Concerns has contributed \$300, which will be matched by the Sisters. The Bay Area is one of the "hotspots" for human trafficking.



LET THE PPRC KNOW

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Ron Adamson, Mark Twist, Judy Molander, Dena Hokom, Annie O'Hare, Sandy Thomas, Pastor Jeff Spencer, and Pastor Brenda Loreman – if you have a concern about the life of the church that you want to explore. If you have a church relationship that's hurting and want some assistance in healing it, speak to one of them.

YOUTH INVITED TO SPIRITUALITY RETREAT



Youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to join Pastor Jeff (and probably some other adult/driver) at this year's Youth Spiritual Retreat co-sponsored by our United Church of Christ Conference and Pacific School of Religion.

The retreat is all day, Saturday, March 7, at Pacific School of Religion. We will carpool up to Berkeley at 8:00 a.m. and return at around 9:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Jeff know by February 12; he will get you further registration information. Lunch and dinner are included; you may want to bring some snacks.

During the retreat, participants will explore "UCC Identity," "Progressive Christian Approaches to Scripture," "Various form of Spiritual Practice," and "Crafting Personal Expressions of Faith."

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CHURCH SAVES THROUGH VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers install acoustical panels

Volunteers have sanded hundreds of feet of wood to prepare it for the painters to it could be installed in the sanctuary ceiling at 36600 Niles Blvd. Mark Twist and his son Steven install acoustical panels in the fellowship hall ceiling. Crews of volunteers ran wiring and cables for our internet, AV, fire alarm, and security systems. This volunteer labor saved the church over \$10,000, and perhaps well over \$10,000.

And then there are the people who show up to help make sure work is running smoothly. For instance, on moving day, Pastor Jeff, Beth Armstrong, John Hollowell, Melissa Palleschi, and Bill Palleschi all helped make sure the move-out ran smoothly. You will often find Marilyn Singer working on ways to repurpose things or just sweeping up the work site.

"It takes many volunteers to make worship happen each week, and that's as it should be," Pastor Jeff said. "The word 'liturgy' means 'the work of the people.' But this, this shows how important volunteers are each day of the week."



Volunteers prepare wood for ceiling

MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS SCATTER

Because we don't have a fulltime facility, the Ministry Teams will be meeting on a varied schedule. You are always welcome at Ministry Team meetings. Here are their plans for February:

- The Ministry of Spiritual Life Team didn't have meeting plans in time for the press deadline.
- The Ministry of Christian Education Team will meet on February 2, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Hollowell's home. The Ministry of Property Team will meet on February 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hollowell's home.
- The Ministry of Social Concerns Team will meet on Monday, February 2, 6:00 p.m., at Niles Ice Cream shop for a dinner meeting.
- The Ministry of Evangelism and Outreach Team will meet on Monday, February 2, 7:30 p.m., at the Palleschi's.



Women's Fellowship News



MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Members of Morning Women's Fellowship met at Fremont Congregational Church on January 18. For Bible study, Pastor Jeff asked us to talk about Bible passages that reminded us of Martin Luther King and his work, particularly passages he used in his speeches.

The group voted to buy a microwave oven for the new kitchen. It will be installed as soon as the final inspection is done.

The next meeting is on February 16, 2015 at Fremont Congregational Church at noon.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENT

March 14—Women's Spring Renewal at Woodland Christian Church

MILDRED REYNOLDS LAP ROBE TYING GROUP



The lap robe tying group began 2015 with a meeting on January 28 at the home of Judy Molander. The February meeting will also be at Judy's home, 45531 Cheyenne Place, on February 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We expect to be back at church beginning with our March meeting.

This group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month January – October. All women are invited but let Dorletta know if you plan to attend, as lunch is provided. If you know someone who would like one of the lap robes, contact Dorletta. There is no charge for the lap robe.

