



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

March 2025

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom at [bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service](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.

### **Sand or Stone?**

March 2 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

We are in the midst of political and social upheaval. Madeleine L'Engle reminds us, "It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand." A lot of what our country stands on is sand, but how do we get to the rock that undergirds us?

### **Children's Sunday Morning Community, 9:15-11:30 a.m.**

March in the solar calendar this year coincides with the Arabic lunar calendar's ninth month, which is called Ramadan. Participants will create a calendar of the next 29 days based on the phases of the moon and learn about the significance of this holy month in the Islamic faith.

### **Why Do the Nations Rage Together?**

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

By Member David Griffiths

Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage Together? Why do the People Imagine a Vain Thing? The problem will be illustrated by examples from the low points of the last 2000 years of British history (Julius Caesar to Brexit) and will be supported by pictures. Actions to improve the situation will be suggested, partly based on history.

### **TBD Check the Mid-Week Updates...for Updates**

March 16 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

### **Celebrating Ostara**

March 23 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Ostara/Eostre is the second of the Cross-Quarter Days of the traditional Pagan calendar. A celebration of fertility and abundance!

### **The Gut Tells the Truth**

March 23 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

It's often said that we should "trust our gut." What does that mean? Intuition is a powerful tool - but how do we know that it's correct, and what we should do?



### ***Minister's Musings***

This month I'm going to be taking a break on my political and social opinion pieces. We all know what state the US is in right now and to be frankly honest I'm taking a hiatus. It's not that I don't care, it's not that I don't want to fight, it's that I don't want to listen to our mainstream news and social media giving that man any more airtime.

Let's think about the future. What do we want to see for our fellowship for the future? A robust religious education program that partners with and shares amazing resources with all UU fellowships in the area? A powerful and enticing music program that includes a professional music director and choir

leader? A strong adult programming block that allows us to engage one another on a spiritual and philosophical plane, all while still having fun and being part of community?

I know that even as of last year, we had several moments where we were asked these questions, or asked the ever so appropriate yet vague question “What would we like to see for the future of our community?” This is our opportunity to put our money where our mouth is!

UU churches are on a trajectory that could see us gain hundreds of new members in the next coming years. We will not be able to support that if we don’t have enticing programs in place! Caveat: I would never encourage anyone to give more than they could. Give what you can be comfortable with, can live without, and would love to see in action.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

As promised, here’s my report on the progress of the cardboard model of inclusive public space that UUFS children have been designing and building. They chose to create a community center that could accommodate different ages, abilities, ethnicities, and gender identities. Heartwarming discussions of how a structure could help make diverse groups of people feel they belong have been a mainstay of the last several weeks. Check out the Kids’ Play Area under construction (see photos). Notice the ramp, stepless threshold, and shade cover. A planned cafe will feature multiethnic cuisines while signage throughout the complex in universal symbols and braille will communicate their messages regardless of reading skill, language background, or visual capacity. Inclusion Community Center will fly a rainbow flag, along with other signs of welcome to diverse groups, and offer all-gender bathrooms. February was indeed a month about *inclusion* for children and youth at UUFS.



When Soul Matters, our curriculum provider, set the themes for this church year, little did I know that upholding the simple, humane concept of inclusion would feel so urgent in 2025. We are living in topsy-turvy times when *anti-Diversity*, *anti-Equity*, and *anti-Inclusion* sentiment is proudly proclaimed by this nation’s elected (and unelected) officials. March’s theme, *trust*, burns now, too, with greater urgency than ever. Who can a Unitarian Universalist–child, youth, or adult–trust when values like those we hold dear are disavowed in public discourse, and when, beyond the rhetoric, many are in real jeopardy? Let this month remind us to trust each other in the UU community. After all, our values based in love, including pluralism, equity, and justice, bind us together.

## Board Announcement

At the Sunday service on 2/16 the Board announced that Karen Enz has resigned from the Board for personal reasons. Krista Galyen has been chosen to serve as Board President for the remainder of this term.

## *Supporting Our Community and Values*

### Pledge Drive Launches

*Get ready to sail.* March 2 will be the official kickoff of the 2025-2026 UUFS Pledge Drive. This year we are privileged to have a team of experienced and creative members organizing and directing this essential effort. Scott Walker, Denise Kato, and Alan Herrmann will be working to raise the minimum goal of \$200,000 set by the Board of Trustees. Rev. Johnnie will be advising as an ad hoc member of the team. More details will follow in the Mid-Week Updates in March, so stay alert!

### UUFS Supports Sunnyvale Community Services

On February 9th Marie Bernard from Sunnyvale Community Services spoke to us about their efforts to eliminate homelessness and hunger in our community. The Sunday Service collection for that service, \$922 was donated to SCS and was generously matched by member Alan Herrmann for a total of \$1844.

