

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Monthly Newsletter for February 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

*Two Service Times:
9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

February 1 **Beth Karow and Jo Waters,**
Service Leaders
Music: Jim Lowe

Beth Karow and Jo Waters will lead a service in celebration of the Pagan Festival of Imbolc

February 8 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Lindsay Dunckel
Musicians: Choir, Janet Bullock directing

February 15 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson-Vaughan
Musicians: Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young

This service will be an intergenerational service and include a New Member Welcome Ceremony.

February 22 **Bev Lyon, Service Leader**
Tapestry of Faith: Moments of Grace
Musican: Michael Bankston

This service will feature readings by Scottie Hart, Kern Hildebrand & Melissa Ridgway and other readers from our talented congregation

March 1 *Service Leader: To be determined*
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby
Musician: Jim Lowe

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Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Minister's Letter

Dear UUCM Members and Friends,

As part of the service on January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, I asked the congregation to write on a card their personal experience of racism – not their thoughts about what racism is, but how it had impacted their lives. The restriction was that the statements had to be strictly six words. Those cards were then placed into a basket, but there was not enough time to read them aloud. Some of those statements were very powerful. Here is a selection.

*I am hesitant and remorseful too.
Bar with Obadiah. Why no service?!
Surprise and shame: I am racist
Ashamed of how America treated people.
Making barely-conscious judgments of others
Previous life I was a "black"
Black boys intimidated / beat me up.
Child (in Mississippi) loving a black nanny
I don't like black culture
I fight against my racist self
Still learning to not feel otherness
Haven't really been tested yet; prepare.
Mom said, "Bluebirds marry bluebirds"
As coming from fear – and misunderstanding
Fearing a group of black men.
Constant inner feeling of being different.
My grandma who does not know
Taught to be afraid of negroes
Married an African-American but still racist
My best friend is African American (we love each other)
Racism – a cancer on the world.
Thought: "No wonder you messed up."
Black girls in college familiar strangers.
My uncle Jim - racism is abominable
Black Pastor. White cops. Planted heroin.
Observations when living in Louisiana.
Inadvertently I am indeed a racist
Fear at Distance / Close – Fear Forgotten
I know no black / How sad
Overcome fear by walking in love.
I am afraid of black men
From "Chocolate Drops" to Sugar Plums
My family – and my understanding – expanded.
Preemptively afraid to ask and learn
I've always seen Jews as selfish.*

*Many jokes lead to harmed souls
I see it too often every day.
Too long isolated. Must reach out.
Imagine – I am the other person
Preconceived Ideas that block real connection
My father yelling obscenities at blacks.
Minimal-reversed early in working career
Is a different color skin / is suspect
Ignorance of experience, hopeful upward caring
I rejected my parents racist opinions!
Born in all white farming community.
Around young black males I'm cautious.
My family fought for the Confederacy.
Lock doors when passing young blacks.
Niggers belong in their own space
Childish misunderstanding to shame from isolation.
Exposure works, closed circles don't
Struggle to understand and relate
Is it only my "white guilt"?
Robbed at gunpoint; started crossing street
Him: "Not white? Not beautiful."
Wrong neighborhood roll up the windows*

The congregation continues to work on what it can do as part of the national focus on the way African Americans and other ethnic minorities are unfairly targeted by law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. See the Social Action pages for more details. But in addition to what we might be doing to change things in the world, there is also work for all of us to be doing to change things in our own hearts. What better place to be doing that work, and in what better company, than here at UUCM?

*See you in church!
– David*

FINDING DAVID IN FEBRUARY

Our Interim Minister, Rev. David Usher, will be out of town, January 25 – February 6. The first week he will be in San Mateo and available by email and phone. The second week he will be attending the Winter Institute of the UU Ministers' Association being held at Asilomar, Monterey, and much less able to respond to email and phone calls.

He will also be absent, February 15 – 25, when he will be in the UK for medical tests and to attend to some personal matters. At this time, he will be available for emails on a limited basis.

