



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

July 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.

### "We Hold These Truths..."

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Regardless of the problematic nature of our Founding Fathers, what they did when they signed and sent the Declaration of Independence was treason. What led them to this place? Why did they make a decision that could have literally cost them their lives?

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

July is for unfettered fun in the Children's Sunday Morning Community. First up: bubbles.

### Taking One's Moral Inventory by Rev. Kaaren Anderson

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

Presented By Member Tara Martin-Milius

Proximity is more important than right thinking. Cultivating close relationships is more important than cultivating careful thought. That the formula we have always thought works – "get informed, get passionate, get going" – is flawed!... It's time we resisted this way of thinking and change our perspective and approach... Get informed my friends, but before you get going, get close!

### Salute to Summer

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

By Members Alan Herrman & Kimberly Yancy

Summer is a time to relax, to travel, to read, to sleep late, and to do the things we love to do but don't find enough time for in the other seasons. Kimberly and Alan reflect on memories and meanings of summer and the carefree feeling of summertime.

### Union Strong

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Labor Unions have been an integral part of our society since the Industrial Age. They have played a critical role in many of the benefits we now take for granted, but their existence is in peril. Why should this be important to us as citizens and Unitarian Universalists?



### Minister's Musings

UUFS is in the full swing of summer, which means a lot of us will be going on well-deserved vacations and explorations. I hope that those trips and excursions are meaningful and lead you to enlightenments you haven't experienced yet. I truly wish that for some that are visiting the places from whence they came, they are engaged with fruitful conversations and connections with family and friends not seen on the regular, and that

those connections are consequential and beautiful. In my mundane life as a flight attendant, the summer brings travel all over the United States mostly, to places I normally would never visit. For me as your minister, the summer months are a time for experimentation and exploration as well – finding new and exciting ways to bring spirit and love into our community. In these “unprecedented” times that we are living in, it is the simple pleasures like what I have described that will get us through and show us that our freedom is worth fighting for. With this in mind, I will be hosting what I will be calling the Creative Chalice Salon, where we can bring forth ideas, thoughts, art, music, poetry, etc. to each other during this summer. I want this to be a time of connection and community, showing off the things that we are working on that bring us joy to our lives. Bring all art: your music, your writing and poetry, your crafts, your sewing, crochet, knitting, cooking, baking or even your models or Lego projects to share with one another. I am hoping to host these biweekly events in the Conference Room at the church facility, and the dates will be TBA for now based on my mundane schedule. Hope to see you there!

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



Dear Families and Congregants, Is this *rebellion*: two children working together to care for a plant? If not rebellion, our theme for July, I like to think this photo taken one Sunday morning at UUFS just weeks ago depicts a form of resistance at least. Where could there be conflict in this idyllic scene, you might ask? The adversaries, I believe, are the common assumptions that everyone should be out for themselves and that consuming is the ultimate goal. These ideas seem to lurk around every corner in our everyday lives. Devotion to a common effort on behalf of another living thing, as you see here, shields us against such threats to mutual thriving. Of course, it is necessary for everyone to participate in

the dominant culture, imbued as it is with individualism and materialism. Nevertheless, I hope that our Children’s Sunday Morning Community does combat the potential for an exploitative mindset by promoting connection and care—garden activities are just one way we do so.

The idea that gardens can be sites of resistance against an adverse dominant culture has its own history. For example, a movement called “guerilla gardening” combats despair amid concrete wastelands, poor health in grocery-store deserts, and inequitable land distribution in the wake of colonialism. These freedom-fighting green thumbs parry with their own biodiverse cityscapes, food-sovereign vegetable patches, and even the preindustrial idea of a town commons. The term was codified in Richard Reynolds’s 2008 manifesto about guerilla gardens in 30 countries worldwide. I want to thank UUFS congregant Anouchka Gaillard for



making our little green rebellion possible by volunteering to supply plants from her own garden and haul in compost and mulch. She also donated her time to guide the kids in their work—and this photo!

### **Board Update**

At the June Board of Trustees meeting the new Board elected officers for the upcoming fiscal year: President - Krista Galyen, Vice President - Demyen Plantenberg, Secretary - Corinne Blankenship, Treasurer - Ginger Wolnik

## *Supporting Our Community and Values*

### **Volunteer to help prep a meal for shelter clients this summer!**

Social Justice at UUFS will again be coordinating 3 to 4 volunteers to prepare a meal for delivery to 20 clients at a LifeMoves LGBTQ+ shelter in San Jose. You missed your chance at this popular activity for June, but you can still sign up to help prep a meal at my Sunnyvale home on Saturday July 5th or Saturday August 2nd. Children are welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult. It's a great way to do good while getting to know more of your fellow UUs. First timers are welcome, and volunteering does not commit you to ever doing it again - although you will want to! We are also looking for someone who can occasionally take a turn at delivering the food to the shelter after the Sunday services; for this we do ask for more than a one-time commitment. Contact Laurel Beecher at [social.justice@uufs.org](mailto:social.justice@uufs.org) to volunteer or for more information.

### **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. Covenant groups are now meeting at UUFS. For info contact [covenant.groups@uufs.org](mailto:covenant.groups@uufs.org).

### **UUFS Summer Picnic**

Join us for food and fun at beautiful Serra Park in Sunnyvale! Sign up to volunteer to come early and help prepare the site or stay after for clean-up.

Picnic area #3 at Serra Park has been reserved on Sunday July 20 (thanks Alan). The site is 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! Contact [connections@uufs.org](mailto:connections@uufs.org) for more information.

### **Step Into the Pulpit — Share Your Voice!**

We believe everyone has wisdom to offer, and we'd be honored to hear yours from the pulpit. Whether you're inspired to speak solo or partner with someone, read your words or speak from the heart, we welcome your unique perspective.

**Your talk can be anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes,** and the topic is up to you! You might:

Explore a subject you're passionate about;  
Reflect on an upcoming holiday that holds meaning for you;

Speak to one of our monthly themes:

**August** – *Affirmation*

**September** – *Building Belonging*

**October** – *Cultivating Compassion*

### **Interested?**

Reach out to us at [service.coordinator@uufs.org](mailto:service.coordinator@uufs.org)— we're happy to support you in shaping your message.

Let your voice be heard. Let your truth be shared.

## *Activities*

### **Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night**

Saturday, July 5 @ 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, July 19 @ 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](mailto:redirector@uufs.org) for link.

### **Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting**

Wednesday, July 23 @ 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

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, July 25 @ 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
In person in a member's home

In July we discuss [\*The Wedding People\*](#) by Alison Espach. In August we will be reading: [\*Fun Home\*](#) by Alison Bechdel. In September we will be reading [\*The Acid Queen\*](#) by Susanna Cahalan. 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](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. Rev. Johnnie's work phone number is +1 (669) 290-7067. Going forward, please use this number to reach them.

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).

### **Monthly Calendar** [uufs.org/calendar/](http://uufs.org/calendar/)