

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 2017

UPCOMING SERVICES

Summer Service Schedule (June 11 to Sept. 3):

One Service Each Sunday at 10 A.M.

Social hour is after the service.

Religious education classes for children and teens,
and nursery care for babies and toddlers
are offered during the service.

AUGUST THEME: JOY

August 6 For the Fun of It
Rev. David Sammons

This service kicks off our August theme of PLAY. How do we integrate play into our lives in ways that let us learn, relax, and stay in shape physically, emotionally and spiritually without abandoning our serious, socially-conscious sides? We don't have to allow ourselves to be done in by routine, sadness, boredom. We can choose the satisfaction of having just done something that was actually fun - and that goes way beyond just playing.

August 13 Music over Manhattan
Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Associate

A multigenerational service that weaves a magical story about finding your voice and the transformational power of music. Lead by Lindsay Dunckel and featuring Michael Bankston and some intrepid UUCM players.

August 20 Play with Me
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

Alan Watts tells us "Man suffers only because he takes seriously what the gods made for fun." Join us in a Spiritual Café exploring the spirituality of play. (Also UUCM Campout weekend.)

August 27 Living by Liberal Faith
Rev. Jay Atkinson

UU theologian Paul Rasor says that our liberal religious tradition "is not for the faint of heart," suggesting that Unitarian Universalism offers a challenging pathway not always easy to follow. It's one thing to call ourselves "liberals" or to profess liberal beliefs, but what does it mean to live by liberal faith, personally and in congregational life? What does it mean to be deeply faithful Unitarian Universalists in today's world?

► **SAVE THE DATE!** ►
**FOR THE INSTALLATION
OF THE
REV. KEVIN TARSA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
1:30 P.M.**

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*Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister*

Panning for Gold

Recently discovered: this heretofore unknown image from 1857 of the staff of the local Gold Rush Unitarian (or was it Universalist) Church in Grass Valley, California. Who knew? Apparently this photo was taken during a staff outing, what we might refer to in these times as a "fun day."

Faded writing on the back of the photo lists Pastor Kevin "eyes to heaven" Tarsa, Sunday School Teacher Kristin "wow is she fabulous" Famula, Office Manager Conrad "worth his weight in gold" Sisk, and Songleader Jordan "golden throat" Thomas-Rose. As to what happened to each of them after this photo was taken, we are researching that information as I write.

What does it mean to be a community of play? Your paid staff decided to find out!

At a Pacific Central District staff workshop in Walnut Creek this spring, our personality assessments indicated that we were, as a team, strong in many areas, but, except for Jordan, a little shy in the "playful/fun-loving" category. We committed immediately to have an afternoon of fun, dang it!

We began with the old-time photo shoot (a hoot), crossed the street for ice-cream (delicious), headed to Condon Park for several holes of disc golf (where did it land?) and finished the day with a leisurely dinner out. It was a marvelous time together. I already possessed strong and deep appreciation for your UUCM staff, and the afternoon together only heightened my regard for each of them as persons. It was a great gift to spend playful time together, revealing more of who each of us is and strengthening our connections to one another.

Family system theorists note that playfulness is key to healthy relationships, an important ingredient in both intimacy and the ability to hold a unique, healthily differentiated stance as an individual. When an emotional system like a family or a

congregation becomes anxious, playfulness often disappears, narrowing the range of perspectives and reducing the repertoire of available responses. Introducing kind and aware playfulness can help move a stuck dynamic.

People are often surprised by the abundant humor and playfulness of religious powerhouses like Mother Teresa or the Dalai Lama or the Sufi saints, as if the deeply spiritual is always serious in tone. However, these religious exemplars possess a humor that comes with a grounded acceptance and embracing of reality, even the painful aspects. It is a spiritual stance.



As we move more deeply into the summer, I encourage you to make room for the playful side of yourself and others. And as we move into the new congregation year, a year of much important foundation building, let's together make sure we are investing in fun along the way, and so keeping our hearts and minds open to perspectives that will light the path, and ensuring repertoires of responses that will allow UUCM to be a powerful force for good in this community.

With care and a smile,

- Rev. Kevin

(Look for a collage of more "Staff Fun Day" Photos on page 13!)

Rev. Kevin's Summer Schedule

Reverend Kevin has a busy schedule this summer! The dates he will be off are as follows:

AUGUST 1-14:

Will be in and out/ local study leave.
Reading and researching for the coming year.