Should you have an emergency pastoral need, please in the first instance contact the Office Administrator, Conrad Sisk, who will put you in touch with a UU minister who has made him/herself available to respond.



*Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President*

President's Perspective

January Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

The January 24-25 weekend was a landmark weekend for UUCM. On Saturday, our Board of Trustees met with Bob Miess, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Ministerial Search Representative who will be advising us during our search for a settled minister. This was a great opportunity to review the UUA-recommended search process in detail and begin development of specific plans for UUCM. On Sunday, Bob presented a relevant sermon, "Significant Choices". This was followed by a meeting with congregation members in which he shared an outline of how the search process works, and offered advice based on his experience working with over 20 churches. The congregation members present then voted to approve bylaw changes that aligned our bylaws with UUA best practices.

In the days ahead we will provide a summary of the overall process as a reminder, or an update for those who weren't present on Sunday. In the meantime, we will soon begin our first step, the selection of our seven-member Search Committee. During February, members of the Board of Trustees and other UUCM leaders will be contacting each congregation member to discuss attributes desirable in a potential Search Committee member, and to solicit each member's suggestions of people who might best represent UUCM on the Search Committee. We will be sending out more information about this upcoming survey and how the selection will be done.

We are at the exciting beginning of the process that will give UUCM the best possible chance of calling a minister in Spring of 2016, and welcoming the new minister late that summer

- Rob

Vision Day Coming in February

The Board and Interim Minister will be holding a Vision Day on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The purpose of the day is to help the Board clarify its goals and intentions for the coming year.

- Beryl Beckwith reported on the workshop the Stewardship Committee held with consultant Bud Swank. There is a lot of excitement about the upcoming Generosity Campaign.
- The timeline for development of the budget was reviewed and input provided to the Finance Committee.
- Rev. David suggested the Board of Trustees hold a planning meeting to set some mutual goals. This will take place in late February.
- Rev. David recommended that the Board of Trustees explore ways to refine the functioning of our internet communication systems. There was unanimous support from the board.
- The Board of Trustees asked Rob to send a message of appreciation from the BOT to the committees that were involved in planning the transition to two services which went so smoothly.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

*Rob Ferroggiaro, President
Amy Renee Patterson, Vice-President
Janet Dunstan, Treasurer
Scottie Hart, Secretary*

Members at Large:
*Dawn Bateman, Bonnie Bennett,
David MacLeod, Carol Wong*

*Board of Trustees Meetings are held on the second
Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the
Channing Room at UUCM. All are welcome.*

Stewardship Committee

Generosity Campaign gets Underway

UUCM has engaged a skilled professional, George "Bud" Swank, who provided an excellent stewardship workshop to UUCM leadership in November 2014. Bud is working with UUCM's Stewardship committee, and many other church leaders and congregants, as a consultant to help establish both a short and long term stewardship plan. Our goal is to enlarge our visions as a congregation, and to match those visions with an enhanced spirit of giving accompanied by an ongoing spiritual journey to finding the joy of generosity.

The goal for UUCM's upcoming spring generosity campaign is to reach a 15% increase as a congregation. Some of our people are already giving so generously that we'll just be asking them to keep on doing what they're already doing. Others will be asked to consider making that 15% increase, and there may be some that would be able to consider doubling their giving. No one can make a gift they do not have, but everyone can be generous. Stay tuned - we'll have many more details to come!

KEY DATES

Be sure to put these dates in your calendar now.

March 8	The Generosity Campaign is officially launched
April 8	Dinner for invited leaders of the Campaign
April 19	Culmination of Generosity Campaign
May 17	Celebration of Results of Generosity Campaign

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN HAS AN EXCELLENT TEAM

Many people have already volunteered to be part of the team working to make 2015 the most generous-hearted year ever. Look out for gold stars on the name tags of those volunteers, and be sure to thank and congratulate them.

