

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2017

UPCOMING SERVICES

Two Service Times each Sunday: 9:45 A.M. or 11:30 A.M.

Social hour is between the two services; either stay after the first service, or come early to the second one.

Religious education classes for all children and teens are offered during the 9:45 A.M. service.

Nursery care is available for both services.

JANUARY THEME: PROPHECY

January 1 **New Year's Day - Cider Sunday**
(One Service, 11:30 a.m.) **Worship Associate: Anita Wald-Tuttle**

On this prelude to an unpredictable new year we will pause as we have for many of the preceding years, "circle the chairs", and take a look backward as well as forward. The Roman god Janus (for whom the month is named) will be our model. Each person is encouraged to contemplate and share what's been meaningful in their lives this past year and what they look forward to in the coming year, as we sip hot cider in community.

January 8 **For Times Such as These: Our Prophetic Imperative**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Rev. Richard Gilbert contends that we UU's and other liberal religionists live under a prophetic imperative, "a religious mandate for the corporate address of the church to the systemic problems of society." Spirituality is not only about the inner life, it is also about concern for the most vulnerable among us. Let's consider our prophetic nature and prophetic voice, and what on earth we are called to do now. **Note: Second Sunday Soup after the 11:30 service, then stay for Linda Jack's 2:00 presentation on African American Pioneers in Nevada County (see page 7).**

January 15 **Rise Up! Answering the Call of Love**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa & Co.

A Full Community service inspired by the spirit and leadership of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the prophetic women and men upon whose legacies we build.

January 22 **Truth Be Told**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

The Biblical prophets spoke truth to power, or to anyone who needed to hear it, whether the hearers had power or not. As the presidential inauguration inaugurates a new era in the nation, what truths need to be told and to whom? Which truths are you willing to speak? Which truths are you willing to hear?

January 29 **Title To Be Determined**
Worship Committee

This service is still in planning stages by our talented worship committee, and will be announced later in the month.

FEBRUARY THEME: IDENTITY

February 4 **One of Us**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

A sense of clear, compelling and shared mission anchors strong religious communities, especially those like this one, not bound by a creed, dogma or prescribed rituals. What is the purpose or mission of UUCM? What is the source of its identity? And is community a means, an end, a consequence or a source of its mission?

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

Panning for Gold

Happy New Year!

The January 1 service, with its Janus-inspired look both backward and forward, leads us into a month-long shared exploration of the theme of prophecy. From our tradition's prophetic voices to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to our own lives, we will look both backward and forward in the spirit of Sankofa, a concept from the Akan people in Ghana, West Africa. Sankofa translates to English as "go back (return) and get (take) it," expressing the need to reflect on the past in order to glean the treasures from it, and to take what's good, even from the painful parts of our past, in order to build a healthy and successful future.

I am drawn to understand prophecy not as foretelling or predicting the future, but as "forthtelling," the needed naming of difficult truths, guided by our vision of the world as it might best be – the "kingdom of God" here on earth, in biblical language. That the presidential inauguration comes this month heightens the energy of this notion of prophecy for me. Like many of you, I am wrestling with what these times ask of me and of us. The biblical prophets were often reluctant prophets who declined the initial invitation of the Divine. Speaking prophetic truth, especially to power, is dangerous business. How much truth and which truths am I seeing and willing to voice? What difficult truths am I willing to hear from others and to take to heart?

UUCM's small sharing groups, Soul Matters Circles, kick off this month with an introductory experience on the 7th. On January 8 Linda Jack's talk about African American Pioneers in Nevada County kicks off the new Racial Justice Working Group's series of monthly learning events. Plans will be stirring toward a new discernment of UUCM's current mission. The Social Justice Committee is looking at new ways to enable people's involvement.

Each of these and much more ahead stand to strengthen and prepare our prophetic selves for the work to come. Whether we are reluctant or ready prophets, the road ahead is already calling for our courageous voices and the naming of our

collectively discerned truths. I do not have the answers for you. I cannot tell you exactly what needs to be said and when and how.

I trust that together, we'll help each other figure that out. Continually. As we go.

Grateful to be in this journey with you, forthtelling the future.

