



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

May 2025

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.

Imagination in Action: Building a Better California

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

By Patrick Ahrens (California Assembly)

Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens shares how imagination fuels his legislative work in the California State Assembly—from supporting foster youth and working students to advancing justice-based reforms for families.

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

A special snack will exercise participants' creativity as we begin to explore this month's theme of *imagination*. They will get a chance to try the results of each other's original recipes and reflect on how people's taste differs.

Too Big Dreams

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Have you ever had a dream, and someone came about and told you that it was "too much," or "too big" of a dream? Today, we'll explore how dreams, no matter what their size, are important. Period.

Everyday is a Training Exercise

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

By Rev. Russ Menk

A Stoic exercise involves imagining potential hardships or misfortunes before they occur. It's a way to prepare for the inevitable setbacks of life,

build resilience, and cultivate gratitude for what you have (known as: *premeditatio malorum*). Today we're awash in social chaos—can this "exercise" help us survive our national whirlwind?

Limits Should Not Exist

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Antoine de Saint Exupéry said, "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." Why should we limit ourselves to merely being a cog in a system? We should allow ourselves the vastness of the unknown!



Minister's Musings

I realize that I have been talking about politics and the effect it's having on our country, and BIPOC and LGBTQIA (I highlight the T right

now because the trans community have become scapegoats for this new regime. I am taking a break from that this month, to talk about something that is important to some of us: romance.

Spring has truly sprung (and so has the pollen count, but you know my feelings on pollen – I am just allergic to the world), but this spring has sprung directly into my romantic heart. I was able to take my sisters to enjoy the musical SIX in San Francisco, I got to take my husband to see one of his divas, Kylie Minogue, and we welcomed the birth of his first

nephew. I am sure you are thinking, “Rev. Johnnie, how is a show with your sisters and a new nephew ‘romantic?’” Oxford’s second definition of the word romantic is: of, characterized by, or suggestive of an idealized view of reality. What is a more idealized view of reality than a wonderful night with one’s best friends, a lovely night dancing and enjoying a concert with one’s partner, or the birth of a new baby, a literal symbol of love and creation? These beautiful moments in my life feed my creative and loving soul, and to me they are the ultimate expression of how I view a romantic life.

What is romantic for you? What is feeding your soul right now? How are you bringing light into your life, when our country is shrouded in darkness and far too much realism (the antonym for romantic)? Sure, it’s great to be realistic at times, but that is mundane, and to me makes life boring. I challenge you: find what feeds your romantic soul.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

This month’s practice—imagination—underlies UU values. When we seek justice and equity, we must imagine our goal from a place of injustice and disparity. When we are moved by generosity, we must understand another’s need. When we welcome pluralism and interdependence, we must look beyond ourselves. Transformation itself requires vision beyond the immediate horizon. As UUFS explores imagination in May, we will be exercising mental and emotional muscles that help us, young and old alike, to uphold our shared values in everyday life.

Before heading off into this gym of heart and mind during May, check out an image of joy from last month. Attendees at the Climate Justice Revival action, including Rynne Brown and her son Rook New, spent the morning of April 12 planting 16 trees with Canopy, a local organization dedicated to closing the “green gap.” A crew of perhaps 50



volunteers from various organizations—Unitarian Universalists among them—did their part to increase shade cover, carbon uptake, and urban green space. The community connections and sense of purpose came with smiles and cookies! Watch for future Climate Justice Revival events to make your mark in the world and on this cumulative poster of collective action.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Semi-Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 -11:45 a.m., Chapel and Zoom, bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service.



budget, and to elect Board members.

In addition to getting updates from our teams and committees, we will be voting on next year’s Plan to join us as our bylaws require a quorum of at least 25% of eligible voters to be present to conduct official business. The right to vote is reserved for those who have been members of this Fellowship for at least thirty days prior to the business meeting, who have made a financial contribution of record within the twelve months preceding the meeting notice (that goes out ten days before the meeting), and have attained the voting age. The voting age is sixteen years of age unless our youth have successfully completed a “UU Coming of Age Program,” in which case the voting age is fourteen. Childcare will be available during the meeting. Please contact Colleen Hamilton our Director of Religious Education to indicate your interest in having childcare provided: redirector@uufs.org. If you have been attending our Fellowship and are interested in learning more about becoming a member, please set up a time to speak with Reverend Johnnie via his Calendly booking page: <https://calendly.com/rev-johnnie-bloom-ramirez>.

COME ENJOY THE FUN!



Plan to participate in the Lisa Lethin Memorial Marketplace, Silent Auction & Potluck on June 8 immediately after service by the religious education (RE) classrooms. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other UUFS members, both at the potluck and through events

offered in the auction. Discover and enjoy the hidden talents of our members by bidding on events like "Tea with the Queen" or a custom made to order table runner & placemats. Enjoy a brunch or celebrate the summer solstice with a picnic in the park and viewing the sun through a solar filtered telescope. Enjoy lemonade freshly made by the RE kids. All offerings and details of how to bid will be provided in this [auction catalog](#).

You can donate your homemade crafts or tasty treats to the Marketplace or create an event or donate larger items or experiences to the silent auction with this [form](#). Please submit those donations by May 30!

We're also seeking help in setting up and running the event; you can [sign up here](#).

The Marketplace and silent auction will be run in conjunction with a potluck brunch. Please label any foods brought for the potluck and marketplace with ingredients that might affect those with dietary sensitivities. You're encouraged to bring your own reusable plates and serveware.

For more details, visit the [UUFS website](#).

Covenant Groups

Are you interested in being part of a covenant group?

Covenant groups are made up of 6 to 10 individuals who meet regularly each month to share thoughts and experiences with a focus on a central theme. These small groups provide opportunities to deepen relationships, strengthen community, and explore your spirituality. Those who participate in covenant groups often gain a shared sense of community through the practice of deep listening and reflecting on the values that give meaning to our lives. A small group experience is especially valuable to newcomers. We will meet at 11:00 am, after the service, on Sunday, May 4 at UUFS. Please join us if you are interested. For more information, email covenant.groups@uufs.org.

Activities

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, May 3 @ 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

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

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

Join folks interested in ecology and the changing climate. We are reading: [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 for the link.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Wednesday, May 28 @ 7:30-8:30 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.

The Book Group

Friday, May 23 @ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

In person in a member's home

In May we will discuss [*The Promise*](#) by Damon Galgut. In June we'll be reading: [*Loneliness and Company*](#) by Charlee Dyroff. All future (and past) book selections are posted on the uufs.org [Book Group page](#) and also via our Google Group. Contact 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

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-19 Policies and Guidelines](#).

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/