



May 2012 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

Services in the small chapel at the Congregational Church located at
Bernardo Ave. & Remington Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Family Service 9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Main Service 10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children's Religious Education 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Infant and toddler care is available during the 9:30 and 10 a.m. service



**We are a
Welcoming
Congregation**

May 6th

9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Our Family Service

10:00 Service: "Green Sky, Imploding Glass, Downed Trees and Resurrection from the Chaos!
How UUFS Came Through the Tornado of May 4th 1998."
Presented by UUFS member Margaret Lawson

11:30 a.m. Sunday Supplement: Mindful Communication (see page 3 for more details)

May 13th

9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Our Family Service

10:00 Service: "Mothers, Music and More..."
Come join us for an hour filled with music and musings on this day that celebrates mothers and more.
With UUFS member Linda Krenicky, Rev.Nina Kalmoutis and the UUFS Choir.

May 20th

We will not be having a Family Service on this Sunday. Our children and their teachers will join us at the 10:00 service.

10:00 Service: "What I Learned in Sunday School"
A service celebrating the history of the Religious Education Program at UUFS with presentations by some of our current Sunday School attendees and a performance by our Children's Choir.

This service will be followed by our Semi Annual Congregational Meeting. All are welcome to attend.

May 27th

9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Our Family Service

10:00 Service: "The Dream of the Diaspora"
In the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, the term Diaspora is used for ethnic Hungarians of the Unitarian faith who are living in areas where there is a vast Romanian majority and where, in many cases it is difficult to build autonomous, self-supporting church communities.
Our speaker this morning is the Reverend Zoltán Kopándi-Benczédithe, who is a Diaspora minister living in the once thriving - now remote - Zsil Valley in Romania. Come and learn more about the Unitarians in Transylvania.



Living the Life I Imagined
Reverend Nina Kalmoutis

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of our Fellowship will continue throughout the month of May with services dedicated to different pieces of our history.

I hope you will join us for the services about the history of our Religious Education Program and the service about the tornado that swept through the Chapel where we meet every Sunday and the aftermath of that event.

On May 27th we will be hosting a special guest speaker at our 10:00 service. The Reverend Zoltán Kopándi-Benczédi is the 2011-2012 Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. He ministers to congregations in Lupény-Vulkán, Déva and Vajdahunyad, Transylvania. Reverend Kopándi-Benczédi hopes to return at the end of his scholarship year at Starr King School with new insights into the connection between church life and community development - particularly work done in multicultural environments.

“Zoli”, as he is called, is a delightful young man whose brother was the Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry during the time I was going to school there. His visit to our Fellowship is an opportunity to learn more about Unitarianism in Transylvania, which is just one of the places where the historical roots of Unitarianism run deep.

I hope many of you will also be able to attend our Sunday Supplement on Mindful Communication (see page 3). This will be a two hour event and you are welcome to come and stay for as little or as long as you are able. There will be a break if you would like to bring a bag lunch to snack on. Childcare will be provided for the whole two hours. If you would like to attend the entire Supplement we suggest that you provide a lunch or a snack for your children.



Children’s Religious Education
Patty Petrie
Director of Religious Education

April showers brought us May flowers. There is a joy to spring that you can see in the eyes of the children when they arrive on Sunday morning this time of year. To be able to truly stop and smell the roses is a gift. We had planned to plant flowers in the Fellowship flower boxes last month, but the rain delayed that project. This month we will be adding a little color to the boxes to brighten up the front of the Fellowship. A big thanks to Joshua Levy for planting all the tomato seedlings for the fundraiser for the Religious Education Program.

Next month we will be starting our summer program. As we all know bullying has become a problem across the country in every age group, whether it be private or public school. This summer we will be presenting a program that will address some of the issues around bullying. According to recent studies, aggression involving children and teens has escalated dramatically. Children are becoming involved in aggression at younger ages.

In the US, youth violence is the second leading cause of death for people ages ten and up. Children who are bullied are five times more likely to be depressed. We have the opportunity to help our children learn how to handle conflict, build empathy and manage their anger. We’ll have an opportunity to learn about “anger triggers” and how to take a stand for kindness. These are just some of the issues we will be addressing this summer. I invite you to stop by this summer to let our children know they are not alone in taking a stand against bullying. As a community we must let our children know we support them and will take a stand with them against injustice.

In loving service,
Patty



Board Bulletin

John Kusters
President, Board of Trustees

It's May, that time of year when flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, and UUFS is conducting its Pledge Drive. And just like the Spring does for the plants and the trees around us, the members of UUFS help the Fellowship thrive and grow!