– Rev. Kevin

Rev. Kevin Away From His Desk

(...AND, WELL, EVERYTHING ELSE) AFTER CHRISTMAS

Rev. Kevin will be on vacation December 28-January 5. He will reply to all non-emergency emails and phone messages after he returns. In the event of a pastoral care emergency during this time, please call UUCM President, Dave MacLeod (530-263-5075) or Vice President, Lindsay Dunckel (530-277-9718).

Director of RE Hiring Update

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

A RECAP: UUCM hired the amazing Kristin Famula as a Religious Education consultant last summer. The 2016-17 budget had planned for a January 2017 hiring of a Director of Religious Education. At my recommendation the board voted to move those January to June 2017 funds to this fall in order to allow UUCM to hire Kristin as its Acting Director of Religious Education (DRE) September 1 through December 31, 2016.

NOW: After looking this fall into the possibility of hiring a permanent DRE by January, I recommended instead, and the board agreed, that UUCM draw on Kristin's gifts and hire Kristin as Acting DRE for the remainder of the fiscal year (January 1-June 30, 2017), at 18 hours per week, asking her not only to keep the basics going and growing, but also to use the additional 4 hours per week to help UUCM broaden and deepen its understanding of Religious Education for all ages, and to help UUCM courageously and creatively discern an RE future based on the real current needs and realities of young families in Grass Valley. This would be an investment in discerning a long term vision for religious education at UUCM.

This spring I anticipate the congregation's active work to discern and claim its current mission. I also anticipate that in late spring and early summer we will be envisioning, planning and hiring a permanent DRE for next fall in light of that newly discerned mission, and so UUCM will be hiring for the future rather than the present.

Come mid-January this path will require additional and unanticipated funding for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The Finance Committee and Board are working on that. Stay tuned for word of that effort!

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.,
Wednesday: 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. and Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule an appointment:
minister@uugrassvalley.org or (231) 883-1058

Membership Committee

Curious?

Find out more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCM

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

New to UU and/or UUCM? Join Rev. Kevin for an informal Q&A conversation after the services on **January 8 or February 5**. (Or contact him any time for a personal appointment – minister@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1661.)

Ready to find out more? Sign up for the February sessions: The Welcome to UU(CM) morning offers an overview of this religious tradition and this particular congregation. The "UU History" and "UU Principles and Theologies" evenings are chances to delve a little deeper. Each session offers chances both to learn and to connect to others. Everyone, new attendees to long time members, is welcome at any of these events. We'll repeat the series again in April.

To RSVP for the Q&As or the February sessions, sign up on Sunday mornings at the Membership Table, or contact the UUCM office: admin@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1675.

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP (AND MORE)

WINTER 2017 SESSIONS

Question & Answer Conversations:

Sunday, January 8 and Sunday, February 5,
with Rev. Kevin after each service

Welcome to UU(CM)

Saturday, February 4, 9 am - 1 pm

UU History with Rev. Kevin

Thursday, February 9, 6 - 7:30 pm

UU Principles and Theologies with Rev. Kevin

Tuesday, February 21, 6 - 7:30 pm

Joining Sunday

Sunday, March 12, both services

(for those who have decided to join by then)

Circle Suppers are BACK!

By Kathryn Young, Chair, Membership Committee

Several people have stepped up to offer a variety of Circle Suppers to warm us through the winter. Look in the foyer for sign-up sheets for the various dinners. There are some very delicious looking offerings! These are a great opportunity to meet folks you don't know well in a comfortable setting. We particularly wish to encourage visitors and new members to participate! Please attend only one dinner to allow as many people as possible to enjoy the experience. (Hosts may attend one other dinner as space allows...) Questions:

kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or 478-1329.

Greeters & Ushers are Needed! Training Day Coming Soon!

By Kathy MacLeod, Membership Committee

If you can commit to greeting and/or ushering once a month or every other month, please let someone at the Membership table know. It's a job that happens while you are already at UUCM, with no lengthy meetings or commitments. We can train you on the spot, but we also plan a more detailed training this month – watch for the date. It's fun and easy and a great way to meet people and help our community. You do not have to be a long-term member to be effective, you just have to be friendly and willing. We need you, please help!

