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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

Panning for Gold

Snowshoeing up Donner Summit with Claire and Bob Miller (what a great great trip!), we passed numerous beautifully windswept, weathered trees. They are amazing. I made a mental note to come back in the summer months to take photographs, grabbing this simple photo as a reminder.

I was quick to note that these trees are beautiful not in spite of the challenges of growing on the summit, but because of those very challenges. Ah, I realized, an image for an April Sunday service. However, a second thought followed quickly behind the first: that I do not wish to glorify pain and suffering.

I see the trees as incredibly aesthetically beautiful, but it cannot be a great life for these trees. Clearly they suffer the stress of the environment and would likely be "happier" in more kind conditions. My external eye aesthetic vs the trees' wellbeing. Hmm... But they are so beautiful! At least to my eye. Of course my mind and heart turn to the human equivalents. How often do I, through my particular lenses, see beauty born of suffering without seeing the full reality of the suffering underneath?

This spring season is filled with symbols and metaphors of transformation, our April theme. Easter arrives in the Christian tradition. For many it is a story of redemptive suffering. Passover crosses that same weekend, a story of a people freed from bondage through a fair amount of pain and bloodshed. Even the earth-centered perspective holds the notion of a newly planted seed dying, in a sense, and being buried in order to become a new life that will generate yet more life.

This month we will celebrate waking, celebrate our journeys in progress, testify to resurrection (in UU style), celebrate the earth that is our home, and honor the beauty born of suffering, without glorifying suffering.

May our shared exploration of transformation invite your own reflection, and maybe even a transformation somewhere in your life.

— Rev. Kevin



Singing Meditation Circle

THURS., APRIL 6, 7:30-9 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Local interfaith colleague Rev. Donna Glory joins Rev. Kevin to host an interfaith Singing Meditation Circle on the first Thursday of each month.

They draw upon music from a variety of traditions and sources, teaching the tunes as they go, weaving extended repeating chants and songs with silence. Regarding all the repetition, there is a saying: "The tenth time, the singing begins." Come, enter the moment deeply through song, and let your heart, your spirit and a chakra or two open wide.

New Committee on Ministry Members!

I am pleased to announce the three inaugural members of the newly envisioned Committee on Ministry. The COM will have the responsibility to assess systematically the many and various ministries of UUCM, i.e.

all the ways that UUCM carries out its mission. (See earlier and future editions of the Mt Chalice for more on the COM's revised role.) A list of possible candidates was submitted by myself and appointed by the Board.

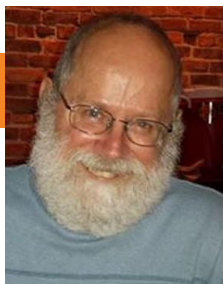
The members are Kate Canan, Janet Dunstan and Gwen Eymann.

The committee meets for the first time just after the Mt Chalice deadline. Watch for more information as the work gets underway. Meanwhile, I offer a heartfelt "thank you!"

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



*George Dunstan
Member-at-Large, Board of
Trustees*

Board of Trustees

Results of the UUCM Board of Trustees 2016-17 Midterm Survey

In early February the Board of Trustees released a ten question survey to the congregation asking for your thoughts about how the Board was doing in various areas. We received 28 responses, roughly 20% of our total number of members and friends.



We asked about whether the Board was addressing the important issues at UUCM, if our efforts had helped make Rev. Kevin's transition into settled ministry go smoothly, if our communication with the Congregation is clear, if we are researching ways to better organize decision making, and whether you understand how to become more involved in meaningful volunteer work. For all of those questions approximately 80-90% of respondents replied either Strongly Agree or Agree.

We asked if the Board has an effective strategy for developing a new mission statement and just under 50% replied either Strongly Agree or Agree while 25% replied Undecided/Neutral and 25% replied Don't Know. We attribute this response to a matter of timing. Just shortly before the survey was released Beth Freedman announced the Renewal of UUCM's Mission Statement process that was identified as a key priority at our Congregational Start Up Workshop in October.

We asked if UUCM has an active Religious Education program that meets members' needs and just under 70% of

respondents replied either Strongly Agree or Agree but almost 30% responded Undecided/Neutral. Respondents commented that an Adult RE component was missing. Please see the March issue of The Mountain Chalice for NEW Adult RE classes offered.