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

Installation Team Update

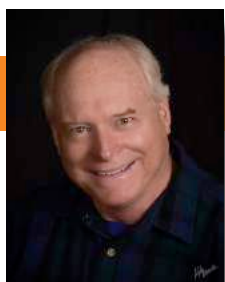
Rev. Kevin's Installation

by Laura Zimmerman, Member, Installation Team

Our congregation will be installing the Reverend Kevin Tarsa as our new minister on Saturday, September 16th at 1:30 p.m. In addition to members and friends of our congregation, colleagues and friends of Rev. Kevin have been invited to participate and to attend. The Installation Service itself will be held at the Methodist Church (next door to us) and the reception will be held at UUCM.

What is an "installation"? An installation is a ceremony to formally recognize the recently entered covenant between an ordained minister and the congregation the minister serves. The *Service of Installation* celebrates and ritualizes this mutual decision and commitment. Here at the one year mark, this ceremony celebrates our willingness to enter a shared envisioning of new goals, new pathways and new ideas, a bright beginning for a new day in our community.

This is an exciting time for our congregation, and we are working to make it a beautiful, memorable event. And, as they say, "many hands make light work." If you would like to help with set-up, food, decorations, clean-up, hospitality for guests, music or any other aspects of the installation, please contact either Laura Zimmerman at 530-478-1953 or Corrie Silva at 415-317-3497.



*Taylor Carey,
President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Greetings. As I mentioned in last month's Mountain Chalice, this year will be one of foundation-making and innovation-seeking change. UUCM is no longer a tiny family church nestled in the foothills. We are a vibrant, growing community of like-minded individuals devoted to the unfettered search for truth and meaning. It is time to begin the process of adjusting our methods for getting things done to match.

Over the past several months, the Governance Work Group has examined our systems for meeting our administrative and ministerial needs. In the coming weeks and months the Governance Work Group will roll out its proposals for reorganizing the ways we do things. For the most part the suggested changes will be transparent in operation, but endowed with a more rational methodology and with a more logical assignment of responsibilities. The Board's role as the ultimate representative of the congregation's interests will remain, along with its responsibilities to fashion coherent guiding policies. But it will cede much of its involvement in the daily ministerial life of the Community to the Minister and to the committees and teams under the minister's supervision,



Board of Trustees

which are better suited to these tasks. Although there may be changes in nomenclature, what is now done by committees will continue to be done, but with clearer delegations of authority and better defined areas of responsibility. Stay tuned.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Taylor Carey, *President*
Lindsay Dunckel, *Vice-President*
Charlie Zimmerman, *Treasurer*
Sandi Lauher, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

George Dunstan, Greg Fancher, Beth Freedman,
Yvonne Mills

*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.*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa – The Music Man

by Jenny Dewey*

Recently, on a hot June day, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Reverend Kevin Tarsa to interview him for a profile concerning his “musical side.” To open our conversation I mentioned a line I remembered from one of his Sunday sermons. He said: “I was an introverted child...” Playing the organ when he was still a youngster was a way to express himself. “It was a great introvert sport because the organ was wonderfully loud, with such power the building would vibrate.”

There is some irony here, since Kevin is exceptionally open, and seemingly not shy. The definition of introverted is one who looks inward, one who “...is concerned with thoughts and feelings within the self, as opposed to the external environment.” Kevin’s patience, his presence of mind, is apparent in all aspects of his dealing with church matters, in particular the music he chooses to bring to the congregation.

And where did this all begin? How did a self-confessed shy child become a man who reaches out so effectively, touching people’s lives in profound ways, especially through his music? The answer lies within Rev. Kevin’s basic nature.

Rev. Kevin’s passion for music harks back to when he was four and barely out of toddlerhood. Kevin’s mother urged her brood to take piano lessons, teaching Kevin herself. For young Kevin, the second child in a family of eight children, this experience, at such a young age, proved to be the beginning of a life-long involvement with music, and the instruments used to create music.

He attended a Catholic school, as his parents were devout Catholics. One of the teachers, a nun named Sister Bernadine, recognized the boy’s innate abilities. When he was eight years old and still in grammar school, she gave him a miniature organ. It was tiny compared to a real one, but it was not a toy. Kevin learned to play the small organ and, at age eleven, was playing the regular organ for many of the school masses, and then the masses at his home parish. These were occasions for church music, mainly hymns, and the young Kevin grew attached to these. He matured early, with respect to his abilities, and before long he was skilled enough to improvise.

