



The Mountain Chalice

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains
Grass Valley,

October 2009

We are a GLBT-Welcoming Congregation



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October 4, 11:00 am - "A Personal Journey to Diversity" Jerry Jacoby

Worship Associate: Matt Wilson-Daley.

Jesus of Nazareth had a very insular outlook until a synchronistic experience led him to take the first step toward diversity and minister to the Gentiles. We will then briefly examine perhaps the most diverse group in modern America, Alcoholics Anonymous, and see what holds them together. Then we will look to the field of adult human development and the idea that everyone is exactly where they need to be right now. The final idea is from the DVD With One Voice -- "There is only one Ultimate Reality."

Please remember to bring non-perishable food contributions for the Interfaith Food Ministry on the first Sunday of the month.

October 11, 11:00 am - "Direct Experience of the Transforming Mystery and Wonder" Rev. Meghan Cefalu

Worship Associate: Sharon Moore

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that draws from many sources. Along with our seven principles, there are six sources that we as a denomination list, the first of which states, "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." This service will be a celebration of that direct experience of the Holy.

October 18, 11:00 am - "Animal Blessings" Rev. Meghan Cefalu

Worship Associate: Gail Johnson Vaughan

In the tradition of St. Francis, we will honor, through poetry, story and song, the importance of the animals that share our lives. Bring your well-behaved pets to be blessed at this intergenerational, interspecies worship service. Pictures of shy pets and special stuffed animals are welcome to receive a blessing as well. We will also be honoring the memory of animals that have died in the last year. Note: This service will be held outdoors at Gateway Park in Penn Valley.

October 25, 11:00 am - "Hinduism: Many Paths, One Truth" Rev. Meghan Cefalu

Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby

Hinduism is an ancient and elaborate spiritual tradition - the third largest religion in the world. Unitarian Universalists can enrich our own spiritual faith by expanding our understanding of the four yogas or paths toward God and the many colorful depictions of deities, and by exploring the truths found in the collection of Hindu sacred writings. Our guest musician today is a local sitar player.

**UUCM's
Wine
Buying
Fun-Raiser
Saturday
November
14th, 2009
5 to 7pm
see pg. 7**



REV. MEGHAN MUSINGS

In his September newsletter article, the Rev. Doug Kraft, senior minister at the UU Society in Sacramento, responded to a question posed by one of his congregants: “What is Unitarian Universalist spirituality?” His response was that a distinctive UU spirituality has not yet emerged, in part because Unitarian Universalism is only about 450 years old. We simply haven’t been around long enough to mature. And in those 450 years we have gone through some pretty fundamental theological shifts. Rev. Kraft’s is an interesting perspective. I’m not exactly sure how I feel about it. It implies that we will in time develop a set of ideas and practices that are distinctly “UU.” That may be. However, for the time being I think we already have a distinct spirituality – a “spirituality of liberalism.” That is to say that we see the value in exploring all the paths up the mountain and accepting that each person must find his or her own way. It is distinctly UU to say there is no universal One Way. There are as many ways to approach and know the Holy

as there are people.

If someone were to come to me in search of a set of spiritual practices to help them feel closer to God, or whatever their understanding of that which transcends them is, I would probably point to a variety of practices developed in other religions. Many Unitarian Universalists have found that their faith is sustained by practices from other traditions, some even calling themselves “Christian-UUs,” “Buddhist-UUs,” “UU Pagans,” or “Jewish-UUs” – or even some combination of several traditions.

In the congregant’s question and in Rev. Kraft’s response I pick up some reticence about looking outside of our own tradition for this nurturance. There are some who argue that we have to develop our own system of beliefs and practices in order to be a legitimate religion, in order to offer paths of spiritual growth to our members. But I would argue that when we look to the religions of the world we are not searching “outside” of our religion, but rather are living out our tradition most faithfully.

I’d love to hear your thoughts. If there were to be a distinctive UU spirituality, what would it look like? What kinds of practices might it include? What practices or spiritual concepts have touched your heart, deepened your consciousness or guided your actions? What do you yearn for most deeply?

Please email or call me with your ideas and thoughts. I’d love to hear from you!

With Love and Blessings,
Rev. Meghan



SINGING FOR PEACE

ARE YOU CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER OF UUCM?