Just over 40% of respondents Strongly Agreed or Agreed that the Board has a good plan for UUCM's future and just under 40% were Undecided/Neutral. We recognize that the term "future" was not clearly defined in our survey. Strategic planning rooted in a renewed mission is on the horizon and meanwhile the Board is considering both a Building and Grounds Evaluation Task Force and a New Facility Exploration Task Force.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this survey.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

Dave MacLeod, *President*
Lindsay Dunckel, *Vice-President*
Dawn Bateman, *Treasurer*
Corrie Silva, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

George Dunstan, Beth Freedman,
Kern Hildebrand, Carol Wong

*Board of Trustees meetings are held on the second
Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
in the Channing Room at UUCM.*

*UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice
so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*



*Lin Jovanović
Chair, Stewardship Committee*

Stewardship Committee Update

We hope the skit at last week's service gave you a flavor for what to expect as our volunteer stewards start to contact members to talk and pledge. There are pledge forms in the office on the mailboxes if you choose to simply fill it out. You can leave them in my mailbox or give them to Conrad if he is in the office. A correction to the letter you received is that our Celebration Sunday will be on April 9th.

Membership Committee

New to UUCM?

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 both services various Sundays as announced by Rev. Kevin. (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 April 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, from new attendees to long time members, is welcome at any of these events.

To RSVP for the April sessions, sign up on Sunday mornings at the Membership Table, or contact Karyn Packard at: (562) 900-9546 or karyn@seagoer.net.

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP (AND MORE) SPRING 2017 SESSIONS

Question & Answer Conversation After Services:
With Rev. Kevin, Sundays, as needed and as announced

Welcome to UU(CM) and Lunch
Saturday, April 8, 9 am - 1 PM

UU History with Rev. Kevin
Tuesday, April 18, 6 - 8 PM

UU Principles and Theologies with Rev. Kevin
Wednesday, April 26, 6 - 8 PM

Joining Sunday
Sunday, May 7, both services
(for those who have decided to join by then)

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!

Greeters & Ushers are Needed!

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 hope to provide a more extensive training soon with Rev. Kevin's guidance.

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!

Please contact me if you have questions or wish to volunteer:
Kathy MacLeod: horsenana@sbcglobal.net or 477-5824



UUCM Hospitality Team Needs YOU!

By Marilyn Young,
Coordinator, UUCM
Hospitality Hour

Thank you to all the people
who helped us during the
month of February, especially

the secret elf who did the final clean-up after the Second Sunday Soup. March is going to be a very busy month also with another Pot Luck Lunch on the first Sunday, March 5, and our regular Second Sunday Soup on the 12th. We need help. If there is any way you can contribute in one of the following ways I would appreciate hearing from you:

SET UP: This is usually done between 9:00 and 9:45. You set up the tables, make the coffee, arrange the food on plates and platters. Most of us then go to the early service. After the service, during Hospitality Hour, we keep tables stocked and carafes full.

CLEAN UP: Attend the early service, come back and help out during 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 form**): <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>

Membership Committee introduces...

CHERYL BRANCH

Hello. My name is Cheryl Branch. I retired a year ago and moved to Grass Valley, but I'm not a complete newcomer. I have lived in the foothills since graduating from nursing school in 1973. I'm still trying to figure out retirement. After 40+ years of nursing I want to do something else and UUCM feels like the place to do that exploring. At the moment I am tutoring an English learner through PiELL, traveling whenever and wherever the opportunity arises, finding new trails to walk with the dog, and working on indoor and outdoor projects around my house. My family consists of two beautiful daughters (really, completely unbiased opinion!), one German Shepherd, four cats and two hens.



MEL BERRY and his wife Tricia have three children and three grandchildren. They met when he was thirteen, and have been married for 54 years. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Mel has teaching degrees in Industrial Arts and Special Education. They moved to Santa Cruz, CA to raise their children. There Mel started a custom woodworking business, and partnered with another teacher

and taught people how to build their own homes. Classes were held in Santa Cruz, Berkeley, and Grass Valley during the summer. Mel's students worked on some of the early homes in Lake Wildwood. After 26 years in Santa Cruz, they decided to retire here. He has been attending and contributing in a variety of ways to UUCM since 2006. He was involved with the early physical changes to this building to convert it to its present form. He attends the men's group regularly, started the men's book discussion group, produces the PBM (pizza, beer and movie night), frequently helps with building and grounds maintenance, and has recently become a member of the sound and visual production team.

