



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

February 2024

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 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

Transformation

February 4th @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Alan Herrmann with Shaun Collins and Joshua Searle-White

Transformation - We adapt to the changing world. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect. Reflections and music from special guests Joshua Searle-White and Shaun Collins, with Alan Herrmann.

Children's Sunday Morning Program

Children in the Sunday Morning program will create flags representing the many Asian countries where lunar New Year traditions arose. We'll parade the flags throughout the Community First School grounds to celebrate the occasion.

The Book of Proverbs and What It Reveals about the Evolution of Morality

February 11th @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

Supplement starting 10:45 in the Chapel
By Sam Knapp

Do you remember the Old Testament book of Proverbs? Samuel Knapp will talk about the book of Proverbs, describe its origins and significance, and how we can use it to reflect on our own value systems today.

Love Means Saying You're Sorry... A Lot!

February 18th @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

In the classic movie "Love Story," starring Allie McGraw and Ryan O'Neil, there is a catchphrase by the main character Jennifer: "Love means never having to say you're sorry." But does it?

Small Measures

February 25th @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

There are times, upon meeting someone, they might say something that hits us in a hurtful way. How do we take small, gentle measures that assert our individuality?

Ministers Musings

I am most proud of the fact that as a congregation you have learned your own power – that you are resilient and can lead yourselves when necessary. We as your leadership team want you to trust us. We want you to come to us with your hopes, needs, wants, and dreams for the congregation. We as your congregational leaders also want to know when you feel that we are missing the mark, when we can do better. The door is open always!

As UUs we are encouraged to give our time, talent, or treasure to our congregations and our

community. Are you doing just that? I feel like I know the answer: you are giving your treasure, as is evidenced by our fundraising efforts. Are you giving your time? Your talent? I would encourage you to consider both carefully. I know what it's like to overextend myself, but I would welcome and encourage you to embrace your inner leader and show us what you can do. If you want to lead music for a weekend, or you want to present just a reading or a poem during service, or you want to lead a guided meditation – please do it! Ask! This is a shared ministry for all, and I want us to embrace that moving forward into the New Year.

Children's Religious Education: Update from Colleen Hamilton, Director of RE

Dear Families and Congregants,
This year's journey through UU values moves on to *justice* and *equity* in February. Look forward to a stirring month of fair-mindedness in the Religious Education program. On Sunday mornings, the children will start off with an inclusive lunar New Year celebration. Later, a game of Monopoly will help us think about leveling the economic playing field. And where would any sense of justice or equity be without reinforcing our individual bonds? Teachers and children alike will make and exchange valentines at the heart of the month, of course. I am also happy to announce Lead Teacher Leah's debut Story for All Ages when children gather with their families in the sanctuary at the end of February. Her excellent choice of *Not My Idea: A Book about Whiteness* by Anastasia Higginbotham can inspire us all to face the realities of racial injustice.

Indeed, a just society starts with mutual understanding. That's what the Crossing Paths youth program is all about! Participants learn about and visit another faith group in our community. The current session will culminate this month in a visit to the Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale. Watch this spot next month to hear about their journey toward greater connection.

Please consider serving on behalf of the next generation right here and now! A new Religious Education Committee is forming. Contact redirector@uufs.org or joshualevy2@hotmail.com for more information.

Finally, it's not too late to join the Climate Reading Circle for this season's discussion of [What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be? edited by John Hausdoerffer, et al \(2021\)](#). Jump in anytime to discuss one of these essays, interviews, or poems from Indigenous and other voices about how those alive today shape the lives of future generations. Email redirector@uufs.org to get the link and Zoom with us on the 17th: 11:30 to 12:30.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Volunteers needed for our newest Social Justice project

On February 4th, Social Justice at UUFS will pilot a project to provide a meal to the twenty unhoused LGBTQ+ clients at an inclusive shelter in San Jose. A few UUFS volunteers will purchase or prepare food and bring the items to church on Sunday and a volunteer will drive the food to the shelter for serving by shelter staff that evening. We would love to make this a regular offering, but to do that, we need more volunteers who can take turns with shopping, cooking, and/or driving so that nobody has to do it every time. Your commitment is limited to when you are available and up for it! The only exception to that is that we need a coordinator, or at least a co-coordinator. Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org to volunteer or get more information.

Join the UUFS Caring and Support Team

Please help us to help members in our congregation! We are searching for volunteers to work with co-coordinators Margaret Rich and Laurel Beecher to allow this team to be active again. We need volunteers to support UUFS members who need meals after an injury or

medical procedure, rides to appointments, phone check-ins, in-person visits, help accessing resources for longer term support, and any other services our volunteers can offer. To volunteer or to request more information, please contact the co-coordinators at <mailto:caring@uufs.org>.

Volunteer on February 7th!

From 1:00-3:30PM on Wednesday February 7th, Laurel Beecher of Social Justice at Uufs will be sorting donations at the HomeFirst administrative office in Milpitas. These donations might be used clothes or items shipped from their Amazon wish lists. Laurel would love to take other volunteers with her in her car. You will not need to lift heavy items, you can be seated if desired, and you will receive instructions on how to do the sorting. Contact Laurel at social.justice@uufs.org to volunteer for sorting or to get more information.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, February 3rd @ 5:00 – 7:00 pm
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 play knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

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

This Winter we are reading [What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?](#) edited by John Hausdoerffer, et al (2021). Published in association with the Center for Humans and Nature, this collection of essays, interviews, and poetry brings together Indigenous and other voices to consider how those alive today can shape the lives of future generations for the

better. Join us on Zoom third Saturdays from 11:30 to 12:30. Email redirector@uufs.org for the link.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, February 15th @ 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom

The February topic will be how we can plan ahead to support democracy by getting out the vote and providing voter education. As a congregation, Uufs takes a non-partisan approach. We were quite productive in 2022 with members and friends writing over 4000 letters and postcards to get out the vote! Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>.

Email social.justice@uufs.org if you would like to join our team's Google Group or have questions.

The Book Group

Thursday, January 25th 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
In person with a Zoom option

Our January book is the *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather, available at local libraries and [Leigh's Favorite Books](#). Our February book is the novel *Search* by Michelle Huneven about a UU congregation searching for a new minister. We meet in a member's home with a Zoom option *by request*. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

Men's Group

Meets weekly on Tuesday @ 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: choir@uufs.org

Meditation Group

Meets weekly on Thursday @ 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: meditation@uufs.org

Women's Group

Meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month @ 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Online via Zoom
Contact: womens.group@uufs.org

Proposed Shared UU Values



These proposed values will be voted on virtually by congregational delegates at [General Assembly](#) in June, 2024. For detailed information, go to [Article II Study Commission](#) or contact social.justice@uufs.org.

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.)

Reverend Johnnie's meeting hours are available [here](#). Please refer there for any pastoral care or operational needs. If the date does not have hours listed, please reach out at revjohnnie@uufs.org. He is, of course, always available for immediate spiritual emergencies via his cell phone.

Contact webmaster@uufs.org regarding updates to our website.

Please direct questions about this newsletter to: communications@uufs.org.

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

Note: See our [News](#) page for detailed information on our Covid-19 decision making and policies.

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