On Saturday, October 24th from 9am to 2pm we will hold the Fall Membership Retreat. If you are ready to make it official and join UUCM, join us for this off-site retreat at the Hatch Ranch (aka Kia & David’s house). A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. This will be an enjoyable day of learning and sharing our spiritual journeys with one another while gaining a more in-depth understanding of the significance of membership. New members will be formally welcomed into the community during the worship service on Sunday, November 8th. To register or for more information, please contact Reverend Meghan at 274-1661 or Corrie Silva at 272-3273.

This Month’s Singing for Peace
is a Song Circle

Bring a song you would like to share,
an instrument to play, your singing voice,
and enthusiasm for peace.

Friday, October 9th --- 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 S. Church Street, Grass Valley

\$10 suggested contribution (sliding scale)
Includes an organic dinner, sing-along, Peace Center info
and activities—an evening of peace and unity.

**And, 8:00 p.m., a special preview showing of the film:
Rethinking Afghanistan**

Sponsored by the Peace Center of Nevada County and
UUCM Social Action (Global Task Force).
Funds go to PCNC.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT KIA HATCH

Summer has flown by and now we are getting ready to enjoy the cooler days and nights of fall in the foothills. Activities are picking up at UUCM, activities that I think of as community-building activities. We worship together, we work together, we play together, we deepen our spiritual lives together. What wonderful gifts we give to each other.

One important community-building tool is our e-mail list - the General List. This is a precious UUCM asset. Each of us on the General List has chosen to be included. If you find you are not getting messages, contact our new list manager, Wally Holtan at bstiknb@sbcglobal.net, and ask to be included. As with all such group e-mail lists, in the spirit of Right Relations please remember to respect the others on the list when sending messages to general@uugrassvalley.org. Thank you for not using it for sending jokes, political propaganda, or unsubstantiated warnings which turn out to be just another urban legend. Your joke may be another person's spam. If you have received email information you feel is both community-building and is in concert with our UU principles, please just copy the body of the message, don't automatically hit "forward" which sends

the entire message. Remember, the friend who sent it to you might not appreciate having their email information forwarded to all of us. Last year, your Board of Trustees passed a policy on the use and maintenance of the General List. It is posted in its entirety in this issue of the Chalice. Take a look.

Another important community-building tool is our involvement in UU activities such as the District Assembly (1st weekend in May in Fremont) and the General Assembly (3rd week of June in Minneapolis). Our experiences at both DA and GA in 2009 were so uplifting and positive that your Board of Trustees really wants to make these assemblies accessible to more members. Though we have budgeted some money to help defray registration expenses for our assemblies, we need to create a policy that outlines how you can apply for such help. If you are interested in helping a small group of board members work on such a policy, please call me! The monies we've budgeted are not large and if we have an idea of how many folks would like to participate in one or both of the assemblies, perhaps we can do some special, targeted fund-raising to help make it all happen.

What are other community-building tools we have? You tell me! I can think of many examples: RE; music; spirituality groups; social action projects and events; picnics; working on your favorite committee; camping and hiking; helping with the building; working in our community garden....and on and on. Take advantage of all we have to offer each other, it will enrich your lives.

Peace,
Kia

POLICY ON THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE UUCM "GENERAL" E-MAIL LIST

The General List includes e-mail addresses of those Members and Friends who ask to be included. Members, Friends and Regular Attendees may use general@uucm.org to send messages of interest to others in the community. Our intent is that such use would be in concert with UUCM principles, for example for UUCM events or other events that are of interest to our community members.

The names on the list will be reviewed twice a year by the list manager and a member of the Board of Trustees in consultation with Membership and Stewardship. This is intended to keep the list current and meaningful. During

this regular database review the following names may be removed:

- Those who've elected to leave the community and have no desire to stay connected.
- Those who may have been asked to leave the community.
- A Member or Friend who has died.
- A Member or Friend who has moved out of the area and has no desire to stay connected.

Changes to this policy may be made by a vote of the Board of Trustees.

Adopted June 11, 2009 by the UUCM Board of Trustees.

WHAT IS GREEN SANCTUARY

Bill Nolan

Unitarian Universalists gather in congregations to find support and sustenance in community, and to find meaning for their lives. The struggle to balance the spiritual quest with the quest for justice in the community is a central piece of congregational life. Caring for the Earth and all of its inhabitants is a significant part of this quest for justice. How to fulfill our responsibility to care for our planetary home is one issue that crosses the spectrum of concerns.

