



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

March 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

Who and Where is Miss Froy? - In Praise of Older Women

March 3 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.
By Karen Enz

Women's History Month is here! This presentation will focus in on both the gifts and challenges of older women both in the past and present, particularly those in our UU congregations. Also, you will learn the answer to the question "Who and Where is Miss Froy?"

Children's Sunday Morning Program

Our March theme is *transformation*, another of the values expressed in the UUA's proposed statement of purpose. Children in the Sunday morning program have become accustomed to setting aside paper towels and other discards made of natural fiber to be composted off-site. This week, they'll get to see that transformation in process, complete with worms, of course, in a sample from that off-site compost bin.

An Accidental UU

March 10 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.
By Anouchka Gaillard

What is your path to our UU congregation? Member Anouchka Gaillard will share her personal journey to UUFS, starting from growing up in France, stumbling accidentally into UUFS, discovering UUism and participating in our evolving UUFS community.

Metamorphosis

March 17 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.
By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

We know that butterflies come from caterpillars, but did you know just how messy that transformation process is? And how are we like the caterpillar, the cocoon, or the butterfly?

Saving Us? Surviving The Anthropocene Age

March 24 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.
By Rev. Benjamin Meyers, Guest Minister

The clock is ticking on the fate of the Earth as we know it, set in motion by our own doing. Geologists suggest naming this current era "The Anthropocene Period" or, The Age of Humankind. As stewards/partners of creation, how can we 'save ourselves from ourselves?' The Rev. Ben Meyers will lead a service encompassing wit, wisdom, and our Unitarian Universalist principles to explore a path forward. All are worthy, all are welcome.

Mother May I? A sermon on the Divine Feminine

March 31 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.
By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Looking at the Easter Story through the lens of the "divine feminine," finding connections with the female archetypes of the Maiden, Mother, and Crone - and how in resurrection there is transformation.

News from the Board

The Board thanks all participants for a productive January Business meeting. We had an awesome turnout and we give special thanks to all the Teams and Committees that work every day to make our Fellowship strong and vibrant.

Thank you to the newly elected Board Nominating Committee, Kevin Bury, Martha Schumacher and Mary Ellen Bercik. They will recruit a Board candidate for election in our Business meeting on May 5, 2024.

We are also happy to announce that we have extended Rev. Johnnie's contract for another year. Thanks to the Committee on Ministry (Members Janet Werkman, Sam Knapp, Karen Enz and Richard New) who, with Johnnie, have recently completed the 6-month 2-way evaluation. We appreciate their ongoing work.

Ministers Musings

At the start of February, Punxsutawney Phil, that ubiquitous groundhog known for his "uncanny" weather predictions, prophesied that this year in 2024 we're going to have an early spring. Regardless of Phil's predictions, we've been deluged with precipitation, with what some have perceived as higher than normal rainfall. It's important to remember that while Punxsutawney Phil is adorable, he is also only right 30-40% of the time! In reality, we're returning to a normal weather pattern for the area, and with that we're close to 98% of normal expected rain. It's odd to think of this as normal, because we Californians got used to drier years and hotter weather. It's all a matter of perception, isn't it? We become accustomed to a change, and that becomes our norm, and now that we're experiencing what was the norm, and we must adjust again. The old becomes the new normal. The same can be said about community leadership – the fellowship was operated a particular way for a long time, you had to pivot because of both a pandemic and a change in leadership. Your community has realized that it is

vibrant, can be flexible, and has experienced growth; but the truth is that this energy was with you all along. My excitement is that I get to continue to shepherd this change with you, because the Board has decided to renew my contract with you for another year. Let's bring this renewed energy into our upcoming Pledge Drive, and let's keep up with our vision of what we see for this community's growth and future!

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

Dear Families and Congregants,
I am happy to announce the arrival this month of an Our Whole Lives (OWL) program to our community. UUFS is collaborating with the UU Fellowship of Los Gatos to bring comprehensive sexuality education to area children. The UUA developed the OWL curriculum in conjunction with the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination 25 years ago. This nationwide cooperative organization continually updates materials and rigorously trains its facilitators, and I am proud to count myself now among them, along with a volunteer from the Los Gatos congregation who also trained and will work with me. Thanks go to Corinne Blankenship and Rev Johnnie at UUFS for helping to administer the new OWL program. Meetings will alternate between UUFS and UUFLG. The inaugural session is designed for first and second graders and will run from March 10 through May 19, preceded by a parent information meeting on March 3. Find out more about the UUA's take on the role of lifespan sexuality education in Unitarian Universalism [here](#) and plan to join us on March 3 in the UUFS Conference Room. As children grow, OWL can support them through their changes with interpersonal skills, relationship building, and self-acceptance.

