



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

January 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

Opening Doors

January 7 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Annette Pizzo

How can we help the homeless people in our community? Annette Pizzo will tell us about her work at HomeFirst™ Santa Clara County. HomeFirst™ works to end homelessness by providing services to help people find a home, improve their lives and stay housed.

Children's Sunday Morning Program

This week participants in the Sunday morning children's program will play a cooperative game called "Pull of Love" to kick off this month's consideration of Unitarian Universalism's foundations. As the latest draft of the UUA's statement of purpose puts it, "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values."

A Dream Was Had (MLK)

January 14 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

An interpretive sermon invoking the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., asking the question: are we closer to achieving the dream of Beloved Community?

Why I'm a UU or How I Came to be at UUFS

January 21 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Kimberly Yancy

Sins of Our (Fore)Fathers

January 28 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

We UUs have a bevy of seemingly wonderful and inspiring forefathers and spiritual ancestors. This sermon explores the darker side of our history and how we might be able to heal it.

Taking Care of Business

UUFS Annual Vision Budget Meeting

Saturday, January 13, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,
Chapel and Zoom

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Chapel or on Zoom to just observe - or to add your thoughts to this uniquely Unitarian Universalist democratic process as we come together to discuss our goals for the next fiscal year. If you've ever wondered how we put our annual budget together, this is your chance to find out! You can use this link to join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99243051171>

Semi-Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 10:30-11:45 a.m., Chapel and Zoom

Prepare to join us as our bylaws require a quorum of at least 25% of our eligible voters to be present in order to conduct official business. The right to vote at our business meetings is reserved for members of this Fellowship who have been members for at least thirty days prior to the business meeting who have made a financial contribution of record within the twelve months preceding the meeting notice (which will go out ten days before the meeting), and have attained the voting age. The voting age is sixteen years of age unless our youth have successfully completed a "Unitarian Universalist Coming of Age Program," in which case the voting age is fourteen.

If you have been attending our Fellowship and are interested in learning more about becoming a member, please set up a time to speak with Reverend Johnnie via his Calendly booking page: <https://calendly.com/john-bloom-ramirez/>.

Please note that our pledging friends and visitors are welcome to attend all of our business meetings, but will not be eligible to vote.

From the Board

As we expressed in our celebration of UUFS on Dec. 17, the Board is very proud of how UUFS came together when we were without a minister this summer, and how we continue to be successfully half-time lay-led.

Thank you, too, for your feedback from the Dec 17 supplement. We have compiled the responses, ([raw responses](#)) and are organizing and classifying them. We will use this feedback in our Board planning retreat in January, and we will continue to seek feedback from you. The Board's and Minister's plans of 2019 are probably no

longer applicable in our new post-pandemic reality in 2024. And, that is exciting!

In her upcoming New Year's [sermon](#) on congregational planning, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, suggests the following questions:

- What are you most proud of from 2023?
- In the last year, in what ways did your congregation or community encourage you to live more fully into all that you hold most precious?
- In what ways did they surprise you?
- In what ways did you surprise yourself?
- What beauty are you calling into being for 2024?
- How are your congregation and your communities leaning into all that is most needed in the coming year?
- How are you helping to keep those bridges well-tended?

You will see these questions proposed to you in future supplements, but if any spark an interest in you to share immediately, please contact us at board@uufs.org or talk to any of us anytime.

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

Welcome to 2024! Participants in the Sunday morning children's program will start the year learning about the core value of Unitarian Universalism. As the latest mission statement voted on by UUA membership declares, "The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love." The power of caring about one another will be our focus during this first month of the year.

The 2024 Religious Education program at UUFS will also feature a session of Crossing Paths for youth aged 11 to 18. As with our successful pilot

last fall, we will meet after the service to discuss Unitarian Universalism while learning about another faith community in our area. The session will culminate in a visit to a place of worship in this faith. I urge families with youth in this age group to mark their calendars for January 14 to February 11 and contact redirector@uufs.org to register.

There's a new beginning in store for the Climate Reading and Discussion Circle as well. For our winter meetings, participants have selected [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.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Guest at Your Table

Our annual fundraiser for the UU Service Committee was highly successful this year. We raised over \$55,000 with donations and matches. UUFS is one of a handful of UU congregations nationwide to consistently receive the annual "Guest at Your Table Special Recognition." Our UUSC liaison stated, "Our human rights work is only possible because of people like you. We deeply appreciate your successful efforts to raise awareness of our partners' critical contributions to the world. Thank you so much for your robust support!!!"

UUndie Sundays

Thank you to everyone who made our 2023 UUndie Sundays Donation Drive for HomeFirst™ shelter residents such a success! Our online and in-person donations included 46 pairs of underwear, 24 pairs of socks, 6 T-shirts, 5 elastic-

waist pants, 1 drawstring pants/PJ, 4 adult leggings, 1 coat, 2 pairs of slippers, 1 knit cap, 4 infant onesies, 2 kids legging sets, 6 pillows, 2 pillow cases, 9 blankets, 8 bath towels, 28 travel-size toiletries, 30 packets of laundry soap, 1 bag of miscellaneous calendars/wrapping paper/cards, and a \$50 online cash donation!

Outreach

Our congregation has a non-religious fund that is funded by matching donations from employers. We distribute these funds primarily to local organizations that align with our UU values. This fiscal year we have approved over \$9000 dollars to be donated. See our [Outreach page](#) to learn more about these nonprofits.

This month we are featuring our community partner HomeFirst™, a leading provider of housing services: prevention, outreach, and shelter, as well as interim and permanent housing programming for individuals who are housing insecure or unhoused in the Bay Area. You can donate to HomeFirst™ and learn more at <https://www.homefirstscc.org>.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, January 6th @ 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, January 20th @ 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, January 18 @ 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom

Join us via Zoom at

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

“How can we have effective climate conversations?”

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

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/