Save the Date! April 19th is UUCM's Generosity Commitment Sunday

*by Beryl Maclean Beckwith
UUCM Stewardship Chair and Generosity Campaign Team Leader*

Please mark your calendars for April 19th so we may all come together for a very special day of commitment and offerings as a congregation. This will include a joint worship with special guest speaker Rev. John Buehrens, Minister at San Francisco Unitarian Church and former President of the UUA. We'll also serve a delicious light brunch as we spend a beautiful day together to bring forward our commitments to our church and its ministries. We ask for your support as we continue the ongoing spiritual journey to finding the joy of generosity. Stay tuned for more details!

Winter Auction a Success!

The Winter Boutique raised \$1,920.40! Sales tax needs to be paid on some of the items, but the net result is still \$1,853.58. This is a fine total, and warm thanks go to Lin Myers for her leadership of the event, and to all who contributed and/or bought items.

Inspiration from Rev. Peter Morales

by Jerry Jacoby

"The work of bringing justice to our world is a marathon, not a sprint.

"Alone, we get exhausted and discouraged. Alone, we will lose hope. Alone, we feel powerless.

"Actually, alone we are powerless. This is why we need our religious communities, our congregations. Together we can remind ourselves that we are part of a great tradition not only of hope, but of historic victories... Together, we can console ourselves in trying times and draw strength from one another.

"Are you feeling discouraged by the hatred, injustice, and violence in our world? Go to church! Really. Are you bummed out? Volunteer to do something that heals the world and feeds your soul.

*"The fact that evil is persistent and resourceful is why we need life-affirming communities like our UU congregations. This is why we need institutions like our Association. Together we give one another strength. Together we become strong. Together we help bend the long arc of the universe toward justice and compassion."**

There are two things everyone can do to help our church thrive: First, when you see something "go right," then say thank you to our many volunteers and staff who put in countless hours to make our church work. Were the cookies especially good this Sunday? Then say thank you to the hostess of the week. Did one of the readings during the service impress you? Then say thank you to the individual after the service. Notice little things people do that, taken together, make our little church work.

Second, of course, is money. None of us, alone, have the wherewithal to finance UUCM's operations, and it would not be good for the congregation even if such a benefactor came forward. As Reverend Morales wrote, "Together we give one another strength." So increase your pledge, so that we will thrive.

*Rev. Peter Morales, UU World, Winter 2014, p. 5.

Membership and Hospitality

New Member Sunday is February 15th

If you have been attending our community for a while and are ready for the next step, becoming members, we would love to welcome you at our next New Member Ceremony on Sunday, February 15, 2015. The ceremony will be part of both services, so you can come to either service to participate. (Or both if you are very enthusiastic!)

We encourage visitors to attend one of our informative Intro to UUCM classes before becoming members, but if you've been a UU for a while, you may wish to skip this step and just join.

If you are ready to become a member our community, please respond email or call Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Committee chair at kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or (530) 478-1329. Rev. David Usher will want to schedule a meeting with you to talk about the process, as well as the expectations and benefits of membership in our community.

This is a very exciting time in our community as we begin the search for a new permanent minister. This will include a period of figuring out who we are and where we want to go as a community. Getting involved now will allow you to be part of the process, and enable you to vote for the minister that the Search Committee will be selecting for us next year.

Our next introductory class and new member ceremony will be a few months down the road, most likely in April or May. It will be scheduled as needed. If you would like to attend the next class, please let one of the greeters know as you come in on a Sunday, or contact Kathryn with the aforementioned email or telephone number. We will get you on a list, and contact you when the next class is scheduled.

Wanted: Gracious Hosts for Circle Suppers in February and March

Circle Suppers are potluck dinners held in members' homes where you have an opportunity to enjoy an evening with other members, friends and visitors of our community. They provide a more relaxed and intimate setting to get to know people on a deeper level than is possible at our coffee hour.

If you would like to host a Circle Supper in your home sometime toward the end of February or the beginning of March, please contact Sarah Scott who is organizing our next Circle Supper gatherings. Her email is: sarahporras2011@gmail.com and her telephone number is 530.470.9139. You will need to tell her how many guests you can accommodate, what your entree will be, and what date and time you would like to host.

