



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

October 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.

The Meaning of National Debt

October 6 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Bill Miller

Money touches our lives in ways that have moral implications. Today's debt-based currency system is prone to misunderstanding, superstition, and false narratives. Proper understanding would enable us to more fully realize our potential to be a beacon to the world.

Children's Sunday Morning Community

October 6, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

We will begin to explore October's theme of *deep listening*. What does it mean to listen to one's self? What does it mean to listen to others? Understanding what someone else has to say requires learning new words, frames of reference, and perspectives. This week we'll learn a little about the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, as we reflect on listening deeply.

Sunday Supplement: UU Climate Revival

October 6

@ 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (in-person, Chapel)

@ 1:00-2:00 p.m. Zoom: bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service

-Join us to learn more about the Climate Revival and explore how UUFS might get involved.

Chaplaincy 101: How I Learned to Fail

October 13 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Rev. Johnnie has and continues to serve as a chaplain, specifically at UCSF Medical Center, but he has also served as a hospice chaplain in the Riverside and San Bernardino areas. Chaplaincy requires deep listening--something he struggles with as a neurodivergent human. Hear what he's learned, continues to learn, and hopes to teach.

Sunday Supplement: Amplifying the Charge

October 13 @ 11:00-11:45 a.m. hybrid

In person in the Chapel and on Zoom with the Sunday Service link: bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service. Find out more in the "Activities" listed on page 4.

Joining Together the Sacred

October 20 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Clara Walker

Hinges hold together a lot of things—doors, jewelry, iPad covers, jacks-in-the-box. These unsung, practical, jacks of all trades do a lot of heavy lifting as they hold things together. This talk is an examination of some of the metaphorical hinges on which I base my personal brand of UUism.

Communing with Our Ancestors

October 27 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

In celebration of the Celtic Holiday of Samhain, we will have a service to commune and honor our ancestors. Please bring a reminder of an ancestor or family member that you wish to honor during this service.

Sunday Supplement: Amplifying the Charge

October 27 @ 11:00-11:45 a.m. hybrid

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

Minister's Musings



September and October are my favorite months, not because September happens to be my birthday month and Samhain

happens to be my favorite holiday, but to me it is the start of true “New Year.” I love the Fall: the crispness in the air (which admittedly doesn’t happen until twilight in California) and the feeling of renewal that occurs for me this time of year. School started in the fall, so there was new learning to be had and a new teacher and classroom to get to know. There were new clothes (or in my case, new-to-me clothes), there was always at least a new notebook and perhaps a new backpack, and new shoes (because we inevitably would grow out of the previous year’s pair). In this time of year, there is always a sense of overall thanksgiving for me, because I remember being genuinely grateful for the new things that I received, and I was also genuinely anxious about the coming changes and transformations that were bound to occur to me.

As an earth-based spiritual practitioner, this is a sacred time. It is a time where we believe the veil between the corporeal and the spiritual is at its thinnest. It is a time where we can honor our ancestors, both recent and ancient. It is the dark time of the year—where we quite literally say goodbye to the sun (seeing it as often) and welcome the night earlier.

As a fellowship or church community, this is also the time of starting anew, and welcoming each other back with ingathering, hope, and desire... Desire to see our community grow and flourish. Desire to evolve and transform to meet the needs of our members. Desire to see what happens next!

--Rev. Johnnie

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

Dear Families and Congregants,



The framework for our activities and reflections in the Children’s Sunday Morning Community this year is the Practices of Our Faith. That means doing things to make meaning. So what will we be doing in October? listening—hearing our inner voices and marginalized voices, immersing ourselves in the soundscape of the natural world, even lending an ear to others’ perspectives. Who can’t use a lesson or two in the art of listening, no

matter their age? Stay tuned for the results of our exploits amid the airwaves this month.

I am also happy to report that the second series of workshops in our new Our Whole Lives sexuality education program is underway with a roster of 4th and 5th graders from our own fellowship, the UU Fellowship of Los Gatos, and the wider community. Special thanks go to Joshua Levy for serving as the site coordinator representing UUFS in this inter-congregational endeavor, as well as Ursula Syrova, who is assisting him in that role.

When the generations meet in the sanctuary on the last Sunday of October, costumes are encouraged, of course. Having learned about traditions associated with the pagan holiday of Samhain as well as Halloween, children will go door-to-door in the Community First School building seeking treats from the RE teachers. During the Story for All Ages concluding this month of listening, we’ll all attend to the voice of an author who celebrates Dia de Los Muertos.

Let us open our ears and our hearts in the coming weeks.