EMILY GALLUP has been intermittently attending UUCM since moving to Nevada County in 2002. She is currently teaching the teens and preteens in the UU religious education program. Emily's 11-year-old daughter, Grace, is a member of this group. Emily belongs to the UUCM writers' group, and in the past, she participated in the spiritual book club. She is interested in starting a new UUCM book group.



Emily is a marriage and family therapist who studied psychology at CSU Chico and Stanford University. She is currently in private practice in Grass Valley. Emily and her

husband, Eli, will be celebrating their 14th anniversary this year.



JOANNE HARRIS was born in Glandale, CA. She spent her early school years in East Los Angeles, but in the summers, ah, the summers, she ran wild and free on Paiute Mountain in Kern County, where her parents had a mining claim. Paiute Mountain was the beginning of a lifelong love affair with horses. She has been married to her husband, Ken, for 60+ years, during which time she

has borne two children, taught high school science and math on the island of Guam, in Spain, and California. She has been a scuba diver and horsewoman. She completed the Western States Trail Ride in 1961 on a borrowed mule. She lived on 45 acres in the North San Juan area, but now lives in Grass Valley near the fairgrounds, close enough to walk to church. She wonders what new adventures and enlightenment await.

KEN HARRIS was born in Whittier, California, but his parents moved to a rancheria in San Diego County soon after. He had most of the known world to roam in and two dogs for best friends. But the time came when his parents put shoes on his feet and sent him to school. He still hasn't quite recovered from the culture shock. He joined the Navy upon graduation from high school in 1951. After one hitch, he left the Navy and went to UC Riverside where he met his wife. He has a degree in Philosophy from UCLA, a teaching credential from UC Davis, and a master's degree in Mass Communications from CSU Fullerton. He has taught in California, Guam, and Spain. He has been active in community theater and is currently enjoying a genteel retirement writing memoirs and singing in a male voice choir. He also seeks new adventures and enlightenment.



GINNY HOYT

I am Virginia (Ginny) Hoyt, born in New York in 1939, raised in coastal Connecticut and currently a 2 year resident of Grass Valley. I was raised in the conventional fashion of both my area and my era.....which is to say, only child, middle class, Christian, white and female. Early on, maybe even in the womb, I felt a strong connection to animals in general and horses



in particular. That connection was complicated by the need for an education and my eventual marriage. The education continues, the marriage does not.

I have "lived around"....Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, New Mexico, Oklahoma, California and Germany. ...not in that order. It's been an eclectic journey much of which was influenced by my husband's career and opposed by horses. Currently the horses are at the helm...5 of them in varying stages of equine life. I have learned a lot from them and, where possible, teach what I have learned.

While married to a corporate lawyer and living in Brooklyn NY, a partner and I opened and ran a children's clothing and toy store. Later, when it was necessary to earn a living for myself and 2 girls, I managed an historic private membership squash and tennis club and opened and ran a neighborhood restaurant. An eclectic career to match the loose cannon nesting style.

With any luck I'm in Grass Valley to stay. When I landed here my first action was to search out hay for the horses which led me to Kathy MacLeod, her horses, her husband Dave, and finally, to UUCM. Having done the "church thing" as a child and having run from it as an adult I have found and continue to find a community here that is inspired by love and is more creative and less dogmatic than I thought possible.

Thanks for letting me play.....!!



JOYCE KEANE

I moved to Nevada County early in May, 2016, after living in midtown Sacramento and Placer County for about 20 years each. Born and raised in Chicago, I was fortunate to find and marry my first love and best friend Jim. We moved to California in 1970.

Sadly, Jim passed in 2011, but left me 41 years of great memories. I'm a graduate of UC Davis and the Pacific Coast Banking School at UW - Seattle. I had a good career in banking because I managed community development, volunteerism and philanthropy programs for U.S. Bank and then Rabobank. It was such a privilege to learn from community and nonprofit leaders. I moved here to become closer to my family, and really enjoy the time that I'm spending with my three-year old grandson. For fun, I attend music festivals, like Strawberry and CA Worldfest, travel and go to community events. I like to be with people and have joined some local groups, and keep busy with Zumba, gardening, reading and knitting baby hats.