UU lay leaders, theologians, and clergy are beginning to understand that environmental awareness and action are a responsibility for congregations and people of faith. Although people sometimes disagree on specific environmental issues, they virtually all accept that the UU seventh principle, in which we “affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” is a mandate for ecological awareness and action.

The Green Sanctuary Program provides a framework for theological reflection and spiritual growth, ongoing religious education, social justice activism and outreach, and sustainable practices in our individual and congregational lives. The process that leads to recognition of a congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association through certification by the Seventh Principle Project is aimed at bringing about changes in three areas: personal life-style choices, congregational activities and structures, and activism within the broader community.

Creating a Green Sanctuary Committee and accomplishing the goals and tasks necessary for a congregation to become an accredited Green Sanctuary Congregation is a step-by-step process that usually takes at least a couple of years. UUCM's Green Sanctuary Committee officially came into being in January, 2007. It completed an environmental audit of the building and grounds and then began work to create an action plan. Once the preliminary ground work and our plan of action were complete we submitted our application for candidacy to UUA. Once we were accepted into the program, near the end of 2007, we began a concerted effort

to accomplish all of our action plan goals. In August 2009 we were finally ready to submit our application for UUA accreditation with the hope of gaining UUCM's certification as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. At this time we are waiting for UUA to complete their reviewing of our application.

Of course, this does not mean that our work is done. Certification as a Green Sanctuary Congregation is only the beginning. Now that the tasks in UUCM's initial Action Plan have been completed and the Application for Accreditation has been submitted, it is time to move forward with the goals of UUA's Green Sanctuary Program: to continue bringing about changes in personal life-style choices, modify congregational activities and structures, and be more active within the broader community. This will be an unending process. The scope of things that can be done to help the planet and all its inhabitants is only limited by imagination, resourcefulness, and congregational participation.

It is not the responsibility of the Green Sanctuary Committee to “carry the water” of the environmental commitment, letting the rest of the congregation off the hook. Instead, the committee is here to facilitate planning and provide logistical support to the congregation so that the activities can be accomplished more easily while, hopefully, having some fun in the process. The Green Sanctuary Committee needs everyone's help to save the planet. From modifying your personal habits by conserving water and energy, minimizing waste, and buying local organic food, to becoming active in helping with Green Sanctuary programs, it is you who will make the difference.

Next month's Mountain Chalice will feature the first in a series of articles that will explain more about UUCM's Green Sanctuary Committee, what the Action Plan looked like, and what actions were taken to complete the Application for Accreditation.

GREEN POWER POINT

Anita Wald -Tuttle

While wasting resources on excessive food packaging is bad enough, wasting food which has far greater embodied energy and water, is worse. We eat more than we need - as the nation's expanding waistline attests - and buy more than we eat. Researchers estimate that a quarter of the food we

purchase - worth some \$5.3 billion a year, or about \$650 per household - ends up in landfill. The worst offenders are young people and those on high incomes. Take to heart that old advice to eat everything on your plate, make the effort to reuse leftovers, and buy only what you need.

CARING NOTES

Robin Hart



Fall is here and Nevada County is starting to put on it's annual display of glorious color. From gold to orange, red and burgundy, our foothill home is now painted for a new season, a season of change. So too are changes in the cycle of life in our community. Our joys and concerns have been caught on the wind like the falling leaves. We have said farewell to those dear ones who have been lost to our community and welcomed a new life to join us.

Please light a candle of concern for those in our UUCM community who need special prayers and wishes at this time:

Also light a candle of concern and keep a special place in your hearts for all those others in our UUCM community who are not named but who need prayer and healing energy at this time.

If you need to bring something to the attention of the Caring Committee, please contact one of our members: Rev. Meghan, May Lawrence, Robin Hart, Corrie Silva, Leal Portis, Gwen Eymann, Ann Cullinan, or Ernie Jackson or email us at caring.committee@uugrassvalley.org

WHO'S GOT THE BEAT? HOW 'BOU'T KEYBOARDS?

"Sanctuary", the UUCM band, needs a drummer!
Does anybody out there have a drum set?
Do you play keyboards? (No equipment necessary.)
Wanna jam?

Practice sessions are once a month, more or less, at the chapel.

A variety of song styles include folk, blues, rock, soft rock, reggae, and jazz.

Your level of experience is not important. Only a desire to play is required.

Contact Bill Nolan - 575-1268, celliam513@att.net or
Matt Wilson-Daley - 273-6613, mattnsarah123@peoplesoft.com.

