



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

August 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.

Why Democracy Matters

August 4 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Sam Knapp

How We Got a Democracy and Why We Should Keep It. Dr. Samuel Knapp will explore how our democracy in the United States originated and evolved, what our UU principles say about democracy, and how democracy benefits all citizens.

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

Teachers will be on-site at UUFS to engage children of families who are in Sunnyvale –rather than on Mt Madonna for the congregational campout. There's more than one way to be UU on a Sunday morning!

Who are We? Where Do We Come From?

August 11 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Unitarianism was born in Transylvania in the 16th century. Let's take a look at the Edict of Torda and how it affects us both as a heritage document of our faith, but as American UU's.

Supplement: Elections Forum

August 11 @ 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Rev. Johnnie will facilitate a forum in the Chapel. It will be hybrid, with the Zoom link the same as for the Sunday Service. We will have a time for sharing our feelings, thoughts, hopes, and fears about the upcoming election.

Don't Believe Everything You Think

August 18 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Alan Herrmann

Each of us has ideas and beliefs that are uniquely our own, resulting from our individual personality and our life experience. We will explore how our ideas and beliefs form, spread, and evolve, and how they shape our lives.

Gender Is a Human Construct

August 25 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Until recently, we were born with the understanding that as humans, there were only two genders: male and female. Now it is understood that there are two "sex forms" but multiple gender variants. Let's smash the binary and explore gender as a social construct.

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



I am happy to report on recent successful endeavors in RE that UUFS folks will be able to participate in again this month. On a lovely Tuesday evening in June, Cora and Julianna Walker, their mom Clara, and myself, along with another local parent and his son, lent a hand in support of food security at Sunnyvale Community Services.

SCS holds a monthly family volunteer night where participants learn more about their neighbors and



take on a task that helps address needs in the community. On this occasion, we sorted packaged foods and restocked the shelves where SCS

clients make their selections. The kids are clamoring for more such opportunities. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m. to pitch. For more togetherness beyond our walls, try the next area-UU park meetup on Saturday, August 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Fremont's Central Park. The first such event was a hit! Twenty folks from Mission Peak UU Church and UUFS communed over multigenerational lawn sports and cool refreshments at our inaugural meetup in July. This month there'll be coffee and baked goods and more time with new and old friends.

I would also like to tell you about the successful first session of the UUFS-sponsored Our Whole Lives sexuality education program. Like the volunteer nights and park meetups, this collaboration with the UU Fellowship of Los Gatos promotes intercongregational connections and community outreach—and there's another opportunity to participate beginning this month. In the initial session, which wrapped up in May, first and second graders from Sunnyvale and San Jose explored such topics as body positivity, gender, personal boundaries, family variety, pregnancy, birth, and babies with two trained facilitators, myself and a volunteer from UUFLG. Thanks go to Corinne Blankenship and Rev Johnnie for helping to administer this first session of the new OWL program, along with their two counterparts at UUFLG. I am thrilled to announce that the next collaborative OWL session is scheduled to begin September 8. This one is designed for 4th and 5th graders and is again open to UUs as well as community members, so spread the word.

On August 25, there will be a parent information meeting. Feel free to contact [me](#) about registering a rising 4th or 5th grader or about volunteering to help with this growing program in the future.

Summer isn't even over and we are already blessed with a bumper crop of enriching experiences, and we can look forward to many more.

President's Message - Karen Enz

This last month has certainly been a roller coaster ride in what at times seem like a political carnival. I am sure all of us have been affected.

As the incoming President of the Board of Trustees, I invited Rev. Johnnie to meet with me at Country Gourmet to have a conversation about my philosophy of leadership in that position and my vision for the UUFS in both the near and extended time term, as well as to solicit his thoughts. I believe it was a pleasant and productive experience, and I look forward to meeting on a regular basis. I intend to share portions of that conversation in the coming months.