GARY LAUHER

I was raised in Southern California's San Fernando Valley. In those days there were orange groves and a 30-minute drive took you to wonderful expansive beaches. At 17 I moved to Sonoma County to attend college at Sonoma State University. After college I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to look for work. I was fortunate enough to obtain a job with a company I would work for for 27 years. In that time I moved to Auburn.



After meeting my lovely wife Sandi, I joined in living the great life in Grass Valley. I love all kinds of music and play ukulele. We are blessed with great community awareness, local arts and generosity. Sandi and I are retired now and are surrounded by the love of family of all kinds.



SANDI LAUHER

Born and raised in San Francisco in a Catholic, mostly Italian family, I was a teenage hippie of the 60s. Nature and music speak to my spirit. Film, gardening, traveling and handiwork delight me.

I moved to Grass Valley in 1981 where I've raised 3 beautiful children and met the love of my life, my husband Gary. As an urban refugee and Catholic escapee, the UU's principles and welcoming hearts have resonated with me. My life's desire is to exercise kindness and compassion.

JIM PERKINS was born and raised in suburban Kansas City and was very active in his church (United Methodist) growing up, so much so that he decided to go into the ministry. Ministry and Jim turned out not to be a good fit, so he ended up getting a doctorate in Public Health from Berkeley and spent several years working in various roles in the health care system as a health educator. He's been luxuriating in retirement for the past five years, although he does volunteer for our local Public Health Department.

Jim and Cynthia have been married for going on 36 years and have two dogs, though no children. They lived in the Bay Area for 20 years before moving to Grass Valley 18 years ago. Jim has not been involved in a church for many years but has missed the sense of community. UUCM has drawn him into the community and the commitment to social justice. One of the seminal experiences in Jim's life was being part of a men's spirituality community in the Bay Area for several years. He finds that spiritual connection here at UUCM. He also loves nature and Africa (going there for second time this summer), walking and reading. He is also a political junkie.



CYNTHIA SCHUETZ

I was born in New York City, raised in Kansas City and wound up in Northern California when I was 26. I studied for my PhD in community health education in the midwest, then went back to California to join the faculty at San Francisco State University. I grew up believing I would live in NYC. But, as John Muir said, "The mountains are

calling and I must go." After visiting Yosemite in 1970, I knew California was meant to be my home. After 20+ years at SFSU, I retired and we moved to Grass Valley. Retirement, however, didn't "stick." I became the coordinator of the Falls Prevention Coalition for 10 years, and retired a second time this past December.

Jim and I first visited UUCM in November last year, and immediately felt "at home." And now we're members! We look forward to a long, deeply rewarding relationship with the UU community. We live on five acres and look out at the hills, with wildlife as frequent visitors. We love our two dogs, our walks, and hike as often as we can. Living in the natural world is a gift, and almost 18 years later we're still here...and ain't going nowhere!

LINDA SISKA and her husband, Pat, have been fortunate enough to have lived in some spectacularly beautiful places including Williamsburg, Virginia. Their next home was Germany where, thanks to Uncle Sam, they lived for over twenty years, raising their two children and living in a wonderful mix of nationalities both in Frankfurt and in Heidelberg. When Linda's husband retired, they moved to the beautiful sands of Perdido Key in Florida to enjoy a life of beaches and boats and gorgeous sunsets. And now they have found Grass Valley, this beautiful, little Victorian town tucked into the Sierra foothills, and here they intend to remain for the rest of their days. Linda's one and only regret is that her two wonderful grandchildren don't live next door, one on each side. Ah, that would be a perfect world, indeed!