For many of us, pledge drives are anything but exciting. How many different hands are held out each year asking for money? If your life is anything like mine, there are new appeals from various organizations and charities every week. And we only have so much money to give.

But UUFS is special. It is our community, it is our spiritual home.

As you may be aware, for the last several years, our budget has been running a deficit. This is not a long-term sustainable state. The Fellowship has done a remarkable job keeping the deficit as lean as possible, raising a few extra dollars here and saving a bunch more there. Still, we've had to dip into our reserves, something we loathe to do.

However, as you'll see at the May congregational meeting, this year our budget shortfall is remarkably small. Our financial experts predict that income will be up and expenses will hold steady, or in some cases, decrease.

I think we can do better than that. I think that if we all look into the corners of our personal budgets, look under the proverbial sofa cushions, some of us will find that we can afford to be a little more generous this year. I know I intend to try.

If UUFS can get "into the black" this year, many of us will feel better about the long-term future of our Fellowship, and we can start bringing our radical generosity back to the community efforts we've traditionally supported.

The forecast for UUFS is definitely good. But with a little help, it can be great!

SUNDAY SUPPLEMENTS

Upon request, childcare is available for our Sunday Supplements. Please send your request to Patty Petrie at religious.education@uufs.org. Requests need to be submitted one week in advance. Thank You!

May 6th

Mindful Communication

Communication is something we do every day. The challenge in gaining justice, equity, and compassion in our relationships...can be quite challenging when at times, it seems like we are talking at and not with each other. When we come together as a community and realize others are in the same boat, the companionship and support that comes from this gives us the encouragement and insight we long for. Come and gain an understanding of why your communication is not as satisfying as you'd like. Gain some awareness on how to foster more understanding and open the pathways for connection with yourself and with others. Learn how to initiate and maintain dialogues based on honesty and empathy so you can create more peace and harmony at home and at work. This two hour experiential workshop is based on Marshall Rosenberg's life work of Nonviolent Communication.

UUFS Semi Annual Congregational Meeting **Sunday, May 20th at 11:30 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. You will be able to vote if you have been a member of UUFS for at least 30 days and have made a contribution of record (by writing a check for any amount or placing cash in an envelope with your name on it in the collection basket).

At this meeting we will be voting for new members of the Board of Trustees and voting to approve the proposed 2012 - 2013 budget. We will also be voting on an amendment regarding paper ballots for the Nominating Committee presented by Bruce Stowell.

Have You Made Your Pledge Yet?

By now you should have received a packet of information in the mail for this year's pledge drive. If you did not receive a packet please pick one up at the Welcome Table by the door to the Chapel. The packet contains an invitation letter, answers to frequently asked questions about pledging and a two-part return pledge form. Please keep the yellow copy of the form and mail the white copy to Carolyn Cheng using the envelope in the Pledge Packet or put your envelope in the Offering basket on Sunday.

Please submit your pledge no later than May 8th so that it can be reflected in our forecasted income for the next fiscal year. The congregation will vote on the budget at the Congregational meeting after the 10:00 service on May 20, 2012.

If you have already made your pledge for the coming fiscal year, thank you very much. If you have questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to call or email: Dave Flack at uufspledge@gmail.com.

Directory Changes and Additions, Anyone?

If you have any corrections or additions for your entry in the UUFS Directory, please send them to Office Manager Jayme King at office@uufs.org, and a copy to Directory editor Faith Rogers at membership@uufs.org. Please submit by May 15th.

We will assemble a list of changed and added entries for distribution at the Welcome Table after Sunday services. Thanks for your help!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Our Second Sunday Offering May 13th

On Sunday May 13th all offerings with the exception of cash donations in envelopes designated as PLEDGE or UUFS ONLY and checks with the same designations in the memo line will be given in support of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California (UULMCA).

UULMCA, founded in 2001, is a statewide justice ministry that serves to empower the moral voice of Unitarian Universalists in the public arena. UULMCA's current areas of focus are Immigrant Justice, Climate and Water Justice, supporting regional and congregational UU justice efforts, and their Spiritual Activist Leadership Training program (SALT.) SALT is an intensive ten-month leadership development program intended to inspire and excite, as well as equip UU young adults to be vital, genuine, spiritually grounded and skillful justice-making leaders. For more information go to: www.uulmca.org.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Genesis Discussion Group May 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

The Genesis Discussion Group is a small group of members and friends from our Fellowship community that meets on the first Wednesday of every month to discuss a variety of topics using sources such as videos and articles. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dick Wentz genesis.group@uufs.org

Fresh Choice Dinner Wed., May 16th

Come when you can between 6:00pm and 8:00pm and enjoy dinner with members and friends of the congregation. Coupons will be available. UUFS receives 15% of your dinner receipts.

