



# *The Flame*

**SHARING THE LIGHT THAT CONNECTS US . . .**

THE SEDONA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**September 2024**

## **Upcoming Sunday Services**

We meet in the sanctuary of the synagogue, 100 Meadowlark Dr., in Sedona on Sundays at 10:00.

**September 1 “Water is Life”** - We will explore the sacred and essential nature of water, not just as a physical resource but as a spiritual symbol that connects us to the Earth, each other, and the deeper currents of life. Join us as we celebrate the life-giving essence of water and renew our dedication to safeguarding this precious element for future generations.

**September 8 “What's Going On?”** - Inspired by Marvin Gaye's timeless song, “What's Going On,” this service invites us to reflect on the pressing issues of our time through the lens of compassion, justice, and love. Join us as we ask the profound question, “What's going on?” and explore how we, as a community, can be part of the healing and transformation our world so desperately needs.

**September 15 “Transcendentalism: An Invitation”** - Transcendentalism invites us to explore the deeper connections between the self, nature, and the divine. Rooted in the 19th-century movement that influenced Unitarian Universalist thought, Transcendentalism encourages us to look within, trust our inner wisdom, and recognize the sacred in the world around us. Join us as we accept Transcendentalism's invitation to seek deeper meaning, cultivate a sense of wonder, and connect with the divine presence that transcends our everyday experiences.

**September 22 “Choosing Good Trouble”** - Guest Speaker, Dr. Joe Wegwert  
Dr. Wegwert will present a sermon entitled “Choosing Good Trouble,” that examines how Unitarian Universalists might draw on our Values and Principles to challenge the present currents of post-truth politics in American culture. This sermon will address these questions through a discussion of the concept of Truth, a consideration of our radical (and heretical) UU heritage, and the challenges of how our UU identities of (largely) whiteness, middle-classness, and niceness can do something.

**September 29th “The Eternal Dance of Life: Lessons from Rumi”** - The poetry of Rumi, a 13th-century Sufi mystic, offers timeless wisdom on the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of life. Join us as we explore the lessons Rumi offers on the eternal dance of life and how we can find meaning and connection in every step.

# Minister's Message

## A New Beginning

Dear Beloved Community,

As we gather at the threshold of a new Fellowship year, we stand in a place of possibility, poised to journey together through the seasons ahead. The turning of the year invites us to reflect, renew, and recommit to the values and principles that bind us as a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



In our shared journey, we find strength in our diversity, in the multitude of experiences, beliefs, and hopes that each of us brings to this sacred space. We are a tapestry woven together by the threads of love, justice, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of truth. This year, let us recommit to nurturing these threads, to weaving them into a fabric that is both strong and beautiful, capable of holding us through times of joy and challenge alike.

Our tradition calls us to be both seekers and creators—seekers of truth, meaning, and justice, and creators of beloved community, where all are welcomed, valued, and loved. This is no small task, but it is a task that we undertake with open hearts and willing hands, knowing that the work of building a more just and compassionate world begins here, with us, in our words, in our deeds, and in the way we choose to live our lives together.

This year, may we find new ways to connect with one another, to deepen our relationships, and to extend the warmth of our fellowship beyond these walls. Let us be mindful of those who are new to our community, offering them not just a seat at the table, but a place in our hearts. Let us also remember those who cannot be with us in person, holding them in our thoughts and prayers, and finding creative ways to keep them connected to the life of this congregation.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us do so with a spirit of curiosity and openness, ready to be surprised by the new insights, friendships, and opportunities that will arise. Let us be brave enough to ask the hard questions, to face the uncomfortable truths, and to work together in the spirit of love to find the answers, maybe, but to always be okay with the questions.

In this new year, may we be reminded that our work is holy work. Whether we are teaching a class, serving on a committee, or simply offering a kind word to someone in need, we are participating in the creation of a world that reflects our deepest values and highest aspirations.

May this year be one of growth, transformation, and deepening faith. Together, let us walk forward into the new year with hope in our hearts, ready to build the world we dream about.

