



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

July 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

Integrated Wellness

July 2 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Alina Bagley

Integrated Wellness is a topic that will dive into the mind body connection and how inter-connected physical, emotional, and spiritual health are. We will look at how we can grow spiritually as well as stay healthy physically and how it is integral to our general health.

I will be drawing from my knowledge from my master's degree in Health Psychology, and from my personal experiences in life dealing with impactful and life changing physical and spiritual shifts.

In RE this Sunday, our routine is shifting to accommodate more outdoor time this summer. Up this week at the outside activity table: homemade playdough. We will also spend time in the front garden playing games on the grass and tending our summer plantings.

Fellowship and Superheroes

July 9 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Matt Peters

An epic tale of love, hope and the quest for truth, justice and the American way, complete with a joyful ending.

This Sunday, I will describe my experience of finding community at UUFS.

Perfection is a Rhinestone

July 16 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By John M. Bloom-Ramirez (he/they)

Perfection is defined as, "the condition, state, or quality of being free or as free as possible from all flaws or defects." The problem with that is that human beings are far from perfection. Perfection is fake, like a rhinestone. Let's explore together the joy in being imperfect!

John holds a Master's of Divinity from [Meadville Lombard Theological School](#) in Chicago. He most recently served as a per diem chaplain for the University of San Francisco Medical Center, in San Francisco. Having received his Preliminary Fellowship from the UUMA, John will be celebrating his ordination to Unitarian Universalist Ministry on August 5, 2023 at Tapestry in Lake Forest, CA. John also works as a flight attendant for a major US airline, and lives in Moreno Valley, CA with his husband Rene, his adult son Geordyn (JORDAN), all of them John says, being human servants to a cat called Rukia and a Pomeranian called Polyphemus (POLLY-FEE-MUS).

John has responded to our inquiry for a part-time ministerial position and our service will be followed by an in-person Sunday Supplement in the Chapel where we will have a chance to further introduce ourselves to each other.

Cultivating Compassion

July 23 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Mary Ellen Bercik

Compassion is the motivating force that transmutes empathy into action. As we face a future of reduced natural resources, weather disasters and their consequences, compassion and cooperation are necessary to our survival as a species. What are the small and large gestures we can make to live a more compassionate life in alignment with our UU principles?

A Sunday Supplement will follow this service in the Chapel and on Zoom in which we will share our thoughts and discuss our experience in meeting ministerial candidate (soon-to-be Rev.) John M. Bloom-Ramirez.

The Benefits of Godlessness

July 30 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Richard New

Using the Star Trek universe and the vision of humanity created by Gene Roddenberry, we'll discuss the past and future. Humanity has hope and can be good enough. With or without a higher being.

Welcome Our New Board of Trustees

New Board Seated July 1

Please join us in welcoming our new board. Our Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Fellowship, has general charge of the property of the Fellowship, conducts its business affairs, and controls its administration. Each term is two years and board members can serve up to two terms. Our 2023-2024 board is:

Debbie Timmers - President

Karen Enz - Vice President

Corinne Blankenship - Secretary

Krista Galyen

Denise Kato

Richard New

Demyn Plantenberg

Note that pledges must be submitted by June 30th to be counted in the 2022-23 fiscal year. If you want to verify how much your pledge was for and how much has been credited so far, you can login to your UUFS Realm account from our website, or you can send an email to treasurer@uufs.org or leave a phone message at the office at (408) 739-0549.

Letter from Kevin Bury

After four years serving on our Board of Trustees (the last year as President) I have reached my term limit. I am excited to welcome our new and returning board members as they begin this new fiscal year, and I also wish to thank Ursula Syrova and Fran Naylor, who have also transitioned, for their time on the Board. It was a pleasure serving with you all.

This is an exciting time; we have embarked on a new chapter, and we have an amazing number of talented people who are stepping up and volunteering. I'm so proud of what we are accomplishing together. Let's do this!