Kathy MacLeod: horsenana@sbcglobal.net or 477-5824

Hospitality Hour Needs Volunteers!

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour

Each Sunday we need four to six people to either set up or clean up, and donations of goodies to serve. The actual tasks are as follows:

SET UP: This is done during the early service from 9:45 to ~10:30. You set the tables, make the coffee, arrange the food on plates and platters, and keep table and carafes stocked during hospitality time. You can then attend the second service.

CLEAN UP: Attend the first service, then come back for the Hospitality Hour, and when the second service starts, you clear the tables, put away the food, and clean the kitchen. This should take 30-45 minutes.

FOOD DONATIONS: Each week we need donations of two or three sweet treats and two or three healthy treats – preferably dropped off in the kitchen before the first service.

Please contact me at: (hospitality@uugrassvalley.org, or 916-203-5962.) If you wish to sign up on line both to work and/or donate food, you can open our on-line sign-up page (**Make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, chair
Yolanda Bernasconi, Kathy MacLeod, Claire Miller
and Marilyn Young

Committee meetings are on the second Tuesday of each
month at 12:30 p.m. in the Anthony Room

We're always looking for friendly people... Come join us!

UUCM Celebrates the Holidays Together!

UUCM Holiday Season ROCKED!

By Kathryn Young, Membership Committee Chair

We've been having fun together in December! Starting with our Holiday Party on December 10th when we decorated the tree with handmade ornaments, sang carols, decorated cookies and cupcakes and pot-lucked together, then our Yule/Solstice service, our candlelit Christmas Eve service and finally our Christmas Day Service followed by a Potluck Dinner – we've had a lot of opportunities to join together and share experiences. Please enjoy these photos of a few highlights.



Crafting with friends ↑



Decorating cookies! ↑



Over 100 people attended our Christmas Eve service! ↑



Christmas Day: All Dressed UP! ↓ Feasting ↑ Solstice Food! ↓



Ham, turkey, dressing, yams, and all the trimmings ↑



Singing around the piano with Rev. Kevin ↑

Building & Grounds

B&G has Good Clean Fun!

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building & Grounds Committee

Twelve brave UU's showed up for the UUCM holiday work party. The fun started with cranberry bread and coffee in the Channing Room. We had a delightful 30 minutes telling stories and talking about the games we wanted to play.

The inside games included cleaning the whole building, because our regular cleaning service person was out getting married. There was the vacuuming competition won by Rene and Nora. The floor washing event was won by Jennifer. We had a race upstairs to see who could clean what room first and Yvonne won the Minister's Office prize. The outdoor ice sliding competition was won by Mel who had a ladder slide without anyone on it. Kern had the best ice walking skills and David and Mel won the shelf stabilizing contest. Carmen took first place in outdoor leaf gathering and Anita won the trash pickup contest. Gwen and Steve shared the overall general helper award. And as always, Wally was the judge.

A fun time was had by all. Be sure to sign up early for next year's competitions and we can always use new competitors.

Committee on Ministry

A New Role for UUCM's Committee on Ministry

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

Drawing on current best practices, I have recommended to the Board and congregation a change in the nature and role of UUCM's Committee on Ministry (COM). (Members and pledging Friends received an email about this from me.) This will require a bylaw change and so an affirmative vote by the congregation in the new year.

OUR CURRENT BYLAWS SAY:

The purpose of the Committee on Ministry shall be to strengthen the quality of the shared and mutual ministry within the congregation. It shall serve as a support for the Minister and as a communication channel between the Minister and the congregation.

In the past, the Committee on Ministry has also served as a conflict management team at UUCM, in part in order to fulfill the communication channel role.

I have recommended that the COM's purpose be focused exclusively on the first part of the existing description - strengthening the quality and spiritual health of the entire ministry of the congregation as a reflection of its mission fulfillment. I have recommended removing the minister support, minister/congregation go-between, and conflict management roles.

