



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

June 2023

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service>. All of our children join us in the sanctuary on the last Sunday of each month and then go from there with their teachers to their classrooms.

## ***Sunday Services***

### **Social Determinants of Health**

June 4 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Samuel Knapp

Social justice includes, among other things, equal access to the conditions conducive to good health. However, the quality of health within the United States is declining. Join us this Sunday when Samuel Knapp will look at the reasons for this decline and link them to societal determinants leading to poor health.

### **TBA**

June 11 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Joshua Levy

### **Love Has Everything to Do with It**

June 18 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Karen Enz

Karen will share both her personal thoughts about her struggles and triumphs in her journey as a gay person as well as her reflections on the present backlash against LGBTQ+ people emanating from conservative circles. As UUs, how shall we respond to this backlash?

### **Aligning Artificial Intelligence with our UU Principles**

June 25 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Karin Golde

The recent developments in Generative Artificial Intelligence have been astounding in their capacity to mimic human creativity, with ChatGPT in particular becoming an overnight sensation. Many people have expressed concerns about the dangers of these systems, including the spread of misinformation, the exacerbation of social inequities, and threats to democratic institutions. Less well-known is the increasing exploitation of the millions of low-paid workers responsible for the data used to train AI models. As someone who has worked on AI products for over twenty years, Karin will discuss how all of these are real causes for concern, and challenge us as UUs to advocate for the alignment of AI development with our principles.

### ***Letter from Kevin Bury, President, UUFS Board of Trustees***

#### **A Year of Transition**

This is a year of transition. Nina has been our minister for 14 years. She has helped the Congregation adapt through some very difficult times. We will miss her very much, but we are also excited for her as she embarks on the next chapter of her life. The congregation is also embarking on a new chapter!

UUA has a Minister Search Portal that is like a job board. Congregations with an open Minister position create a profile describing the available position and the congregation. We published our UUFS Profile on the Search Portal in April. So far, we have had one applicant. This is not a surprise. There are a lot of open Ministry positions available, and we knew the process might take time.

Knowing that we would be without a Minister for most of the summer if not longer, the Board and others in the Congregation began in March to put together plans to be a lay-led ministry. Surveys and focus groups were conducted to gather input from the Congregation, and teams are being formed. I am incredibly impressed by the number of people who have stepped up to volunteer!

Teams we will be relying on include our new *Sunday Services Coordinator Team*, *Worship Associates*, and *Tech Team*, the folks who produce our hybrid services. If you are interested in taking part in any of these important ministries, please contact [service.coordinator@uufs.org](mailto:service.coordinator@uufs.org). No experience is necessary, and training will be provided.

### ***Letter from Colleen Hamilton, Director of Religious Education***

#### **RE Summer Program 2023**

What will summer bring for UUFS children and youth? In the Sunday morning program, we will wrap up this year's exploration of the Unitarian Universalist principles and practices while marking diverse community occasions and the rhythms of nature. Lead teacher Leah Simmons and I have planned both *Pride Month* and *Summer Solstice* activities in June. Participants will also continue to celebrate caregiver-child relationships with reference to the animal kingdom. The UU principle that emphasizes "acceptance of one another" will

guide us, and there'll be plenty of outdoor fun along the way!

While school's out, youth are especially encouraged to get the book and take part in our *Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle*. See our **Activities** section below for more information.

We are looking forward to a greater range of content for different age groups by the fall. Watch this space for news of exciting new programs in the works!

I am excited to lead the Religious Education program for children and youth at UUFS as we enjoy the summer together and prepare for new developments in the 2023-24 church year.

### ***Activities***

#### **Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night**

Saturday, June 3 @ 5:00 – 7:00 p.m

Board-game enthusiasts from both the Sunnyvale and Los Gatos UU Fellowships will meet this month at UUFS in Sunnyvale.

There will be a variety of teen and adult table games on hand—or bring one of your own. There will also be a staff-supervised table featuring games for younger children. Parents can play (this is not a drop-off event) knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Feel free to share in potluck snacks while you play!

#### **Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting**

Thursday, June 22 @ 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>

At our meeting this month, RE Director Colleen Hamilton will provide an overview of a program called *Active Hope* that we may decide to offer at UUFS. The program focuses on how to strengthen our capacity to face the climate crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power.

Note that this month our meeting is a week later than our usual scheduled meeting on the third Thursday. We hope you will join us! Contact Lisa Lethin with any questions at [social.justice@uufs.org](mailto:social.justice@uufs.org).

### **Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle**

Saturday, June 17 @ 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Online via Zoom

Youth and adults are invited to join us in an online discussion of the book *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy (a [young reader's edition](#) is also available). *Nature's Best Hope* provides a grassroots approach to conservation, showing how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into "conservation corridors" for wildlife habitats.

This month, our discussion will take us through page 88, so for those new to our group, it will be easy for you to catch up and join in. Contact Colleen Hamilton at [redirector@uufs.org](mailto:redirector@uufs.org) with questions or for Zoom details.

### **The Book Group**

Thursday, June 22 @ 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Our June book is *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, a mystery by Alan Bradley. We've been meeting in member's homes with the option to Zoom in. Contact Lisa Lethin at [book.group@uufs.org](mailto:book.group@uufs.org) if you would like to join us or if you'd like to be added to our Book Group's new Google Group.

We enjoy lively discussions and each other's company. More information is available on the [Recommended Reading](#) page of our website.

## **Events**

### **Annual Campout**

Friday, July 28 – Sunday, July 30

At [Portola Redwoods State Park](#)

We've reserved four campsites for two nights. Each campsite can hold two vehicles and eight people so there is plenty of room for everyone who would like to come. You can join us for one night or two, or just to hike in the redwood forest and enjoy the campfire without spending the night. Children of all ages are welcome!

Contact Alan Herrmann at [music@uufs.org](mailto:music@uufs.org) if you'd like to join us.

## **Contact Us**

You can reach our office manager, Ellen Juco, at [office@uufs.org](mailto:office@uufs.org) or by calling our office at (408) 739-0549. Ellen is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. (On site Tuesdays and Sundays, and from home on Thursdays.)

Please direct questions about this newsletter to our Communications Team at [communications@uufs.org](mailto:communications@uufs.org).

*Note:* Masks are encouraged at all times for our in-person services. ([K]N95/KF94 masks recommended.) See our [News](#) page at [uufs.org/news](http://uufs.org/news) for detailed information on our Covid-19 decision making and policies.

## **Monthly Calendar**

[uufs.org/calendar/](http://uufs.org/calendar/)





## ***UUFS Group Photo***



With Reverend Nina on May 7, 2023. Photo by Anouchka Gaillard.

## **UU Suncatcher**



Presented to Reverend Nina by the children in our Religious Education Program.