As soon as we have enough hosts, we will put out sign up sheets in the foyer for people to sign on to the suppers. Please participate if you can, it's a great way for newcomers to get connected and bonds between old and new members to be strengthened.

The Kitchen Crew Could Use a Few More Members!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Theresa Houtman, Kathy MacLeod,
Claire Miller, Sarah Scott

Committee meetings are from 4-5:30:00 p.m.
on the third Monday of each month
in the Anthony Room

*We're always looking for friendly people who
enjoy getting involved...come join us!*

Each Sunday morning, a small group of dedicated individuals has been making coffee, setting up tables, and arranging snacks on plates for us to indulge on between services, then cleaning up afterward. The same four members have been doing this for several years. Please give a big thanks to Carol Kuczora, David Ferrier, Shannon Dooley-Miller and Donna Foddrrell next time you see them.

They continue to happily serve, but would be very grateful if the size of the crew could be expanded. If you'd like to take on a Sunday once in a while, they all would greatly appreciate your assistance, and happily train you for the job. Please let them know!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

If you don't feel up to the task of being in charge on a Sunday, there are other ways to help. Just wander back to the kitchen and ask what you can do. Often they need help setting up, carrying out food, dishes and cups, and clearing the tables afterward, bussing used dishes, loading the dishwasher, washing out coffee pots, wrapping up leftovers, and more.

DO FEED THE SNACK MONSTERS!

Please look for the clipboard (on the bulletin board or the snack table) and sign-up to bring snacks on a Sunday you are sure you are coming to church. Cookies, fruit, crackers and cheese, veggies and dip, and other finger foods are always gratefully received and voraciously devoured. THANKS!

Committee Updates

Building & Grounds: Next Work Day Scheduled for Saturday, February 21st

by Wally Holtan, Chair,
Building and Grounds Committee

I would like to thank all the people in our community that help keep our building and grounds looking great. It is always fun and rewarding to work with those people.

We are looking forward to some great things happening. In the next months we are going to paint the sanctuary and foyer. We will be continuing our goal of spreading bark and cardboard over the grass on Walsh Street to save our water usage. We also have our normal monthly work projects including work on our watering system to make it more efficient.

Remember if you want to participate in keeping our building and grounds in good condition we can use your help. We are always looking for volunteers on work party days. The next scheduled work day is February 21, 2015.

I hope to see you there.

Caring Committee Reaches Out to Members in Need

by Gwen Eymann, Chair,
Caring Committee

The Caring Committee serves the UUCM community by offering support, help, and contact to folks during times of special need. We, as a community, can all be part of the UUCM Caring Team by reaching out to each other to offer support, kind words, offers of help, and good works. Please give a little extra support and caring to the following people:

- Sharon Moore loves receiving cards with your thoughts
- Sharon Kenedi as she heals from a recent hip fracture
- May Lawrence recently suffered a broken ankle
- Roberta Bloom healing from surgery

The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. We may be contacted via email at caringcommittee@uugrassvalley.org or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530.274.7965 for more information.

Committee on Ministry and Transition Team

by Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair,
Transition Team/Committee on Ministry

The Transition Team meets monthly with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. Since Committee on Ministry is now part of the Transition Team, this is the group to contact regarding our shared ministry and congregational relations.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is UUCM's guiding principle. Please read the Covenant, below, and the Options for Addressing Challenges, at our UUCM website, before contacting us about attending a meeting. Then, if there's anything you'd like to bring to the team's attention, please contact one of the members listed below.

Attendance is by prior arrangement only, since people may be bringing deeply personal situations to the team. Our next meeting will be Friday, February 13th.