In its new form the COM will systematically look at each of the ministries of the UUCM - minister, staff, and all the programs and efforts of the congregation - asking, "How well is each functioning to serve the congregation's mission? What is needed to strengthen the ability of each to serve the congregation's mission?" etc. The COM's role will be to analyze, assess, and make recommendations wherever needed. It will be an advisory body.

Ministers of course receive many kinds of wonderful support from congregants, but the need to be the support for one's minister often interferes with the ability to be served by one's minister. We ministers learn to get deep support from colleagues near and far and from mentors and resources outside the congregation so that we can be most fully available to you.

The old "communication channel" role – serving as the go-between – encourages unhealthily indirect communication between congregation and minister, and all but guarantees unhealthy triangulation. Better to find and nurture ways to communicate directly.

The actual new bylaw language is yet to be finalized, but I

imagine and recommended something along these lines:

On behalf of the congregation and in light of the congregation's mission, the COM will systematically assess, report on, and make recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the congregation's entire ministry in all of its inter-related facets.

Meanwhile, per UUCM bylaws, I have submitted a list of names and asked the Board to choose and appoint three members from that list to serve on the Committee on Ministry in staggered three-year terms.

Since the new form of COM will have no explicit conflict management role, until such time as a healthy relations, right relations or conflict management team is developed, should conflict arise and need addressing the Board will appoint an ad hoc three-person team (minister, one board member, one member from the congregation at large) to help the parties navigate the conflict.

Please contact me or a member of the board if you have questions or concerns about this revision of COM focus and responsibility. I am excited about how such a change can help UUCM identify and reach ever more of its potential.

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Committee Leadership Change

By Kern Hildebrand, Member at Large,
UUCM Board of Trustees

After over two years as chair of the Stewardship Committee Beryl Maclean Beckwith will step down at the end of 2016 and be replaced by Lin Jovanovic. Beryl's hard-working commitment and dedication to all elements of UUCM stewardship was responsible for helping us all to engage in our own personal stewardship of our UU community. Thank you Beryl for your time, your leadership, and your support of this vital part of our spiritual life together.

Lin has been a member of UUCM since January 2014. Before moving to Grass Valley, Lin and her husband lived in Modesto, where she served on the Board of Trustees of the Modesto Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for eight years, including several years as President of their board. She is anxious to get started in her new role focusing in on our pledge fund drive coming up in several months. If you are interested in stewardship here at UUCM, have any questions, and especially if you might like to help Lin in any way, please contact Lin Jovanovic at 530-798-4773 or linmosiac@yahoo.com.

Caring Committee

Forum Working Group

Caring Committee Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Chair, Caring Committee

As we say goodbye to 2016 and welcome this new year, may we remember to care for with kindness those in our community and beyond. Wishing you and yours a Happy New Year.

We share within our community our joys and sorrows. Please keep the following people in your thoughts and in your deeds of kindness:

GAIL JOHNSON VAUGHAN asks that we keep her Granddaughter's family in your thoughts. Gail's very young great-grandsons have been diagnosed with a rare and incurable neurological disease known as spinal muscular atrophy type 2. The children have been enrolled in a clinical trial at UCSF and are being referred to Shriners Hospital. The family is hopeful and ask that we share that hope and send healing thoughts to these two little boys.

BERYL MACLEAN BECKWITH is continuing to recover from the back surgery she had in October. She is getting out and about some these days, and she appreciates all the caring and support she is receiving from our UUCM community.

LEAL PORTIS is continuing her fight with a recurrence of cancer. She intends to win this battle just like she did her last round with cancer six years ago. Leal could use our support and offers for rides to Sunday Service and medical appointments.

ERNIE JACKSON is 92 years young. He doesn't make it to UUCM events these days, but his spirit is with us. Ernie would love calls and visits from old friends.

SUNNY HOLMES is not driving these days and she appreciates offers for rides to late Sunday Service and other UUCM activities.

The Mountain Chalice Caring notes come from individuals and from specific notes on our *Joys & Sorrows Cards*. If you do not wish to have your words in *The Mountain Chalice*, please make a note on the card.

CARING COMMITTEE

Gwen Eymann, *chair*
Barbara Chesnut, Robin Hart, May Lawrence,
Anne Lyon, Leal Portis, Corrie Silva,
and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m.
on the first Tuesday
of each month in the Anthony Room.
If you would like to reach out to members
in need with rides, hot meals, home visits and
more, please let us know.

