



**December 2015**  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale**  
**Sunday Services and Calendar of Events**



All of our children join us in the sanctuary at the beginning of the 9:30 a.m. service and then go from there with their teachers to their activities in the classrooms or to be with our childcare providers.

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.**

**We Kindle This Flame**

How our Unitarian Universalists heritage calls us to be present in today's world.

**December 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.**

**Chanukah - An Uprising Against Imperialist Power  
Or a Miracle of Light?**

You have probably heard the story about Chanukah - God intervened and saved the Jews by ensuring that there would be 8 days of light even though there was only enough oil for one night. Come hear Cat J. Zavis, Executive Director of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, share another Chanukah story, one grounded in resistance to empire. You will walk away pleasantly surprised and inspired to continue (or begin) your social justice work. In this talk, Cat will also share why it is incumbent upon us to stop being realistic and start advocating for the world we actually want, not the one the media and politicians tell us we can have.

Our speaker this morning will be Cat J. Zavis, the Executive Director of the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP) and a collaborative divorce attorney, mediator and trainer in conflict resolution and empathic communication, whose spiritual practices are grounded in the prophetic voices of Judaism. Cat sees the Torah as a radical liberatory theology that provides spiritual meaning and practices as well as guidelines for how to live an ethical life. These values infuse her efforts with the NSP to build a movement of love and justice - one that actually embodies these values not only in the goals and outcomes it strives to achieve but also in the movement itself. Cat adds a powerful voice to discussions of how to integrate spiritual values and principles into our work as activists and in the political arena, why being visionary and idealistic is called for at this time, and how integrating spiritual values can bridge political divides and address systemic problems.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.**

**An Intergenerational Service Celebrating the Spirit of Christmas**

Come Join Us for Caroling, Comfort and Joy!

**December 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.**

**What a Liberal Religion Has To Offer Us**

“Why should any of us be confined within a single area of religious culture? When I read Amos and Jeremiah, I say ‘Would to God I were a Jew.’ When I read the Parable of the Good Samaritan, I say ‘Would I were a Galilean.’ When I read the 13th (verse) of 1st Corinthians, I wish with all my heart that I might be a Christian after the manner of the Apostle Paul. When I think of Buddha and his Eightfold Path, I say, ‘I, too, would be a Buddhist.’ And when I remember the trial of Socrates, I say in awe but with exalted spirit, ‘Oh that I might be so brave a humanist.’ And thus at the end, there is nothing I can say but that, like (Unitarian ministers Ralph Waldo Emerson and William Ellery Channing) I want to live with the privilege of the illimitable mind.” Unitarian minister the Reverend A. Powell Davies (June 5, 1902 - September 26, 1957)

We will have a new member Ingathering as part of our service. If you have been thinking of becoming a member of our Fellowship please contact Rev. Nina to find out more [minister@uufs.org](mailto:minister@uufs.org)



**UUFS Enthusiastically Participates in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), Annual Fundraiser, Guest at Your Table (GAYT)**

we are off to a great start as we support human rights and live our values by supporting [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) (UUSC) in the Guest at Your Table (GAYT) annual fundraiser. Over the decades, [Guest at Your Table](#) has raised millions of dollars for human rights projects that have made a real difference in people's lives. The program introduces us to grassroots leaders around the world who are advancing human rights. This year, Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people. As we gather together to take part in Guest at Your Table, we are asked to figuratively invite these leaders into our community – to our table – through sharing their stories, stories such as those included in these [Stories of Hope](#). On November 15th, we learned more about this year's most pressing human rights issues and UUSC's unique approach to solving them: the innovative practices that protect and empower the most vulnerable populations in the world. Children received GAYT boxes which can be used to collect loose change and bills. The boxes are to be returned on December 20th. The box is a good way to involve your children and also serves as an important physical reminder of the work UUSC and our partners are doing to defend human rights around the world. Our goal is to support UUSC to continue this vital work. Learn more about UUSC at <http://www.uusc.org/>.

As we enter the holiday season, you may be spending time with family and friends. If you need help with talking points to explain concerns about the refugee crisis or how to respond to every day bigotry, UUSC has developed some tips to help you. See their ideas at <http://www.uusc.org/talking-about-refugees>.

***From now through December 20th, make your donation to UUSC in one of the following ways:***

- Put checks made out to UU Service Committee (UUSC) in the collection basket on Sundays
- Mail your check for UUSC to the UUFS office (UUFS, P.O. Box 2398, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-0398)

- Donate on-line at [www.uusc.org/givetoguest](http://www.uusc.org/givetoguest), make sure to put in "Sunnyvale" for the congregation, so we will know of your donation!

UUFS donations go even further towards helping UUSC's important work through multiple matching funds!

- The Gary W. Hartz Memorial Grant (funded by Development is CHILD'S PLAY!) will match contributions from this Fellowship up to \$5000.
- Donations of \$125 or more are eligible for an additional match by the Shelter Rock Church in NY.
- Your employer may offer matching donations to charity. UUSC is an independent humanitarian organization and gets no funding from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Therefore, even if your employer has restrictions on the type of organizations that qualify, UUSC may meet their criteria. Several members of our Fellowship have already found that their high-tech employers will do this type of matching donation!

Namaste,  
Teri Wiss, [uusc@uufs.org](mailto:uusc@uufs.org)  
<http://www.uufs.org/social-justice/>

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**UUFS Book Club**

The new UUFS Book Group will meet for the first time on December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already done so, please reply to [life.enrichment@uufs.org](mailto:life.enrichment@uufs.org) to confirm that you plan to attend. Thank you.