JULIE TILLINGHAST

I was born in Sebastopol, and although I am a 4th generation native Californian, I was raised in England, and lived there for 20 years. I attended the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where I majored in Vocal studies. I was a semi professional opera singer for



many years. I also played several instruments in English brass bands, and taught folk guitar at a community college. I now work as a Labor & Delivery nurse at Kaiser in Roseville. I have 2 daughters: Rayna (age 26) & Alexia (age 23) who both live in So. Cal. I have been a UU since 1993 when I joined Conejo Valley UU Fellowship in Thousand Oaks. I met Dennis there, and we have been together for almost 20 years! We relocated to Georgetown 5 years ago, and just moved to Grass Valley in July. I am very excited to be living here, and love relaxing in our new "forever home," on 10 rural acres, with our cats, goats, peacocks & rabbit! I enjoy singing, theater, traveling, good food & wine, watching movies & playing online games. I am very excited to be joining this wonderful, vibrant congregation and look forward to getting to know you all better! :-)



DENNIS WEIHER

I am a native Ohioan brought to the golden state by the US Air Force in the mid sixties. After graduating from college in 1964, about to be drafted, I chose to be on a crew of B52's, rank of captain. After Viet Nam I went back to my chosen profession as an executive with the Boy Scouts. Then spent thirty years in property management and construction. I became a UU in the early sixties, while in college, the same year I first made wine. I am a 4th generation amateur wine maker and have missed making wine only one year since. I have served in almost all church volunteer leadership positions, plus 2 years on the UU District Board in southern California. Julie and I met at church and we each have two daughters, mine are a generation older than hers. We moved to Grass Valley last summer and are done with moving. I am enthusiastic about this church and look forward to connecting.

WENDY WERNIGG

Wendy Wernigg is a wife, mother, sister and daughter. She is passionate about social justice and equity. November's shock got her off her couch and into activism. She has stepped into leadership of the Indivisible Women of Nevada County group.



She is currently in her last semester at Sierra College and will graduate with degrees in accounting, business management and social and behavioral studies this May.

Wendy is looking forward to creating community here at UUCM.



RENE WILEY was raised an only child very close to her grand- and great-grandparents and usually feels most comfortable with her elders. She seeks wisdom and story. She was raised in the Bay Area and played as a kid with her future husband Steve Wiley, a family friend. Steve recalls a visit to her house with pale terror: crashing down steep, rocky hillsides on cardboard with Rene while she squealed with glee.

In 2005 they made a plan to meet at LAX after 20 years apart and travel to Australia together. This turned out to be a whirlwind romance Down Under! Rene tossed her fancy San Francisco bank job and moved to Ft. Worth, Texas to marry Steve.

They've lived in Grass Valley for 3 years. Their daughter Norah, a born Texan, brings much joy and excitement to their lives. Rene credits Norah's enduring insistence on attending a church with finding this beloved community. Never raised in a church herself, Rene feels she's been a UU all her life. When Rene isn't practicing imperfect parenting, tirelessly volunteering in the 2nd grade, or economizing space in their quite-small home, she can be found pondering aggressive gardening schemes or procrastinating on starting goats and chickens. She loves to laugh and is soon to be shushed in the sanctuary at a seat near you!

STEVE WILEY I was born in Hayward, CA in 1972. At the age of 6 my family migrated to central Oklahoma. I spent the majority



of my free time playing my drums, fishing, camping and occasionally coon hunting.

I graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1995 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. After working in Oklahoma City for a few years, I moved to Fort Worth, TX for a change of scenery. In 2005 I got back in touch with a certain childhood friend and we decided to go on an adventure together to the Land Down Under. One thing led to another and Rene Wiley and I have been married for over 11 years! Our 8 year old daughter Norah makes our lives all the better. In 2013 we moved back to California to fulfill our adventure seeking dreams. I love drums and drumming, reading and watching hockey.



TOM WILSON is the father of two beautiful daughters and six amazing grandchildren. He grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. Catholic education through college until converting to Orthodox Pedestrian. An incurable English Major, he's always worked in some fashion as a writer—as a university professor, freelance writer, researcher, photo-journalist, magazine editor, and consultant to governments and

corporations. Of all the different kinds of writing he's done, it's poetry that sustains him. Poems come from a different place inside us, revealing something deeply beautiful in the mystery of existence. In his poems, he follows as best he can his mentor William Butler Yeats in setting to words "the deep sound of humanity." For over 20 years he's maintained a private practice for humans and animals utilizing the holistic energy-healing modalities of massage, acupressure and craniosacral. In 1990, he created the Animal Acupressure Training Academy, and has certified over 300 students in Traditional Chinese Medicine. He loves hiking, snowshoeing, cycling, kayaking, bodysurfing, and going walkabout in Ireland.