Contact: Gwen Eymann, 530-274-7965
caring@uugrassvalley.org

Forum Update

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair, Forum Working Group

As many of you know, the Forum is an online tool, started in September of 2015 for UUCM members and friends to communicate about topics of community interest. After using it for a couple of months it became clear that there was a need to have more clarity about its use.

Using input from the UUCM community, the Forum Working Group has spent the last year revising and improving the Forum.

The FWG is thrilled to announce what's coming...

NEW FORUM KICK OFF MEETING Sunday, February 5 after the second service!

You will learn about the New Forum, how to use it, and be able to sign the User Agreement. You will also meet your newly selected Moderators and Tech Team. Hope to see you there!

The NEW FORUM will be up and running after the meeting!

"THE TECHIES ARE IN" –

Between Sunday services there will be volunteers with computers available for anyone needing help in using the New Forum.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

March 1, 2017:

Workings of our Forum will be transferred from FWG to Moderator and Tech Teams

September 2017 :

Moderator and Tech Teams will re-evaluate our Forum

Thanks for your patience throughout this process!

Here's to a vibrant, healthy Forum!

Please contact Suzanne Ferroggiaro with questions (530-477-5344 or suzanneferro17@gmail.com).

Social Justice News & Activities

Social Justice News

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Social Justice Committee

At its December meeting, the Social Justice Committee took the following actions:

- Welcomed new members John Holdeman, Cassandra Holdeman, and Beryl Maclean Beckwith. Welcome aboard!
- Voted to allocate \$1500 from the committee budget in support of the youth BorderLinks trip to Mexico this June. For more information about this trip, please contact Acting Director of Religious Education Kristin Famula (education@uugrassvalley.org).
- Made plans to:
 1. Support the South Yuba River Citizens League in opposing the Centennial Dam;
 2. Participate in the homeless count with Hospitality House;
 3. Select Pass the Plate recipients in 2017.
- Began the process of revising the committee's Mission and Work Plan for 2017/18. Using the model developed by Richard Gilbert in *The Prophetic Imperative*, the committee is considering a new justice model which focuses on task forces composed of at least five members of the congregation who want to work on a particular justice issue. The Social Justice Committee will function as a steering committee in support of the task forces. Stay tuned as we flesh out this new approach to our justice work.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you peace, love, and justice in 2017.

"Civility to All, Servility to None"

JANUARY 8 AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Join us after our service for a program by Linda K. Jack about Nevada County's African American pioneers in her talk, "Civility to All, Servility to None".

Linda K. Jack is the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Nevada County Historical Society and a volunteer at the Searls Historical Library.

A soup lunch will be served between the second service and Linda K. Jack's presentation.

– Yvonne Mills, Member, Social Justice Committee

Black Lives Matter Here!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

UUCM's new Racial Justice Working Group has been helping UUCM discern its next Black Lives Matter banner message: "Black Lives Matter Here." It is a proclamation that calls UUCM to live up to it.

The Working Group is also active planning a series of monthly learning opportunities for the new year, beginning with Sunday, January 8 at 2:00 at UUCM, when Linda K. Jack will tell us of Nevada County's African American pioneers in a presentation titled "*Civility to All, Servility to None*." Stay for Second Sunday Soup and this important chance to learn.

On Sunday, February 19, Jamal Walker and Bill Drake will speak in the morning services about "*The Ever Increasing Racial Divide*." After a soup lunch that same day, UUCM will hold a public banner dedication at 2:00, followed by an afternoon workshop with Jamal and Bill: "*Working with Our Edges; Exploring Prejudice and What Holds Us Back*."

In a related vein, Keith Johnson, Social Justice Chair, announced that the Social Justice Committee has purchased for UUCM's library \$200 worth of books regarding racial justice issues. Watch for them soon.

The next meeting of the Racial Justice Working Group will be held at 12:45 on Sunday, January 15 in the Channing Room.