Lessons continued at school and over time, with local organ teachers. For Kevin these lessons were indeed a time of learning, but he discovered himself playing all day long for the sheer joy of it. Whether or not he, as a child, could verbalize his feelings, his response to musical notes resonated inside

his head, and also in his soul, and in the substance of himself as a human being. Music is said to be “...sounds which express ideas and emotions through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color.” Rev. Kevin fits the description of someone for whom all of these elements are present. Music evolved as a part of him, as truly as his stature, his smile, and his demeanor. He does not separate himself from what is, for him, a grounding in musical shapes and forms.

Kevin’s journey from a child immersed in Catholic theology to a Universalist Unitarian took time. He was searching for a place where he felt at home. For twenty-three years he was the music director for a Unitarian Universalist church. He says this was a “long-term” experiment of how to bring a musical voice to the services. This role led eventually to his being ordained by the community he was then a part of.

When Rev. Kevin speaks of his ministry in the present day, he refers to a desire to experience “The journey, not the destination.” He seeks to bring his musical skills to services in a way that does not intrude on other players or singers. His attachment to service music runs deep, a bond established when he was a child. He senses and wishes to experience a musical cohesion appropriate to the theme of any given Sunday service. Musically, he wishes to play a supporting role, and not be the lead. Rev. Kevin’s ability to be engaged, and at the same time at a remove, is another of his gifts.

Finally, for our conversation, he said he draws on the definition of introversion that defines introversion and extroversion in terms of how one gains and spends energy. In that light, as an introvert, Kevin recharges his batteries by being alone, and spends his energy with people.

An extrovert, then, recharges batteries by being with people, and spends energy by being alone. Kevin says his...“natural pull is indeed to look inward, and to live his life inside his internal thoughts.”

Rev. Kevin has told me he plays the piano, the organ, the flute, and the guitar. He is studying the viola and says: “...stringed instruments beg to be shared with other people.” He seeks a string quartet of which he can become a member.

So, back to the beginning: Rev. Kevin is a music man, in the truest sense. He is many other things as well, and yet to know him is to witness his responsiveness to the harmonies of musical instruments, joined with the rhythms of our world.

**New UUCM member Jenny Dewey is a published author and will be contributing articles to the Mt. Chalice on a semi-regular basis!*



Membership & Hospitality 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 Sunday services as announced by Rev. Kevin. (Or contact him any time for a personal appointment – minister@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1661.)

Our next series of classes: *Welcome to UUCM*, *UU History*, and *UU Principles and Theology* will be offered early next Fall.

EVERYONE, from new attendees to long time members, is welcome at any of these events. It's a great way to refresh your UU knowledge, and meet some other seekers!

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

We'd Love Some Shadows...

GIVE GREETING AND/OR USHERING A TRY!

By Kathy MacLeod, Membership Committee

A great way to "dip your toe in" to see if greeting or ushering is a good fit for you is to shadow an existing greeter or usher. You can find out more about what the jobs entail, and whether you feel comfortable in the role.

Greeting involves a relatively short time commitment on a Sunday morning. There are no meetings to attend, or homework. It's a wonderful way to meet new people. No previous experience necessary – just your friendly face.

Please contact me if you have questions or wish to volunteer: Kathy MacLeod: horsenana@sbcglobal.net or (530) 477-5824.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Claire Miller, chair
Kathy MacLeod, Karyn Packard, Carmen Riley,
Cynthia Schuetz and Marilyn Young

Contact Claire Miller, truckeeclaire@yahoo.com if you have any questions about membership, or are interested in joining the committee.

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

Snack Teams for August!

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour

A BIG thank you to all the teams for generously providing a delicious assortment of snacks week after week. Here is the schedule for August:

1st Sunday of the Month: (August 6)	A to E
2nd Sunday of the Month: (August 13)	F to J
3rd Sunday of the Month: (August 20)	K to R
4th Sunday of the Month: (August 27)	S to Z

Each week we need two or three "sweet treats" and two or three "healthy choices." Please remember to include foods for those with dietary concerns whenever possible... gluten-free, vegetarian, etc. And it is especially helpful if you label what you've brought to help those with allergies or other health issues make good decisions.