Blessings and with deep gratitude,

Rev. Anthony



# President's Message

Welcome back to Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship services all you travelers, and to Rev. Anthony and Susannah who've had a respite as well! Our Dynamic SUUF Duo were on the dais through June, and were missed in July and August.

Despite their absence, we did have a wonderful, exploratory summer of services focusing on "Building Community." Our last newsletter was written at the end of May, so this column will catch you up on our first SUUF summer of services in case you were enjoying traveling or just sleeping in.

First some statistics: June had an average of 45 in attendance with 13 total visitors; July averaged 46 in attendance and August, 48. Our total guests for July and August was 55, which was wonderful and surprising. So many new people came through our doors to attend summer programs and to sample SUUF. Some will, no doubt, continue and become members of SUUF.

That's good news and interesting, but the real news was the Summer Team "Building Community" programs in July and August--the creative experimentation, the generosity, the inspiration and information shared, the inclusion of some new community populations, and the FUN!

## Many summer services radiated community generosity:

- June 7, Teresa Beltan, one of our 5 Hispanic panelists and her friend, Karena, decorated our stage area and our table of refreshments and even prepared the drinks and treats! Our 5 panelists generously shared some heart-breaking as well as some joyous stories--allowing us a picture of their past and present lives.
- June 14, in a service on kindness in action, each attendee got a \$100 bill from an anonymous donor to pay kindness forward in any way of their choosing. Their actions were written on cards and shared in the August 25 service.
- June 21, Laurie Moore of Sedona Area Homeless Alliance (SAHA) gave us a glimpse of the lives and issues of the homeless in our area and was given \$865 for SAHA from the offertory.
- August 4, Dr. Maurice Crandall enlightened us about how to better honor the space we inhabit... Yavapai-Apache Sacred Space. The group of youth attending from the Yavapai-Apache Youth Council was given \$293 by the congregation for their community activities.
- August 11, Lin Ennis shared how trees effectively work together in community. To raise environmental consciousness about sparing life-giving trees, each person walked out the door with a roll of bamboo toilet paper in hand to try.
- August 25, people gathered for a service in which the concept of beloved community was explored. Many congregants shared their experiences of bonding in our community. The many ways people paid forward their \$100 gifts were shared. Canned or packaged food was collected for the Sedona Food Bank. A scrumptious potluck lunch followed. It was, indeed, a *Celebration of Community!*

So much love flowed in the programs noted above and in Donna Cavadon's "We're Better Together" talk and Linda Brefeld, Lou Ann Bruck, and Dev. Ross's "Heart-Centered Communication talk and activities.

Our Summer Services Team: J'net and Nate Smith, Lin Ennis, Linda Brefeld, Marj Haas, Deidre Roen, Diane Nadeau, Donna Cavadon, Paul Friedman, Ellie Cooper, Thomas and Lou Ann Bruck and I, worked well together, jumping in to help wherever and whenever it was needed. We appreciate the support and feedback from SUUF and from the greater Sedona community. We also appreciate having had the honor of creating and presenting eight summer SUUF services for this beloved community.

Blessings,

Tanya



# SUUF Connections

## Friendly Feasts



**PLEASE READ: NEW FORMAT FOR 2024-2025**

**(Changes are in bold font.)**

The goal is to have more SUUFers involved and to allow for more creativity with respect to times and menus.

- Feasts will be the third Saturday of the month.
- **Anyone can sign up to host; anyone can attend.**
- **Hosts decide the time: breakfast, lunch or dinner AND how many they can host.**
- **Hosts provide and list their main dish on their signup sheet** (can be meat, vegetarian, vegan, etc.) Guests contribute the side dishes.
- **Hosts will receive a signup sheet with their name, address, contact information and spaces for the number they can host to sign up.** We'll need 3-4 hosts each month, so don't be shy...let Suzanne know which month(s) is available for you to host!
- **The signup sheet will be taken by the host (or designee) to church and displayed so that those who wish to attend can sign up at church. They may also contact the host by phone or email to sign up.**

