



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

November 2024

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom at 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.

Hurt Happens

November 3 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Hurt can happen, whether we mean it to or not. How do we ease that pain? How do we work to repair that relationship?

Children's Sunday Morning Community

November 3, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

Participants will learn about the Indian holiday of Diwali this week.

Sunday Supplement: Amplifying the Charge

November 3 @ 10:30 a.m.–Noon, hybrid

In person in the Conference Room and on Zoom
Sunday Service link: bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service.

Guest at Your Table

November 10 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Laura Randall - UUSC

Guest at Your Table, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, raises support for and awareness about key human rights issues. "Expanding the Welcome Table" is the theme for this coming year which is the program's 50th anniversary.

Election 2024

November 17 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Recap of the 2024 Election, for better or for worse, and how we can move forward after the fact.

Sunday Supplement: Amplifying the Charge

November 17 @ 10:30 a.m.–Noon, hybrid

In person in the Conference Room and on Zoom
Sunday Service link: bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service.

Tikkun olam-Repair of the World

November 24 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Deborah Levine Zimmer

Deborah Zimmer, past president of Temple Emanuel (a reform Jewish congregation in San Jose) and long-time member, will present a lively talk on the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*. *Tikkun olam* highlights the responsibility of human activity being essential to repairing a broken world. This concept corresponds with our theme this month as well as our UU faith's concern for being sacred agents of this repair.



Minister's Musings

In October I had myself chained to a sewing machine. I realized that a lot of the garments I had made for a show needed a massive number of adjustments and repairs. I started slowly; making sure that the measurements for each piece were correct and making sure that my stitches and alterations were accurate. I quickly realized the problem: I was trying to get too much done in a short amount of time, and I skipped important steps such as making mock-ups and fittings. Instead, I took my patterns at face-value and made the incredibly naïve simply decision to make the garments, cutting and

trimming the expensive fabric just to save myself the time and energy of proper tailoring.

After completing one garment in full, I realized my negligence. The waist was too long and simply too big on her, and while I knew I would have to set the hem of the gown, it was 6 inches too long! A set of sleeves I had made for another gown, which should have been simple, became a task in frustration because in my haste I sewed them the wrong way and had to improvise a fix. Even on my own doublet for closures, I sewed two eyes and no hooks, or I sewed them off-kilter which made the garment fit funny. Like when you button up your shirt and you miss a button, or you button it unevenly.

My advice to you (as a tailor, and as a minister), and it's great advice for life: make sure you are taking the time to make a project fit but allow yourself the flexibility of repair and adjustment. Don't rush if you can help it, and if you must, be sure you take the time to look at and admire your work. And it's easier to take something in because you've allowed space for adjustment, rather than cutting it too closely and leaving little space left over for ease. Remember the tailor's creed: Measure twice, cut once!

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



Dear Families and Congregants, Love lies at the center of Unitarian Universalism, but sometimes our care for others may fall short and we may fail to connect. What can we do then?

Should we turn away from each other in shame? No, with love at our center, we turn toward each other to restore broken connections. Each month, we as a congregation focus on a practice of our faith. November's practice is *repair*, the emotional and spiritual work we should undertake to patch up relationships.

In the Children's Sunday Morning Community, we have a special way of reminding ourselves to act out of care for each other when we are together. It's a paper chain that has all our names inscribed on it,



each on one link, with the ends joined into a circle. It adorns a list of the ways we've agreed to show care and to repair our relationships when someone gets hurt or harmed. These paper links of care and repair function as the covenant that we have with each other as members of the Sunday Morning Community. UUFS's focus on repair this month will help us consider more ways to restore relationships. We'll learn that tools such as speaking up for ourselves and others, kindness, and honesty can help fix injustices and keep people together.

Repairing relationships may also be part of healing environmental damage. The Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle will consider the tantalizing question *What If We Get It Right?* when we discuss the book of this title by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. Details in "Activities" entry below. Join us!

President's Message - Karen Enz

I cannot sidestep the fact that this month's election is on everyone's mind. Many people are understandably afraid and anxious about the future of our democratic institutions, and I certainly count myself in that group. My only advice is that no matter what the outcome, we need to ensure that we don't let our emotions get the better of us and remember that we are not powerless to continue doing good in the world.