President’s Message

Greetings from the Inside Passage along the Alaska/British Columbia coast! Our captain has chosen to closely hug the coast of British Columbia to circumvent the worst of the big atmospheric river sweeping over this part of the Pacific Northwest as we return to Seattle. This storm has not so far dampened (pun intended) our enjoyment of our cruise. We were fortunate to cruise Glacier Bay, as due to climate concerns its access is being increasingly restricted, which I believe is a wise decision. Also, it is a real pleasure to meet and talk to some of the 2000 LGBTQ women from all over the world on this Olivia cruise.

Well, as we wend our way down towards Victoria, BC, our next port of call, I cannot help but think how fortunate we are to have experienced the generosity of Hugh and Lory Frohbach, considering their recent bequest to UUFS. It is also evident that we need to be responsible stewards of our increased financial resources. As your President of the Board of Trustees I envision that it is my

responsibility to help facilitate that stewardship through the ideas and guidance of all of you as we move UUFS into the future.

I believe it would not be far-fetched to say that this “windfall” also may usher in changes that may be challenging for us to contemplate and experience. I humorously digress a little here when I mention the TV program from the late ‘50s called *The Millionaire* where an anonymous benefactor would provide a million dollars to selected recipients who believed that the money would solve all their problems. Different weekly dramas would unfold that would reveal in many cases the bequest would actually compound their problems of the recipients. This is not to say that UUFS would fall into that category. I believe that, though the situations depicted in *The Millionaire* were fictional, they still highlight the fanciful assumptions about the power of money. Nevertheless, I still feel positive about the increased choices we may have with this bequest. I feel very grateful that Ginger and I were able to take this vacation in such a breathtakingly gorgeous place to “recharge our batteries” to meet those challenges in our respective positions for UUFS.

In faith,
Karen Enz

Librarian/Sunday Book Cart

Annabel Griffiths, our Librarian, would like to transfer her duties to another person. If you are interested, reach out to connections@uufs.org. Note that the book cart is full and cannot take any more books at this time!

Supporting Our Community and Values

Soul Matters Covenant Groups

To expand our Shared Ministry together, we are re-establishing Covenanting Groups. A covenant



Soul Matters

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! If you are interested in participating or would like more information, contact connections@uufs.org.

UU the Vote Continues Through October



Thanks to all who are participating in getting out the vote via Reclaim Our Vote postcards (mail by 10/15) and Vote Forward letters (mail by 10/29). If you'd like to sign up for 5 or more Vote Forward letters, go to votefwd.org.

UU Climate Justice Revival



joining hands this fall.

The entire UU ecosystem is organizing for climate justice action. There is power in numbers, and UUs around the world are

- Together we will create a complex representation of the challenging realities for climate justice in our unique context
 - Develop a vision of a flourishing future
 - Identify a clear set of potential actions that we can take to realize this vision.
 - Enable participants to understand the interdependent ecosystem of climate justice
- To learn more, come to our October 6th Climate Revival Supplement or go to uufs.org/justice.

Our Community Partners

UUFS has a non-religious fund derived from



matching donations by employers. Every year in July UUFS Social Justice and Climate Action meets to approve a slate of donations to nonprofits, mostly local, that support our UU values. This year we approved donations to

long-time partners and two new ones. To find out more about this year's partners see our Outreach Program to Nonprofits [here](#), or contact social.justice@uufs.org.

Activities

Inter-congregational All-Ages Game Night

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

Join us for a fun evening. There will be a variety of teen and adult table games on hand—or bring one of your own. There will 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. Contact REdirector@uufs.org.

Amplifying the Charge: Sunday Supplements

Sunday, Oct. 13 and 27, 2024

@ 11:00-11:45 a.m. in the Chapel

and via Zoom: bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service

Rev. Johnnie will lead discussions about the UUA Amplifying the Charge program which provides a framework for multi-layered engagement. It supports communities to learn more about our faith, theology, and governance, incorporating personal experiences of faith, spirit, and humanity.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, October 19 @

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 and Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, October 24 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom: link [here](#)

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings as we discuss relevant topics and plan activities. If you would like to join our Google Group or have questions, contact social.justice@uufs.org.

The Book Group

Thursday, October 24 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m.

In person

Our October book is *Trail of the Lost: The Relentless Search to Bring Home the Missing Hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail* by Andrea Lankford. It is available at [Leigh's Favorite Books](#) 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.

Board of Trustees

Meets October 10, 2024 @ 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Contact board.president@uufs.org to request the Zoom link. All are welcome.

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

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-9 Policies and Guidelines](#).

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/