The Transition Team/Committee on Ministry members are:

Lindsay Dunckel	lindsaydunckel@gmail.com
George Dunstan	gvgeode@gmail.com
Suzanne Ferroggiaro	suzanneferro17@gmail.com
Keith Johnson	kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com
Bev Lyon	bml@mtnlyon.com
Susan Sanford	ssanford@sonic.net

UUCM COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

(Approved at the Congregational Meeting on May 17, 2009)

- ~ Recognizing that conflict is normal in human relations, and wishing to relate to others as harmoniously as possible, I sincerely intend to:
- ~ Treat others with kindness, empathy, and respect.
- ~ Communicate with patience, flexibility, and a willingness to negotiate in the spirit of meeting as many needs as possible.
- ~ Be aware of my own thoughts, feelings, and needs, and share them directly and honestly with others, without judgment or blame.
- ~ Invite and listen to all points of view, respecting others' feelings and needs, and encouraging minority opinions.
- ~ Take responsibility for my own mental, emotional, and spiritual balance, asking for support when I need it.
- ~ Be mindful of the needs of the group as a whole, mourning together when individual needs cannot be met.

Social Justice Coordinating Council and Activities

New Road Map for Social Justice

by Keith Johnson and Bonnie Bennett, Co-Chairs
Social Justice Coordinating Council

There is a new road map for social justice at UUCM. The Social Justice Coordinating Council has voted to use the workbook from UUA Witness Ministries entitled Inspired Faith Effective Action as the guide for future justice programs. We would like to share with you some of the salient points presented in this workbook. For the entire document, see <http://www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/ifea.pdf>

In order to be successful, a congregation must intentionally set a path for justice work. First, one on one conversations are conducted to discover the passions of our members. When one or two issues have been identified, we analyze whether there is a match between the congregation's resources and our ability to make a difference on those issues. If so, short, intermediate, and long-term goals are developed. Action must be concrete, specific, and manageable. Action must incorporate all the components of social justice work, including service, education, organizing, advocacy, lobbying, and witness. Once our goals are met, new issues are selected and the process repeats itself.

Sound interesting? Want to learn more? The next SJCC meeting will be held February 22nd at 12:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Green Power Points

by Anita Wald-Tuttle, Chair,
Green Sanctuary Sub-Committee of SJCC

HUNK OF BURNING LOVE

(Borrowed from my 2009 "Page-A-Day" Calendar)

If you're sweet on your wood-burning fireplace, here's the most responsible way to light up:

- use only very dry wood and kindling to minimize smoke
- skip the starter logs and fluid
- use only plain newspaper - no colored inks - if needed

You could also consider installing a natural gas fireplace, or opt for a faux option – a slew of soy candles, alone or nestled into spaces carved in a few logs – or invest in a free-standing, clean-burning "EcoSmart Fire."

Enjoy that warming flame in your hearth and in your heart!!!

Get going: www.ecosmartfire.com/USA/home.php

Second Annual Animal Film Festival February 28

by Carol Hyndman, Chair,
UUCM Animal Ministry

The 2nd annual Animal Film Festival will be at the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley. It will be on Saturday, February 28. It is an all-day event. There will be a wide variety of films - some humorous, emotional, thought-provoking. The proceeds benefit CAPE, Center for Animal Protection and Education, a local group based in Grass Valley. The films are from around the world. Info and to order tickets animalfilmfestival.org

I would like to start the vegan potlucks again if there is an interest. I think maybe every two to three months instead of monthly. I also thought maybe do a lunch instead of dinner. Maybe after the late service on a Sunday. Any input is appreciated. Please contact me at 530.477.0693 or by email to: countrycattery@mail.com.

Black Lives Matter: An Update

Much has happened since David Usher's sermon on December 7 sparked a significant response. Two meetings have been held, on December 15 and January 5, with about twenty people in attendance at each, and those meetings have given rise to several initiatives.

Contact has been made with Bethel AME Church Choir, and many UUCM members sang in or attended the choir's concert in Nevada City on January 19.

On January 16, UUCM co-hosted showing the film, "Fruitvale Station", a documentary about a young black man killed by a BART police officer.

Many UUCM members attended a presentation by Bill Drake about his upbringing in a southern segregationist family. Bill Drake has been invited to take a service at UUCM, at a date to be confirmed.