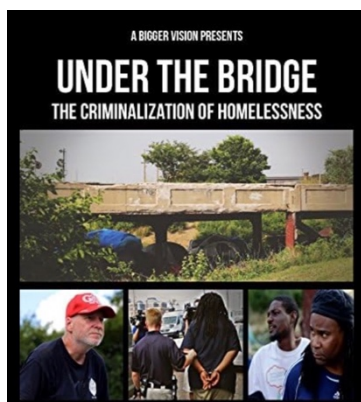
**Let's give this a try!** Contact Suzanne Burkey: [sfburkey47@gmail.com](mailto:sfburkey47@gmail.com) if you already know that you would like to host certain month(s). Feasts are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays (except in November): October 19, November 23, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17.

*SUUFers love Friendly Feasts. Sign up to host a couple of times to make this new plan flow!*

## Social Justice 2nd Wednesday Film

**Join us for an Interfaith Discussion of Homelessness**

**Our interfaith community has been invited to this month's film discussion.**



*Under the Bridge: The Criminalization of Homelessness* is a documentary about one summer in Indianapolis, a tent city under a bridge, and the criminalization of homelessness in the United States.

We hope you will join us **Wednesday, September 11, at 10:30 a.m.** at Church of the Red Rocks for an **interfaith discussion of homelessness**. Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Church of the Red Rocks are cosponsoring the gathering. Six other churches have been invited.

We'll watch the documentary at home, then come together with interfaith friends to discuss it.

We'll also relate it to homelessness in our community with input from Laurie Moore, the executive director of Sedona Area Homeless Alliance.

*Our hope is that the interfaith community will be instrumental in finding ways to understand and ways to collaboratively address the needs of the homeless members of our community.*

**Viewing Info: On either Amazon or Apple TV, it's free using Freevee (with ads, not a lot of them—maybe 4 minutes!). To rent on Fandango, it's \$2.99.**



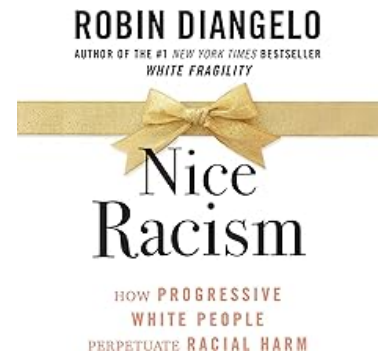
## Book Group

### **Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm**

by Dr. Robin DiAngelo is the book group's **September/October** selection and will be facilitated by Rev. Anthony. In this New York Times bestseller, DiAngelo explores how a culture of niceness inadvertently promotes racism.

Sept. 9 - Chapters 1-3 pp 1-48      Sept. 23 - Chapters 4-5 pp 49-110  
Oct. 14 - Chapters 6-9 pp 111-145      Oct. 28 - Chapters 10-12 pp 146-181

Sign up at Fellowship or email [priyankadsuuf@gmail.com](mailto:priyankadsuuf@gmail.com), our administrative assistant. Discussions will be held at the Loomis home, 40 Pinon Shadows Circle at 10:30 a.m.



*Is there a book you'd like to explore with fellow SUUFers? Let Tanya or Paul or Rev. Anthony know!!*

## Evolving Elders

Join us on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, September 13 and 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 for more of our heartfelt discussions. We love getting to know one another better and newcomers are always welcome. We've begun looking at the decades of our lives which has turned out to be really interesting and fun. Jump into whatever decade is up. We'd love to get to know you. So we continue...

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Topic: "My 3<sup>rd</sup> Decade". What were you up to in your 20s and what happened for good or for ill that formed who you are today? **20 Sandstone Drive (Marj's)\*\***

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> Topic: "My 4<sup>th</sup> Decade" We'll look at our 30's with the same focus.

