



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

November 2025

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/958336800>. 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.

Dia de los Muertos: Day of the Dead

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Dia de los Muertos is a traditional Mexican holiday with indigenous and Catholic roots, celebrating the ancestors that have gone before us. Come and place a gift to your ancestors on the ofrenda, and celebrate the impact of those ancestors on your life and how you benefit from their existence and sacrifice.

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

All ages will gather at the chapel for an interactive service in the spirit of Dia de los Muertos.

Making Peace with Making Decisions

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

By Member Karin Golde

Every decision is a bet on the future. Drawing on *Thinking in Bets* by psychologist and former poker champion Annie Duke, this talk explores how we can embrace uncertainty and improve our odds. When we align our choices with our values, we can find peace with both wins and losses.

What if...?

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

We talk about gratitude a lot. We are grateful for this, that, and the other. Well and good, but what if we didn't have those things? What would our lives

look like without our spouses, our homes, our current jobs, etc. Let's look at what happens if we undo the positives that have happened in our lives.

Stone Soup

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

By Member Karen Enz

Most people are familiar with the fable of stone soup. Briefly, it depicts a trick travelers used when they started to make a soup with just a stone and the villagers soon joined in after they claimed they had nothing to share. I will be adapting a service I experienced done by UU Honolulu on a recent service. In the spirit of the theme, there will be a potluck afterwards, so bring your stones aahh.... contributions to share.

A Shocking Moment of Silence

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

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

One day while waiting at the bus stop on my way to my junior high school, there was a moment of sheer and utter silence. No cars, no birds, no rustling of trash or people talking. Nothing. Just silence. How do we honor those profound moments in the ordinary?



Minister's Musings

Rev Johnnie's "Musings" will return in December

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

I confess, I'm obsessed. It all began at the 2025 UUFS marketplace. One of many secondhand books I snapped up that fateful Sunday last

June was *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future* by Riane Eisler. The donor of this book sent me on an odyssey of newfound professional purpose that is now entering its sixth month. First, thank you for reintroducing me to this visionary thinker, whoever you are! Second, as director of religious education, I'd like to share a bit about this exciting phase in my self-education.

Back in my days as a would-be scholar of literature and culture, I was dimly aware of *The Chalice and the Blade's* "grand synthesis," according to the flyleaf of this 1987 first edition, stretching from prehistory to the future and touching on religion, politics, family structures, and more. I also recall a whiff of intellectual snobbery in the reception of the book. It lacked original research, the critics said, and of necessity it cherry-picked evidence to support such a broad thesis about human experience. But these days, with academic ambition far behind me, I'm free to fall in love with ideas and embrace them because of what they make me feel and do, not just for what they make me think.

How has Riane Eisler so enraptured me? *The Chalice and the Blade* views cultural change not as a march of progress or an inevitable decline but as a series of systems that orient more toward partnership or more toward domination. Cultures that skew toward the partnership pole prize mutual benefit in relationships and value the capacity to support life, while those that skew toward domination function through force and value the capacity to destroy life. These patterns of relationship play out at every level of a society—between nations as well as among family members. An important premise of Eisler's many books is that

all societal relationships mirror intimate affiliations. Indeed, interpersonal dynamics form the very foundations of entire cultures.

In addition to dictating the contents of my reading shelf for many months to come (I'm now immersed in Eisler's *Tomorrow's Children: A Blueprint for Partnership Education in the 21st Century*), *The Chalice and the Blade*, and Eisler herself, give me hope. In a 2019 interview, she delivered this inspiring call to action:

We are in the midst of a massive regression to the domination side of the partnership-domination social scale. . . . But it is not hopeless if we act now. . . . Those of us who want a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world must focus attention on the foundations on which domination systems keep rebuilding themselves: the four cornerstones of childhood, gender, economics, and story. . . . We can start with contradicting the stories that falsely claim that injustice and violence are inevitable. It is up to every one of us to change the prevailing worldview, and strengthen the movement toward partnership in all areas of our lives.

For me these past several months, the work of Rianne Eisler has renewed my belief in the power of nurturing children and supporting families, as we do here at UUFS. It has refreshed my faith in Unitarian Universalism, which is explicitly centered in love. It has awakened an even greater commitment to Our Whole Lives (OWL), the holistic sexuality education program developed by the UUA and other organizations. We have the capacity to do great work here, together. I'm honored to be a part of it.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Guest at Your Table

In the month of November, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyside will join UU communities across the nation to learn about and support the vital

human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through the Guest at Your Table campaign. UUSC has its roots in the 1940's when courageous Unitarians risked their lives to help refugees in Europe escape Nazi terror. Over the past 80 years, UUSC has lived our Unitarian Universalist values by bolstering grassroots-led movements for change in the United States and throughout the world, defending civil liberties, democracy, and civil rights.

As authoritarianism rises and vulnerable communities come under attack, this work is more vital than ever. Through the Guest at Your Table campaign, we will learn how UUSC is working to safeguard the right to protest and dissent, uphold the right to refuge and asylum, advance gender justice, counter attacks on human rights institutions, and resist climate regression.

UUFS has a long-standing tradition of exceptionally generous support for UUSC. Your donation will have an especially powerful impact due to the commitment of a UUFS member to match the gifts of other members. In addition, the Shelter Rock congregation will match every gift of \$150 or more. This means your gift can be tripled! And UUSC, as a human rights organization, is eligible to receive employer matching grants, so you may be able to quadruple your gift if your employer participates.

Stay tuned for information on how to support this vital work and thank you for your generosity!

UUFS Collection Drive for North County Family Shelter (aka UUndies Sunday)

Collection Sundays, October 12 – November 16

Item Collectors: Alan Hermann, Mary Ellen Bercik, Janet Werkman

If you can't bring the items to UUFS, please contact an Item Collector to arrange an alternate drop-off location.

Items Requested

- All sizes, including travel sizes, are OK.
- Unscented products are preferred but not mandatory

Shampoo
Conditioner
Body Wash
Deodorant
Q-tips
Skin Lotion
Sanitary Pads and Tampons
Toothpaste (any size)

For Children

Toothbrushes
Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)
Baby Wipes

Worship Associates Meeting – Sunday, November 9

Interested in helping shape our Sunday services? The Worship Team invites you to a **catered Worship Associates Meeting on Sunday, November 9.**

We're seeking people who would like to take part in any aspect of creating meaningful worship — from **hosting and giving homilies** to **behind-the-scenes coordination** and **brainstorming future speakers and themes**

This is a great opportunity to learn more about how our services come together and to share your ideas, talents, and enthusiasm.

Please RSVP to make sure we have enough food and know your dietary preferences.

<https://tinyurl.com/UUFS-WA>



Activities

Religious Education Team Meeting

Monday, November 10 @ 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Join Director of Religious Education Colleen Hamilton and interested congregants on [Zoom](#) to discuss operations and vision for the RE program at UUFS.

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, November 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

The Book Group

Friday, November 21 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.
In person, in a member's home

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, November 19 @ 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. For questions about this newsletter and for Mid-Week Update and Newsletter or Web submissions, contact communications@uufs.org.

Monthly Calendar
uufs.org/calendar/