



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

August 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

The Opposite of Poverty

August 6 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Alan Herrmann

UUFS member Alan Herrmann will talk about poverty. What is poverty, what are the causes, and how does it impact our community? As Tevye the milkman says in "Fiddler on the Roof", "It's no shame to be poor, but it's no great honor either."

In RE this Sunday, let's rock n roll! Well, roll anyway. We'll be repurposing materials for outdoor fun again this week. Participants will have the opportunity to design, build, and test tracks for a variety of spheres. How far will they go?

Fighting the Usual: Behavior Change for the Environment

August 13 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Ursula Syrova

Making environmental choices to reduce waste can mean an uphill battle against a whole system of product delivery. When winning hearts and minds has done what it can, local ordinances can both challenge the norms and even the playing field. Ursula Syrova will talk about trying to reduce single-use plastic foodware.

TBD

August 20 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

TBD

August 27 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

Letter from Debbie Timmers, President, UUFS Board of Trustees

We are excited to share that our Board of Trustees has voted to develop a contract offer for the part-time job of Contract Minister to soon-to-be Reverend John Bloom-Ramirez. We have initiated a Ministerial Agreement Task Force to prepare a draft contract for him in preparation for negotiations. Members of the Task Force are: Karen Enz, Susan Englert, Alan Herrmann, Dick Wentz, and Mary Ellen Bercik. Our goal is to have an initial contract ready for him by late August, 2023. We will then wait to hear from John as to whether he will accept our offer.

We still have much to accomplish even as these things are taking place. And even if he does accept our offer, we will still have ongoing responsibilities during those times when he is not with us. Our duties to our Fellowship fall most especially in two areas:

- Caring and Support Network (contact caring@uufs.org)

- Worship Associates Team (aka Service Coordinator Team) (contact service.coordinator@uufs.org)

Please consider lending your support towards these important endeavors as you can.

Children's Religious Education: August Update from Colleen Hamilton

School calendars notwithstanding, it's still summer at UUFS! Participants in the Sunday morning children's program can look forward to plenty of outdoor time throughout August. Ms. Leah and I are making a special effort to respond to kids' requests this season. Among other things, they said they want to cook and immerse themselves in culturally relevant customs. At the activity table in the back playground, they'll repurpose materials to design and build tracks for a variety of spheres to roll along, prepare and enjoy their own special snack, and experience a little Brazilian culture.

As our principles say, Unitarian Universalists promote a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We'll look forward to hearing how this season of self-determination has been significant to UUFS children.

We're also looking forward to the popular monthly game night on Saturday, August 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 with the Los Gatos Fellowship. UUFS will host this month in Sunnyvale. More information below in the Activities section.

And speaking of respite and recreation, I urge parents to watch this space for a night-out opportunity soon. Drop off children aged 4-10 for pizza and a movie under the watchful eyes of Ms. Leah and me while you enjoy some self-determined time for yourself. Date TBA.

August is a time to store up a little more energy from the sun before the periods of light shorten in the months ahead. Let's enjoy it!

Sunday Speakers Needed

UUFS is experiencing a new normal without a full-time minister. We have been delighted to hear from our members and friends speaking to us from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. It's been fascinating getting to know the members of our community better and we have bonded in a profound way through this process.

Please consider sharing your unique voice along with your expertise and your passions with us. Be brave, be generous. We have a services team that will help you with editing, speaking tips, and moral support. Contact service.coordinator@uufs.org for more information and available dates.

Webmaster Needed

Our long-time webmaster, Cindy Alderson, is moving and we need someone new to fill this vital role on our Communications Team. Our website is key to growing our congregation and remains the #1 way people find UUFS and form their first impressions of us.

The webmaster manages our web content and our Events Calendar (uufs.org), updates existing pages, brings ideas for and creates new pages as needed and integrates them into the site's navigation, and handles communications with our web hoster. All work is done from home.

There are both administrative and very creative aspects to this work. Familiarity with our website and experience working with a website of any size is desired. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact communications@uufs.org. Thank you.

News from General Assembly Pittsburgh (+ virtual), June 21-25 2023

In addition to electing a new president, delegates voted to move forward with a process to discuss further the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws with 86.3% of voters* in favor. Article II is the section that includes our Principles, Purposes, and Sources. The intent of the changes is to make them more inclusive. [Three amendments to the proposed values](#) were approved. A final vote on the proposed changes requires a two-thirds vote to pass next year at GA 2024.

*Only 42% of electors voted. UUFS had no representatives at GA this year so could not vote. Note that next year's GA will be all-virtual, and UUFS can send two representatives.

General Assembly 2023 Videos are available at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2023> and include a video marking the end of Dr. Frederick-Gray's presidency.

Proposed New Principles and Purposes



Does your Employer Match your Charitable Donations?

Can you increase your contributions to UUFS through employer matching? Many companies in our area will match charitable donations of their employees or allow special grants to be sent to your charity. UUFS works through an organization that employers use called [Benevity](#) to consolidate employer matches.

Most employers do not allow their share to go toward religious or political causes, so UUFS tracks those contributions in our special Social Justice Non-religious Fund. For example, the matching funds cannot count toward pledges, which are needed for rent and salaries, and are considered a religious expense. However, these funds enable us to donate to local non-religious causes such as homeless shelters, food banks, and immigrant services.

So, ask your HR department if this is one of your company benefits, or contact treasurer@uufs.org to find out if your company uses Benevity, which certifies charities like UUFS for eligibility. Thank you.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, August 5 @ 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
At UU Fellowship of 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 knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, August 19 @ 11:30 –12:30
Online via Zoom

Enjoy a great summer read on a topic of relevance to everyone from preteens to seniors with our online discussion of the book *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy. This month, we'll be concluding our discussion of this book in both the original and young reader editions. Email redirector@uufs.org for more information or for the Zoom link.

The Book Group

Thursday, August 24 @ 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

This month we will finish our discussion of *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. September's book will be *Hons and Rebels* by Jessica Mitford (available at Barnes & Noble and some libraries via Link+). We meet in a member's home on the fourth Thursday with a Zoom option by request. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Our August meeting is canceled. Join us for next month's Zoom meeting on September 21 at 7:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom link

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

Contact Us

You can reach our office manager, Ellen Juco, at 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.

[Our Fellowship is Located on Ohlone Land.](#)

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

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