WOMEN'S STUDY CIRCLE

Have you ever wondered what your animal companion is thinking? It may be easier than you think!

Carol Hyndman will be giving a mini-lesson on how to communicate with your animal. Bring a photo of your favorite animal and be prepared for a special guest.

Join us for the vegetarian potluck at 5:30 at the chapel. Carol's lesson will start afterwards, around 7:00.

All women are welcome

Contact Clarita Nolan to RSVP @ 530-639-2663

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Spirituality Group on Thursday, October 1, at 6:30 pm. at the chapel.

With One Voice, a 78-minute DVD, brings together mystics from fourteen different spiritual traditions to share their perspectives on the unifying truth that transcends all religions. In this documentary, these awakened teachers address profound questions about life and love, the existence of God, the path of spiritual awakening and the way to true peace in the world. Through their words and compelling presence, they ask us to look within our own hearts and listen deeply, so we too can join the conversation and speak With One Voice.

The twenty-two mystics address eight topics: (1) Personal Mystical Experiences, (2) The Mystical Perspective, (3) Religious Intolerance, (4) The Way to Peace, (5) The Essence of Love, (6) The Many Paths to Truth, (7) Spiritual Transformation, and (8) Messages to the World. There will be a few minutes after the DVD for discussion. For further information and a two-page summary, please contact Jerry Jacoby at 263-6099

I feel humbled by all the love and support which we have received from this community. Members of UUCM are, almost by definition, very busy people involved in important work. And yet, you have reached out sending messages, making phone calls, bringing food and flowers, and spending time visiting with us this last couple of months while I have been housebound. I have a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to be part of this caring community. Jerry joins me in thanking you for keeping us in your hearts.

May and Jerry Lawrence

GLOBAL COMPASSIONATE CANDLE

D.M. Foster, Ph.D.

Serendipitous experiences, compassion and forgiveness are basic to our UU Fellowship family. Over sixty-four years ago I was an 18-year-old soldier on patrol with a buddy in a small Japanese city. Having hated the Japanese for 10 years, including first-hand in the Philippines, here I was giving chocolate to an emaciated young boy and his younger sister. After two weeks of chocolates and food, he grasped my hand while pointing down a narrow alley.

We followed them in an ambush alert with combat ready guns. He stopped and entered a modest house, and a trembling, fearful, bowing father gestured us in. Laboriously taking off our boots, and our guns on safety, we entered, sat on the tatamis and rearranged our rifles by our sides. After exchanging smiles with Papa, the visibly shaken bowing mother entered with cups and tea. As typical Americans we each appear to have chanced poisoning rather than embarrassment. As I sipped and then tilted the cup, my gaze alighted upon two white boxes with characters.

My God, the ashes of their two oldest soldier sons! The epiphany that these four were not evil shed ten years of generic hate. I hope never to get over that moment.



NEW AT THE LIBRARY

by Custis Haynes

Library Committee Chair

From Susan Sanford:

<u>Chodron, P</u>	<u>When Things Fall Apart</u>
<u>Harris, B</u>	<u>Sacred Selfishness</u>
<u>McKibben, B</u>	<u>Deep Economy</u>
<u>McCammant, K et al</u>	<u>Cohousing</u>
<u>Ray, P et al</u>	<u>The Cultural Creatives</u>
<u>Saranam, S</u>	<u>God Without Religion</u>
<u>DeMore, M</u>	<u>Share My Song</u>
<u>Stafford, W</u>	<u>The Way It Is</u>

From Anonymous:

<u>Bartlett, L</u>	<u>The Vanishing Parson</u>
<u>Carpenter, V</u>	<u>Stations of the Spirit</u>
<u>Mondale, L</u>	<u>Preachers in Purgatory</u>
<u>Schulz, W</u>	<u>Transforming Words</u>
<u>Meadows, D</u>	<u>Beyond the Limits</u>
<u>Gershon, D</u>	<u>Low Carbon Diet</u>
<u>Gilbert, R</u>	<u>Building Your Own Theology</u>
<u>Loomer, B</u>	<u>Unfolding</u>
<u>Loomer, B</u>	<u>Critical Mass</u>
<u>UU Pamphlets</u>	<u>The UU Christian, UU Selected Essays Lawrence Lectures</u>