**30 Bronco Drive (Tanya and Paul's)**

Join on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4526141760>

**\*\* Please note Sept 13<sup>th</sup> change in location,**

## Rise and Shine Discussion Group

**Rise and Shine will resume meeting at 9:00 Sundays in October in Social Hall at JCSVV.** It's a great way to get acquainted, then to know others more deeply. Stay tuned for more information.

## "How to Talk About Race" - An Encore *Interfaith* Class!!

**This class was so enlightening and so popular, we're bringing it back!**

**Invite your Verde Valley friends.**

Join us for 4 consecutive weeks for this series to be held in cooperation with Church of the Red Rocks. Discussions will be held in their Painted Cliff Hall at 54 Bowstring Drive. **Tuesday dates are Sept. 24, and Oct. 1, 8, and 15 from 3 to 5 p.m.** All are welcome.



**Facilitators Reverend Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson and Penny DeJarnette will lead the class using material from the "The Great Courses."**

There was a time, not too long ago, when talking openly about race was considered in poor taste. Even now, many people feel the topic of race is better left alone. What if we say something that's misunderstood? What if we're labeled a racist? Professor Anita Foeman understands those worries.

In **How to Talk about Race**, she gives common-sense guidance and step-by-step instructions you can employ to develop safe and productive dialogue about race.

## Soul Matters Sharing Circles

Soul Matters Sharing Circles will resume in September. SUUF has three small groups dedicated to listening and to being heard in depth in conversations about soulful monthly themes—themes like love, community, interconnectedness. One group meets in VOC and two in West Sedona. They explore a new topic each month.

SUUF's Soul Matters Sharing Circles started in February of this year, and took a break over the summer. There are some spaces within the groups for new members, and given enough interest, we will start a fourth group. Contact Lydia Munoz Johnson [lydiadelaluz@aol.com](mailto:lydiadelaluz@aol.com) for more info and visit with the three group facilitators in the lobby before SUUF this month as they share with us about this program.

## SUUF Connections plus *Food*

**Men's Breakfasts** are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the Sedona Golf Resort in the VOC. Please RSVP to Ben at [benshor7@gmail.com](mailto:benshor7@gmail.com) or 928-451-4370.

**Women's Lunches** are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at noon. September's lunch will be at the Sedona Golf Resort in VOC. You'll receive an email invitation to which you can RSVP. In case you don't, get that email, know that whether or not you've made a reservation, you're always welcome to join us! It's always fun to see friends and enjoy good conversation over lunch.



**Oct 3. 9:30 Serve at Manzanita Outreach**

**Oct. 12 New Member Orientation & Brunch**



**Oct. 19 Women of Courage Concert** at Church of the Red Rocks

**Oct 20 New Member Ceremony** at SUUF



### September Birthdays

Patty Delp – September 2

Piya Jacob- September 14

Donna Fox – September 24

Suzanne & Ron Burkey- September 25

Linda Brefeld – September 8

Paul Fredman – September 18

Jayana Clerk – September 26

Curt Ireland – September 27

Randi Hetrick – September 10

Donna Cavadon – September 18

Kathy Kinsella – September 30

**If your birthday is in September and is not included, please email [privankadsuuf@gmail.com](mailto:privankadsuuf@gmail.com).**



# Board, Team, and Committee Reports

## Board Meeting Recap

The meeting was called to order on Zoom by President Tanya Mayer at 12:45 p.m., June 21, 2024, with Elizabeth Herrell, Barb Malat, Helen Knoll, Gary Stewart and Rev. Anthony attending. May minutes were approved.

Written reports were submitted by the minister, president and treasurer. Some highlights are as follows:

### Minister's Report

Rev. Anthony conducted a special ceremony for new members and a memorial service for SUUF member Tony Marini. In addition to his regular duties, Rev. Anthony moderated a panel discussion regarding Juneteenth at the Sedona library, which was well attended and received.

### President's Report

In addition to usual discussion group organizing and attending, she conducted the annual meeting May 19 and helped plan summer services. Along with the Finance Team, she and arranged special gatherings for major donors, who increased giving. She and Anthony interviewed and presented a contract to our newly approved administrative assistant, Priyanka David.