Watch for more information about these and other learning events each month, and look for word soon of a new "Black Lives Matter/Racial Justice" page on UUCM's website. For more information or to join the Racial Justice Working Group, contact Mary Orr at anniesmum@sbcglobal.net.

For Black History Resources for Nevada County, California, and Nation, see: <https://www.nevadacountyhistory.org/black-history-of-nevada-county.html>.

Utah's Place Dinner Crew Needs YOU!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 4:00 P.M.

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Social Justice Committee

UUCM volunteers make dinners at Hospitality House on the third and fifth Fridays of the month. We serve 40 to 60 people at each dinner. We also leave food for breakfast. If you would like to help prepare and serve meals, please contact Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com. **Your help is welcome, but PLEASE notify Keith in advance as the kitchen is very small, and can only accommodate a small number of volunteers.**

UUCM is seeking funds to purchase food for the meals. Each dinner costs anywhere from \$150 to \$225. If you would like to donate funds for this worthy cause, please contact me at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com.



Soul Matters

Sample a Circle on January 7

Looking for a meaningful way to connect to others, to feed your spirit and to grow?

Consider joining one of the Soul Matters Circles, small groups of up to 8 or 10 people who will gather at least monthly for deep reflection, sharing and connection, drawing upon the monthly congregation-wide themes and using a well-tested framework for structuring the shared time.

Try it out. Sample and learn about Soul Matters Circles on Saturday, January 7 from 9:30 AM–12:30 PM. Groups of interested participants will form out of that event and begin meeting in February.

For more information or to sign up for the introductory Soul Matters Circle experience on Saturday, January 7, contact Phil Hart (philhart115@gmail.com or 530-272-6870) or Scottie Hart (530-272-5022).

Drop-In Support Circle

SUNDAYS, ANTHONY ROOM, UUCM, 10:50 A.M.

By Janet Bullock, Facilitator, Drop-In Support Circle

The Drop-in Support Circle may NOT meet on Sunday, January 1st. If we do meet, it will be after the single 11:30 A.M. service, starting around 12:35 P.M. in the Anthony Room. Please watch the weekly eChalice and printed Sunday announcements to see if the January 1 meeting will occur. Regular meetings will resume between services beginning on January 8.

This weekly circle on Sunday continues to be open, on a drop-in basis, for UUCM people needing a little extra support and those with extra support to give. Our circle meets in the period between services, at about 10:50, in the library. Quickly grab a snack and join us.

It is not a therapy group; it is a confidential sharing circle, and is facilitated by congregation members. (Even if you don't feel like talking but just want to sit among caring people, you are welcome to come.)

To learn more, please contact Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, janetbullock41@gmail.com)

Women's Circle Kicks Off 2017

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

The UUCM Women's Circle will be gathering for the first meeting of 2017 on the second Monday of January at 6 PM.

Let's do a healthy salad potluck after all our holiday feasting, and plan to share one or two things you experienced in 2016, and your hopes or goals for 2017. We'll also review the last year of Women's Group meetings -- what worked, what didn't -- and get a start on the plans for 2017. If you have ideas for programs or themes for our 2017 meetings, please share them. Plan to step up -- we'd like to assign one or two people for each month to coordinate the activities. You do not have to be a UUCM member to attend. Please contact Conrad Sisk, our office administrator, at admin@uugrassvalley.org if you wish to be added to the Women's Group email list.

Questions, ideas, and RSVPs can go to Kathryn Young at kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329.

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings at What's Up? Coffee, (1110 E Main St., Grass Valley), 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.

Men's Group Book Club

A group of men meets to discuss books at 10:30 a.m. on first and third Thursdays at What's Up Coffee. These meetings follow the regular Men's Group meetings that start at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday. Contact Mel Berry at melnannie@yahoo.com or 530-559-0904 for more information.

Meditation Group

Every Tuesday morning at 9, a self-directed group of congregants meets for an hour of meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more information, call Shelley North Gerson at 530.272.8930 or shelley10493@gmail.com.