SOCIAL ACTION

WATER JUSTICE DISCUSSION GROUP

This group, which focuses on the crucial issue of water rights and strong water controversies, particularly in California, encourages new participants. Presentations, lively discussions, and possible follow-up actions. Join one or both Tuesday sessions at 6:30 pm at the church. Light refreshments. Contact Sheila Myers at @sheilaj@theunion.net or Connie Wright at connie@islandata.com

UFETA NEWS

Ethical Treatment of Animals

Carol Hyndman

As our first project in the new Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (UFETA) group, and to raise awareness of the Ethical Eating Program, I will be regularly submitting vegetarian/vegan recipes. Here is the first:

Corn Bean Tomato Soup

1 chopped onion

2 celery stalks, sliced

1 Tbsp olive oil

4 c chopped tomatoes w/juice (or 1 24 oz can diced)

1 15 oz can beans, your choice

1 c fresh or frozen corn

4 c vegetable stock

1 tsp dried dill

¼ c chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the oil in large skillet*. Add onion and celery and sauté until tender. Add all other ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes.

*or sauté in water rather than oil.

For more info on the new UFETA group, please call Carol Hyndman at 477-1003.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

“Lindsay Dunckel”

by Connie Wright



“The UUCM community is truly a treasure,” Lindsay Dunckel relates. She points especially to the time a few years ago when her mother was ill.

“Usher, greeter, snack-maker.” That’s how Lindsay, who came to the congregation in 2003 from New York, describes part of her role at UUCM. But she’s of course done much more. From 2006 to 2008 she served as a Board member and has also been active on the Religious Education Committee.

More recently she served on the Long Range Vision Playgroup of spring 2009. “It was a terrific group,” she says. “Pulling it together was easy. It didn’t feel like work, as we all enjoyed the meetings.”

Among Lindsay’s greatest satisfactions at UUCM has been seeing the growth in the RE program. She especially looks forward to the time the 11 to 14-year-olds become youth leaders in the church. One of her greatest joys is seeing the RE group put on the service each spring. “It gives you a real feel of how they are growing.”

“More time” is among Lindsay’s wishes. At UUCM she continues to teach RE at least monthly, a role she has played since 2004. Also, since 2007 she has served as a worship associate. This year, she is a member of the Nominating Committee and has just joined the Committee on Ministry. In addition, her position as executive director of First Five, Nevada County, which uses tobacco tax dollars to enhance child development in the first 5 years, keeps her employed full time.

Regarding the future, Lindsay sees UUCM as being really important as she faces life’s transitions such as passing generations and children going off to college. Presently, she enjoys family life with daughter Sophia and son Callum, both active in RE. Husband Randy McKean, well known to all of us for his musical talents, serves on the Board as an at-large member and also on the music and worship committees.

The treasure for UUCM is having Lindsay’s vibrance and continual willingness to serve. Just last month she was voted on to again serve on the Board.

Be sure to give Lindsay a round of thanks if you can catch her between her many endeavors.

A FABULOUS WINE BUYING OPPORTUNITY!

What: UUCM’s Wine Buying Fun-Raiser

When: Saturday, November 14th, 2009 5 to 7pm

Where: Trolley Junction Restaurant
400 Railroad Av.



Buy below retail! Sample before you buy! All profits go to UUCM!

Bring your friends who love wines and love a great deal!

Let our favorite wine broker, Dave Luce, advise you on each of the wines that you will love.

Tickets will be available in October on Sundays. Stay tuned for more information.

APPLE/UUCM SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

WHAT: Maintaining Your Health in an Energy-Uncertain Future

Part 2 of a 3-Part Series: Creating Your Own Health Everyday

WHO: APPLE (Alliance for a Post Petroleum Local Economy) and The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, 246 S. Church Street, Grass Valley

COST: Suggested Donation \$3-\$5

For More Information: web site: www.apple-nc.org; email info@apple-nc.org or www.uugrassvalley.org; or call Kate at (530) 274-3435

Join us for Part 2 of a 3-part presentation on how to create and maintain vibrant health. Tonight, learn how you can safeguard your health by creating a daily lifestyle that is mentally and emotionally balanced.

You may wonder why APPLE is focusing on health care issues. Here's the short version: A new health care paradigm that integrates ancient wisdom and modern allopathic medicine has been slowly emerging, and it can sink deeper roots now — a time when the need to take responsibility for our health is ever more important. Global economic uncertainty and depletion of oil and other resources may eventually affect all aspects of the current health care system. So, the more we know about our physical, mental, and emotional health, the more options we'll have to take care of ourselves and our families in the event of changes in our current access to medical care.

