



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

February 2026

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person at 1112 S Bernardo Ave, Sunnyvale, CA,
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.

**It's a bird! It's a plane! It's SUUperman!!
(Action Sunday, Activities Below)**

February 1 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.
By Member Diana Luykx

Diana Luykx speaks on the resilience of Christopher Reeve--Superman of the 1978 film--and how his journey led him to UUism.

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

The entire congregation, including children, will start in the sanctuary for opening worship. Like the other congregants, children will then choose one of the three activity groups described in this update and in the bulletin. Children are welcome without their parent or caregiver in any group, if the parent or caregiver has signed that child into our care. After the activity groups, everyone, including children, will go to the sanctuary for the closing of the service.

Post-Traumatic Growth

February 8 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.
By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Rev. Sheri Heller, a social worker and trauma-informed psychotherapist, tells us that, "Post-traumatic growth is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of a life finally lived in truth." Let's explore the resilience required in rebuilding ourselves after tragedy.

Executive Order 9066: In the Words of Amy Mori

February 15 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.
By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

On the 70th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, UUFS member Amy Mori shared her first-hand account of the Japanese internment that followed the bombing of Pearl Harbor. UUFS Member Margaret Lawson kept that speech, and in honor of the 84th anniversary of the order's signing, we present it again as a topical piece from the past that speaks to our present.

**Japanese American Incarceration - Enduring
Democracy: The Monterey Petition**

February 22 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.
By Carolyn McCombs

In 1945, Toni Jackson, John Steinbeck's editor, and a group of women activists protested Japanese American Incarceration and resisted racism in WW II California. Carolyn will speak about a documentary created by her team that examines how Monterey was one of the only communities that publicly welcomed their Japanese neighbors back from the incarceration centers after World War II. Supplement: Film showing "Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition" and discussion, 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Minister's Musings



We enter the month of February eyes wide open. We have seen a major atrocity play out in Minneapolis – live and in color. Renee Macklin Good was gunned down by ICE agent Johnathan

Ross. Three shots fired in her face. She leaves behind a wife and three children, without a partner and mother. The agent was ostensibly treated for “internal bleeding,” but given the time spent in the hospital it’s less than a nine-hour window from when the shooting took place to when he was released, he was likely checked over, had a bruise (internal bleeding) and left.

This has rocked both sides of the aisle. From the folks on the ground, it is reported that both liberals and conservatives are now protesting this invasion of ICE. If any good comes from Ms. Good’s untimely death, it is the reckoning that even white identified folk who are just there to witness are not safe. No one is when power is left unchecked. 35 people have died at the hands of ICE agents during 2025. Let us stop that number.

At the time of this writing, I know of at least 25 UU ministers that are converging on Minneapolis, knowing that even their stoles and clerical collars cannot protect them. They are doing it anyhow, because our faith demands action. Our Justice Covenant: “We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.” Please join with me in solidarity for those who stand in places we cannot. And let us offer prayer, healing energies, empathetic thoughts – whatever you wish – to the families affected by this horrendous misuse of power.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

I have been reflecting on the relevance of this month’s theme, *embodying resilience*, to Unitarian Universalism in the Bay Area. A

recent experience collaborating with fellow religious educators gave me a keener sense of how our faith will continue to thrive in our community if multiple UU congregations and organizations work together effectively. For example, last summer three colleagues from the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and I began planning an in-person training for prospective facilitators in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program, which took place January 9-11. OWL facilitator trainings had gone online during the early phases of the pandemic and no in-person training has been held in this area since. Though online trainings can be effective, the in-person ones build local networks that help keep OWL programs more robust. My two fellow religious educators teamed with a field staff member from the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, congregants of the UU Church of Palo Alto, which was the site for the three-day event, and two veteran OWL facilitators certificated to train new recruits. The outcome of this event was seventeen newly minted facilitators authorized to deliver vital sexuality education to middle and high schoolers. I mention all these various parties to highlight the role of collaboration in advancing so important an aspect of UUism as OWL. Beyond newly authorizing those 17 facilitators, the in-person training fostered new connections and likely future collaborations within OWL and among local congregations more generally. This first Bay Area in-person training in more than five years is the embodiment of our ability as a faith tradition to move through challenges, such as the pandemic mitigation measures, and come back stronger, especially when we work together.

