## **Minister's Musings**

August 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 was mundane in the most momentus way. Or possibly momentus in the most mundane of ways...? I came to morning consciousness in a neutral way, and then remembered that it was MY FIRST OFFICIAL DAY AS MINISTER OF UUFLG!!!

This led to great smiles, excitement, enthusiasm, and planning. But first, a small ritual.

In July, I had been on vacation with my family to the East Coast. It was an epic 2 weeks reconnecting with family, old friends, and behaving as tourists in New York City!

During this time, our petsitter was collecting our small stacks of mail at home. The day after our return, my wife noticed a hand-addressed envelope had come for me, with something heavy inside.

Feeling the weight and seeing that the return address was in Los Gatos, I suspected the source and its contents, and placed it in my desk drawer for safe keeping. But now it was August 1<sup>st</sup>!

I made the short trip from bed to desk and opened the upper right hand drawer. I removed the small but heavy envelope, with its thin black ink and American Flag stamp augmented by a delightful yellow school bus insuring extra ounces. I gingerly lifted one corner of the adhesive and peeled it open.

The prize was there: a heavy, brass colored key with a squared off top, that opens the doors to our Fellowship(!), wrapped in the sweetest brief note on a folded-around it piece of paper: "Now you are officially a UUFLGer!" I wasted no time in adding the key to my primary chain (which also holds my car key, house key, and neighborhood swimming pool gate fob).

Thus has my mantle of UUFLG Ministry been acknowledged and accepted. Let the Games begin!

I am available to assist with Pastoral Care needs (via the Board or Caring Committee), and hope to be with you all in worship on Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Service, with Enthusiasm & Care, Shams Cohen, MDiv