Book Club Meeting Thurs., May 24th

The UUFS Book Club meets monthly and everyone is welcome!

This month's selection:

"The Devil in Silicon Valley" by Stephen J. Pitti
Held at the home of Rosalee Clarke.

The Voluntary Simplicity Movement at UUFS

Owning **things** does not make us happier. Instead, it is the sense of community and belonging that adds meaning. Besides, we may need to use an item only once in its lifetime or once a year or once a month. Rather than making that next purchase, does a friend at UUFS already own what you need and will allow you to borrow it? Join our "**Sharing Circle**".

We are also looking into beginning a time bank and babysitting co-op. These projects use the idea of bartering, but allow time to be accrued so that services can be provided to and received from different individuals. If you are interested in helping or participating in the time bank or babysitting co-op, please contact Julie Widman.

We encourage you to bring your surplus produce harvest to swap with others following Sunday services. We hope to plan other types of swaps, as well.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 21, 7-9 pm. For more information or to become involved in these projects and more ways to live well but simply, contact Teri Wiss.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Presentation by The League of Women Voters

On May 14th at 7:30 pm in the Chapel, a representative from the League of Women Voters will explain the ballot measures and answer questions.

The representative will talk about redistricting, cover the new top two primary system in some detail, and then go into the state propositions: 28 proposes to alter term limits from 6 years in the assembly and 8 in the senate to 12 years total, while 29 proposes to raise the state excise tax on cigarettes by \$1 per pack.

There will probably be time to mention local measures as well -- who runs the jails in Santa Clara County, whether to alter pension plans for San Jose employees, and several school bond measures. This event is open to the public.

UUFS Hike at Hidden Villa, Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.

Let's join together for some physical exercise, while enjoying the great out-of-doors at Hidden Villa, an organic farm, located off Moody Road in Los Altos Hills. The children will love the animals and all the short hikes offered! For those with more stamina, there's a nice 4.5 mile loop, or one can hike all the way to the top of Black Mountain, an ambitious 10 mile hike. (Check out all the trail options at

www.hiddenvilla.org/documents/programs/development/trail_map.pdf)

We will meet at the UUFS parking lot at 8:50, so that we can arrange carpooling, depending upon which hike participants want to do. We will leave the parking lot at 9 a.m. for the 10-15 minute drive to Hidden Villa. Bring a jacket, water bottle, and snack. If you plan to hike to Black Mountain, bring a lunch as well. Driving maps and hiking maps will be provided. Please sign up with Carol MacFarlane at activities@uufs.org so that she knows to expect you.

UUFS Service Auction Sunday, June 10th

Mark your calendars! The silent service auction will take place after the Sunday service and then will move to Serra Park and continue during our Fellowship picnic. The fun starts now as we plan our offerings and continues all through the year as we get together for the services donated and purchased. Now is the time to start thinking about what you would like to contribute to the auction. Be creative! Be generous! Have fun!

How about contributing a weekend at your vacation home, pet sitting while someone goes on vacation or a magnificent dessert? Can you offer a fix-it job or create a children's birthday party? Also talk to some friends or a group you belong to and plan the most splendid offering imaginable. Don't just plan a dinner party, plan an event and have fun in the process! Thank you. We appreciate all your donations.

Donation forms will be available during the services on May 13, 20, and 27. Or you may submit your donations via e-mail to activities@uufs.org. The deadline for donations is Sunday, May 27th

-Carol MacFarlane and Kris Mordan
Co-coordinators

Beyond UUFS

"Bridging the God Gap" - A Workshop with the Rev. Dr. Chris Schriener

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos has invited our congregation along with the UU Santa Cruz Fellowship and the UU Palo Alto and San Jose churches, to join them for a workshop by Rev. Chris Schriener entitled "Bridging the God Gap," on Saturday morning May 5th to be held at the Fellowship in Los Gatos.

The workshop will be followed by a lunch hosted by the Los Gatos Fellowship. A description of the workshop follows. Please RSVP to uufs@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in attending.

Saturday, May 5th 9 am - noon
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

Did you know that atheists are the minority group most Americans are least willing to allow their children to marry? According to a recent study, they are "seen as a threat to the American way of life." Even within Unitarian Universalism, theists and atheists often find it awkward to communicate about theological matters. But Rev. Chris Schriener is convinced that believers and non-believers have a lot more in common than they think.