With that thought in mind, this afternoon (Oct. 24), I had lunch with a long-time friend, Deborah Zimmer, who will be presenting on November 24 the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, translated as one's sacred responsibility of repairing a broken world. As you know, "repair" is the theme of this month's Sunday services and I am thrilled that Deborah has agreed to acquaint us with the Jewish perspective on "repair." I believe *tikkun olam* has many points of similarity with the UU perspective on social justice and other related topics like climate change action. In our conversation, after "getting politics out of the way" (as she said) we talked about what might be of interest to a UU audience. Knowing her as well as I do, I know that it will be a stimulating and thought-

provoking presentation, which I hope many of you can attend. And as an added bonus, you may also be the beneficiary of her scrumptious muffins at coffee hour, to “repair” your hunger!

In faith,
Karen

Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities

Amplifying the Charge

The “Amplifying the Charge” adult ed program is aimed at deepening personal, communal, and denominational grounding. A multi-disciplinary team created a discussion series to explore personal faith experiences, denomination's formation, theology, and the current bylaws changes. Sessions will meet four times, 10:30 a.m.-Noon in the conference room every Sunday when Rev. Johnnie is in the pulpit. The hybrid seminars will be on creating a covenant, UU history, what keeps us coming back to our fellowship, and what we envision for the future of Unitarian Universalism. Childcare is available upon request. Reminders with discussion topics and links will be sent in the midweek updates prior to the sessions, as engagement is encouraged. Join in for a journey of exploration and connection. Please see Rev. Johnnie or email him at revjohnnie@uufs.org for more information or questions.

Soul Matters Covenant Groups

To expand our Shared Ministry together, we will be re-establishing Covenanting Groups for UUFS. A covenant group is a small relational group made up of six to twelve people who meet regularly to establish and nurture themselves in their own beloved community. The beauty is that since we as a community subscribe to the Soul Matters curriculum, we have access to their Small Group Ministry packets that give potential groups the opportunity to connect with each other on a spiritual level without extra work! Please email connections@uufs.org or revjohnnie@uufs.org for more information or questions.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Expanding the Welcome Table

November 10-December 7, 2024



For more than 25 years UUFS members and friends have been generous supporters of the

Guest at Your Table annual fundraiser for the UU Service Committee (UUSC). On each Sunday through December 1, you will learn about a partner that UUSC is featuring. Your contribution is boosted by matches: member Janet Werkman with a \$5000 match, UU Shelter Rock with a match for any donation of \$150+, and perhaps even a match by your employer. Donate via our UUFS donation page: [donate](#). If you prefer to donate by check, make it out to **UUSC**, memo line: “UUFS GAYT” and put it in the offering basket or hand it to those at the Welcome Table. Contact social.justice@uufs.org.

Join us for a virtual Film Screening

November 7, 2024 @ 7:00-9:00 p.m.



She Rises Up, a film by Maureen Castle Tusty, reveals the explosive implications of women's economic participation as we follow radically

different women from Sri Lanka, Peru and Senegal who are fighting to build businesses that create job opportunities for women, while also contributing to the reduction of poverty in their communities.

Contact social.justice@uufs.org. Register for free at <https://uufs.org/events/film-screening-virtual>

December 1st & 8th are UUndies Sundays!

Continuing a UUFS tradition, we will collect donations to benefit clients of a homeless shelter in the region. Watch for details in the coming month. Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org with any questions.

Thanksgiving Potluck

A Thanksgiving gathering is being planned for 11/24. Stay tuned for details in the midweek update.

Volunteer: prepare a meal for shelter residents
Social Justice at UuFS will again be providing a meal to 20 clients at a LifeMoves LGBTQ+ shelter in San Jose on December 1st. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare food, either together with other volunteers or in your own home. Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org to volunteer or get more information.

Activities

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, November 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 play knowing that their kids are happily occupied too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, November 16 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Online via Zoom

We consider the tantalizing question *What If We Get It Right?* when we begin discussing the book of this title by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. This is a collection of interviews, essays, and artwork, which makes it easy for participants to drop in anytime and discuss their favorites—no pressure to attend every month or read every piece. We meet on Zoom (email redirector@uufs.org for the link). As the publisher puts it, “If you haven’t yet been able to picture a transformed and replenished world—or to see yourself, your loved ones, and your community in it—this book is for you.” Join us!

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, November 21 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom Contact: social.justice@uufs.org

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting as we discuss relevant topics and plan activities. 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

Friday, Nov 22 @ 10:00 a.m.-Noon, In person

At our November meeting we share poetry which can include your own poems. Please bring several paper copies of your poem(s) to share. Our January book, [*The Way We Live Now*](#) by Trollope, is lengthy so please start reading it soon. It is available at Books, Inc. and at local libraries. We meet in a member's home. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

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/