In tonight's program, we'll focus on how our daily habits, thoughts, and feelings influence our health for better and for worse. This idea is now widely accepted in many medical, philosophical, and religious systems. Two local health experts, one a practicing physician and the other a practitioner of Ayurvedic medicine, will share and compare their views.

How Your Daily Routine Determines Your Health – Holly Leeds, M.D., Family Practice and General Surgery
How We Create Our Health Daily through Our Perceptions, Thoughts, and Feelings — Marc Halpern, D.C., C.A.S., Founder and Director of California College of Ayurveda

RE UPDATE

Rochelle Davisson

This year's RE program kicked off to a great start. The RE Welcome Brunch, held September 13th, was a resounding success, with good foods, good friends, and great feelings. A special thank you goes out to Anita Wald-Tuttle for helping us set up for the brunch. Thanks Anita--we appreciate you. Many families attended, and the children were excited to regroup after a long and happy summer. This year the younger group will be working with the Faithful Journeys curricula and the Pre-Teen/Teen group will be working with the Families curricula. Many wonderful summer memories were shared during the brunch, and later, the children were happy to honor the special summer teachers by presenting to each volunteer a box of chocolates. Once again, to those who volunteered their energy and interests this summer, a huge thanks from the UU kids!

The Pre-Teen/Teen group (which has named itself the Ooga-Chuggas) is becoming quite an active and cohesive unit. Once a month, as the service topic warrants, instead of retreating to their classroom after the Story for All Ages, this group will remain in the chapel with the adults to attend the full service. Also, the Pre-Teen/Teens have formed a Youth Group, which will meet a couple of times a month on Friday evenings. The decisions for activities and interaction will be driven by the youths themselves.

We're looking forward to another great year!.



UUCM ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP

It was another amazingly beautiful and magical UUCM camping experience this year. There were around forty of us gathered at the Chapman Creek Campground of all ages, including numerous excited and roasted marshmallow-fueled kids. We explored, hiked, kayaked, swam, and played. Saturday evening's campfire sing-a-long was accompanied by talented musicians and numerous bouts of laughter. Even broken down cars didn't stop the fun--thanks to the generosity of strangers--and forgotten items couldn't keep us from making the adventure work when we all helped each other out. Swaying pine trees, clear blue skies, and a whispering wind added grace to our outdoor Sunday morning service.

A good time was had by all



MELODIOUS ACCORD

by Annie Haymaker, Music Director

I'm now starting my second year in the UU Musicians Network music credentialing program, and one of the best parts of it is that after I take classes at the summer conference, I get to do homework assignments back here at UUCM. The two focus areas this year are multiculturalism and songleading.

When Peter Morales took office as UUA President in June 2009, he said, "We need to become more culturally diverse in our forms of expression in order to reach the millions of people who share our theology and values." The concept of multiculturalism includes immigrant status, sexual or gender orientation, religion, race, and political views. In our multicultural competencies class, JUUST Change consultants Mark Hicks and Nancy Palmer Jones helped us examine our own multicultural biases and competencies, and challenged us to continue to explore those edges in our congregations.

Neither our area nor our congregation has many multicultural faces, so how are we to become more culturally diverse? One of the easiest ways to connect with another culture is through music. Both the gray and teal hymnals have many songs from other cultures, and now there is a new Spanish-language hymnal – the RED hymnal. Another great resource is the people in our very own congregation with multicultural experience – I'm sure there is a wealth of songs, stories, and wisdom there. Songleading is another area where we can diversify musically. Joyce Poley, our songleading instructor, reminded us that congregational singing can be much more than the usual two hymns from the hymnal. We can sing during the chalice lighting, offertory, following joys and concerns, as ingathering or prelude, as meditation, and interwoven with choral readings. We can sing just one verse of a song, or one phrase repeated as a response or meditation, or do songs as rounds. We can sing outside of services – to open or close meetings, during work parties, and with the kids. And we can sing with a piano, guitar, drums or other instruments, and with only our voices.

If you have ideas about musical diversity, let's talk! I can be reached at music@uugrassvalley.org, or at 477-0701.

