



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

May 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

Good Enough

May 5 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Singer Alanis Morissette wrote in the foreword of the book *No Bad Parts* by Richard Schwartz that "...in my internal world, I encountered my own murderous rage, my shame, terrors, depression, aches and yearnings, humiliations, and grief...there were equally 'light' or 'good' parts that also required my courage to open to the visionary parts; the generous parts; the intelligent parts; the leadership parts; the gifted, sensitive, empathic parts." Let's talk about all the parts!

Children's Sunday Morning Program, 9:15-11:30

This week, we will kick off the month's theme, and UU value, of *pluralism* with an adventure in optical illusions. Children in the Sunday Morning program will see, with their own eyes, that everyone doesn't view the same thing in the same way they do.

Serving Those Forgotten or Invisible

May 12 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Pluralism is defined as, "a condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc., coexist." How do we as UUs reconcile our relationship to those who have and continue to serve in our military? How do we serve the fallen—those families that have lost their

loved one, or the ones lost to mental health and homelessness?

Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health

May 19 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rev. Barbara Meyers

In this first worship service sponsored by the UU Mental Health Network, Rev. Barbara F. Meyers will talk about her book *HELD* which tells a lot of stories from her ministry focused on mental health issues—both how-to stories and how-not-to stories. It gives guidance for congregants in the pews who want to help make a difference, and it has a built-in study guide. We hope that the book will be used by many congregations and help to make the denomination a friendlier place to people with mental health problems and their families.

Love Will Guide Us: Religious Pluralism and Why the UUA Article II Matters

May 26 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rev. Kevin Alan Mann, MDiv.

As Religious Liberals, Unitarian Universalists have long valued Religious Pluralism which means "We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology." As a Living Tradition, how can modernizing the UUA Article II Purposes guide us on the journey towards collective liberation and becoming the anti-racist, multicultural, multi-religious Beloved Community our faith calls us to be?

Ministers Musings



I just returned from a fantastic trip to St. Louis, Missouri (of all places). The last time I got a chance to really enjoy this city was during the tail-end of the COVID-19 pandemic,

so a lot of experiences were closed, including the Gateway Arch. I got to explore the museum, which was free and great, honoring the arch as the gateway to the west, but also acknowledging that getting to that point included enslaving people, stealing land, and warfare. They also strongly acknowledged that while this was a productive place for white settlers, the Native people were completely displaced and shuffled almost entirely out of the territory where they had lived for hundreds of years before. The Dred Scott decision and the lawsuit filed by suffragette Virginia Minor happened here. Lewis and Clark with their guide Sacagawea began their mapping of the west from here. It was a sober honoring of both the good and the bad.

This time, I got to ride up to the top of the arch. The Gateway Arch was designed by Eero Saarinen, who died before it could be built. Others took over and saw the project to completion. The elevator, which was a complete marvel in engineering by Dick Bowser, was a combination of an escalator, a Ferris Wheel, and an elevator, taking the best parts of all of these and making them work together. Florence Knoll's company (Knoll, Inc.), a testament to modernism in design, was tapped for all the interiors. "It took a village..." I believe is the saying.

Like the Gateway Arch, both good and bad things have happened on the land where our Fellowship meets: people have made incredible contributions, ministers came and left their marks, and we now stand on their shoulders, continuing a legacy that they have built for us. Both pluralism and innovation at their finest. The view from the top of the arch was inspiring and spectacular. What will be the metaphoric view that we leave behind?

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

Dear Families and Congregants,

Pluralism is the next term expressing a Unitarian Universalist value to study this year. We'll kick off the month's theme with the simple but profound recognition that different people may see the same thing differently. Children in the Sunday morning program will compare what they each see in pictures that viewers tend to perceive in one of two ways. One common example of an optical illusion like this depicts two silhouetted profiles, according to some people, or a vase according to others (or a chalice in the eyes of a Unitarian Universalist!). We might see some things differently, but UUs tend to agree, as the proposed Article II says about pluralism, "that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. . . . We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect." This month and throughout the year, recognizing and respecting different perspectives is an important lesson for children as well as adults.