One thought I shared and we both agreed on, is the importance of UUFS to be a supportive resource, especially in the near term, to discuss and be provided with emotional, mental, and spiritual tools to not only survive, but hopefully thrive in the upcoming months. Rev. Johnnie mentioned that his class on genograms and communication could facilitate this process. I readily agreed and look forward to hearing feedback from the attendees, as unfortunately I will not be able to be present. I would also love to hear your thoughts and ideas as we can hopefully journey together in these uncertain times.

In faith,
Karen Enz

Website Updates

Navigation to Realm has been made easier with the addition in the upper right line of the uufs.org home page of “LOGIN” that will bring you to the Realm member login. Also remember that words in red font on white background are links to other website pages (or email addresses). Words in white font on black or red backgrounds are also links.

Book Cart/Librarian

Annabel Griffiths, the current librarian, would like to transfer her duties to another person. Is anybody prepared to take on the librarian duties? Also, the book cart is full, and, at the moment, it cannot take any more books!

Supporting Our Community and Values

Write postcards with a flair on August 18 to Get Out the Vote!



Social Justice & Climate Action is hosting a Reclaim Our Vote postcard writing event

after the Sunday Service on August 18. You handwrite a provided script and add personalization with colored pencils or pens. We will have all needed materials on hand. UU the Vote is an initiative created by the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Side With Love. UU the Vote partners with Vote Forward <https://votefwd.org/> and [Reclaim Our Vote](#). Let’s keep building momentum to protect democracy! Questions? Contact social.justice@uufs.org

March with us on August 18 to celebrate our LGBTQ+ community!

Now more than ever it is important for UUs to stand up to homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in a visible way. We will meet after the service in the narthex to head to San Jose and join the Silicon

Valley Pride Parade. (The “narthex” is the small area between the sanctuary and Shephard Hall.) We are seeking volunteers who can drive marchers to the starting point for the march. Keep a lookout in the Mid-Week Update in mid-August for a Sign-Up Genius to volunteer. Join us in person or in spirit! Contact social.justice@uufs.com.



Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, August 3 @ 5:00–7:00 p.m.
At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

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, August 17 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Online via Zoom

Feel free to drop in this summer to discuss [The Climate Book](#) by Greta Thunberg. Suitable for youth and adults, this collection includes her own writings as well as short essays by international experts on a variety of climate-related topics. Come on the third Saturday of the month and discuss your favorites in our circle! Email REdirector@uufs.org for the link and information about discounted copies available for our group at [Books Inc.](#) in Campbell.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, August 15 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Contact: social.justice@uufs.org

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting. We will be discussing elections and voting issues. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>. If you would like to join our Google Group or have questions, contact social.justice@uufs.org.

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

The Book Group

Thursday, August 22 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m.
In person with a Zoom option

Our August book is *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan and our September books is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Both books are available at Leigh's Favorite Books <https://www.leighsbooks.com/> with a 50% buy-back 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*.

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: [COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines](#).

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

UUFS is a proud donor to the SV Pride Interfaith Booth!



FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 24, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25, 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park in Downtown San Jose.

PARADE

Saturday, August 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

From Julian St. and Market St. to

Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park in Downtown San Jose.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education 4th-5th Grades



Parent Information Meeting
August 25, 2024
15980 Blossom Hill Rd
3:00-4:30 pm
childcare provided



Our Whole Lives

- **UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale (UUPS) and UU Fellowship of Los Gatos (UUFLG) collaboration**
- **10 sessions September-December Sundays 3:00-4:15 pm**
- **Alternating locations:
15980 Blossom Hill Road (UUFLG)
1112 S. Bernardo Ave (UUPS)**
- **\$110 suggested donation**
- **Space limited**

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education course. The curriculum is written and updated regularly by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). OWL facilitators are trained through the UUA and UCC.

**Questions? Email Colleen
redirector@uufs.org**

To register, come to the parent meeting or email for more information.