



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

July 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.

Universal-ish (author: Rev. Lóre Stevens)

July 7 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Tara Martin-Milius

Lore Stevens' service explores "...The way our religious ancestors understood the world." She examines aspects of religion, God, love, and Unitarian Universalism, and what it means to "side with love."

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

In the wake of Emancipation Day and Independence Day, we'll be kicking off a month with *freedom* as the theme. Children in the Sunday Morning Program will enjoy free play with bubbles and open expression through improv games.

[R]evolution

July 14 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Fête National, Quatorze Juillet, is a national holiday in France, remarkably similar to how we Americans celebrate the Fourth of July. Here in the United States, we celebrate it as Bastille Day. Why is this day so important, specifically to the French? How can we as Americans and as UU's learn from it?

What Does Love Have to Do with It?

July 21 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Debbie Timmers

Our new Article II statement reminds us, "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared

values through the spiritual discipline of Love." Consider what we can accomplish when we place love at the center of all we do!

Nevertheless, She Persisted

July 28 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Senator Elizabeth Warren used her Freedom of Speech and was censored. Nevertheless, she persisted. We will look at Elizabeth Warren's example as just another in the hypocrisy that is the expectation of a woman. We will then honor some of the ancestors who came before her, who also dealt with the same hypocrisy, and who thrived. Who persisted.

Supplement on Ranked Choice Voting

July 28 @ 11:00 a.m.

There will be a supplement after the service in the chapel by a representative from The California Ranked Choice Voting Coalition. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is considering the use of Ranked Choice Voting for county elections. Elections for county offices are usually decided by low-turnout primaries where the voters are not representative of the whole electorate. RCV would move the decision to the general election where the electorate is larger and more diverse, plus it would eliminate vote splitting and encourage more positive, issue-focused campaigns. The Board of Supervisors may decide this issue in August.

Ministers Musings



What does it mean to have liberty vs. freedom? I always thought the two words were interchangeable synonyms of one another, but that's not necessarily true. "Liberty

emphasizes the importance of individual rights and the limitations of government power, while freedom is more focused on the ability of individuals to pursue their own interests." (from unitedwepledge.org).

Let's put that into perspective: I have the freedom of the pulpit. Ostensibly and within reason as your minister I'm allowed to do anything I wish from said pulpit. You are free to disagree with my views and presentations, and are encouraged to share your opinion on them. That's a welcome and healthy exchange of dialogue, and will enrich the conversation. We learn from one another in that way.

What happens when a governing body comes in and tells you that you can no longer think or feel that way, or even worse, voice your feelings? But even worse, when said governing body gives license to the extremists on either side of the debate to shut you down by any means necessary? That's the opposite of what we're talking about here. Gone is the freedom of expression and feeling, and the liberty to have those sometimes hard and fruitful conversations where we can come to an agreement or even agree to disagree. Instead, we get trapped in a vacuumous echo chamber where we only hear our own voices and those voices that agree with us. That's fascism.

It was Aristotle who said, "Nature abhors a vacuum." Please, think about this. We all need one another, to both survive and to thrive. I love you!

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



Freedom is our watchword at UUFS in July. Participants in the Sunday Morning Children's Program will be at liberty to play outside with wet and messy substances banned during the colder months inside. That means bubbles and sprayers and sandcastles—hooray for summer! Free expression will play a role, too, as we open our time together each week with an improv game. Also in July, we will be reviewing what we have learned since January about the new value terms in Article II of the UUA's bylaws now that it was approved at the General Assembly in June. At July's multigenerational worship, the children will demonstrate for the whole congregation an easy way of remembering the new seven value terms: transformation, equity, pluralism, justice, generosity, interdependence, and love.

Free outdoor play is not just for kids this summer. I am collaborating with the Director of Multigenerational Community Building at Mission Peak UU Church in Fremont to bring together folks of all ages from southern Bay UU groups. What better way to enjoy each other's company than a relaxing Sunday afternoon or Saturday morning at the park. On Sunday, July 14, we'll be meeting at Las Palmas Park in Sunnyvale, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. A frozen treat will keep us cool. Bring chairs, blankets, sports equipment, sand toys, even your pup! Stay and chat awhile. There's a dog park, play equipment for younger and older children, walking paths around a lagoon, as well as tennis and pickleball next door. On Saturday, August 17, we'll be meeting at Central Park in Fremont over coffee and donuts from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Look for the Children's Playground on Sailway Dr. Enjoy playgrounds, a dog park, and walking paths around a lake, along with the company of likeminded friends both new and old.