When it is your team's Sunday, please let Marilyn Young (marilyn04@gmail.com) know if you will be participating, and also let her know if it's a "Sweet Treat" or a "Healthy Treat." We will send out a weekly reminder.

If you have questions, wish to help, or have something to donate, please contact Marilyn Young: (hospitality@uugrassvalley.org, or marilyn04@gmail.com or 916-203-5962.) If you wish to sign up online to help in the kitchen and/or donate food, you can open our online sign-up page <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>

PLEASE make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this form!



Caring Committee

Caring Committee Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Chair, Caring Committee

As we move into the Dog Days of August, I bid you farewell as the Chair of Caring Committee. It has been an honor to serve UUCM in this capacity and I confidently pass on the reins to Anne Lyon. I will continue to serve on the committee and offer my support to Anne in her new role. I am grateful to work in this community where caring and support for each other is the norm. I thank you all for your support of me and of our greater UUCM community.

Let us feel joy in the light and the warmth as we share within our community our joys and sorrows. Please keep the following people in your thoughts:

SCOTTIE AND BRUCE HART celebrate their recent move to town!

KIA HATCH is healing quickly after her hip replacement surgery.

YOLANDA BERNASCONI is planning to have knee replacement in late July. Our thoughts and support are with you, Yolanda.

TRUDY BOARDMAN'S father recently passed away. She has been in Florida with family and caring for her mother for several weeks. Our thoughts are with you, Trudy.

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

Anne Lyon, *chair*

Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Currington, Gwen Eymann, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, May Lawrence, 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: Anne Lyon, (619) 933-1618

caring@uugrassvalley.org

Building & Grounds

Keeping Up Appearances!

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

We have had two workdays since I last posted. Right now, the work days are directed mostly toward building and yard maintenance. With the weather so hot we try to get the yard work done before the day heats up. Last month, the library was painted and we are now awaiting the placement of the new bookshelves which are being constructed by Joel Houtman and Charlie Zimmerman. I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to help us maintain UUCM during this time.

The planning of the Sanctuary refurbishing is moving forward. We have established a Refurbishing Team and our first meeting will be in early August when all parties are back from their travels. Currently, UUCM is running a refurbishing fund drive to help us cover some of the cost of the project. Information on this drive can be found below, on posters at UUCM, or by contacting Wally Holtan or Rene Wiley. Pledge forms can be emailed by Conrad or picked up at UUCM during the week or on Sundays. The drive will last until the end of September. (See more below.)

Over the next few months you will notice increased focus on security around UUCM. Unfortunately, this has become necessary because of an increase in loitering around our facility. There have been attempted break-ins and complaints from our neighbors, which has made the Board of Trustees (BOT) worry about the safety of our congregation. Currently, there has been a fence built between the Methodist church and UUCM. No trespassing signs will be placed for the backyard and the police will be checking out our facilities much more frequently. Any questions can be directed to myself or George Dunstan for the BOT.

Our next work day will be on Saturday, August 19th. Please mark the date on your calendar, and plan to come join us to help us keep our UUCM building and grounds in top notch condition.

Building Refurbishment Fund Drive Info:

Further information and forms for making contributions will be available until September 30, 2017. You can pick up a form in the UUCM Office, or by contacting Wally Holtan at (530) 559-0050, or by emailing to: uucmgv@gmail.com. Thank you for your help.



Mission Renewal Process Team



Save the Date for our Upcoming Mission Covenant Renewal Workshop!

We hope that you are all getting excited to join us on **Saturday, September 23rd** for UUCM's all-day Mission Covenant Renewal Workshop. We have engaged Linda Laskowski to help us design the process and facilitate our workshop. Linda is a lay leader with the Unitarian Church of Berkeley and has extensive experience facilitating organizational development and quality process improvement teams for businesses and non-profits. We are just thrilled to have her join us on this mission. Pun intended!

But enough about what we are doing to prepare, you are wondering what you can do to prepare, right? First keep reading our updates including the three-part Mission Covenant series written by Rev Kevin in the weekly eChalices. See link here: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/mission-renewal-process/>. Part 3 asked the following questions:

- If each Unitarian Universalist congregation discerns its own separate mission (central purpose), is there a larger mission that all UU congregations share and that ought to be part of UUCM's mission?
- What is distinct from all other religious traditions about Unitarian Universalism/UUCM? What insight might that answer shed on our mission/purpose?
- And what purpose can UUCM claim to have in common with its Unitarian and Universalists heritages, and so have reason to claim its high points and its heroines and heroes, and to identify itself as Unitarian Universalist? As Robert Latham observes, "We might find a clue to our present purpose by asking what was their purpose."

