



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

September 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

Caring and Support Questions Answered

September 3 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Patty Flack and Kimberly Yancy

Patty Flack has led the Caring and Support Team at UUFS for the last 14 years. Many of us have gotten care and attention during difficult times from Patty and the volunteers she has recruited. Though she will be moving away, her commitment can inspire us to continue this important function. Kimberly will be interviewing Patty with the questions that have been submitted by members and friends.

In RE this Sunday, we'll wrap up our summer programming with another installment of outdoor fun featuring repurposed materials.

Water Ceremony

September 10 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Members, Guided by Debbie Timmers and Mary Ellen Bercik

Each year we come together to celebrate our community as we welcome each other back after the summer months. This Sunday, feel free to bring a small amount of water from a trip you made this summer, or from your kitchen sink or garden hose if you spent your summer closer to home. As we watch the water that we bring mingle with the water that others bring, we share the various journeys and transitions in our lives. If you forget your water, don't worry, we'll have some available for you as you come in the door.

The Spirits Called My Name

September 17 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Roberta (Bobbie) Rosnik

This week we welcome Roberta (Bobbie) Rosnik, a retired educator and author. She will discuss her discovery, at 42, that she was both adopted and a member of the Native American Colville Confederated Tribe. Her memoir *The Spirits Called My Name: A Journey from One Culture to Another* chronicles the journey to reunite with her family and culture.

Spiritual Growth for Unitarian Universalists

September 24 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By UUFS Member Samuel Knapp

What is religion? What is spirituality? What is faith maturity and positive religious coping? Samuel Knapp talks about these concepts and how they can help us frame our spiritual growth. Samuel Knapp has been a member of the UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale since 2015.

Letter from Debbie Timmers, President, UUFS Board of Trustees

Welcome to September! This month has often been thought of as the beginning of the church year for UUs. This year we have something very special to celebrate as Reverend John M. Bloom-Ramirez has signed a one-year contract agreeing to be our new part-time minister. We are excited that he will be participating in our Water

Ceremony with us. Stay tuned for details about when he will first take the pulpit, his office hours, and more.

The Water Ceremony is our traditional way of marking our return from summer activities as we celebrate being together again. For this ritual, each person brings to the service a small amount of water from a source that has personal meaning (from a vacation, a favorite park, your childhood home, or even just from your home faucet). You will get a chance in the service to merge your water with everyone else's water. You may want to say something, or not, about what this water means to you. This observance reflects how we, like water, may also come from many different sources, but we come together through our shared seven principles.

The history behind this ritual is very interesting. It was created in 1980 by Carolyn McDade, songwriter, and Lucile Schuck Longview, a longtime leader in the Women & Religion UU movement. If you are curious, you can read more about it [here](#).

I'm excited about the Fall curricula in our Children's Religious Education program and am looking forward to joining with our congregation and friends this month as we continue to share our journey and move into this consequential new season together.

Children's Religious Education: September Update from Colleen Hamilton

During this season of ingathering, I am happy to announce some developments in the UUFS Children's Religious Education program that will more consistently orient our children and youth toward a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

For children in the Sunday morning program, Miss Leah and I will be structuring our lessons around a multi-age curriculum from [Soul Matters Sharing Circle](#), a UU collaboration network. This year, their curriculum is designed around the

proposed Article II "values and inspirations" that advanced by vote at the June UUA General Assembly that re-envision the "principles and sources" adopted in 1985.* I'm excited for participants to grapple with our purposes as Unitarian Universalists in the 21st century. We will share our learnings when we visit the sanctuary on the last Sundays of the coming months.

Also beginning in September, youth aged 11-18 will have the opportunity to meet with me after the service to discuss Unitarian Universalism while learning about other faith communities in our area. This will be a pilot 6-week mini-session of a *Soul Matters* curriculum called [Crossing Paths](#), a version of the impactful [Neighboring Faiths](#) youth programs used throughout our UU congregations. Focused on one other faith community, the session will culminate in a visit to a neighboring place of worship. Families with youth in this age group should mark their calendars for September 10 to October 15 and contact me at redirector@uufs.org to register.

This month, I'm looking forward to curling up with a new book in our Climate Reading and Discussion Circle: [Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201-mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration](#) by Sara Dykman. And don't forget our intercongregational Game Night on Saturday, September 2nd. Find more information in our *Activities* section below.