EVENING FELLOWSHIP



The Evening Women's Fellowship met January 8, 2015 at the home of Shirley Dunlap. The study was "Answered in God's Timing". We were reminded that what we want to happen doesn't always happen when and how we plan. The scripture was John 11: 1-44, the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

The next meeting of the Evening Women's Fellowship will be February 11, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the home of Judy Molander, 45531 Cheyenne Place. The study will be "Dancing Our Moments With Joy" and is based on Exodus 15:19-21. All women are welcome.

SPARE THE AIR!

Almost all of the days in January have been Spare the Air Days, with a high air pollution index. This has created severe health problems for folks with breathing ailments. Those folks should be checking in with their health providers to make sure that their meds are up to date and can meet the needs of their stressed lungs. They should also cut back on physical activity and stay inside on polluted days.



Contribute to increasing good air quality by:

- ★ Car pooling to work, sharing rides with friends or using public transportation.
- ★ Planning errands so you don't have to make several trips.
- ★ Driving a hybrid or all-electric vehicle.
- ★ Not burning wood, charcoal or pellets on these days. Wood burning is prohibited.

From the Care Team

PLANNING AHEAD

- ➔ The Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum will be installed as our Regional Minister on Saturday, March 21, at 3:00 p.m. at First Christian Church in Sacramento.
- ➔ The 161st Annual Gathering of the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada will be held Friday April 24 to Saturday April 25, 2015, at Arden Christian Church in Sacramento! The theme is "Re:" – as in Re-Storing, Re-making, Re-imagining, Re-surrecting, Re-memering who we are meant to be as Church. Mark your calendars now for this important weekend in the life of our Re-gion (see what we just did there?!). Program Costs (includes Friday night dinner and three meals on Saturday): adults are \$135; youth (Middle and High School) are \$80; and children: \$40 (ages 5-10)
- ➔ The Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held June 11-14, 2015, at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. More information is coming soon.



BROOKDALE LUNCH

Join church people living at Brookdale in Fremont (formerly known as Merrill Gardens and Emeritus) for lunch on the second Tuesday of the month, which this month is February 10, at noon. Either Pastor Brenda or Pastor Jeff will attend. If you would like to participate (whether you live at Brookdale or not), please call Irene Vollbrecht (510-792-4642) to let her know by the Monday morning preceding the lunch. Non-residents of Brookdale in Fremont are welcome, but it costs \$11.



You are invited to join at least one of our Pastors for a no-host lunch on Sunday, February 15, at The Rose Garden, 33348 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City, at about 12:15 p.m. Consider carpooling.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The February special offering will go to SAVE – Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments.



While some people fill ditty bags with personal hygiene items for women who come to the shelter from violent homes—often with only the clothing on their backs, the rest of us are encouraged to give a financial offering to support the

vital work of South Alameda County’s largest domestic violence shelter and intervention service. You can learn more about SAVE at <http://save-dv.org/>. Cloth ditty bags to fill with hygiene items are available after worship. This special offering will be received on February 8.

Thanks to your generosity, the January special offering for Tri-City Volunteers raised \$1045.

You can see the schedule of special offerings at <http://j.mp/1EA735B> or call the church office and Randy will mail you one.

ANGELS CONTINUE TO BLESS NDC IN MANY WAYS

Our wonderful Bell was muscled out of the patio by John Hollowell, Bill Palleschi and Jim Thomas and taken to be sanded and powder-painted to prepare it for its new home at 36600 Niles Blvd. It will be the focal point in our new patio, and ring us in every Sunday morning.

The Construction Team is looking for an Angel – or multiple Angels- to help us find the \$3,000 for painting, transportation and construction of a new mounting for our 275 pound “baby”.

Thank you (so many of you) who have already been Angels – for feeding the organ fund, providing refrigerators and a freezer, an amazing rug for the Sunday School room, a gas stove, a new piano, a kitchen island and feeding the general Angel Fund for all the extras that will make our new home not only beautiful but functional. All we can say is that you are ANGELS!



DONATING CANS & BOTTLES PROVIDE EDUCATION & MEANINGFUL LIFE



The Niles Discovery Church, through YOUR kind donation of used aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles (CA CRV only) has provided a quality education and meaningful life (free from abject poverty, crime and gang violence) for JOSUE ISAAC ORELLANAS, a 6th-grade boy living in rural El Salvador, Central America.