We would love to hear your thoughts on these questions and we would like to share some of what has been sent to us so far.

- *"I think what makes UU unique is that it has different paths. Mainstream religions are too narrow for me."*

- *"The larger mission should include creating a purpose that calls to and engages more people to join Unitarian Universalism. I dream of our religion growing around the world, not for numbers sake but because we will serve a vital need for people seeking. I believe there are many more people who desire a progressive, diverse and social justice-minded religion like ours. How do we help them find us?"*
- *"UUCM should be defined by its own Mission Statement and by the actions it chooses to take from time to time. We currently accept the Unitarian Universalist seven principles but there is no guarantee that we will continue to do so, particularly if they change. We also currently choose to be a member of the UUA, but again there is no long-term guarantee. In the future, we may choose not to be a member, particularly if the UUA evolves in a direction not to our liking. UUCM could continue while rejecting the Unitarian Universalist principles and ceasing to be a member of the UUA. Now this is both unlikely and undesirable but we must preserve the option. A strength of our denomination is the independence of each congregation, unlike the hierarchical organization of some other denominations."*
- *"In most Unitarian Universalist congregations, we hope to find a diversification of people that are like-minded and open to other opinions."*
- *"We have the opportunity to draw on wisdom, insights, and experiences of many traditions, as well as our own as individuals, as a congregation, and as a congregation within UUism worldwide. Also for consideration please see the first principle project <http://firstprincipleproject.blogspot.com/>. Expanding the principle, and our thinking as a congregation, to include all beings everywhere is relevant."*

We would also like to share a worthwhile article called THE LIBERAL CHURCH FINDING ITS MISSION: IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU by Peter Boullata. See this link: <https://peterboullata.com/2011/12/29/the-liberal-church-finding-its-mission-its-not-about-you/>

The Mission Renewal Process team thanks everyone for their input and support. Our connection to each other on this team and our enthusiasm for this work continues to grow!

Your Mission Renewal Process Team

Beth Freedman
Scottie Hart
Jim Perkins
Rev. Kevin Tarsa
René Wiley

Social Justice Activities

Social Justice Nights at UUCM

By Stu Chuang Matthews, Chair, Social Justice Committee

On Tuesday, July 18, the Social Justice Committee put on its first monthly Social Justice Night. Mindy Oberne from *Healthcare For All Nevada County* gave a very engaging and informative speech. Attendees were able to share their experiences and thoughts on the US healthcare system. Attendees also wrote 21 letters to legislators on the topic of SB562, the California healthcare for all bill that is currently struggling in the legislature. The Social Justice Committee provided pizza and beverages.

The Social Justice Committee will continue to hold monthly Social Justice Nights. The date for August's Social Justice Night will be announced soon.



Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 4 P.M.

*By Keith Johnson, Member,
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.

Revival of the Animal Ministry

By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee

We will be starting the Animal Ministry again at UUCM. We will be collecting food and/or donations for Nevada County Pets of the Homeless on the first Sunday of each month, when other food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry.

This group provides food and services for our homeless and their pets. This is under the umbrella of Social Justice but is an Animal Ministry project. Please contact Carol Hyndman with any questions (countrycattery@gmail.com).

UUCM Library Team

Update on our UUCM Library

UUCM Library Team members are: Carmen Riley, Helen Williamson, Anita Wald-Tuttle and Mary Orr. This group has been working together since May. They sorted through and categorized books; designated some books and furniture for the annual garage sale; cleared out the room so it could be painted; and consulted regarding the new bookcases needed for the upgrading and revitalizing of this important room.

With fresh paint, new bookcases under construction, and a window seat in place (thanks to Joel Houtman and Charlie Zimmerman), the room is ready for the next steps. The Library Team will meet on a weekly basis to further refine categories and organize books to efficiently utilize the new shelf space, label shelves and insert book plates.

The UUCM Library will contain books focused on resources of importance to UU's and not readily available in the public library. Periodically, there will be an update in the Mountain Chalice about new books, and requests for donations of specific books, or funds to purchase them, as we desire to add to our collection.