On May 5 Chris will present a workshop at our Los Gatos congregation based upon his book, [Bridging the God Gap: Finding Common Ground Among Believers, Atheists, and Agnostics](#) (available on [Amazon.com](#)). Dr. Schriener is Minister Emeritus of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont, California and is a regular preacher at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG.)

The suggested donation for this program is \$10, but all are welcome regardless of ability to donate. A lunch hosted by UUFLG will follow the presentation for all participants.

General Assembly 2012

General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona:
June 20-24, 2012. Registration and Housing Reservations are open NOW!

General Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

We will partner with communities in Arizona to bring attention to the injustices and human rights abuses they face. Our service will allow all participants to witness in ways that reflect our commitment to justice, equity and compassion for all. We will also do hands-on work with our community partners. Projects will take place in a variety of settings, and include multigenerational teams and accessible venues. Whether you choose to witness for one hour, make signs for people to carry, or spend a day at a project, there will be opportunities for everyone.

We will learn how to build stronger relationships, community partnerships, and movements for justice. We will go in-depth on important justice issues such as colonization, border issues and advocacy. We encourage teams to attend General Assembly in order to share experiences and learn how to continue this work at home.

In addition to our two co-headquarters hotels, we have residence housing available at Arizona State University and home hospitality offered by local Unitarian Universalists. Don't miss out on financial aid! Funds are available to help get you to GA, but you must act by March 31. Accessibility services and childcare also are available. New this year: a Justice Day Camp for 10 to 14-year-olds.

For more information please contact Reverend Nina Kalmoutis (408) 739 - 0549 or minister@uufs.org or go to www.UUA.org where you can register to go to GA. If you would you like to be a delegate to GA in Phoenix but you cannot go in person you can participate in the business of GA in Phoenix by serving as an offsite delegate.

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			<p style="text-align: center;">Genesis Discussion Group 7:30 p.m. genesis.group@uufs.org</p>	<p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chapel</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Chapel</p> <p>Covenant Group covenant.groups@uufs.org</p>		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>9:30 a.m. Family Service</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Sunday Supplement: Mindful Communication</p>	<p>RE Committee 7:15 p.m. religious.education@uufs.org</p>	<p>Membership Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. membership@uufs.org</p> <p>Men's Group mens.group@uufs.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board of Trustees Meeting 7 p.m. (Open to all)</p>	<p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chapel meditation.@uufs.org</p> <p>Women's Group womens.group@uufs.org</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Chapel music@uufs.org</p>	<p>Social Justice Committee Meeting 10 a.m. social.justice@uufs.org</p>	<p>Circle Lunches & Circle Suppers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Ursula Gobets circle@uufs.org</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>9:30 a.m. Family Service</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>	<p>League of Women Voters Presentation 7:30 p.m. Chapel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June newsletter items due newsletter@uufs.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dinner at Fresh Choice 6:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chapel</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.</p> <p>Covenant Group</p>		<p>UUFS Hike at Hidden Villa 9 a.m.</p>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>9:30 a.m. Family Service</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Semi Annual Business Meeting</p>		<p>Men's Group mens.group@uufs.org</p>		<p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chapel</p> <p>Book Club Mtg 10 a.m.</p> <p>Women's Group womens.group@uufs.org</p> <p>UUFS Choir 7 p.m. Chapel</p>		
27	28	29	30	31		
<p>9:30 a.m. Family Service</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>				<p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chapel</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Chapel</p>		

UUPS Staff Office Hours and Absences

Office Phone/Voice Mail is (408) 739-0549
The office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.
Email: office@uufs.org

Rev. Nina Kalmoutis
Email: minister@uufs.org
Voicemail: (408) 739-0549
Meetings by appointment

Office Manager: Jayme King, office@uufs.org
Office Hours: Tuesday 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.,
Thursday 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. & Friday 9 a.m. - noon

Patty Petrie, Director of Religious Education
Email: religous.education@uufs.org
(650) 254-2069
Here every Sunday. Meetings by appointment

Communications –
Do you: want to send e-mail to UUPS?
need to report a change of address,
telephone number, etc?
have an event you want posted on the web?
Go to www.uufs.org and click on "Communications" link.

Newsletter Production Team		
<i>Newsletter Circulation & Article Submission</i>	<i>Jayme King, Office Manager</i> newsletter@uufs.org	<i>Deadline for June Newsletter May 15, 2012</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Kris Mordan</i> newsletter.editor@uufs.org	



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