Contact has been made with John Foster, Chief of Grass Valley Police, who is pleased to attend a public meeting at UUCM designed to share ideas about how we can ensure that African Americans and other minorities are treated equally and fairly by the police and the judiciary. The most likely date for that meeting is Monday, March 9. To be confirmed.

There remains much to be done to ensure we do not lose momentum on this critical issue facing the nation.

Social Justice Activities

More than Forty People Met to Discuss Mental Health

After the services on January 18, Scottie Hart convened a meeting facilitated by Gail Johnson-Vaughan to discuss Mental Health.

Scottie writes...

The most important part of the gathering was the incredible energy in the room. About forty people packed the Channing Room. We were people with mental health histories, family members, and a couple folks just interested in being helpful. We represented many age brackets, diagnoses and backgrounds. The room was filled with our deep, urgent yearning that UUCM provide more connection and support to its members around mental health issues.

After we shared briefly (and often poignantly) why we had come, Gail Johnson-Vaughan catapulted us a year into the future. From the perspective of January 18, 2016 we looked at what we had accomplished in a year's time. Lots and lots of exciting developments had occurred. We documented our accomplishments so that when Gail returned us to 2015 we had tons of ideas of about specific directions in which we'd like to grow. And then we were out of time! We agreed to meet again after the services on February 1. You are welcome to join us. If you'd like to be on the mental health e-mailing list and receive more detailed information about yesterday's meeting and upcoming plans, just email me (scottiehart47@gmail.com) and I'll put you on the roster.

Facing Mental Health Challenges Together, February 1

by *Scottie Hart*

I wonder how we can best "stand on the side of love" with the individuals and families in our congregation who face mental health challenges?

That will be the focus of a special gathering after the second service on Sunday, February 1, 2015. From 12:30 until about 2:30 p.m. all of us who have wrestled with any "no-fault brain condition" and their family members will gather again to consider how we can, as a congregation, best respond to those among us who are suffering.

When we met in January for brainstorming, dozens of exciting ideas came up. Where should we begin? At this second workshop Gail Johnson-Vaughan will lead us in distilling our enthusiasm into an action plan. It will be a lively and rewarding time. A light lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome.

To learn more, contact Scottie Hart at 272-5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com.

Fouth Friday Film Series presents "Unmanned: America's Drone Wars"

Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm at UUCM

In "Unmanned: America's Drone Wars" director Robert Greenwald investigates the impact of U.S. drone strikes at home and abroad through more than 70 separate interviews, including a former American

drone operator who shares what he has witnessed in his own words, Pakistani families mourning loved ones and seeking legal redress, investigative journalists pursuing the truth, and top military officials warning against blowback from the loss of innocent life. About the US drone warfare program, Rosa Brooks, former State Department Senior Advisor states, "Without more transparency, how can we decide if the U.S. use of drones is lawful or unlawful? More pragmatically, without more transparency, how can we evaluate whether the U.S. drone war is doing us more good than harm? How can we tell if it's actually weakening terrorist networks? How can we evaluate its second-order effects -- is it inspiring more anti-U.S. violence than it's preventing, or setting a dangerous precedent for other states? How can we tell if drone strikes are a sound strategy, or, as a military acquaintance puts it, merely a tactic in search of a strategy? We can't."



"Unmanned: America's Drone Wars" shows Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalists Community of the Mountains, 246 S. Church Street,

Grass Valley. Suggested donation \$6.00-\$10.00 and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Organic popcorn & treats available, with discussion to follow film. All proceeds shared with UUCM and the Peace and Justice Center of Nevada County.

For more information call (530) 615-7859 or visit website ncepeace.org, or email at ncepeace@sbcglobal.net.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle – Asian Food Potluck and Mahjong!

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm at UUCM

Celebrate the Asian New Year at the Women's Circle gathering on the second Tuesday of the month, February 10.