How can we value pluralism if we don't encounter people with various experiences? Fortunately, UUFS Religious Education will provide children and youth with special opportunities to meet new people in May. Sunnyvale Community Services offers monthly Family Nights, when children ages 4-12 with their parents are invited to help with food donations and other service projects while they hear from people who have experienced hunger or inadequate shelter. I want to recognize the UUFS Social Justice Team for maintaining a supportive relationship with SCS over many years and for bringing this family-friendly program to my attention. Children and their families will see their town through different eyes and begin to see themselves as allies and changemakers. For UUFS youth, pluralism will be our compass as we embark on a third session of Crossing Paths this month. The middle- and high-school participants in

this interfaith outreach program will study and visit another local faith group.

As our paths cross many others' this month, let's remember to greet our fellow travelers with love, curiosity, and respect.

2024 UUFS Marketplace

Your Participation = Our Success

Come enjoy the friendship of our community at the May 19 potluck brunch and UUFS Marketplace, a fundraising Silent Auction and sale of homemade edibles and goods from 10:30 to 12:30, immediately after the service in the area behind Shephard Hall and the Religious Education classrooms.



For the potluck brunch, please bring a dish to share, including a list of ingredients so that people with food allergies and dietary restrictions can make safe choices. Please also bring your own plates and silverware. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided, and homemade lemonade will be sold by the Religious Education students.

At the Marketplace make a bid for items like “Tea with the Minister,” wines and wine tasting, and a “Play Day in Santa Cruz.” Bid sheets will be displayed under the awning by the Religious Education classrooms. Check out the edibles and homemade goods like gift bags, granola, and fresh mint for sale in Classroom 6. Sales will be by cash, check or PayPal. If you won bids on multiple items, we can send you a total owed and you can turn in a check or use PayPal.

You can still make last minute donations using the online donation form available [here](#), but the item likely won't appear in the catalog. For questions, please email community.marketplace@uufs.org

Supporting Our Community and Values

Volunteer on June 8th to help prepare a meal for shelter residents

Social Justice at UUFS will again be coordinating volunteers to provide a meal to 20 clients at a LifeMoves LGBTQ+



shelter in San Jose on June 8th for delivery on June 9th! We are looking for volunteers to help prepare food on June 8th, either in your own home or together with other volunteers in someone else's home. We welcome donations of food items such as fresh fruit, butter, and salad dressing (specifics to be arranged). Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org to volunteer, donate, or get more information.

Semi-Annual Congregational Business Meeting Sunday, May 26, 10:30 -11:45 a.m., Chapel and Zoom, <https://bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service>

In addition to getting updates from our teams, we will be voting on next year's budget, an important issue to be decided at UUA General Assembly, and for Board members.



Plan to join us as our bylaws require a quorum of at least 25% of eligible voters to be present to conduct official business. The right to vote is reserved for those who have been members of this Fellowship 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 (that goes 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 “UU Coming of Age Program,” in which case the voting age is fourteen.

Childcare will be available during the meeting. Please contact Colleen Hamilton our Director of Religious Education to indicate your interest in having childcare provided: redirector@uufs.org

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/rev-johnnie-bloom-ramirez>.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, May 4 @ 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, May 18 @ 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 brings of essays, interviews, and poetry 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, May 16 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: social.justice@uufs.org

All are welcome at our May meeting where we will discuss the Proposed Revisions to Article II, an important revision to be voted on by our delegates during the UUA General Assembly in June. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>.

The Book Group

Thursday, May 23 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m.
In person with a Zoom option

Our May book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Our June book will be *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Both books are available at [Leigh's Favorite Books](#) with a 50% buyback option. We meet in a member's home. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group. Zoom option *by request*.

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, Leah Simmons, at office@uufs.org or by calling (408) 739-0549.

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/