Introducing the Mission Renewal Process Team!

We are excited to give you an update on the progress of our Mission Renewal Process. We announced the kick off of the process back in January. Our first step of selecting the Mission Renewal Process Team is now complete. Our team is comprised of a lovely balance of old and new members - Scottie Hart, René Wiley, Jim Perkins, Beth Freedman and our minister, Kevin Tarsa.

Our team has met three times including having a team retreat where we got to know each other better and learned how to work together. There is already good feeling of connection and purpose. The team's job will be to oversee and make happen every aspect of planning needed

to create a mission statement from beginning to end. Please take a moment to thank the team for signing up for this very important work.



Rev. Kevin, Rene Wiley, Jim Perkins, Scottie Hart & Beth Freedman

This task of renewing our Mission was identified as a key priority at our October New Ministry Workshop and also brought up in our Survey conducted during the Ministerial Search process. Mission statements are encouraged to be renewed at regular intervals and the timing is right for UUCM.

We have much work ahead of us and look forward to being in contact with you very soon.

Caring Committee

Caring Committee Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Chair, Caring Committee

Spring has arrived, the days are growing longer than the nights. Let us feel joy in the light, the warmth and the renewal of spring as we share within our community our joys and sorrows. Please keep the following people in your thoughts and in your acts of kindness and love:

ANITA WALD-TUTTLE celebrates walking without a boot after her broken ankle has healed. We are so happy to have Anita back in the swing of life.

LEAL PORTIS has been released from the hospital and is home and recovering from her hip fracture. We look forward to seeing Leal back at UUCM and Hospitality House when she is ready to join us again.

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 no longer driving. She appreciates offers for rides to late Sunday Service and other UUCM activities. Sunny lives off Bitney Springs Rd.

MAY LAWRENCE was surprised by a birthday cake and a round of applause at the St. Patrick's Day Party on March 18; she thought that everyone knew that she had postponed her birthday until May 7 so she wouldn't have to share it with St. Patrick. More about that later. Wishing a Happy Birthday to you, May!

SHELLEY NORTH GERSON had a total knee replacement in early March and she is recovering so quickly. She wanted to share that she drove and went to visit a friend 11 days after surgery. We'll look forward to seeing Shelley at UUCM soon.

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.

Building & Grounds

March Work Day

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building & Grounds Committee

I would like to thank the 10 willing volunteers who showed up for our March work day. For the first time in 4 months, we were finally able to spend some precious time working outside. Yeah! We made a nice dent in what needs to be accomplished and look forward to more days outside as the weather changes. I would like to welcome Karen Perry to our work day. She was one of the outside workers this month and she brings with her interior design experience which we really need.

In our business meeting this month we discussed various approaches to dealing with the leak in the nursery, which we will present to the Board with our recommendation. The nursery is still drying out and it will probably take another month before it is totally dried out. Once the drying is completed we will be able to paint, lay carpet and clean so the nursery can again be used for its intended purpose. The exciting news is that we are going to start working on the Alcott room. We have a plan regarding repainting and installing new flooring in the near future. Karen Perry has proposed a solution to the flooring that will allow us to get rid of the cement floor. A side effect of the new floor is the possibility of dampening of some of the sound in that room. We hope to start this in the next month. We will keep you posted.

Lastly, if you like working outside on projects or in the garden or yard work, with the beginning of the dry season you now have a chance. Each month I try to convince new or long-time UU community members to volunteer three hours a month for building and grounds, and how much it will help our community. I want you, this month, to think of the benefit you will receive from your volunteering. Helping makes most

people feel good, meeting new people is always stimulating and there is something about just getting dirty that is rewarding.

Hope to see you there next month.