Finally, join me at the [Fall Fest at Mission Peak UU Congregation](#) in Fremont on Saturday, September 23rd from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Celebrate the turning of the season, and the Autumn Equinox, by celebrating the Earth itself and be inspired to learn as a family about making choices that limit our impact on the planet. I'll be leading a children's activity for repurposing textiles. If you'd like to volunteer at this UUFS table with me, contact: redirector@uufs.org.

*NOTE: Learn more about Article II at our September 21st Social Justice & Climate Action

Team Meeting. See the *Activities* section below for more information.

Directory Update Planned: Please Respond by Sept. 30

We are working on a long-delayed update to our UUFS Directory of members and pledging friends and need to confirm that the information we have is correct. Please click [here](#) to fill out the form electronically or pick up a hard copy at the Welcome Table.

If there is no change, simply choose that box and submit the form or make changes as needed. The form is designed for one submission per person. Thank you.

Shortened link to the form: <https://t.ly/Ga1a2>

Join Our Vegetarian Potluck Group

Since before the pandemic, this group has been getting together for outdoor vegetarian & vegan potlucks at member's homes. Organized by Fran Naylor and Laurel Beecher of Social Justice and Climate Action at UUFS, participants receive invitations via our Google Group: uufs-vegetarian-potlucks@googlegroups.com where we also share information about healthy vegetarian and vegan eating and its positive impacts on our health and the environment. If you would like your name added to the Vegetarian Potluck Google Group, please contact Laurel Beecher at activities@uufs.org.

Informational websites about the health and environmental benefits of a plant-centered diet:

- [Plantrician Project](#) -- the benefits of plant-based nutrition
- [Project Drawdown](#) -- how plant-rich diets hold potential for climate change mitigation
- [Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice](#) -- UUA page on the impact of our involvement in the food system

Opportunities for Involvement in Our Fellowship

Caring and Support Team: The network is a registry of folks willing to assist when available on a case-by-case basis to provide meals, transportation, and emotional support to members and friends in times of need. When appropriate, we make referrals to outside resources. If you would like to be added to the network of people willing to help when you can, or if you have questions, please contact caring@uufs.org.

And if you are interested but are not sure this is a volunteer activity for you, there is a UUA training to help you [here](#). Please contact board@uufs.org if you would like to attend this training.

Worship Associates Team (Sunday Service Coordinators): This team develops and carries out our Sunday Worship Services. Currently, we are looking for volunteers to help with some key functions of our service such as chalice lighting and extinguishing and calling for the offering. If helping with these simple but fulfilling tasks interests you, please email us at service.coordinator@uufs.org.

Webmaster: We need someone new to fill this vital role on our Communications Team. The webmaster manages the site and our Events Calendar (uufs.org), developing and coordinating with the rest of the team for content. All work is done from home. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact communications@uufs.org. And if you are a trained writer/editor, joining our Communications Team is a wonderful way to contribute to our Fellowship. Thank you.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night
Saturday, September 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 can play knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, September 16 @ 11:30 –12:30
Online via Zoom

This fall, we'll begin a new book: [*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. On the third Saturday of each month, we'll discuss 50-75 pages of this compelling book. Books Inc in Campbell offers our intercongregational group a 20% discount. Start reading today! 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, September 21 @ 7:15 – 8:15
Online via Zoom

At this month's meeting we'll be talking about the proposed changes to UUA Article II (our principles and purposes) intended to make us more inclusive. We hope to shed some light on a complicated proposal and process. An overview of the proposed changes will be presented followed by a Q & A. Information on how to locate further resources on the topic will also be shared. Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>
All are welcome to join us for this important topic for UUs! Questions? Email social.justice@uufs.org.

The Book Group

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

September's book will be [*Hons and Rebels*](#) by Jessica Mitford (available at [Barnes & Noble](#) and at some libraries via [Link+](#)). October's book will be [*The Thursday Murder Club*](#) by Richard Osman (available at [Leigh's Favorite Books](#) and [bookshop.org](#)). 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.

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. ([KJ]N95/KF94 masks recommended.) See our [News](#) page for detailed information on our Covid-19 decision making and policies.

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