How fitting that OWL will begin during March as we consider the theme of transformation, another of the values expressed in the UUA's proposed new statement of purpose called Article II. Activities in the children's Sunday Morning Program will

change everything from refuse into soil, one color into another, solid into liquid, and seeds into grass. We'll experiment with how to switch our focus and even transform eggs—an ancient symbol for the start of something new—into beautiful decorations for the Easter brunch at the end of the month.

As the Article II draft puts it, “openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages.” We'll sure be getting lots of practice with transformation in RE at UUFS this month.

Our Whole Lives Parent Info Meeting, March 3, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, UUFS Conference Room

Come find out about the new OWL program. Register your child for the spring 2024 session designed for first and second graders, or plan for future sessions, including the fall 2024 session designed for fourth and fifth graders. This meeting is intended for adults; onsite childcare provided. Email blankenship.corinne@gmail.com or redirector@uufs.org with any questions.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Volunteer to donate food items or help prepare a meal to the LGBTQ+ shelter on April 7th!

Social Justice at UUFS will again be coordinating volunteers to provide a meal to 20 clients at a LifeMoves shelter in San Jose. We *welcome donations of food items* such as fresh fruit, butter, and salad dressing (specifics to be arranged). We are looking for *one more volunteer to help purchase and prepare food*, either together with the other volunteers on April 6th at Laurel Beecher's home or in your own home. We also need a *volunteer to drive the meal to the shelter* after the Sunday service on April 7th. Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org to donate, volunteer, or get more information.

Volunteer to sort HomeFirst donations on March 21st!

From 10:00AM -12:00PM on Thursday March 21st, Laurel Beecher of Social Justice at UUFS will be sorting donations at the HomeFirst administrative office in Milpitas. These donations might be used

clothes, hotel sheets, or items shipped from their Amazon wish lists. Laurel would love to take other volunteers with her in her car, since this activity is more fun with a group of UUs. 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.

Announcing the 2024 UUFS Marketplace

It's back! Mark your calendars and begin brainstorming now on items and events you might like to create for sale at the UUFS Marketplace. This important fundraiser is an opportunity to connect with fellow members of our Fellowship in new ways. Partnering with others is encouraged!

The focus of donations will be on earth friendly goods and services such as homemade items (baked goods, jams, preserves, art work, jewelry, cards, etc.) as well as brunches, lunches, dinners, teas, barbecues, picnics, whatever you please! Also consider soliciting donations from your favorite stores and restaurants; we'll have a solicitation letter signed by Rev. Johnnie to assist you with your requests. The Marketplace will be held on May 19 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in conjunction with a potluck brunch. A link to the donation form will be made available soon on our website and paper forms will be available at the welcome table. Thank you for supporting our UUFS community!

Caring and Support Team Here to Help You!

If you are looking for some help from our team, please contact co-coordinators Margaret Rich and Laurel Beecher at caring@uufs.org. We can offer meals, rides, phone check-ins, in-person visits, resource management (e.g., receive help with accessing more long-term help), in-home help with small home-maintenance jobs (e.g. replacing a ceiling light, fixing a leaky faucet), in-home help with small electronics problems (e.g. how to send unknown callers directly to voicemail, how to fix a paper jam in a printer, how to set up Alexa), in-home help with small sewing repairs, basic nursing

tasks (e.g. wound care, help with understanding instructions from medical personnel), or miscellaneous tasks not mentioned above.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, March 2 @ 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 play knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, March 16 @ 11:30 - 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 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. Email redirector@uufs.org for the link.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

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

Online via Zoom

Our March meeting is canceled.

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

The Book Group

Thursday, March 21 @ 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

In person this month

Our March book is *Sexing the Cherry* by Jeannette Winterson. Our April book will be *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolán (note: not the Young Adult version). We meet in a member's home. 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: mens.group@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.

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

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