Taking Care of Business

Vision Budget Process

On January 17th the UUFS Finance team, board president, members, and staff met and completed a first draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2027 - July 2026 to June 2027). Thank you to all who participated in this work. In April the Finance Committee will present an updated proposed budget to the Board of Trustees for review, modification, and approval. The version approved by the board will then be presented to the UUFS Congregation members at our May business meeting.

Congregational Business Meeting Results

The January 25th Business Meeting was well attended and featured reports by most of our Committees and Teams. This year's Nominating Committee was elected at the meeting. Thank you, Karen Enz, Janet Werkman and Kimberly Yancy, for filling this important role. This Committee will recruit nominees to the Board of Trustees for election at the May meeting. Members also unanimously approved the proposal by the Strategic Reserve Fund Task Force to hire consultants *Stewardship for Us* to conduct a weekend workshop to identify our vision and priorities for the use of the fund.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Guest at Your Table

Thanks to those who donated to support human rights here and abroad!! For more than 25 years UUFS members and friends have been strong supporters of the **Guest at Your Table** annual fundraiser for the UU Service Committee (UUSC). Member Janet Werkman generously provided funds for matching our donations. UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale members gave \$27,636 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in our annual Guest at Your Table campaign! Many thanks to all for this remarkable outpouring of generosity.



Sweet Support (Chocolate, sweet and bitter)



Nothing Says Love Like Fair Trade Chocolate! Support resilient small farmers and your UUFS community as you delight your sweetheart on Valentine's Day! Order your Valentine's Day gift bag with 3 chocolate bars – 80% Cacao Panama Extra Dark, 55% Cacao Coconut Milk, and 71% Cacao Very Dark Panamanian. A limited number is available, so order right away while the supply lasts!



Each gift bag is \$20. Ten dollars of your purchase price will go to support UUFS! You can place an order by sending an email to janetwerkman54@gmail.com, or give your order to Janet Werkman after the service on Sunday. You can pick up your Valentine's Day gift bag on Sunday February 1 or February 8 at UUFS.

Action Sunday – February 1

Join us on Sunday, February 1, for our fourth **Action Sunday**, a monthly gathering held on the first Sunday of each month. We'll begin with a brief 25-minute worship service in the sanctuary, followed by 20-minute interactive workshops offered throughout the building. Each month you'll be able to choose from three engaging activities, most of which will rotate to keep the experience fresh and meaningful.

February 1 Activities to Choose From

- **Brigid's Cross Activity - Conference Room**
Goddess or saint, Brigid figures in ancient Celtic paganism, early Christianity, modern-day Ireland, and global neopaganism. She is associated with the holidays of Imbolc on February 1 and Candlemas on February 2. Adults and children, with or without their parents, will practice the tradition of weaving a talisman from straw into the shape of a cross to invoke Brigid's powers. Take yours home and hang it in the kitchen or entryway. A Brigid's cross is thought to protect hearth and home for the year. RE staff will lead this activity group.

• Fair Trade Chocolate Tasting - Shephard Hall

We will taste three different chocolate bars produced by small farmers in fair trade cooperatives. As we taste each chocolate, you will be invited to experience it with all five senses. Using a flavor wheel, you can identify flavors like fruits, spices, nuts, and floral tones. While we are savoring this rich sensory experience, we will learn about how fair trade supports the communities of the small farmers who grow the cacao.

• Imbolc Ritual - Chapel

Join Rev. Johnnie as he invites you into a sacred circle, embracing the Earth-based holiday of Imbolc, which celebrates the return of the Goddess in her Maiden Aspect, and the evolution of the child Sun into the Hunter King. Rev. Johnnie will walk us through one of his personal rituals, and if time permits, will answer any questions about the meanings, symbolism, and theology.

We are also looking ahead to our **March Action Sunday on March 1**, with the theme **Paying Attention**. If you're interested in leading a workshop, please contact **Janet Werkman**. We are also looking for someone to lead an 8-10 minute reflection (in place of a sermon) If you would be willing, please contact service.coordinator@uufs.org

All are welcome—your participation enriches our shared experience!

Activities

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Next Game Night is March 7.

The Book Group

Friday, February 27 @ 10:00-11:30 a.m.
In person, in a member's home

In February we discuss [Persuasion](#) by Jane Austen. 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, January 28 and February 25
@ 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](#) 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/