We'll start with an Asian Food potluck dinner. Make your favorite dish (or pick up take out at your favorite Asian restaurant!) Then Paige Anderson-Torgimson will teach us to play Mahjong, a fun game of skill and strategy played with 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. Similar to the card game of rummy, there are many regional variations in the rules and scoring. Paige taught us a simple version last year, but we ran out of time, so we'll have a chance to reacquaint ourselves with the game, and have a lot of fun in the process.

RSVP to Clarita Nolan, photosbyclarita@att.net, (530.575.2229) or Kathryn Young, kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, (530.478.1329). All UUCM women, both members and visitors, are welcome.

Pete Seeger Songfest – Remembering Pete through his Songs

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm at UUCM

Come celebrate Pete Seeger's life of music and activism with composer/guitarist Jim Scott, who knew Pete well and collaborated on many projects with the folk legend. We'll sing songs together and remember the great contributions to our American heritage Pete made in his 94 years of life. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$15, with no one turned away.

A committed UU, Jim Scott brings a warmth, and authenticity that turns any size audience into an intimate gathering. His lyrical melodies, well-crafted words, guitar mastery and humorous surprises moved Pete Seeger to call him "Some kind of a magician." Jim is a prolific composer in his own right, some of his songs are in our hymnal, and he has visited more than 600 UU churches over three decades of travels. For more information, call Anne Haymaker at 530.477.0701, or go to www.JimScottMusic.com.

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 in the Channing Room, and at What's Up Café on Thursday mornings, men gather to enjoy each other's company and discuss the issues of the day or whatever takes their fancy, in an open and free-flowing way. You are invited to join them.

Travelogue & Open Mic Night! Saturday, February 21st at UUCM

Starting at 7:00 p.m., you can experience some of the sights and scenes from our fellow UUs travels around the world through slide shows! Then, at 8:00 p.m., we'll have an Open Mic hour! So all you musicians, singers, poets, comedians come entertain us.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share. Call or email Shannon if you have any questions: 530.346.6995 or sdooley-miller@gotsky.com.

Meditation

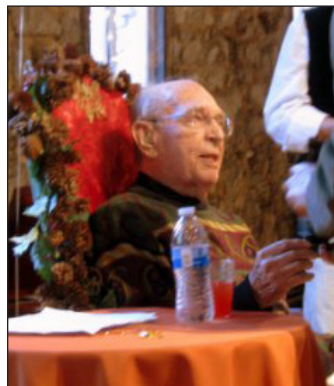
Every Tuesday morning, Scottie Hart leads an hour of Meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more information, call Scottie on 530.272.5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com.

Drumming Circle

On the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month, David Ferrier leads a Drumming Circle in the Sanctuary. Come and join him and others for this fun activity. No previous experience necessary. Call David at 530.559.5902 for further details.

Save the Date! Celebrate St. Paddy's Ceili on Saturday, March 14th

The UUCM Ceili is BACK! We'll be having great music, dancing, food and fun for all ages! If you are interested in helping with this fun fundraising event for UUCM call or email Shannon at sdooley-miller@gotsky.com or 530.346.6995



Otto Hauelsen celebrates his 100th birthday in style at the Miner's Foundry in Nevada City on January 1, 2015



Sarah Scott displays her amazing cake Rev. David commissioned to celebrate our Two Sunday Service launch on January 4, 2015



*Snow Hernandez
Director of Lifespan
Religious Exploration*

Religious Education

As the new year unfolds, I am reminded that we all face many challenges in both our church and our personal lives. We unfortunately had to postpone our junior high OWL class to this fall, due to low registration numbers. If you know anyone who may be interested in participating or having their children participate, please spread the word so we can see an increase in participants for the fall program!

On a personal level, my life is undergoing many schedule changes as I work side jobs while looking for something more permanent after being laid off at the end of December from my primary job. I am still available for communication; this simply means that my open availability for Friday communication and a day full of DLRE work is now being spread across the weekdays in smaller chunks. I will continue to be on site three Sundays a month and am always available by email.

