



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

November 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 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

Guest at Your Table

November 5 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Members Janet Werkman, Lisa Lethin and Alan Herrmann

What is Guest at Your Table? It is the UU Service Committee's annual program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. The theme this year is "Liberation." Learn about the program and how you can provide support.

Children and Youth Sunday Morning Program

This week will kick off the children's involvement in the UU Service Committee's Guest at Your Table campaign, which showcases the grassroots partners who promote human rights around the world. Participants in the Sunday morning program will construct collection boxes to take home for this month whose theme is *generosity*. We'll also enjoy a last activity featuring our outdoor resources, namely, constructing leaf animals.

Forged in Love

November 12 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Damascus steel swords are prized for their elasticity and flexibility. How are we as humans like a sword?

Remembering a Man of Peace

November 19 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Member Phil Nies

In 1960 John F Kennedy was elected President, promising to increase military spending and win the arms race with the Soviet Union. By June of 1963 he was actively working for world peace and total disarmament. His turning is an inspiration to everyone who believes in UU principles.

Thanksgiving

November 26 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Thanksgiving has a very interesting history. What does the first Thanksgiving, capitalism, and ornery goose have in common? Come and find out!

Minister's Musings from Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

As we enter the official start of the holiday season (if the change in décor to the capitalist Christmas in most stores wasn't already a clue), it's easy to get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of buying and consuming because that's what is expected of us as Americans at this time of year. As a former retail worker, as well as an employee of a major theme park and resort, there are plans and expectations with contingencies that you as a customer will need to do just that!

It's important to remember that this is naturally the "dark time of the year" – literally speaking, the nights are longer and the days shorter. It's colder and, hopefully, wetter. For me, this is a time of deep reflection and personal introspection. I focus

instead on renewing myself and self-care. I have taken to no longer worrying about meeting the needs and expectations of my family and my in-laws. While they're incredibly important to me and I love them, I'd honestly rather spend time with them on my terms and within my boundaries. If the stars align and it happens on that actual holiday date, then great. If it doesn't, it isn't the end of the world. It's the time spent together that is the most important, and it is those moments that should be the most treasured.

Over the next few months, my services will focus on healing, growth, and renewal – we'll share stories and celebrate together. I look forward to this season together, and hopefully it will lead to many more!

Letter from Debbie Timmers, President, Board of Trustees - UUFS Visioning

We've got questions! Do you have answers? We've been through a lot these past couple of years, with the pandemic and the retirement of a long-term settled minister, and yet I feel we've come out strengthened, ready to embrace our future. The board would like to get your thoughts. To start a conversation, we will begin with 2 simple questions, derived from the responses you gave in last spring's survey:

- How do we build enthusiasm and plan to grow the fellowship?
- How do we maintain robust Sunday services, RE program, & pastoral care in our part-time/lay-led ministry structure?

We will have 2 brainstorming sessions, one in-person and one on Zoom. We invite you to join one of them to share your feedback with us. Zoom session: <https://bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service>.

- Sunday, Nov. 5, 11:00 - noon (Zoom only)
- Sunday, Nov. 19, 11:00 - noon (in-Person only)

Each session will include breakout groups followed by a presentation to the larger group. These sessions are only an initial discussion and we will continue to collect feedback through a longer visioning process. There may be some low hanging fruit that we will try out immediately, but the real purpose for collecting feedback is to have you help us drive the longer-term future; to have a say in where UUFS is going. We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Children's Religious Education: October Update from Colleen Hamilton

Flip to November in the calendar and the word *gratitude* comes immediately to mind. During the month of thanksgiving at UUFS, however, *generosity* will be just as important for children in our Sunday morning program. Indeed, generosity is one of the values proposed by the Article II Commission to express the purposes of our Unitarian Universalist Association. This year's Religious Education curriculum invites us to explore all seven of these proposed value terms, beginning in November.

Throughout the month, children will be collecting funds for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table drive for grassroots organizations promoting human rights throughout the world. They will learn about the history of the UUSC's protection of global human rights and about the present-day partner organizations that GAYT donations support. In the words of the Article II proposal, Unitarian Universalists "covenant to share our faith, presence, and resources freely and compassionately. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality."