For those who may not yet know, David Korten's *Change the Story Change the Future*, a short 142 pages, is the focus of our first book discussion. There's still time to read it, and if you haven't already, you still have time to purchase the book at the UUFS Website <http://www.uufs.org/recommended-reading/>

The "Questions for Reflection" on page 143-145 will give us a jumping off point for our discussion.

At our first meeting, we will also talk about the process of choosing the next book to read. One option is to consider suggestions from the group.

If you have a book that you'd like the group to read, please come prepared to tell us about it.

We also have the option of making our book choice very easy by reading what the new online \*Justice and Spirit: The Unitarian Universalist Book Club\* is reading each month. Here's a link to the online club, followed by the description from the UU listserv:

<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/173731-justice-and-spirit-unitarian-universalist-book-club>

Skinner House Books and Beacon Press announce \*Justice and Spirit: The Unitarian Universalist Book Club\* on Goodreads. All those interested in spirituality, religion, and social justice, whether Unitarian Universalist or not, can discuss books that seek to answer one (or all) of the following:

How do we, as individuals and communities, search for truth and meaning, strive for justice and action, navigate our spiritual journeys, and live out our values?

The book club will host a discussion about a new book every month with thoughtful questions, additional resources, and other treats to come! The first book being discussed is the 2015-2016 UUA Common Read, \*Just Mercy,\* by Bryan Stevenson (which you can find on the UUFS website: <http://www.uufs.org/recommended-reading/>)

We will discuss the Kortzen book on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, and decide together what might be our best approach to choosing the monthly book to read.



## Time for Annual Toy Drive

Each year, we support the Foster Children of Santa Clara County by contributing to Sleep Train's annual toy drive. Please bring a new unwrapped toy for a boy or girl, age's infant to 18 years of age. There are thousands of foster children in our county who need school supplies, shoes, pajamas and much more. The gifts you bring will be delivered after the service on December 20th.

Here are some suggestions to help out:

- Legos
- Sports Equipment
- Jewelry Making Kits
- Books
- Sweat Shirts
- Trucks/Cars (Match Box)
- Dolls
- Dress Up Items
- Gift Cards (work well for older youth) from Target, Best Buy, Starbucks . . .

If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Patty Petrie at [religious.education@uufs.org](mailto:religious.education@uufs.org)

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# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>R.E. Committee Meeting</b> 7 p.m. Patty Petrie <a href="mailto:religious.education@uufs.org">religious.education@uufs.org</a>	2 <b>Genesis Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m. <a href="mailto:genesis.group@uufs.org">genesis.group@uufs.org</a>	3 <b>Meditation</b> 8:30-9:30 a.m.  <b>Covenant Group</b> 7:15 p.m. <a href="mailto:covenant.groups@uufs.org">covenant.groups@uufs.org</a>  <b>UUFS Choir</b> 7 p.m.	4	5
6 <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>  10:45 a.m. <b>Welcome Circle</b> Rm 7  10:45 a.m. <b>UUFS Book Club</b> Rm 9	7 <b>Insight Meditation</b> 7 p.m. Beautiful Space <a href="mailto:insight.meditation@uufs.org">insight.meditation@uufs.org</a>	8 <b>Board of Trustees Mtg.</b> 7 p.m. Chapel <a href="mailto:board.president@uufs.org">board.president@uufs.org</a>  <b>Men's Group</b> 7 p.m. <a href="mailto:mens.group@uufs.org">mens.group@uufs.org</a>	9 <b>Bookkeeper in the office</b>	10 <b>Meditation</b> 8:30-9:30 a.m. <a href="mailto:meditation@uufs.org">meditation@uufs.org</a>  <b>UUFS Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m.	11	12 <b>Spiritual Support Group</b> 10 a.m. (Contact Janna Mitchell) <b>Circle Suppers</b> contact Ursula Gobets <a href="mailto:circle@uufs.org">circle@uufs.org</a>
13 <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>  11 a.m. <b>Social Justice Committee Meeting</b> Room 9	14 <b>Insight Meditation</b> 7 p.m. Beautiful Space	15 <b>Connections Team Meeting (aka Membership)</b> 7:15 p.m. Chapel <a href="mailto:connections@uufs.org">connections@uufs.org</a> *January calendar of events entries due <a href="mailto:office@uufs.org">office@uufs.org</a>	16 <b>Family-Friendly Dinner</b> <b>Aqui Cal-Mex</b> 10630 S. De Anza Blvd Cupertino 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (come when you can) contact Sarah Wasserman	17 <b>Meditation</b> 8:30-9:30 a.m.  <b>UUFS Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m. <a href="mailto:music@uufs.org">music@uufs.org</a>	18	19
20 <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>	22 <b>Women's Group</b> 10:30 a.m. <a href="mailto:womens.group@uufs.org">womens.group@uufs.org</a>  <b>Insight Meditation</b> 7 p.m. Beautiful Space	23 <b>Men's Group</b> 7 p.m. <a href="mailto:mens.group@uufs.org">mens.group@uufs.org</a>  <b>Bookkeeper in the office</b>	24	25	26	27
28 <b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>	29 <b>Insight Meditation</b> 7 p.m. Beautiful Space	30	31		<b>UUFS Office Hours</b> Wednesdays & Thursdays 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fridays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	