Have you seen the new Adult RE booklets in the foyer? I am thrilled to announce a wide variety of programs for the rest of winter and spring 2015. I am particularly excited about the monthly "Potluck and Program" which will consist of a potluck dinner followed by a different program theme each month, many of which will be led by David Usher himself. Other offerings include book groups, a song-writing circle, and a trip to Ashland, Oregon. Take a look at the booklet to learn more, and be sure to thank Keith Johnson for all his work coordinating the programs!

I hope that as the year goes by we are able to meet our challenges head on, face them with grace, and grow from our experiences.

*In faith,
Snow*

Pick Up the New Adult RE Booklet!

The new Adult Religious Education Prospectus is now available at church, and it offers a broad variety of opportunities to study, discuss, learn and grow. Be sure to pick up your copy next time you are at church. Find the booklet on one of the tables in the foyer. Read on for some highlights of upcoming Adult RE programs.

Potluck & Program - February 11

About forty people gathered on Wednesday, January 14 to enjoy a delicious potluck supper and then hear David Usher's presentation, "Outrageous Tales from the Outback". The February Potluck will be on Wednesday 11th, followed by a presentation by David Usher on "Understanding Unitarianism". This two part series (the second part will be in March) helps to explain the different theological threads within Unitarianism, and where you fit in.

The New Jim Crow

As part of this congregation's deepening commitment to the issues of racial justice and the deliberate mass incarceration of African Americans, this study group will meet three times to discuss its shared reading of this challenging book by Michelle Alexander. Contact Keith Johnson, 530.265.0277 or email: kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com for more details.

Songwriters' Circle

Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30

Do you want to be a better songwriter?

The second chance to learn the art of song-writing, and to get feedback on your efforts, will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Tom Wernigg, Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young, we will share with each other what works, what doesn't, what to look out for, and how to know when you are on the right track. Bring your instrument and/or voice, and share a song you are working on, if you wish, and get feedback in a loving, non-judgemental environment. If you bring chords and lyrics, you might be able to entice others to join in.

Please RSVP or send any questions to:
kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or 530.478.1329

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health

A class offered by Rev. David Usher. Copies of this book are available from the author, David Usher, for \$15, in preparation for the four part study session, starting on March 19, 2015.

Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times

This study group, consisting of Board members and others, will reflect on their reading of the book, "Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times" by Peter Steinke, a pertinent topic in this Interim time.

February Calendar of Events at UUCM

Date	Day of Week	Time	Event Description	Date	Day of Week	Time	Event Description		
1	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service	15	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service		
		11.30	Sunday Service			11.30	Sunday Service		
		12.45	Mental Health Discussion						
2	Monday	5.30	Choir	16	Monday	5.30	Membership Committee		
		7.00	The New Jim Crow			7.00	The New Jim Crow		
3	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation	17	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation		
		12.30	Generosity Team			7.00	Songwriting Circle		
4	Wednesday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group	18	Wednesday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group		
		7.00	Drumming Circle			7.00	Concert, Jim Scott		
5	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group	19	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group		
8	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service	20	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep/Utah's Place		
		11.30	Sunday Service			5.00	Deadline for March <i>Mountain Chalice</i>		
9	Monday	5.30	Choir	22	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service		
		7.00	Congregational Leadership Study Group			11.30	Sunday Service		
10	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation	24	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation		
		4.00	Caring Committee			12.30	Generosity Team		
		6.00	Women's Group						
11	Wednesday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group	25	Wednesday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group		
		6.00	Potluck Supper			26	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group
		7.00	"Understanding Unitarianism", part 1					7.00	Fourth Friday Film Series
12	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group	28	Saturday	9.00	Vision Day		
		6.30	Board of Trustees						
13	Friday	10.00	Transition Team/ Committee on Ministry	March					
				1	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service		
						11.30	Sunday Service		

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services at 9:45 AM and 11:30 AM

Office Hours: Monday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Thursday & Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
minister.uugv@gmail.com
530.274.1661

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