The message from Religious Education to everyone at UUFS this July, is, Let loose and play! [Summer Fun Poster](#)

President's Message - Karen Enz

I am deeply honored and humbled to have been elected by our Board of Trustees to serve as President for the term July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. I write this as I am enjoying our trip to Scotland and Ireland. Yes, I can hear you say, "She is already taking a vacation!"

I am so proud of everyone in our Congregation for "stepping" up this last year and filling all the myriad duties after Nina left. I want to encourage you to keep volunteering as allowed by your time and interest. I was especially impressed by the quality and breadth of the presentations/sermons given by all the fellow congregants. I know this will continue. I also want to encourage you to communicate your hopes and desires to the Board as the year unfolds.

Well, off to the services at Dublin's Unitarian Church!

Supporting Our Community and Values

Volunteer on August 3 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 August 3 for delivery on August 4. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare food on August 3, 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.



Help Get Out the Vote!

Social Justice at UUFS is hosting a non-partisan effort to get out the vote in historically underrepresented communities.

Join us out on the patio right after church on July 7 and July 21 to personalize Vote Forward letters. Training and materials will be provided. Our congregation did an impressive job in 2022 to get out the vote. Let's do it again! Contact social.justice@uufs.org for more information.

Potluck Picnic

Sunday, July 14 @ 11:00 a.m.

At Serra Park, Picnic area #1, Hollenbeck Ave. & The Dalles Ave., Sunnyvale

Join us for food and fun at beautiful Serra Park in Sunnyvale! We will have sign-up sheets where you can indicate if you would be willing to come early and help prepare the site or stay after for clean-up. Picnic area #1 at Serra Park has been reserved on Sunday July 14 (thanks Alan). We have the site reserved all day, so early birds can go there right after the service if they want, and the rest of us can trickle over between 11:00 and noon or so. Bring a dish to share, a beverage of your choice and a chair for comfort. We hope to see you there!

Fun Summer Meet-Ups Scheduled

On Sunday **July 14th** Sunnyvale UU will host a meet-up at Las Palmas Park, 850 Russet Drive in Sunnyvale from 2:30-4:30pm. On Saturday **August 17th** Mission Peak will host a meet-up at Children's Playground on Sailway Drive at Central Park in Fremont from 9:30-11:30am. These inter-congregational events are meant for people of all ages! There will be coffee and snacks available under a nearby tent- look for the pop top tent flying the progress pride flag and there we'll be! Ariel from MPUUC and Colleen, DRE at UUFS, will be at both events and look forward to helping our congregations make connections with each other and feel themselves held by our bay area UU community.

Activities

Genograms Class with Rev. Johnnie

Friday, July 26 @ 7:00-9:00 p.m.
At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

Rev. Johnnie will offer a class on genograms--a relational family tree. We'll build genograms and discuss their meanings. Please email revjohnnie@uufs.org for questions, sign up, and for a small list of needed supplies.

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, July 6 @ 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, July 20 @ 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, July 11 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: social.justice@uufs.org

UUPS has a non-religious fund that our Social Justice & Climate Action Team manages with input from congregants. Come and join us this month to help us decide how to distribute the funds. priorities. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>. Email social.justice@uufs.org if you would like to join our team's Google Group or have questions.

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, July 25 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m.
In person with a Zoom option

Our July book will be [Lessons in Chemistry](#) by Bonnie Garmus and our August book will be [Small Things Like These](#) by Claire Keegan. Both are available at local libraries and 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*.

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/

MPUUC (FREMONT) & UUPS (SUNNYVALE) INVITE YOU TO JOIN THESE FUN SUMMER MEET-UPS!



Sunday, July 14th
from 2:30-4:30pm
Las Palmas Park
850 Russet Dr, Sunnyvale



Saturday, August 17th
from 9:30-11:30
Children's Playground
on Sailway Drive
Central Park, Fremont

look for the pop top tent
flying the progress
pride flag



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR MORE INFO