



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

October 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.

Rising Through Resilience

October 5 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Lety Gonzalez

At the age of 34, I share my journey with deep gratitude and reflection. My talk highlights three central themes drawn from my life experiences: belonging to a mixed-status family and how it has shaped my identity, the power of community support in guiding me toward a positive path, and the importance of embracing your truth in order to keep moving forward. Together, these lessons remind us of the strength we carry within to face challenges and continue growing.

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

Children and youth will continue with some shared projects connected to settling in for the new church year. This will also be the inaugural meeting of a new group called Young Leaders. Youth will gather after our usual whole group Chalice Time to explore the monthly theme more deeply and plan community activities to lead.

Change is a constant companion

October 12 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Sociologists say that the average person changes and evolves every 5-7 years. This is not rooted in science, but in the observation that people gradually evolve. The question: do we allow our evolution or do we fight to stay the same?

Rod Serling of the Twilight Zone: Unitarian Extraordinaire

October 19 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Karen Enz

Many of us grew up watching The Twilight Zone, but few people knew that Rod Serling was a UU. His use of science fiction as a vehicle for his themes was never used gratuitously. Come hear how Rod's UU principles informed his work, especially compassion, which is this month's theme.

Pity is a four-letter word

October 26 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Compassion without the desire to understand or empathize with the person needing it, pity, is helping "those less fortunate than ourselves," and highlights our differences in social station. Pity keeps us at a distance, where compassion encourages us to walk alongside and experience.



Minister's Musings

The First Amendment states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of

religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Like most of you surely are, I was appalled that the Walt Disney Company acquiesced to the demands of the puppet FCC to suspend the Jimmy Kimmel show for Kimmel's comments about Trump and MAGA responses to Charlie Kirk's murder.

Now, I am not a huge fan of Jimmy Kimmel, and rarely watch his show, but this was a blatant disregard of the First Amendment. It was a huge overreach of the current administration, and while Kimmel returned to the airwaves Tuesday September 24, 2025 (to an audience of over 6 million people), this cannot be ignored. Two ABC affiliates - Sinclair and Nexstar - still refuse to air Kimmel's show until he apologizes for the "insensitive comments" made by Kimmel regarding Mr. Kirk's murder. Both are controlled by MAGA supportive owners. Nexstar is attempting a merger with Tegna, its biggest competitor, and they need FCC approval. Coincidence?

Just a few days before this, on September 10, 2025, Fox News host Brian Kilmeade said that mentally ill homeless people who refuse services should be subjected to "involuntary lethal injection" or something similar, adding "just kill 'em".

While calls were made for his firing, he has faced no repercussions.

The difference here? The "homeless" are nameless people who are a "blight" on society. Charlie Kirk was a white nationalist with a huge MAGA following and was, in this minister's opinion, a victim of his own hubris.

As Americans who value our freedoms, including the right to the free press and the right to the freedom of and from religion, we need to take these incidents seriously. The financial fallout from this for Disney was a staggering \$3.8 to \$5 billion. We need to keep hitting the corporations who kowtow to the current administration like this, in the pocketbook. I foresee greater attempts than this in the future.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

Seasons come, seasons go, and the years tick on and on. Why has the arrival of autumn inspired this truism from me in 2025? Well, the inexorable flipping of calendar pages has brought a shifting demographic to the Religious Education program at UUFS. A majority of children whose families belong to our congregation will have finished elementary school by next summer, and I believe they are ready to assume a more mature role in our congregation and take on with more seriousness themes that we all grapple with as a spiritual community.

I am pleased to announce the formation this October of a new group for youth. I'm tentatively calling it Young Leaders, although I'm eager to hear the participants' input on their name when they meet for the first time on October 5 from 10:45 to 11:15. Youth 10 and up will gather after our usual children's Chalice Time, in the adjoining classroom, to explore the monthly theme more deeply and plan endeavors that they can help lead such as community service projects, multigenerational worship elements, and contributions to church events including the silent auction and family-friendly socials. When youngsters are involved, the passage of time is a phenomenon to be welcomed with anticipation and joy. May they lead us into a glorious future!

Supporting Our Community and Values

Library Lively

New Home: Our UUFS rolling library cart is now in the Conference room next to the UUFS office. This space is available Sundays after service. Books are available to borrow simply by writing your name & the book taken. COME CHECK IT OUT

Inventory: We are working on updating our Library inventory. If you are interested in finding out what we have AND can input data on a computer, we would love your help. We would like to keep our offerings timely and of Unitarian Universalist interest.

Themes: We've had Women's History, Black History, and UUFS authors highlighted in the past. If you have a theme idea AND you'd like to set-up a section to highlight, please step forward and let librarian@uufs.org know.

Thank You: Martha, Mary Ellen, & Nick; a special thank you for going through the boxes of books in storage.

Ask: We have an oversized cover for the book cart, which could use custom tailoring. If you have this expertise & time, we could use your help. Contact Nicolle.

UUFS Librarian, Nicolle Sidovar

Did you know that there is a You in UU?

This year, *YOU* have a marvelous opportunity to talk underwear! Social Justice at UUFS is looking for someone to help run the UUndies Sunday donation drive this year in November/December. If that someone is *YOU*, *YOU* would announce the activity and the shelter's wish list in November and then collect donations for two Sundays in December. After tallying the donations, *YOU* would organize the delivery of the donations to the Sunnyvale Family Shelter run by the Bill Wilson Center. It would be perfectly appropriate to have a child help a parent with many of these tasks. Laurel Beecher has documentation from past years and can help or step in where needed.

For more information or to volunteer to put the *YOU* in UU, email social.justice@uufs.org or talk to Laurel Beecher, Debbie Timmers, or Alan Herrmann.

Activities

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, October 4 @ 5:00–7:00 p.m.

At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

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

The Book Group

Friday, October 24 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.

In person, in a member's home

In October we discuss [A Study in Scarlet](#) by Arthur Conan Doyle. At our November meeting we share poetry which can include your own poems. Please bring several paper copies of your poem(s) to share. 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.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Wednesday, October 22 @ 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.

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. Rev. Johnnie's work
phone number is +1 (669) 290-7067. Going forward,
please use this number to reach them.

Contact webmaster@uufs.org regarding updates to
our website. Please direct questions about this
newsletter to: communications@uufs.org. For Mid-
Week Update and Newsletter or Web submissions,
also contact communications@uufs.org.

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/