### Celebration of Life for Lisa Lethin

We will gather on Saturday March 15 in the sanctuary to honor the life of Lisa Lethin. The service will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception lasting until 4:00 p.m. The reception will be a combination of catered mid-east food and potluck for side/dessert dishes. We need volunteers for setup and cleanup. Sign up at the link below if you will bring food and if you can help with setup or cleanup, or email Laurel Beecher at [activities@UUFS.org](mailto:activities@UUFS.org). [Sign-Up](#)

## *Activities*

### Congregational Church Mardi Gras

Pastor Ron and the Congregation at the Congregational Church invites all the UUFS members and friends to join our Mardi Gras celebrations on Sunday, March 2nd. The service begins at 11 am and lunch will be served shortly after 12:15 p.m. The Jazz band will start playing at 11 a.m. and will continue to play during lunch. And it's a lot of fun! See the attached poster for details.

### Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, March 1 @ 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. Contact [redirector@uufs.org](mailto:redirector@uufs.org)

### Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, March 15 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Join folks interested in ecology and the changing climate. We will be starting a new book this month: *Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World*, by Karen Armstrong (2023). A venerable historian of world religions, Armstrong examines how humans relate to nature in various faith traditions and considers how to transform today's destructive relationship. We meet on Zoom. Email [redirector@uufs.org](mailto:redirector@uufs.org) for the link.

### Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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Online via Zoom Contact: [social.justice@uufs.org](mailto: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](mailto:social.justice@uufs.org).

### **The Book Group**

Friday, February 28 @ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

Friday, March 28 @ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

In person in a member's home

Join us as we discuss the entertaining novel [North Woods](#) by Daniel Mason. Selections of the March and April books will be posted on the uufs.org [Book Group page](#) and also via our Google Group. Contact [book.group@uufs.org](mailto:book.group@uufs.org) to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

### **Men's Group**

Meets weekly on Tuesday @ 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom - Contact: [mens.group@uufs.org](mailto:mens.group@uufs.org)

### **Meditation Group**

Meets weekly on Thursday @ 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Online via Zoom - Contact: [meditation@uufs.org](mailto: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](mailto:womens.group@uufs.org)

### **Contact Us**

You can reach our office manager, Leah Simmons, at [office@uufs.org](mailto: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](mailto:revjohnnie@uufs.org). He is, of course, always available for immediate spiritual emergencies via his cell phone.

Contact [webmaster@uufs.org](mailto:webmaster@uufs.org) regarding updates to our website. Please direct questions about this newsletter to: [communications@uufs.org](mailto:communications@uufs.org).

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

### **Monthly Calendar**

[uufs.org/calendar/](http://uufs.org/calendar/)



# MARTIN MARDI GRAS

## SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Join us for

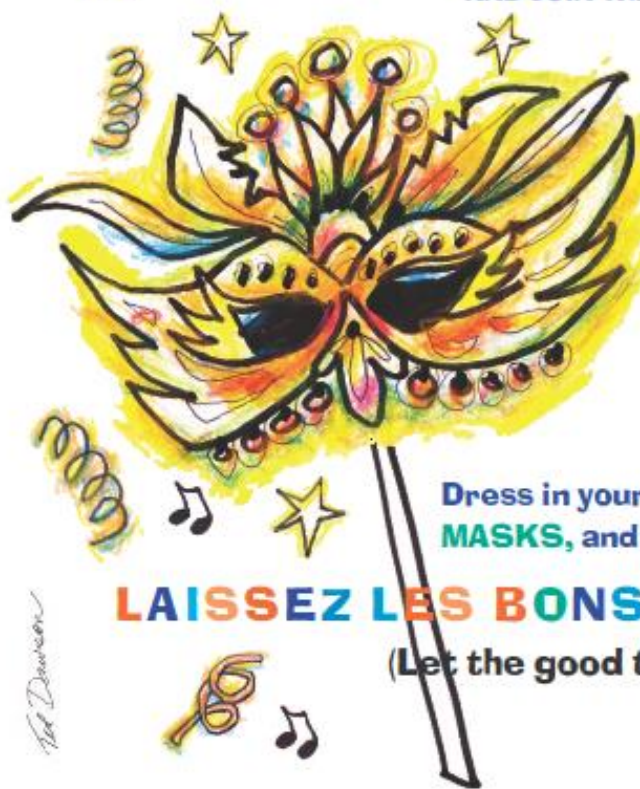
AN UNFORGETTABLE MARDI GRAS SUNDAY  
WITH LIVE MUSIC, DELICIOUS FOOD, AND  
FESTIVE DANCING DURING WORSHIP!



**FEATURING: THE CAMPBELL'S JAZZ SOUP** - A DIXIELAND  
JAZZ BAND BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS TO LIFE!

**FOOD:** ENJOY A HEARTY SERVING OF **JAMBALAYA, CORNBREAD & KING CAKE**

**2ND LINE DANCING:** GRAB YOUR **PARASOLS & HANDKERCHIEFS**  
AND JOIN THE PARADE!



**DATE:**  
**MARCH 2ND, 2025**

**LOCATION:**  
**1112 S. BERNARDO AVE,  
SUNNYVALE CA 94087**

**TIME: 11 AM**



Dress in your Mardi Gras best - **BEADS,**  
**MASKS,** and **FESTIVE ATTIRE ENCOURAGED!**

**LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER!**

(Let the good times roll!)



Art Dawson