

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 26, 2014

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THE
Mountain
 CHALICE

Greetings,

Welcome to this month's edition of the Mountain Chalice Newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM). We hope you enjoy the contents and find it informative. Feel free to share the newsletter with friends or family by clicking on the link at the bottom of the page.

Please share any feedback with
editor@uugrassvalley.org.

Your articles, stories and photos make this newsletter great. Please send your content by the deadline listed at the bottom of the page.

- Enjoy!

Upcoming Services

April 6
"Duck, Duck, Goose"
 Rev. Denis L. Paul

April 13
"Spiritual Tools for
Activists, from
Comfortable to Called"
 Rev. Sonya Sukalaski

April 20
Easter / Earth Day
Lindsay Dunkel -
Worship Associate

April 27
"Rising from the Fire"
 Rev. Denis L. Paul

UUCM will be celebrating it's
 20th Anniversary on April 6th
 after our Sunday Service. We
 will honor our Founders and

Minister's Reflections

by Rev. Denis Paul



"Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within hearsay of little children tends toward the formation of character." - Hosea

Ballou

For those who don't know, Hosea Ballou was a nineteenth century Universalist minister, and author of the 1805 classic A Treatise on Atonement, in which he proposed the radical notion that humans had nothing to atone to God to. He went so far as to suggest that perhaps God should atone to humanity, for the poor behavior and bad judgment he displayed in the Hebrew Bible.

One of my favorite legends of Hosea Ballou, one of the tall tales woven about him by later storytellers was included in A Lamp In

welcome new members. Save the date and come celebrate with us at 11:00 for our Worship Service followed by a reception.

Interfaith Food Ministry 1st Sunday each month

Please remember to bring nonperishable food for Interfaith Food Ministry (of which we are a Member Church), and our furry friends via Carol Hyndman.

UUCM 20th Anniversary Party

**Sunday, April 6th
12:30pm- 3pm**

Come celebrate...there will be refreshments, music and a fun time to be together.

CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

Friday, Mar 28

7:00pm - Fourth Friday Film

Saturday, Mar 29

1:00pm-Serving With Grace

Sunday, Mar 30

11:00am - Sunday Service
12:30pm-Lifespan Religious
Education Meeting

Tuesday, Apr 1

9:00am - Morning Meditation
6:00pm - Speaker Elliott Adams

Wednesday, April 2

8:30am - Men's Get-together
10:30 - Humanist Discussion

Every Corner, a Unitarian Universalist primer by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer. In the story - which could be called a wonder tale based on a real-life quip - Ballou is a child portrayed as having a penchant for playing in the mud. Repeatedly, his parents admonish him, begging him to refrain from getting dirty. Finally, his father gets upset and confronts the boy.

Hosea hung his head and kicked at the dirt with his toes, then he dared to look up, just a little, to ask, "Do you still love me?"

"Hosea," said his father, and his father didn't sound stern anymore. "I will always love you, Hosea, no matter what you do."

"Even if I get mud all the way up to my eyebrows and between my fingers and my toes and in my hair?"

"Even then," his father said with a smile. Then he added, very stern again, "But remember, Hosea. You must try to stay clean."

The elder Ballou's actions were an act of grace. Despite being upset with the boy, despite the pressure by the women of the family to be more stern - perhaps even to even beat the boy - the father, Maturin, took the high ground, thereby modeling the Grace of God that may have ultimately formed the theology of the adult Hosea. His was a theology in which God's love of all people was so great that he made room in heaven for everyone. No exceptions.

When we make room in our lives for the youth in our congregation, we are following in the footsteps of Maturin Ballou, being role models of right relationship, magnanimity, and kindness. Children have a funny way of being profoundly affected by the kinds of things that go right passed adults, the kinds of things we take for granted. Telling a story, teaching a class, mentoring a teenager, or simply making room in the sanctuary for the fussiness of babies can affect the world in ways we couldn't possibly imagine.

We could together give birth to the next great theologian.

