



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

What's Happening

open minds, loving hearts, serving hands

September 23 - October 7

September 26, Sunday, 10:30-11:30am, In-person & Zoom

What is Supported Decision-Making?

Supported decision-making, or SDM, is what we all do everyday. We choose trusted doctors, mechanics, attorneys or mentors to assist us in making choices using plain language. For this, we are seen as *wise*. Unfortunately, this is not true for people with disabilities who are often held to the "Dr. Spock Standard" when they ask for help. In fact, people with disabilities most often funnel through an automated pipeline from their school or regional center to conservatorship. Parents and service providers overwhelmingly learn about the most restrictive and, seemingly, the "only" option to support a person with a disability. One option by definition is not a choice.

Everyone – including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those who use augmentative and alternative communication – can practice self-determination and SDM by making choices with the help of trusted supporters, family, friends and professionals chosen by the individual.

Our guest speaker Suzanne Bennett Francisco is a single mother of three joyful young adults – Kiely, Brandon and Blake – who have autism and congenital muscular dystrophy (CMD) and who use augmentative alternative communication (AAC). As president and CEO of Exceptional Rights Advocacy, she offers special education and disability rights support. Suzanne also speaks with a focus on SDM, an alternative to conservatorship that empowers people with disabilities without the removal of civil and human rights.



[Guidelines](#) for in-person attendance are online and posted throughout the building. To join us remotely: [Zoom online/phone-in details](#) for September 26 service (PDF). Zoom details are also on our [website](#) and [calendar](#). Contact [Service Associate](#) Katie Rall to plan UUFLG special announcements, etc.

To share joys and concerns, please send an email to joysandconcerns@uuflg.org with a brief message anytime during the week and before the service begins. You may also share live during the service.

Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) – In-person RE catering to children 11 and under is held by the garden. Sign-in at the picnic table before the service. Youth are welcome to join us outdoors or attend the service. Contact Director of Religious Exploration [Colleen Hamilton](#) for more information.

Children may visit the [UUFLG Kids YouTube Channel](#) to view videos that entertain or enlighten. To post an original video to our channel or recommend another YouTube video to our playlist, email the file or a link to [Colleen](#).



Retired UU Men

Thursdays, 1-2:30pm, email harryrcampbell@gmail.com to check if the upcoming meeting is in-person or via Zoom



Building & Grounds Workday

9/24, Friday, 9am-12pm



Outdoor Game Night

9/25, Saturday, 5-7pm, UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale



CYRE Committee

10/3, Sunday, 5-6pm, Zoom



Chalice Circle

10/5, Tuesday, 10-11:30am, In-person & Zoom



Makers Meetup

10/7, Thursday, 12-2pm, In-person



Click for our web calendar with Zoom details of UUFLG events.

September 24, Friday, 9am-12pm, In-person

Pick-a-Project Workday

September's workday this Friday has something for everyone: a little painting, a little cleaning, a little gardening, and a few small repairs – your choice of project. Wear old clothes and a mask; tools and snacks will be provided. Good weather is predicted.

September 25, Saturday, 5-7pm, In-person

Outdoor Game Night at Sunnyvale Fellowship

Come out for an evening of outdoor fun at the UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale (1112 S. Bernardo Ave., 94087). Adults and children are invited to enjoy a variety of board games. Pizza will be provided; participants may also join in potluck single-serve drinks and wrapped snacks. With children under 12 and anyone self-identifying as unvaccinated, we will social-distance while eating and mask while playing games. Contact [Colleen Hamilton](#) to RSVP.

October 3, Sunday, 10:30-11:30am, In-person & Zoom

St. Francis Day Animal Blessing

Each year we invite our animal friends to join us at the sanctuary for the Feast Day of St. Francis. This year we'll meet outdoors so that we can safely include children, learn a bit about the teachings of St. Francis, and bless our critter companions.

Bring along your well-behaved dog on leash, cat in harness or crate, bird, fish, llama, or stuffies to receive a blessing of gratitude for all the beauty and unconditional love they show us! –Rev. Fa Jun, Minister

Note: Since this is a short service for all ages, we will not have childcare and youth classes this morning, and parents will be responsible for supervising their children.

Contact [Service Associate](#) Robb Stolberg to plan UUFLG special announcements, etc.

October 7, Thursday, 12-2pm, In-person

Makers Meetup

The Makers MeetUp is a casual gathering of UUFLG members and friends who come together once a month to work on individual crafting or maker projects. Attendees bring their own projects and work on their creative endeavors in a group of fellow creatives. Plan to be at the Fellowship for approximately two hours. Feel free to bring a lunch; masks required. Facilitators: Laurie Roberts & Karen Fitch.

[donate](#)

Send announcements to comms@uuflg.org by 7 pm Tuesday for that week's issue.

Announcements are edited for brevity, clarity, and style.

Reading this on our website and want to receive future issues in email? [Sign up](#)
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15980 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos 95032