



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

October 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>.

Time's Second Arrow

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

By Member Joshua Levy

The universe we can see runs on about a dozen fundamental laws, covering things like motion, relativity, electromagnetism and thermodynamics. But recently, a new fundamental law of the Universe has been proposed, informally called Time's Second Arrow. This law postulates an inherent creative force in the Universe. In this service I will discuss the Unitarian Universalist implications of this possible new fundamental law of the Universe, and show how, as Unitarian Universalists, we can leverage Time's Second Arrow and our principles to create a better future.

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

Sharing inner thoughts takes *courage*, the theme for this month. Participants will try their hands at "blackout poetry," selecting words from a page of magazine text by blacking out the rest. The result is a found poem that they can illustrate and share.

Climate Truth, Science and Justice

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

By Member David Griffiths

Climate change is having serious effects on increasing numbers of people, particularly poor people living close to the sea. However, in US politics climate change is often said to be a hoax. Unitarians are committed to justice based on truth, and in the case of climate change, the most important truths are established by science, and will be outlined in this talk.

There is Nothing More Courageous Than Making Peace

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

By Rabbi Moshe Tom Heyn

Right after the service on October 18, Rabbi Moshe is heading to the airport and traveling to Israel on a peace mission led by two peace activists who co-authored the book "The Future Is Peace." People say that they are naive--but the authors counter by saying that those who think war can bring peace, are the ones who are naive, because history shows that enemies can reconcile when they realize there is no good alternative. The conflict in the Middle East is not really between Israelis and Palestinians. It is between those who believe that peaceful coexistence is possible and those who don't...yet. The peace activists know that the future of humanity is peace; the only uncertainty is how many more innocent people will suffer before we get there. Rabbi Moshe will share with us more about his mission just before he leaves the Bay Area.

[Spooky] Halloween Origins 🎃

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

By Member Scott Walker

Witches, ghosts, and skeletons...oh my! Where do our Halloween traditions come from? Just before the trick-or-treaters come knocking, we'll explore the spiritual origins of today's modern Halloween. This service will be provided by UUFS Member, Scott Walker. Feel free to dress in costume as you are willing and able. 🧛

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

Cozy sweaters, homemade quilts, warming mugs of tea: images of autumn as a time of comfort and security are rooted deep in our

collective psyche. What special use might we have for *courage*, our theme for October, in autumn? Ancient harvest traditions welcome bounty with the spectre of scarcity lurking near at hand. Even today, this month's calendar reflects tensions that demand fortitude amid celebration.

Every year in the Children's Sunday Morning Community, we mark Indigenous People's Day. An official holiday in thirteen states and recognized by presidential proclamation during the four years of the Biden administration, Indigenous People's Day falls on the second Monday in October. The date coincides with October 12, when, in 1492, Christopher Columbus anchored with his armed entourage and came ashore on an island in the Bahamas populated by Taíno people. It is always important to recognize Indigenous cultures as fundamental to the significance of land in this country. The mid-October date of Indigenous People's Day, however, is contested by those who would assert the worthiness of colonialism in our history or of this particular person in Italian American identity. Not unlike the National Day of Mourning that some indigenous people observe on the European-American holiday of Thanksgiving, Indigenous People's Day is a day of remembrance of the tremendous losses represented by significant dates in the history of European colonialism on these shores. It is also a day to recognize the courage of resistance to the violence of would-be conquerors, to attempted cultural erasure, and to administrative injustices by a hostile occupier. There is courage in claiming the very day of Columbus's landing to celebrate over 500 years of survival by these resisters' descendants and by their enduring cultures. In the words of Joanne Lewis, who is of

Taíno heritage, "renaming the holiday is . . . about deciding as a nation whom we choose to honor."¹ Indigenous People's Day is an occasion that our entire nation should be proud to honor. On Sunday, October 11, UUFS children will honor Indigenous people and their courage.

1. <https://blog.nativehope.org/why-indigenous-peoples-day-matters>

Listening Circles Begin This Week

This month, small groups of members and friends will gather in listening circles to share what UUFS means to them and where they hope we go.

The idea came out of our Next Steps workshop in May. Before we make big decisions about our future, including our minister search, a refreshed vision and mission, and how best to use our resources, we want to hear from as many people as possible.

Each circle is a small group gathered around a few questions. Everyone gets a turn to speak while the others listen, with no debate and nothing to prepare. What we hear will be gathered into themes and used to shape our long-term planning.

Circles meet:

- Thursday, Oct 1, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
- Saturday, Oct 3, 1:30 to 3:30 pm
- Sunday, Oct 4, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, Oct 15, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Sunday, Oct 25, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
- Zoom, late October

Most are in members' homes, and your host will send you the address. Sign up at <http://listening.uufs.org>, or write to listening-circles@uufs.org with questions.

— The Listening Circles Team

Supporting Our Community and Values

Faith for Clean Air: What Bay Area Faith Leaders Need to Know

October 6 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Zoom

Clean air is a matter of health, justice, and care for our neighbors. Join faith leaders and people of conscience from across the Bay Area for an



accessible, one-hour conversation about important new clean-air standards, why they matter for our communities, and how people of faith can make their voices heard. No policy expertise needed!

Learn more & register: [\[LINK\]](#)

Activities

Dungeons and Dragons Youth Group

Wednesday, October 14, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N 3rd St

Fifth-grade through high-school youth, led by adults from UUFS and First Unitarian, are invited to play role-playing games every other Wednesday. Beginner and experienced players welcome. Light dinner provided. See attached flier and join us for our inaugural meeting.

Worship Associates Meeting

Sunday, October 11 @ 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Conference Room to discuss upcoming worship services. All are welcome to help with recruiting speakers and hosts and planning services.

Inter-congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, October 3 @ 5:00–7:00 p.m.

At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

Board-game enthusiasts meet on the first Saturday of every other month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All ages, including families with children, are welcome. Pizza provided; other potluck snacks and nonalcoholic drinks invited. Please [click here](#) for more details about our Game Night.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Wednesday, October 28 @ 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 for the upcoming year. Zoom link: [Social Justice](#). If you would like to join our Google Group or have questions, contact social.justice@uufs.org.

The Book Group

Friday, October 23 @ 10-11:30 a.m.

In person, in a member's home

In October we will engage in an illuminating conversation about [The Haunting of Hill House](#) by Shirley Jackson. 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 Wednesday (for month of October) @ 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.

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/

D&D Youth Group

**Starts
Oct. 14th**

Presented by the First Unitarian Church of San José
& Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays 5-8 pm
pizza at 5 • games start at 5:30**

**160 North Third Street, San José
5th Grade - High School**



A welcoming, inclusive space for Dungeons & Dragons players! Players with any level of experience welcome, including new players. This adult-supervised group is a great way for youth to play D&D with their peers. Join us as we go on adventures, battle monsters, become heroes & make new friends!

\$5 donation for food

to sign-up, contact dungeonmaster@sanjoseuu.org