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

Social Justice Activities

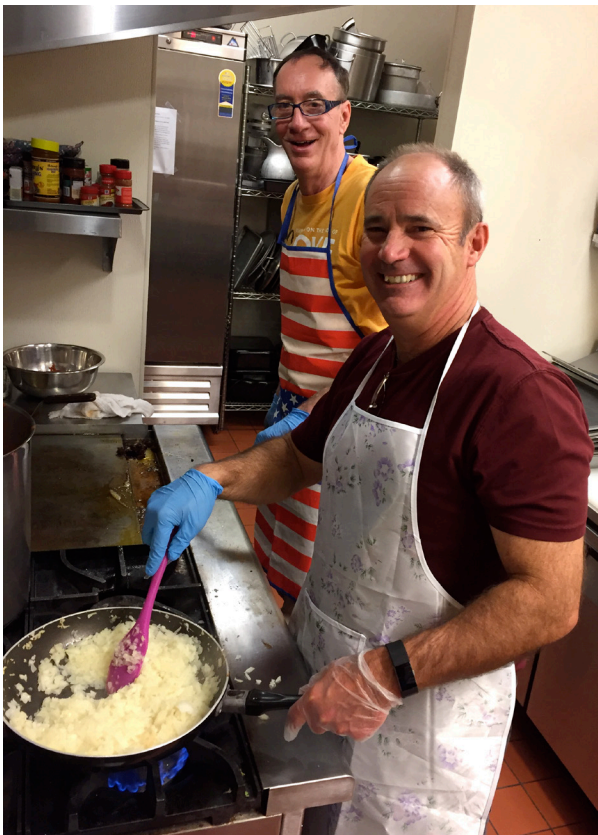


*Hospitality House
Dinner Crew
Prepares a Meal
at Utah's Place
FRIDAY, APRIL 21 AT
4:00 P.M.*

*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.



*Gred Fancher and Eric Dahlgren serving
at a recent Hospitality House dinner.*

The Office



*Conrad Sisk
UUCM Office Administrator*

Office Volunteers Wanted at UUCM

By Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

Greetings, UUCM members & friends!

I'm looking for folks to keep the office open during regular hours (Monday - Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) when I'm away or sick or otherwise not available.

Serving in this role would involve receiving and directing visitors, answering phone calls, and checking phone messages. As an office volunteer you would be free to read, write, play solitaire, knit, watch Netflix, or whatever you prefer to do with your time when you are not assisting visitors or taking phone calls. You could bring your own computer, or use the one in the office. As many of you know, UUCM is a great space to do work or spend quiet time during the week.

Let me know if this is of interest to you (admin@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1675). I'm happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you might have.

Thank you all for everything you do here!

Advent-UU-rous UUs!

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!

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

UUCM Game Night!

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 FROM 4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

By Jennifer Tayler-Wightman

Bring a game or just come play at UUCM. A chance for multi-generational fun! Bring a snack or just enjoy. Contact Jennifer Tayler-Wightman with questions (2goatsrunning@gmail.com, 530-292-6120).

Humanism Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

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

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (530-477-7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (530-274-9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com)



Women's Circle in April: Drumming Circle with David Ferrier

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

Come find your rhythm! David Ferrier, who led a drum circle for years at UUCM, will be instructing us in the basics of drumming! He's going to bring a selection of drums and shakers, and if you have some around, bring them, too! Don't miss out! Beth Freedman is coordinating the night, bring a potluck dish to share, and let's have FUN!

All UUCM women are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please contact Kathryn Young, or send an email to Conrad Sisk at: admin@uugrassvalley.org and he will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

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.

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.

Drop-In Support Circle

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

By Janet Bullock, Facilitator, Drop-In Support Circle

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)

Pacific Central District's District Assembly Coming in May!

The Pacific Central District's District Assembly will be held Friday evening, May 5, and 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Saturday, May 6, at the Mt Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, California.

The highlight of the gathering will be the UUA presidential candidates' forum on Saturday afternoon.

The gathering will also include worship, workshops for congregational leaders, and the PCD annual business meeting.

For more information: <http://www.pcduua.org/events/district-assembly/>



Full Community Education

Kristin Famula,
Acting Director of
Religious Education

Save the Date: Adult Religious Education Offerings

OUR COMMUNITY IDENTITY & GROWTH:

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 5:15-6:15 P.M.