The Grand Opening and dedication of the UUCM Library is planned to be held between services on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Stay tuned for more information.

THE LIBRARY TEAM NEEDS METAL BOOKENDS

Please bring any extras you may have into the library, or be on the lookout for them when you go to garage sales. Thanks!

Calling Artists & Photographers:

By Kathryn Young

We are working to create special slides for some of the moments during each service... for example: Joys and Sorrows, Chalice Lighting, Singing the Children on their Way, Community Benediction, and lots more.

Instead of using anonymous clip art for all these images, we'd love to use images taken by our own UUCM members. Perhaps you have some already that might work? Or during your summer travels, you might find images that you'd love to see up on the "big" screen! Any image that fits the theme of a future service would be welcome, so if you have some interesting, beautiful, moving, funny, (fill in the blank), photos or artwork you are willing to share, please do!

If you would like to participate, please contact me at kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or 530-478-1329.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

New Affinity Group: Speed Bumps of Life

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 A.M., ANTHONY RM

The Speed Bumps of Life group is a safe place to explore the challenges of our addictive behaviors. Together we find support in considering the influences in our lives that distract us from deepening our sense of the spiritual. The Speed Bumps meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:30 to noon. More information: Carmen Riley (530-272-2803), Scottie Hart (530-388-8612) or Gwen Eymann (530-274-7965).

Women's Circle in August:

PICNIC AT PIONEER PARK!

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017, 6 P.M. AT UUCM

Please join other UUCM women for a potluck picnic at Pioneer Park on Monday, July 10th at 6:00 p.m. A reminder will be send out by email to all in the Women's Circle email list.

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.

Drop-In Support Circle

SUNDAYS AFTER 10:00 A.M. SERVICE,

ANTHONY ROOM, UUCM

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.

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

Circle Facilitators: (rotating) Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, janetbullock41@gmail.com), Scottie Hart, Corrie Silva, Tom Wernigg, and Penelope Williams

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)

A Hymnal's Journey Home

By Beth Karow

A few Sundays ago, after church services were over, Willow and I did what we usually do: went to lunch at India Oven. The nearby restaurant has a fantastic lunch buffet, is never crowded, and it has become our go-to place on Sunday afternoons. If you ever see me at UUCM on Sunday, it is fairly safe to assume that I am heading to India Oven afterwards. It is also fairly safe to assume that you are welcome to join me for delicious Indian food and conversation.

Another perk to this place (besides the freshly made garlic naan) is that it is nearby the Hospice Gift and Thrift store, which is open on Sundays and is a great place to search for treasure while digesting the aforementioned buffet. We sometimes strike out on finding anything worth taking home, but usually find at least one thing to buy. And, bonus: on Sundays you roll a die at the register and, depending on your roll, you get 10, 20, or 30% off your purchase. Another bonus: the proceeds go to Hospice, which helps so many families deal with their loved ones' end of life. I like being able to find nice stuff and bring it home, knowing that my purchase is helping to fund a local resource that is so helpful and necessary. I also like to buy things with history attached. I make up stories about the over-the-top fancy necklace that someone kept tucked away, safe inside a box, waiting for a special occasion to wear it. I imagine the tears and laughter shared by their children as they sort through a lifetime of memories, deciding what to do with each item.

Anyway, there I was, my Indian "food baby" settling in my tummy, about to roll the die to see how much further my already very low-priced treasures were going to be discounted, when Willow joined me at the counter holding a very familiar grey, hard backed book. It was our UU hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*. Wow! How did that end up here? We opened the front cover to find "Please Return to Leal and Lloyd Portis" in calligraphy on the bookplate. With huge smiles and slightly teary eyes, we shared our excitement over this find with the manager at the counter. He asked what we were going to do with it. I said, well, of course, we'll buy it and bring it back to the church. He told me that I wouldn't be doing that. Instead, he handed me the book and told me it was a gift, that he wouldn't take my money for it. Now, the smiles were even bigger, and the tears actually spilled out. I actually chuckled as I started to imagine what Leal would be saying about all this. I will leave it to you to hear her voice for yourself, in your own head.

And, as soon as my busy summer schedule allows, I will show up at a Sunday Service, and I will be returning this beloved grey hymnal to the stacks in our sanctuary. I know this for sure: Leal would want it to be there, being used to *Sing the Living Tradition* on into the future.