### Treasurer's Report

Gini Kyle will send thank you notes to those who pledged for the coming year. The annual budget shows a projected deficit of approximately \$15,000. Thus far, at least one-half of members have pledged to increase their giving for the coming year. Unless total donations exceed current projections, however, either funds will have to be moved from reserves or expenses will have to be cut. New members in the coming year are likely to greatly affect the deficit. Bylaws require a review of SUUF's financial statement

### Unfinished business

1. Administrative assistant—Has excellent credentials and has accepted the contract to work two days per week.
2. JCSVV rental agreement—The current contract proposal is for rent of \$236 per week with no use of the basement, and includes the possibility that JCSVV will need to use the sanctuary for memorial services on some Sunday mornings.
3. Off-site insurance--Church of the Red Rocks has offered the use of space for SUUF's board retreat. SUUF will continue to explore whether insurance is required.

### New business

1. Recording possibilities for SUUF services—A number of possibilities for presenting services on-line were discussed, including the use of Zoom, YouTube, etc. A motion to table a decision carried. Nate Smith has already subscribed to Adobe video editing software. A motion was passed to pay the subscription not to exceed six months.,
2. Music for July-August 2024—Nate will play recorded music for SUUF summer services. A motion was passed to pay Nate \$50 per week for this work with the summer presenters and projection work.
3. Minister's Evaluation—Board members reviewed individual submissions to Rev. Anthony's evaluation and chose ratings for each category. Overall, board members were highly pleased with Rev. Anthony's performance and grateful for his contribution to the success of SUUF. A motion was made, seconded and approved to submit the completed evaluation to the appropriate recipients. Tanya will do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Knoll  
Board Member-at-large

## Marketing Team

This summer, the Marketing Team's weekly articles in the Red Rock News were each related to the upcoming Sunday's program. Lin Ennis freshened the appearance of each weekly RRN ad, with the speaker's photo and topic description.

Articles about our programs also appeared in SedonaBiz, the Verde Independent, and the Chamber of Commerce Newsletter. These innovations brought many new summer attendees to SUUF.

## Membership Team

**A Gathering for Newcomers!** For those of you who are rather new at Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SUUF), this is an invitation to meet one another and some SUUF regulars. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 in Social Hall, we invite you to a Newcomers Gathering with coffee and cookies. At that time, we'll answer any of your questions, share a bit about SUUF, and meet for a few minutes with Rev. Anthony—all in 20 minutes or so before service. Getting better acquainted is the goal.

**New Member Orientation and Brunch** Our first meeting of our new year to orient (and to feed!) potential new members will be Saturday, October 12, from 9:00-noon. More details will follow in the October issue of The Flame. With questions or to express interest in becoming a member, please talk with Rev. Anthony or Tanya.

## Social Justice Team

- Meet the new pastor of our church neighbor, Dr. Elizabeth Le Master of Sedona United Methodist Church, any day from 9-10 am at Oak Creek Espresso in VOC. She is eager to work with SUUF on social issues. Email to welcome her at [pastor.sedonaumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.sedonaumc@gmail.com)
- Our Animal Friends: Watch a new docuseries, Chimp Crazy, on HBO that details the tragic consequences of keeping chimpanzees as pets. Push Congress to finally pass the Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 8164/S. 4206).
- D.O.R.R. Meet the Candidates Picnic, September 15th from 1.30-4 pm at the HUB (Posse Grounds). Check out the DORR website for more details.
- Climate Justice: Watch this short video by Bill McKibben to understand the urgency of climate change awareness.
- A good video: Google: "Bill McKibben Keynote + Q&A | 2024 UCC Earth Day - Indigenous Affairs". This is about 3 AZ native tribes' efforts to save their sacred lands and keep their waterways free of dangerous chemicals.
- Oak Flat Proposed Mine (San Carlos Apache and copper mine conflict): <https://grist.org/indigenous/san-carlos-apache-take-copper-mine-fight-to-united-nations/>
- Pinyon Plain: Mining Uranium seven miles from the Grand Canyon threatens the spring watershed for the canyon and the Havasupai Tribe. Transporting the ore across Navajo lands is a threat. <https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/grand-canyon-uranium>
- Check out Third Act: What we as seniors, with our wisdom and experience, can do to make the world a better place for those who follow <https://thirdact.org/arizona/>