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

Choir News

September was an exciting month for the choir. After a summer of relaxed rehearsals, we sang at the Water Communion service with volunteer member-directors Janet and Annie. We have several new choir members – come to our rehearsals on Monday, Oct. 5, 12, and 18 at 7 pm if you like to sing (no experience necessary). Best of all, by the time you read this we will have finished our audition and selection process and our new choir director will be on board! More news about that in next month's Chalice.

Drum Circle

Fall Drum Circle dates are Oct 6 and 21, Nov 3 and 18, and Dec 1 and 16. Regular circles meet first Tuesdays and third Wednesdays from 7-8:30 pm. Bring your own drums and percussion if you have them. Some instruments will be provided. These drum circles are for community fun and vitality and no prior musical experience is needed. The specific format varies. Simply come prepared to have a good time! Donations welcome so the circle can be self-supporting. Contact Susan Sanford, 530-265-8289 or susan@empoweringjourneys.net

Threshold Choir

Our local chapter of the Threshold Choir, on vacation for the summer, is again meeting at UUCM on first and third Tuesday evenings, and is open to all women. Begun as a way to lovingly support those who are crossing the threshold of life and death by singing at bedsides, the choir practices have evolved into healing song circles of "kindness made audible." Non-religious, but often spiritual, the songs are sweet and simple. No formal music training is necessary, just a desire to quietly, gently ease suffering through singing. Where most choirs encourage "singing out," Threshold Choir encourages "singing in." Please contact Beth Karow for more information at 432-3090, and visit the Choir's website at www.thresholdchoir.org.

Concert Series

The Sierra Jazz Society and UUCM will co-sponsor a concert series to start in late October and run through late Spring. Bill Douglass, Artistic Director of Sierra Jazz Society, will offer a variety of groups with musicians both local and from the Bay Area. The venues for the series will include UUCM and elsewhere locally. Look for specific dates and times in The Union or email info@SierraJazzSociety.com to receive email concert notices.

RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF OUR LOCAL TSI-AKIM MAIDU TRIBE

Dear UUCM member,

I was made aware of this issue a couple of years ago and thought it would be great if UUCM would ratify the following document. At that time I didn't realize how complicated the task was. I was told that individuals could sign it, a committee could sign it. But, for UUCM to sign it there would have to be a congregational vote. And, for that to happen, certain procedures have to be followed.

This is the first step:

A meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 10/11/09 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the resolution, the text of which follows this introduction.

The purpose of the 10/11/09 meeting is to begin making congregants aware of the subject and to obtain feedback. If there appears to be widespread approval by the UUCM congregation in favor of this resolution it will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval. Then it will be placed on the Congregational Meeting's agenda. The final step necessary for UUCM to ratify the resolution will be a favorable majority vote by congregational members at the April 2010 Congregational Meeting.

At this time, I will not go into reasons why I believe ratification of this resolution by the entire UUCM organization is the right thing to do because I think the document speaks for itself. Please try to attend the preliminary meeting on 10/11/09 to give your opinion on this important issue.

If you have an opinion but are unable to attend the meeting please contact Bill Nolan at celliam513@att.net or feel free to call me at 530-5751268.

I would like to know how you feel about this issue before attempting to raise it at the 2010 congregational meeting.

Sincerely,

Bill Nolan
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
(UUCM)

A RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING THE TSI-AKIM MAIDU TRIBE

WHEREAS the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe is a tribal organization of the indigenous Native Americans that inhabited this region for thousands of years; and,

WHEREAS the California Gold Rush Era devastated the culture, language, heritage, and religion of the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe; and,

WHEREAS the current members of the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe are decedents of this once great Native American Nation; and,

WHEREAS the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of its people's language, culture, history, heritage, religion, and spirituality; and,

WHEREAS the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe is currently pursuing official Federal recognition so that their members and future generations can enjoy the rights and privileges that they are legally entitled to, including housing, health care, elder care, and education;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM) congregation:

1. Officially recognizes the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe and further recognizes the importance and contribution of their pre-history, history, and present cultural heritage; and
2. Formally supports and endorses the efforts of the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe to pursue Federal recognition and to obtain the rights and privileges that their people are entitled to under Federal law; and
3. Formally supports the continuing efforts of the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe to preserve their heritage, culture, language, and religion.
4. Formally supports the efforts of the Tsi-akim Maidu Tribe to reintroduce salmon into the upper Yuba watershed as an important cultural and dietary resource of the Tribe.

