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Words that touch and affect

Cheryl Dumesnil inherited the writing gene from her mother and the storytelling gene from her father. Using both, she wants her poems to touch people. Page 8

Unity Center ready for expansion

Services will be held at Heather Farm while Geary Road church is under construction

By Elisabeth Nardi

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While some churches may be struggling to keep their doors open, the Unity Center of Walnut Creek has been so blessed it is getting ready to expand.

The center, located on Geary Road in Walnut Creek, is undergoing a \$1.5 million major renovation which will reposition the sanctuary, add a second story for offices and classrooms and add a cupola on the sanctuary roof.

Unity's Sunday services will move temporarily to Heather Farm Park starting this week. The center's three services, at 8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m., will be held at Heather Farm's Lakeside Room, located at 301 North San Carlos Drive in Walnut Creek. Children's church for all ages through middle school will be held next door in the Lakeside Room. The renovation is expected to take nine months and be done by April.



CONTRIBUTED

A rendering of what the new Unity Center of Walnut Creek will look like once it is completed next year.

Jan Rudolph, on the church's marketing committee, said the entire interior of the church will be gutted. A new layout will make it easier to host events. The new light-filled glass entryway, as well as the cupola on the top of the church, will be the major changes, she said.

"The cupola will make it look more like a church; right now if you drove by it you would ques-

tion what it is," she said. The cupola will be a symbolic link to the Unity world center of prayer, Silent Unity, which has provided uninterrupted prayer support for all who seek it 24 hours a day for more than 100 years.

The main reason for the renovation is that the church is growing, said Lisa Nichols, a church trustee since 2000. Sunday ser-

Best of Walnut Creek

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

■ "Healthy Planet Wild Times" Science Camp — 1-4:30 p.m. Aug. 3-7. Get on the "Green

RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS

■ Unity Center of Walnut Creek — During renovation of its facilities, the Unity Center's Sunday services will move to Heather Farm Park starting Aug. 2. Services will be held at 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Lakeside Room, 301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. Children's Church for all ages through middle school will be held at 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the club room. Youth of Unity for teens in high school will meet at 11 a.m. 925-937-2191. www.unitycenter.net.

HEALTH

■ Community CPR and First Aid Combo Class — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 15. Receive certification in both community CPR and standard first aid through EMS Health Services, good for two years. Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. \$62 plus \$10 lab fee. Registration, 925-943-5858. www.walnutcreekrec.org.

EVENTS

■ Craft Like an Egyptian — 2:30-4 p.m. Aug. 4. In celebration of the King Tut exhibit at the de Young museum this year people will be crafting like Egyptians. An afternoon of ancient Egyptian inspiration. There will be crafts for all ages, including coloring pages for the very young, jewelry-making for adults, as well as

craft projects for teens and kids. Yarnaco