YOU can ensure Josue's continued support by donating your used aluminum cans and/or glass/plastic (CA CRV only) bottles. Bring them to worship service on Sundays (see Rich Gallegos or Judy Zlatnik) or call Rich Gallegos for pick-up at [510-861-4847](tel:510-861-4847). (No special donation requested.)



LOOK OUT THE "REAR WINDOW" WITH JIMMY STEWART February 8

Following the Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday, February 8, you're invited to join a group from the church for lunch and/or a movie at the Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto. The movie is the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock thriller "Rear Window, starring Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly. The movie starts at 3:35 p.m. Some may choose to stay for the double feature, "Saboteur," a 1942 war movie at 5:35. The Movie cost is \$7 for adults; \$5 for Seniors and those under 18; cash only, no debit or credit cards.

The group will carpool from the parking lot across from the Macau Cultural Center, leaving at around 1:00 p.m. for Palo Alto to enjoy lunch together before the movie at a restaurant to be determined. Parking can be difficult, so carpooling is suggested. There are two public parking structures within two blocks of the theatre. One is on Bryant Street, in the first block north of University Avenue; the other is on High Street, in the first block south of University Avenue.

If joining the group for lunch doesn't work for you, you're certainly welcome to join them for the movie.

TIME CAPSULE'S CONTENTS REVEALED



During our final coffee hour at 255 H Street, the church said "thank you" to Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association for sharing their new building with us for nine months. We also opened the time capsule that had been buried 25 years earlier by the Centennial Committee of Niles Congregational Church.

Opening the argon-filled time capsule was accomplished by John Hollowell. Moderator Barbara Swint opened and announced the contents. A centennial mug and children's t-shirt were found inside, as were newspaper clippings (some quite old), old files, and old photo directories.



The contents of the time capsule will go into the church's archives or may be included in a time capsule to be buried at 36600 Niles Blvd sometime in 2015.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

... Scott and Tracie Swint on the birth of Joseph Douglas Swint on Monday, January 19. Barbara and Doug Swint are so happy it's almost painful.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



A Parents Journey; Parenting Our Transgender Children

A panel of four parents will share their stories on Saturday morning, February 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Danville. A film will be shown, and there will be Q and A and refreshments. This is sponsored by San Ramon Valley PFLAG. There is no fee, and registration is not necessary. Please come to learn. Any questions, please contact kathiehixon@comcast.net.



PASTORS' SCHEDULES

Cecilia's and Randy's (slightly modified) work schedules are below. Pastor Brenda and Pastor Jeff are working out of their homes. Please call your pastor if you would like to make an appointment or have him/her come by for a visit.

Church

510-797-0895

Jeff's mobile

510-579-8851

Brenda's mobile

510-828-4107

Pastor Jeff's Sabbath day is Friday and his day off is usually Saturday. Pastor Jeff is on Study leave through February 1.

Pastor Brenda takes Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays off. Pastor Brenda returns from Study Leave on February 5.

Cecilia Le's hours are Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Randy Fewel's hours are Mondays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Please Pray For...

BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

Don Dillion, Sr.;
Lillian Snashall;
Irene Vollbrecht;
Judy Smith;
Michael Wirthlin;
Carl Nordling;
Taylor Johnson;
Kay McFarland;
Edrea Espinoza;
Janet Butcher;
William "Butch" Butcher;
John O'Donnell;
Charlotte O'Donnell;
Jerry Hollands;
Rebecca BoyerTaylor;
Jan Filip;
Diana Roeding;
Diane Kindle;
Ken Young;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;

Sarah Boyer;
Ryan BoyerTaylor;
Fred Anderson;
Julia Parks;
Peg Tait;
Alison Kieft's daughter and son-in-law,
Kimberly and Mike Kolbe;
Karen Engelsen, Wendy Goodfellow's sister;
Ed Espinoza, Isaiah and Aiyanna's grand-father;
Jo Carroll, Suzy Mahusay's sister;
Rod Reyes' niece, **Tatiana;**
Rod Reyes' grandmother;
Bill Palleschi's parents;
Mike Foster's mother, **Jan Richards;**
Carol Easter's mother, **Barbara;**
Nancy Walker's mother and father;
Dorothy Williams' daughter
Belinda Williams.

ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Erica Keesis Segura and her extended family as they grieve the death of Erica's husband, John Segura, on January 6;

Bob Monkman and his family as they grieve the death of Bob's brother, Michael Monkman, on December 21;

Michael Veronin and his family as they grieve the death of Michael's mother on December 20;

the family of the Rev. David Borglum, the Fremont Congregational Church, and the Filipino-American Evangelical UCC, as they grieve the death of David on October 31;

Bob Monkman and his family as they grieve the death of Bob's step-father

John "Jack" Hanadel on October 30;

the family of Teresa Gumbert, as they grieve her death on October 25;

Wendy Goodfellow and her family as they grieve the death of her aunt, Joan Baker;

the family of Mary Alice van Doorn, including Steve Cooper, as they grieve her death on August 3;

the extended family of Otis Highbaugh, as they grieve Otis's death on July 10;

Judi Eaton and her extended family as they grieve the death of her father and member of our church, Rollie Eaton on June 19.

STUDENTS WHOSE STUDIES INCLUDE FOREIGN TRAVEL, including **Samantha Rasler,** that they learn new academic, personal, and spiritual things, and that they return safely when their foreign studies are finished.

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
◀ From Jan 26 Pastor Jeff on Study Leave	6:30p MCE meeting		7:30p Spiritual Direction Group A (Adamsons')	7:30p Choir Rehearsal		1p Interfaith Harmony Day (Veterans Hall in Niles)
◀ From Jan 28 Pastor Brenda on Study Leave						
9a Adult Sunday School	7:30p Ministry Team Meetings					
9:30a Choir Warm-up						
10a Worship & Sunday School						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9a Adult Sunday School	7:30p FMT meeting (Ken Young's)	12p Emeritus lunch	7p Evening Women's Fellowship (Judy Molander's)	7:30p Choir Rehearsal		
9:30a Choir Warm-up		7p Construction Team (Adamsons')				
10a Worship & Sunday School						
11:15a Annual Budget Meeting						
1p Lunch & a Movie (Palo Alto)						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9a Adult Sunday School	12p Daytime Women's Fellowship (Fremont Congregational Church)	5p Bell deadline	7:00p Ash Wednesday Service (Fremont Congregational Church)	7:30p Choir Rehearsal		
9:30a Choir Warm-up	7:15p Cabinet (Hollowells')					
10a Worship & Sunday School						
12:15p Lunch with the Pastor (Rose Garden)						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9a Adult Sunday School		7p Construction Team (Twists')	10a Lap Robe Tying Group (Judy Molander's)	7:30p Choir Rehearsal		
9:30a Choir Warm-up		7:30p Book Group (Irene's)				
10a Worship & Sunday School						
11:30a Family Lunch & Games						
12p Communion Elders mtg						



NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman,
Associate Pastor
PO Box 2265
Fremont CA 94536

Phone: 510-797-0895
nilesdiscoverychurch.org



NILES DISCOVERY
CHURCH



The Bell is First Class

If you received this issue of *The Bell* through the US Mail, then you received it first class. You can help reduce our costs (roughly \$1.50 per issue you receive in the mail) by receiving *The Bell* via email. Simply go to our website www.nilesdiscoverychurch.org, look for the "Our Email Lists" paragraph toward the bottom of the front page, click on the link, and start filling out the forms. You can select what email lists you want to join – for the newsletter, the weekly prayer requests, the weekly announcements, and more. Then, please let Randy Fewel in the church office (510-797-0895; randy@nilesdiscoverychurch.org) know that you don't need *The Bell* via the US Mail any more.

HELP WANTED

- If you can help set up our chairs on Sunday morning (any Sunday morning), please arrive at 109 J St. early. The doors will be opened by 9:00 a.m.