OCTOBER

by Clarita Nolan



2009

Note: Calendar is subject to change. Verify on website: ugrassvalley.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm-DBSA 6:30pm-Spirituality Group	2 6:30pm-Youth Group	3 9:30am-Building and Grounds
4 11am-Sunday Service	5 7pm- Choir Practice 7pm-Local Task Force	6 1pm-Building Comm. 7pm-Threshold Choir 7pm-Drumming Circle 7pm-Music Committee	7 8:30am-Men's Get-Together 7pm-Apple/UUCM Sustainability Series	8 7pm-UU Board Meeting	9 10am-Writer's Group 5:30pm-Signing for Peace 6:30pm-Youth Group	10 2pm-John Church Memorial
11 11am-Sunday Service 12:15pm-Maidu Perceptions 12:30pm-Quarterly Committees	12 7pm- Choir Practice	13 4pm-Membership Committee 6:30pm-Water Justice	14 8:30am Men's Get-together 5:30pm Global Task Force/Social Action 6pm Caring Comm. 7pm Social Action Coord	15 5:30 pm Women's Study Circle 6pm-DBSA Newsletter Deadline	16 6pm-Mystery Party 6:30pm- Youth Group	17 9:30am-Building and Grounds
18 11am-Sunday Service 12:30pm-CUUPS Meeting 1pm-Pre-Retreat Gathering	19 7pm Choir Practice	20 7pm Threshold Choir	21 8:30am Men's Get-together 7pm-Drumming Circle	22 6pm Green Sanctuary 7:30pm- Stewardship Committee	23 10am-Writer's Group 6:30pm-Youth Group	24 9:30am- Membership Retreat
25 11am-Sunday Service 12:30pm-RE Meeting	26 7pm-4UU2 Band Practice	27 6pm-PFLAG 6:30pm-Water Justice 7pm-Worship Committee	28 8:30am Men's Get-together 7pm Nevada County Citizens for Choice	29	30 6:30pm-Youth Group	31 Happy Halloween 

REMINDERS

Parking: On Sunday, please treat the parking along Walsh like Handicapped parking for those with limited mobility.

Directory: To make changes to your listing in our directory, contact directory@ugrassvalley.org

General List: To be added or deleted, contact directory@ugrassvalley.org

On-Line Mountain Chalice: To receive the electronic version (in color), contact Wally Holtan at bstiknb@sbcglobal.net



Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains
246 So. Church Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
www.uugrassvalley.org

Return Service Requested

The purpose of our Community is to foster liberal religious living through worship, study, service and fellowship. We seek the enjoyment of religion founded upon devotion to individual freedom as our method, we seek to grow in understanding of ourselves and of our world, to promote and serve the universal human family.

New to UU? Comprehensive information on our principles, beliefs within our faith, history, worship practices, congregational life and more is available on the denominational website at www.uua.org. Click on "Visitors."

Membership in UUCM is open to all who see this community as their religious home and the principles for which it stands as their own. To join UUCM, one signs the membership book and supports the community through a financial contribution and regular participation.

Visitors are invited to attend a membership class to the UU denomination and this congregation, a four-part series offered every three months after Sunday services. For more information, about the orientation or membership, please talk with Rev. Meghan Cefalu or with Corrie Silva of the Membership Committee.

Office phone: (530)274-1675
Email: uucm@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM Board of Trustees

President...Kia Hatch
president@uugrassvalley.org
Vice President... Keith Johnson
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At Large...Jerry Jacoby, Carol Ann Jones,
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Minister: Rev. Meghan Cefalu
Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs, 11 am - 6 pm
please call ahead for an office appointment
274-1661
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Committee Contacts

Religious Education....Meg Luce
Membership... Corrie Silva
Social Action...Carol Ann Jones and Ann Cullinan
Worship... Matt Wilson-Daley
Building ...
Finance Committee...Beth Freedman
Communications...
Caring Committee...Robin Hart
Music... Leah Lossner
Stewardship Committee -- Keith Johnson
Green Sanctuary Committee....Bill Nolan

Other Groups

Writers Group...Sammie Grib
Chalice Circles.....
Women's Group....Clarita Nolan
Spirituality Group...Janet & David Lee
Room Scheduling....Anita Wald-Tuttle

UU Pacific Central District:
www.pcd-uua.org
UUA (denomination):
www.uua.org

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. Send to: editor@uugrassvalley.org
Send change of address, phone number or e-mail to: directory@uugrassvalley.org