## Outreach Committee

Manzanita Outreach food packing morning will be on **Thursday October 3rd from 9:30-12** at their warehouse in Cottonwood. If you would like to volunteer to assist this amazing local organization, that is helping so many people get access to fresh, healthy food, please sign up. We will have a sign-up sheet in the lobby during September services.



**Share the Plate** - The board has decided to donate the plate offerings once a month to a local charity, and we need help from the SUUF fellowship to nominate charities that you feel would benefit from our support and meet the criteria.

**Criteria** - The organization must be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and benefit the Verde Valley.

The **deadline for nominations will be September 22nd** (we will have a second period of nominations in January), and the Outreach Committee will make the final choices from the nominations.

If you nominate a charity, we ask that you give us a brief write up of the work and mission of the charity which we can put in the Newsletter prior to “Share the Plate.” If your nominee is picked, please be willing to say a few words about the organization in the service prior to the plate collection.

There will be “Share the Plate” nomination forms in the lobby (and attached along with this newsletter) which you can fill out and place in the envelope marked Share the Plate Nominations, or you can email Penny directly with your nomination at [ptpenny61@gmail.com](mailto:ptpenny61@gmail.com). You will need to include the following information:

- Name of organization
- Organization’s 501(c)3 QCO code, (5 digit number)
- Organization’s mission
- What motivates you to nominate this organization
- If the nominee is approved to whom and where should the check be mailed.
- Your name and email. The Outreach Committee has picked Hope House to be the recipient of “Share the Plate” in September.

Hope House is a transitional home in Sedona for up to three homeless mothers and their children. The mothers get support to find jobs, learn life skills and save enough money to enable them to move on into independent living situations.

Thank you,

Penny, Cora and Elizabeth



## Focus: Marginalized Communities

### SUUF is a Welcoming Congregation



Please join us for our monthly meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person at the Sedona Public Library (3250 White Bear Road, Sedona). Both the presentation at 6:30 in which we’ll discuss voting and voting rights, and the support meeting at 7:30 will use the following zoom links:

<https://zoom.us/j/92237972093?pwd=TzJuVzFscck1xQk5vcjcyWDYzMWRzZz09>  
Meeting ID: 922 3797 2093  
Passcode: AZPFLAG

## Sedona Area Homeless Alliance



### Sedona Area Homeless Alliance Did you know?

There are approximately 500 homeless men, women and children who are experiencing homelessness in the Verde Valley and that is likely a low estimate. Out of that number about 200 of those people live on the streets of Sedona and breaks down to about 15% children, 23% women & 62% men.

Sedona Area Homeless Alliance is serving clients ages 6 weeks to 82 at this time.

Many of the adults in the local homeless community work and about 1/2 of the children attend local school. Every community has a homeless sector and for more than 30 years that has included Sedona. In 2013 Arizona Panhandling laws changed and the sight of people on our corners asking for help led some people to falsely believe that was when homelessness began in Sedona.

Laurie Moore - Executive Director

Serving the Local Homeless Community since 2015

Sedona Area Homeless Alliance • text/call 928 978 9387 • email [sedonahomeless@gmail.com](mailto:sedonahomeless@gmail.com)

PO Box 1411 Sedona AZ 86339 • [www.SedonaHomeless.org](http://www.SedonaHomeless.org)

501(c)3 Nonprofit 82-0607491 • AZ tax credit Qualified Organization QCOcode 22418



Our lives beyond SUUF!



Realizing that not every moment in life will be deep, or meaningful, or vibrating with energy that would give him the fulfillment that he'd always hoped for, Todd unloaded the dishwasher.