



December 2013

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale



**We are a
Welcoming
Congregation**

During the month of December, in place of our Family Service that usually begins at 9:30 a.m., all of us of every age, will gather in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy some time together before the children and youth go off to their classes and other activities.

Infant and toddler care will be available beginning at 9:45 a.m. on these Sundays.

December 1st

Celebration Sunday

This Sunday we will celebrate the holiday season as we kick off our annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table" fundraiser. Music, lights, stories of giving, and some sharing during the service will bring joy to your hearts today. With Marge Goka and Teri Wiss

December 8th

The Holidays Are Here!

Yes the holidays are here, and with the holiday season come many and many questions - how to deal with stress, how to search for the meaning, dealing with the invitations to buy...go...do... attend...? With Karen Cornwell and Reverend Nina

December 15th

Exploring What It Means to Be Alive

How many of us find ourselves walking a path in life somewhere between the margins of joy and sorrow, grief and gratitude, meaning and meaninglessness? This Sunday we pause to remind ourselves that we need not be solitary seekers on this path. Featuring special music by our own "I Hope Band." With Reverend Nina

December 20th 7:00 p.m.

Our Winter Solstice Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the Winter Solstice! Wassail and good company will be available at this family-friendly event starting at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. (More information inside newsletter.)

December 22nd

A Service for All Ages

This Sunday we will all come together to decorate the Christmas tree in our Chapel and join in our annual Christmas Carol Sing - A - Long hosted by Virginia Shea and Andrew Mendelsohn. Please bring an ornament to hang on the tree and 'munchies' to share if you are able to. As part of the service we will join in some holiday cheer as we gather to have a group photo taken. After the service, those who want to can join our choir to go caroling 'out in the world.'

December 24th 7:00 p.m.

A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Tonight families and friends come together in the warmth of community as we share stories and songs of the season in the Chapel.

December 29th

Letting Go and Beginning Again

A service to sing out the old year and bring in the new one. Join us for a special time together this morning as we explore what it means to forgive - ourselves and others. Reverend Nina



**Sharing During the Holidays:
Guest at Your Table fundraiser
for UUSC**

Despite the busyness of the holidays, slow down for a moment and remember to live your values. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC, www.uusc.org) can help you do that, since its mission is guided by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as Unitarian Universalist principles, which affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

On December 1st, we will kick off this year's "Guest at Your Table" campaign. "Guest at Your Table" is an annual tradition in which UUSC features people who have empowered others to realize their human rights. These people are your "guests". If you have more than you need, we ask you to share and support UUSC's mission.

Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that promote workers' rights, advance the human right to water, defend civil liberties, and preserve the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises. The funds raised through this program support human-rights work in the United States and around the world. All contributions, of any amount (up to \$5000), by members and friends of UUFS will be matched by the Gary W. Hartz Memorial Grant, funded by Development is CHILD'S PLAY!, doubling the impact of your gift.

UUFS has been recognized by UUSC with a Beacon of Justice Banner Society award, because of the number of people (percentage) in our congregation who are members. Membership is included with a contribution of \$40 or more (\$20 for students and seniors). If you are able, contributions of \$100 or more are eligible for a match by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York, (but I found out that my grant is not matched) so it **triples** the effect of your donation. Not a bad impact for your dollar!

You can bring your donation on a Sunday morning between now and the end of the year, and give it to one of us or a member of the Social

Justice Committee, but please **don't** place it in the collection basket. This year, you can also make your donation online at <https://guest.uusc.org/gary-w-hartz-memorial-matching-grant>

Namaste, Marge Goka and Teri Wiss



**December 8th
Our Second Sunday Community
Offering**

On December 8th 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 Inmate and Family Support Services. This agency provides services to inmates of the Santa Clara County jail to help them maintain ties to family and community. Such connections are essential if discharged inmates are to have a chance of avoiding return to jail or prison. The agency also has an extensive youth program aimed at breaking the cycle of offender's children engaging in the same kind of activity that lead to the parent's incarceration.

Last month, we collected \$425 in support of EHC Lifebuilders. Thank you for your generous support.



**UUndies Sunday's
December 8th and 15th**

On these two Sunday's we will be doing our annual collection of underwear for the clients of the EHC Lifebuilder's winter shelter at the armory building. Please bring new underwear still in its original packaging to church with you and place it in the basket in the rear of the chapel. Socks for men and women are needed as are shorts and undershirts for men and panties for women. (A variety of sizes for men, predominantly sizes medium and large for the women.) We'll take some of the underwear to the 15 men at the rotating shelter housed by our landlord church, CCC in December and the rest we'll take with us to the homeless shelter at the armory when we serve dinner there on Dec. 18th.