Kristin Famula,
Acting Director of
Religious Education

Full Community Education

2017-18 Religious Education

RE RECRUITMENT TEAM!

Do you serve our congregation in ways that don't often intersect with RE? We're looking for 5 volunteers to give a one month commitment to support our RE recruitment efforts this summer. Need more information? Contact Kristin!

Summer is a busy time in Religious Education – while families and members practice religious education in less traditional ways (on camping trips, vacations, and adventures) – and our class attendance fluctuates, behind the scenes, we are doing the planning and preparation for a full year of programming in 2017-2018. This month your RE Visioning Team will gather for a retreat to envision how we will live out our mission this year and in the coming years; recruit the volunteers needed to offer vibrant programming; and find and create the curricula that will support faith development at UUCM for all ages.

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation and your commitment to Religious Education, we have room to be creative about our staffing this coming year. After thoughtful consideration, your Religious Education Visioning Team has come up with a plan that we think will serve the future of RE at UUCM and will ensure continuity and sustainability of our programming in the coming year. I will be helping the RE team get set up for a successful year, orient an RE Coordinator who will be hired to begin in September, and plan for a smooth transition. I will complete my position as Acting Director of Religious Education at the end of September as we transition into the new year and new leadership. Our RE coordinator will manage the day-to-day details of our programming. We look forward to involving you in this process – if you have questions/comments/ideas or anything else, please do reach out! education@uugrassvalley.org

We are committed to being imaginative and open-minded as we continue creating an RE program that serves the needs of everyone and prepares us for the future.

With gratitude,

Kristin



VOLUNTEER!

We are beginning to put together our team of volunteers for our 2017-2018 Religious Education programming. This includes Sunday classes, adult RE offerings, parent groups, holiday events, social activities, and more! Please consider volunteering your time for our educational offerings throughout the year.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

August 6:
Brunch bunch for youth;
class for children

August 13: Full Community service

August 20:
classes for children and youth

August 27:
youth teach children's class

September 3:
Brunch bunch for youth;
class for children

September 10: ingathering

September 17:
classes for children and youth

September 24:
Youth field trip to Reno; classes for children

October 13-15:
District youth retreat (all youth in the Pacific Central District, 9th-12th grade invited to attend) – registration deadline is September 28th: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pcd-youth-retreat/>

Full Community Education, Continued

Immigration Justice Continued Learning

Thanks to all who attended our June youth service – sharing our experiences of our journey to the borderlands. Below are some of the resources we shared. We hope you will continue to learn with us!

RESOURCES

During our journey to Arizona and Mexico we were challenged to learn how to live a "lifestyle of showing up". This invites us to consider how we stand in solidarity and in relationship with all people. Here are some resources we hope will support you.

TAKE YOUR OWN JOURNEY!

NOVEMBER 7-12, 2017

The UU church in Davis, CA will be journeying to the borderlands in November and has invited other UU churches to participate. They see this trip as an opportunity to build and strengthen existing relationships among congregations in our area and would be delighted if you and/or others are interested. Contact Stu, Kevin, or Kristin for details.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE:

www.uusc.org/uu-college-of-social-justice/

The UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) is a collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (uusc.org). UUCSJ's mission is to increase the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to put their faith to work for justice by offering spiritually-grounded social justice education through immersive and experiential learning.

BORDERLINKS: <https://www.borderlinks.org/>

BorderLinks is a nonprofit educational organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Through dynamic educational experiences, BorderLinks connects divided communities, raises awareness about the impact of border and immigration policies, and inspires action for social transformation. BorderLinks envisions a world in which people, within and across social borders, respect and care for each other, value and celebrate differences, and build healthy and just communities where everyone has equal opportunity for a full and dignified life.

NO MORE DEATHS:

<http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/en/>

The mission of No More Deaths is to end death and suffering in the Mexico-US borderlands through civil initiative: people of conscience working openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights.

MARIPOSAS SIN FRONTERAS:

[https://](https://mariposassinfronteras.org/)

mariposassinfronteras.org/

Mariposas Sin Fronteras is a Tucson, AZ based group that seeks to end the systemic violence and abuse of LGBTQ people held in prison and immigration detention. They support LGBTQ people currently detained in Eloy and Florence, AZ, through visits, letters, bond support, advocacy, and assistance obtaining housing upon their freedom from detention.

SOUTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH:

[http://www.](http://www.southsidepresbyterian.org/)

[southsidepresbyterian.org/](http://www.southsidepresbyterian.org/)

Southside Presbyterian Church began as a mission church to the Tohono O'odham community

in Tucson. In its long history, it has become well-known for taking action on social justice issues, including the Sanctuary Movement, fighting for the rights of workers, immigrants, and students, and advocating for non-violent peace-building.

UUA SANCTUARY MOVEMENT:

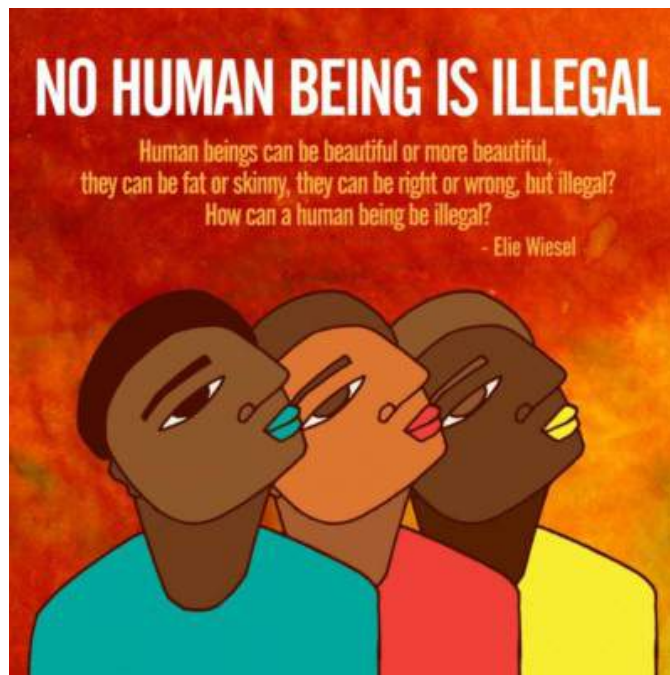
<http://www.uua.org/immigration>

Just as love knows no borders, our dedication to justice reaches across boundaries and walls. We stand on the side of love with all families, regardless of citizenship status, and strive to create welcoming communities and congregations. We organize and advocate for immigration reform, for an end to detentions and deportations, and for a world where hands are extended in peace and care across borders and no one feels forced to leave home or risk death in pursuit of a decent life for their family.

UUA TOOLKIT FOR CHURCHES:

<http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/sanctuary-toolkit-2017.pdf>

Could UUCM become a sanctuary congregation?



August 2017 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
AUGUST			
1	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting
2	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 12:00 4:30 5:00 6:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Committee on Ministry Meeting Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Mission Renewal Process Team Mtg Choir Rehearsal
3	Thursday	8:30 7:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Singing Meditation Circle
6	Sunday	10:00 10:00 11:10 11:10	First Sunday: Bring Food! Brunch Bunch for Youth Sunday Service & RE Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle
8	Tuesday	9:00 5:00	Meditation Board of Trustees Meeting
9	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 11:00 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Speed Bumps of Life Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
10	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group
13	Sunday	10:00 11:10 11:10	Full Community Sunday Service Social Time Drop-in Support Circle
14	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
15	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
16	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 4:30 5:00 6:00 6:30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Mission Renewal Process Team Mtg Choir Rehearsal
17	Thursday	8:30 5:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Social Justice Committee Meeting
18	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place
19	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
20	Sunday	10:00 10:00 11:10 11:10	Sunday Service Classes for Children & Youth Social Time Drop-in Support Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
21	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
22	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
23	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Speed Bumps of Life Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
24	Thursday	8:30 10:30 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Worship Committee Meeting
27	Sunday	10:00 10:00 11:10 11:10	Sunday Service Youth Teach Children's Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle
28	Monday	1:00	Governance Working Group Meeting
29	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
30	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:00	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Mission Renewal Process Team Mtg
31	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee

SEPTEMBER			
3	Sunday	10:00 10:00 11:10 11:10	First Sunday: Bring Food! Brunch Bunch for Youth Sunday Service and RE Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle
5	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting
6	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 12:00 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Committee on Ministry Meeting Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
7	Thursday	8:30 7:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Singing Meditation Circle
10	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:40 10:40 11:30	Sunday Service Children & Youth Ingathering Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service



246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: 530.274.1675
Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

One Summer Sunday Service
at 10:00 A.M.

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 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*

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