RE: July Update from Colleen Hamilton

In July, participants in the Sunday morning children's program will enjoy summer fun throughout our extensive outdoor spaces. The kids asked and we're delivering: bubbles, sprayers, lawn games, and homemade playdough galore. Having their say in this month's activities coincides with our current focus on the UU principle of upholding the "democratic process."

Summer plantings require weekly waterings too, so parents, come to the front garden when you pick up your citizen on the playground.

See the *Activities* section below regarding our Climate Discussion Circle and Game Night. I'm looking forward to a month of sun and good old-fashioned UU connection and mutuality!

Celebrate!

Summer Picnic & Potluck

Sunday, July 2 @ 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At Serra Park, picnic area #1

Hollenbeck & The Dalles, Sunnyvale

Join us for food and fun at beautiful Serra Park in Sunnyvale! A grill will be prepared if you want to use it. Bring your own plates, utensils, and beverage, perhaps a chair for comfort, and a dish that serves 6-8. We hope to see you there! Click [here](#) for a map of Serra Park.

Annual Campout

Friday, July 28 – Sunday, July 30

At [Portola Redwoods State Park](#)

We've reserved four campsites for two nights 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 choir@uufs.org if you'd like to join us.

News from General Assembly 2023

UUA Presidential Election

General Assembly delegates elected a new faith leader this June, [Reverend Dr. Sofia Betancourt](#) ran unopposed for the six-year presidency. Learn more about the voting process [here](#).

Betancourt formerly served as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as interim co-president of the UUA in 2017. She currently serves as resident scholar and special advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

We'll have more news about General Assembly 2023, which just wrapped up online and in Pittsburgh, PA, in our August Newsletter.

Community Outreach Update

Recent outreach from Social Justice & Climate Action includes approval of a \$200 donation to the [Amah Mutsun Land Acquisition Fund](#) during the SURJ ([Showing Up for Racial Justice at Sacred Heart](#)) spring matching fundraising drive. This donation directly supports the return of ancestral lands into Amah Mutsun hands.

Our contributions come from a non-religious fund from which we donate to nonprofits, mostly local, that align with UU values.

Click [here](#) for information about the non-profits approved for donations in fiscal year 2022-23. UUFS donated \$10,150 in this past fiscal year.

Volunteers Needed

Sunday Service Coordinator Team (Worship Associates)

This critical new team develops and carries out our Sunday Worship Services. The Weekly Coordinator works ahead of time, pulling together all the elements of the service, both checking with the participants: speakers, musicians, etc., and finding key content such as chalice lighting and extinguishing words. The team also books our Sunday speakers and works on Sunday mornings. We rotate through the Weekly Coordinator role so that this largest responsibility is a shared one.

There is a great deal of creativity and satisfaction involved in producing a Sunday service. If this interests you, email us at service.coordinator@uufs.org.

Tech Team

Tech Team members manage and operate the computer, video, and audio equipment used in our dual-platform (hybrid) services and events, including cameras, displays, mics, and loudspeakers. One team member works ahead of time. Producer 1 creates the slide deck for the

service, producer's script, and Order of Service during the week. All others work only on Sunday mornings.

For those of any age, if you enjoy the technical side of things, this is a fun, behind-the-scenes role. If it's something you are interested in, we will train you. Email board.president@uufs.org to learn more. We'd love to have you!

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, July 1 @ 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
At UU Fellowship of Los Gatos

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, July 15 @ 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 discussing through the halfway point in both the original and young reader editions. Email redirector@uufs.org for more information or for the Zoom link.

The Book Group

Thursday, July 27 @ 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Our book for July and August is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. We will discuss the first five chapters in July and then finish in

August. We meet in a member's home with a Zoom option by request. Contact Ginger Wolnik at book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our new Google Group.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, July 20 @ 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom link
<https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>

At this month's meeting, we will have an open forum to explore paths for UUFS members and friends to come together for social justice and climate action activities. As we will be brainstorming, all ideas will be on the table. All are welcome to attend and add your two cents. Contact Lisa Lethin at 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.)

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/