Holiday Cards and Toy Drive

The Religious Education Program would like to thank everyone for being a part of our Holiday Card Fundraiser. The art work for the cards came

from their summer program, 'A Summer of Peace'. We looked at different forms of peace and how we can be at peace with ourselves and with others. The children were very happy to see how much their art work was appreciated.

The other Holiday event we will be having is our annual Toy Drive. This year the last day to get toys in to me is December 15th. We will be giving the toys to the Sleep Train, who work year round with Foster Children here in Santa Clara County. If you have any questions as to what to donate, I have a list of suggested items.

In Service,
Patty Petrie, Director of Religious Education



Winter Homeless Shelter At The Armory Building

As we have for the past 15 winters (!) UUFS will again provide dinner one day each month for the clients of EHC Lifebuilder's cold weather shelter in the armory building at 620 East Maude in Sunnyvale.

On the third Tuesday's of December through March we'll bring dinner and stay to serve it and to socialize with the shelter clients. (Children must be at least 14 to participate.) After services on the two Sunday's prior to the dates we'll serve we ask for volunteers to sign up to bring main dishes or cookies for dessert. The rest of the meal is provided by the Social Justice Committee.

People who like to cook are encouraged to bring main dishes in multiples of 12 servings. Prepared food that is also welcome includes frozen 6 pound lasagnas, and the roast chickens and meatloaves available at market deli sections, again in multiples of 12 servings. All food must

be brought fully cooked because the armory kitchen is small and not well equipped.

Our visits to the shelter are perfect occasions for donating gently used warm clothing such as sweaters, jackets, coats, scarves and gloves. Bath towels are needed as are smaller towels useful in the kitchen. Backpacks are a boon to a homeless person so please donate any of those you don't use any longer. Also consider wrist watches that work but you know you'll never wear again. And do harvest your orange tree and donate bags of fruit. Bring these with you when you go to the armory or give them to the people who are going.

If you have questions, please contact Sarah Wasserman at (408) 245-1362 or at Sarah-here@att.net



Our Winter Solstice Celebration Friday, December 20th at 7 p.m.

The cycle has turned again, and the days have been getting shorter and shorter.

As the time draws near for the longest night, let us come together, to celebrate the year that was and to usher in the year that will be. Let us lift up our spirits as we gather to listen to tales of old, to sing songs that gladden our hearts, and to shine the fires burning within us on the world around us.

Together, we will keep the fires of the sun alive through the night, until the morning brings it back to us.

Join us as we celebrate the Winter Solstice. Wassail and good company will be available starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, with the celebration starting soon afterwards.

This will be a family-friendly event, children are welcome to join us for the evening, and they are encouraged to participate as much as they are willing and able to do so. If you have questions about this event please contact Michael Thomas, whose contact information is in the directory.

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>No Family Service this morning</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Religious Education Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Via phone conference. Contact Patty Petrie for more information.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Genesis Discussion Group 7:30 p.m. genesis.group@uufs.org</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m. meditation@uufs.org</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.</p> <p>Covenant Group 7:15 p.m. covenant.groups@uufs.org</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Spiritual Support Group 10 a.m. (Contact Janna Mitchell for more information)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>No Family Service this morning</p> <p>10 a.m. Service Including our Annual Christmas Carol Sing - A – Long</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Weaving the Stories of Our Life's Journey 7:30 p.m. Chapel Carol MacFarlane</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Weaving the Stories of Our Life's Journey 10 a.m. Home of Amy Mori Carol MacFarlane</p> <p>Men's Group 7 p.m. mens.group@uufs.org</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 p.m. board.president@uufs.org</p> <p>Bookkeeper in the office</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m.</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. music@uufs.org</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Social Justice Committee Meeting 10 a.m. social.justice@uufs.org</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Circle Suppers contact Ursula Gobets for information circle@uufs.org</p>
<p>15</p> <p>No Family Service this morning</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Family-Friendly Dinner (Location TBA)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Meditation 8:30-9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Covenant Group 7:15 p.m.</p> <p>UUFS Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Winter Solstice Celebration 7 p.m. Chapel</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>No Family Service this morning</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m. Chapel</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>No Family Service this morning</p> <p>10 a.m. Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				