What makes us Unitarian Universalists and what will the future of our religious identity look like? This series of workshops will focus broadly on our identity as UU's and how we grow as a spiritual community. The first few workshops will focus on the future of UUism – as we engage as a community in a process of looking at our mission and vision. We are excited to invite in virtual participation from leading thinkers in UUism. These gatherings will be offered on the first Wednesday of every month from 5:15 - 6:15 P.M. – intentionally overlapping with our youth music offerings – so that we parents are able to attend. Join us beginning April 5th.

FOR THE LONG HAUL: COMMITTING TO ‘

ANSWERING THE CALL OF LOVE’ LONG-TERM

SUNDAYS, APRIL 9 AND APRIL 30, 1-3 P.M., IN THE SANCTUARY

Together we will be exploring collective identities, systems of power and privilege, and the “American Dream”. If you missed our first class, no problem. These workshops stand alone – and although we think you’ll benefit from attending all, all are welcome to attend at any time. Contact Kristin: education@uugrassvalley.org for more information.

Thank You: Keith Johnson



Q: How long have you been dedicating your time to Religious Education at UUCM?

I have been involved with adult religious education for the past four years. During this period I have volunteered as a RE liaison, and I currently serve on the RE Visioning Team.

Q: What calls you to this work?

Our world needs more Unitarian Universalism. Our UU values

must be passed on to our youth as a precious legacy for future generations. Religious Education is the mechanism for

the transfer of those values. For that reason RE is the most important thing that we do.

Q: What are some of your hobbies and skills that are used in our programming?

I like to read, and I particularly like to read about UU history and the future of Unitarian Universalism. I enjoy discussing what I have read with other UU's in the context of adult RE classes.

Q: What is one of your favorite RE moments?

I was very gratified to see the enthusiasm of our youth as they plan for this summer's BorderLinks trip. It was clear to me that they see the trip as a meaningful justice opportunity and not just another vacation.

Full Community Service on April 23rd

It was a joy to explore what it means to be “a community of risk” as we honored the wisdom of our earth-centered traditions at our Full Community service in March. Join us again on April 23!

If you (or your children) are interested in participating in this service, please let Kristin know (education@uugrassvalley.org)!

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

Most Wednesdays, New Times!

4:30 to 5:15 P.M. AND 5-6 p.m. in the Sanctuary:

All ages are invited to our youth music program. Join us whether you've had lots of musical experience – or none! (Check the calendar beforehand – schedules may change). Our beginner group meets from 4:30-5:15 P.M. and the advanced group meets from 5-6 P.M.. If you are unsure which group you are in, come at 4:30 P.M. and our Music Director will help you figure it out!. Contact Jordan: music@uugrassvalley.org

BRUNCH BUNCH:

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

Meet at UUCM

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).

April 2017 Calendar of Events at UUCM

MARCH

26	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		12:45	SYRCL Social Justice Presentation
28	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
29	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		6:00	Pizza, Beer & Movie Night
30	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
31	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

APRIL

2	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		9:45	Brunch Bunch for Youth
		9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
4	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		4:00	Caring Committee Meeting
5	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		5:15	What is the Future of UU?
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
6	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Group Book Club – WUC
		7:30	Singing Meditation Circle
8	Saturday	9:00	Welcome to UU(CM) Class
9	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Second Sunday Soup Lunch
		1:00	For the Long Haul Workshop
10	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
11	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		12:30	Membership Committee Meeting
		5:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
12	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		11:00	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
13	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
16	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
17	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
18	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		6:00	UU History with Rev. Kevin
19	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		4:30	Finance Committee Meeting
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
		6:30	Worship Committee Meeting
20	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Group Book Club – WUC
		5:30	Social Justice Committee Meeting
21	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
23	Sunday	9:45	Full Community Sunday Service
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Full Community Sunday Service
25	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
26	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		6:00	Pizza, Beer & Movie Night
27	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
		12:00	Pasties with the Pastor
		6:00	UU Principles & Theologies
28	Friday	4:30	Family Games Night
30	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Social Time & "A Board Member is In"
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	For the Long Haul Workshop

MAY

2	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		4:00	Caring Committee Meeting
3	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		5:15	What is the Future of UU?
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
4	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Group Book Club – WUC
		7:30	Singing Meditation Circle
6	Saturday	TBD	Spring Wine Market Fundraiser
7	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
			Joining & Bridging Sunday



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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