Humanism Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 A.M. until noon at UUCM in the Channing Room.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (477.7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (274.9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com)

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Register Now for the
International Women's Convocation
FEBRUARY 16-19, 2017,
PACIFIC GROVE, CA

CONNECT. BE INSPIRED. COMMIT

Join U*U women from U.S. and around the world at The Third International Women's Convocation, February 16-19, 2017! Build connections, discover inspiring work for global women's rights, and forge a commitment to spur positive change in your community in the inspirational setting of Asilomar, Monterey, CA – "a refuge by the sea." Keynoters include Dr. bell hooks, writer, professor, and feminist theorist; Dr. Cecilia A. Conrad, Director of the MacArthur Fellows Program; and Rev. Florence Caplow, UU minister, author, and Soto Zen priest. Registration is \$350. Discounts are available for ministers, LREDA members, young adults and groups as small as two. For more information and to register, visit Third International Women's Convocation (<https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/third-international-womens-convocation/>).

WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2017 is for you!

Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture.

Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966.

We would love to share our Alaska with you!



Third International Women's Convocation
Asilomar Conference Center Monterey Peninsula CA USA
February 16-19, 2017

*Weaving Global Partnerships...
Forging a Just Future Together*

- **Network** with committed UUs from around the world
- **Learn** about groundbreaking initiatives transforming lives
- **Share and grow** to inspire action and change
- **Celebrate and empower** through worship, art, and music
- **Nurture your spirit** on the shores of the Pacific Ocean



bell hooks, PhD
Writer, professor,
feminist theorist, activist



emma's revolution
Award-winning
activist musicians



Cecilia A. Conrad, PhD
Director
MacArthur Fellows Program



Rev. Florence Caplow
UU minister,
Soto Zen priest, author



Kristin Famula,
Acting Director of
Religious Education

Religious Education for All Ages

Full Community Religious Education and Faith Formation



As 2016 came to a close, our children and youth honored the season by working with the Caring Committee to create snowflake ornaments for the Giving Tree recipients, participating in the national UU effort to write messages of love around our church in chalk, and giving dedicated time to the Full Community speech choir directed by RE/Board liaison Lindsay Dunckel.

We also intentionally practiced “presence,” our theme for December. Our children have been using mindfulness jars each Sunday to help them practice the art of focusing and bringing attention to themselves and others around them. The youth discussed their varied beliefs about the presence of God or something holy in their lives – and practiced being present to one another’s stories and diverse perspectives.

This focused attention to presence allows us to move into a month of exploring what it means to be a community of prophecy in an intentional way. Education for all ages will explore how we might personally and as a community offer prophetic voice and action in the new year.

Much gratitude to be on this journey with you!
- Kristin

WE ARE (STILL) HIRING!

We are still looking for a terrific person or multiple people who who would be terrific at caring for our youngest members. If you or someone you know would be interested in watching our young children during the first OR second service (or both!) please contact Kristin. Our preference is to find folks who will be willing to offer consistent child care (ie. Every first Sunday). The full job description can be found here: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Child-Care-Provider-job-description.pdf> . Resumes and questions can be sent to Kristin at education@ugrassvalley.org .



THANK YOU: Rene Wiley

Each month we will recognize one of our education volunteers who serve as mentors, adult education workshop facilitators, teachers, long-term planners, and much more.

This month we recognize volunteer Rene Wiley who currently serves on our Religious Education Visioning Team. Rene and her family have only been a part of UUCM’s community for a short time, but they very quickly gave time and energy to the RE program.

Q. Tell us a little about yourself.

A. I was brought up guided mainly by 70s and 80s American culture: silly sitcoms, commercial jingles, and rock and roll lyrics.

Q. What calls you to this work?

A. For Norah, I have a strong desire to guide her toward finding wholeness. There’s quite a difference there!

I’m grateful to everyone in RE and the entire community. Norah feels held and supported. Norah says RE means to her: experience, connect, inspiring.

It pleases me to get involved with RE and give my heart and presence to the teachers and kids.

Rene also looks forward to supporting our Adult Religious Education offerings. Watch for more on that!



Inspiring sidewalk art by our youth!