Participating in UUSC's Guest at Your Table campaign will not only involve UUFS children in the worthy cause of global human rights; it will also give them a great lesson in Unitarian Universalist values.

Guest at Your Table: Multiply Your Impact!

UUFS GAYT annual campaign: Nov. 5 - Dec. 9

For those new to the Guest at Your Table (GAYT) fundraiser, be sure to attend the Nov. 5 service to learn about this longstanding program. This short [video](#) gives an overview. UUFS members and friends have been supporting the UU Service Committee via donations to GAYT for over 25 years, and we are one of the top contributors.

We are fortunate to have generous \$5000 matching donations by Teri Wiss (via the Gary Hartz Memorial Fund) and by Janet Werkman. In addition, your employer may offer matching donations, and donations of \$150 or more are matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock.

The easiest way for you to contribute is via our UUFS [personalized donation page](#). Click [here](#) to see examples of how your donation will be put to good use.

UUndies Sundays! December 10th and 17th - Laurel Beecher

Continuing a UUFS tradition, we will collect donations of cotton underwear and other items listed below and deliver them to HomeFirst for distribution to their shelter clients.

Most-needed items:

- **New** pillows to include in move-in kits,
- **New** twin-sized blankets, **New** bath towels
- **New** cotton underwear for women
- Elastic waist pants, all sizes/genders
- Laundry soap (powder or liquid pods)

COVID-19 Prevention Supplies:

Hand Sanitizer, Disinfecting Wipes, N-95/KN-95 Face Masks, Rubbing Alcohol

Travel Size items:

Shaving cream, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Hand sanitizer, Soap, Shampoo

Standard Items:

Lip balm, Baby diapers, New socks, Wet wipes, Razors (disposable), Toothbrushes, Twin-sized sheets, New white T-shirts, New underwear/undergarments (all genders/all sizes)

Bring your donations to the fellowship on December 10th or 17th or arrange for drop-off (or possibly pickup) with Laurel Beecher. Email Laurel at activities@uufs.org with any questions.

If you prefer instead to donate online, go to <https://www.homefirstscc.org/wishlist> and view the three Amazon Wishlist's to select, or go [here](#) to donate money. If you would like your donation to be included in our tally of UUFS donations, please let Laurel know what you have donated online.

Committee News

A Committee on Ministry has been formed. This is a standing committee whose role is to assess the health of all the ministries of the congregation as well as be a support group for the Minister. Members include: Janet Werkman, Sam Knapp, Karen Enz, and Richard New.

The Building Fund Committee has updated their membership: Dean Chu, Joshua Levy, and Ginger Wolnik.

Book Cart

Annabel Griffiths has taken over the book cart from Ginny Merry and will bring the cart out most Sundays. The books cover a wide range of interesting topics. Check the cart out, and you may find an interesting book to check out. Also, we have a 'no fines' policy!

New Webmaster

We have the great good fortune to welcome Yiping Liao as the new Webmaster for UUFS. She combines a high level of technical skill and judgment with facility in communicating and great enthusiasm. She is looking forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions for the website! Drop her a note at webmaster@uufs.org or catch up at coffee hour.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, November 4th @ 5:00 – 7:00 pm
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, November 18th @ 11:30 –12:30
Online via Zoom

This fall, we are reading: [*Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201-mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration*](#) by Sara Dykman, the first person to bicycle alongside monarch butterflies on their storied annual migration. This month, we'll continue the discussion. Books Inc in Campbell offers our group a 20% discount. Email redirector@uufs.org if you would like to reserve a copy. It's also available from bookshop.org [here](#).

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, November 16th @ 7:15 – 8:15pm
Online via Zoom

Be sure not to miss our meeting this month. The topic of discussion will be immigration and how it might affect the 2024 election. Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>
Questions? Email social.justice@uufs.org.

The Book Group

Thursday, November 16th @ 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Our November meeting is the third Thursday of the month and is focused on poetry. We do not meet in December. 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/