Religious Education Youth Activities

R.E. and Social Justice

In December, we were excited to have a great turnout for our movie, lunch, and discussion on "Defying Hate" offered in collaboration with the Social Justice Committee. We plan to offer more movie and discussion opportunities soon. Next up, as our youth prepare for a summer Borderlinks trip, we will offer an all-ages viewing of *Who is Dayani Cristal?* (see preview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLpJNGm3PNw>). This movie will kick off 5 months of study and preparation for the summer trip. All will be invited to participate in the learning opportunities in conjunction with this trip.

Info about the BorderLinks journey can be found here: <http://uucs.org/journeys/borderlinks/>. More information will be shared at our next informational meeting on January 22nd between the services.

FULL COMMUNITY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE ON JANUARY 15TH

Interested in participating? Contact Kristin (education@uugrassvalley.org)!



Jesse helps Rev. Kevin tell a story about "Long walk, part of gift!" at our Christmas Day service.

Join Us!

SUNDAY MORNING RE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH Sundays, 9:45 A.M. at UUCM:

Classes are offered for children and youth during the first service. Child care is provided during both services.

YOUTH MUSIC

Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M. in the Sanctuary:

All ages are invited to this terrific program which will continue again this year. (Check the calendar beforehand – schedules may change). Contact Jordan: music@uugrassvalley.org or Kristin: education@uugrassvalley.org.

YOUTH STUDIO:

Thursdays, 4-5 P.M. in the Upstairs RE Room

A one-hour gathering for all ages to create in community. There will be art supplies and exercises available, but feel free to bring anything you are working on or wanting to share. (Check the calendar beforehand – schedules may change).

BRUNCH BUNCH:

First Sunday of the Month,
9:45 A.M.

All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to attend "Brunch Bunch" on the first Sunday of most months. Bring your own \$\$ or contact Kristin for support (education@uugrassvalley.org). Please note: Due to the holiday, Brunch Bunch will not meet in January.



The Office

Conrad Sisk
UUCM Office Administrator

Office Hours in January

By Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

Monday, January 9 – Thursday, January 12, our office administrator will be working remotely. You can contact the office via email (admin@uugrassvalley.org) during this time, but the office in the building will not be open, and our office administrator will not be responding to phone messages left after Thursday, January 5 until Monday, January 15.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

January 2016 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DECEMBER

Please Note Special Holiday Office Hours:

December 26 - January 1 Main Office Closed
 December 28 - January 5 Rev. Kevin Tarsa Out of the Office

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
27	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
28	Wednesday	8:30 5:00	Men's Group Choir Party - Off Site
29	Thursday	8:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Youth Studio
30	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

JANUARY

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Sunday	ONE SERVICE ONLY 11:30 12:35	First Sunday: Bring Food! Full Community Sunday Service Drop in Support Circle (TBD)
3	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting
4	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
5	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Group Book Club - WUC Youth Studio
7	Saturday	9:30	Soul Matters Introductory Circle
8	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 10:50 11:30 12:45 1:00 2:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Q & A Conversation with Kevin Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Q&A Conversation with Kevin Second Sunday Soup Lunch "Civility to All, Servility to None"
9	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
10	Tuesday	9:00 12:30 5:00	Meditation Membership Committee Meeting Board of Trustees Meeting
11	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:00 6:30 7:00	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music Choir Rehearsal Drop-in Support Facilitators Meeting
12	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Youth Studio Art Circle
14	Saturday	9:00	Soul Matters Facilitator Training

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 12:45	Full Community Sunday Service Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service Racial Justice Working Group Meeting
17	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
18	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
19	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00 5:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Group Book Club - WUC Youth Studio Art Circle Social Justice Committee Meeting
20	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
21	Saturday	9:00 9:30	Building & Grounds Meeting Building & Grounds Work Party
22	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Relig. Ed. Visioning Team Meeting
23	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
24	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
25	Wednesday	8:30 6:00	Men's Group Pizza, Beer & Movie Night
26	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Youth Studio Art Circle Worship Committee Meeting
29	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
31	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation

FEBRUARY

1	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
2	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Group Book Club - WUC Youth Studio Art Circle
4	Saturday	9:00	Welcome to UU(CM) Class
5	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Wednesday: 4 - 6 P.M.

Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Conrad Sisk, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

Kristin Famula, *Acting Religious Education Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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