Every congregation I've had the honor of serving has struggled with the role of children in our midst. We acknowledge that parents want some grown up time outside of work, to engage in challenging conversations in peace. And we know that many elders have raised their own children and grandchildren, and look forward to the stillness of service, especially during times of mediation and reflection. But we also know that to raise our children to be lifelong Unitarian Universalists, we have to make them part of our lives.

I believe raising children who choose to be committed UUs is the only thing that will allow us to ever grow numerically into the denomination that we think we should be.

One way we can make the time to be with the youth is to take part in this spring's Art and Theology project. Check out the

Group
7:00pm - Drum Circle

Thursday, Apr 3

8:30am - What's Up Coffee
Men's Group

Saturday, Apr 5

10:00am - Spiritual Book Group

Sunday, Apr 6

11:00 - Sunday Service
12:30 - OWL - Our Whole Lives
12:30 - Richard III Workshop

Monday, Apr 7

4:00pm - Stewardship
Committee
5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Apr 8

9:00am - Morning Meditation
4:00pm - Caring Committee
5:30pm - Women's Group

Wednesday, Apr 9

8:30am - Men's Get-together

Thursday, Apr 10

8:30am - What's Up Coffee -
Men's Group
10:00am - Writer's Group
6:30pm - Board of Trustees

Saturday, Apr 12

Annual Congregational Dinner

Sunday, Apr 13

11:00 - Sunday Service
12:30pm - Town Talk

Monday, Apr 14

5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Apr 15

6:30am - Faith Like A River
9:00am - Morning Meditation
1:00pm - Grandmothers for
Peace
6:00pm - PFLAG Board Meeting
6:30pm - Climate Change
Coalition

Wednesday, Apr 16

8:30am - Men's Get-together
7:00pm - Drum Circle

schedule printed elsewhere in this month's Mountain Chalice, and plan on being there. No expertise in visual arts is required. No special supplies will be required, either. But, your presence to watching little kids get really dirty may make a big difference, not only in the life of one child, but maybe even the whole world.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis

Rev Denis's Schedule

Rev Denis, our half-time minister, lives in the Central Valley but comes to Grass Valley twice a month, for four days each visit. He will be here the following dates this month:

April 4 - 7
April 26 - 29

If you would like to make an appointment to see him during one of these visits, email him at revdenis.uucm@gmail.com.

President's Perspective

by Janet Dunstan



So what's with all these policies that the Board has been doing this year? We've gotten along just fine without all this structure and these 'rules'.

Good question. I'm glad you asked.

As an organization changes so must the systems that sustain it. The governing board finds that it has larger issues to deal with and there is less time to devote to the smaller more routine decisions. Readdressing the same issues over and over just because there is one small variance is unproductive and not very satisfying. Example: Building Access. Your Board does not want to approve each and every person requesting a security code. So instead, a policy was written by the Building Access Team that reflects how the decision is to be made, who makes the decision and the extent of their authority. Buildings and Grounds Committee can then manage the process and the Board only needs to handle exceptions.

Having written information (such as a policy or job description) also avoids getting different answers to the same question. Example: The duties and responsibilities of each of the Officers and Board members do not change substantially from one election to the next. Having a written job description allows new Board members (and nominees) to have a good understanding of his/her responsibilities, the expectations, authority and

Thursday, Apr 17

8:30am - What's Up Coffee -
Men's Group

Friday, Apr 18

4:00pm - Dinner prep at Utah's
Place
Mountain Chalice Articles Due

Saturday, Apr 19

9:00am - Building & Grounds
Work Party
12:30pm - Building & Grounds
Committee Meeting

Sunday, Apr 20

11:00am - Easter Service
12:30pm - UUCM Earth Day
Celebration

Monday, Apr 21

5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Apr 22

6:30am - Faith Like A River
9:00am - Morning Meditation
6:00pm - PFLAG Meeting
6:30 - Worship Committee

Wednesday, Apr 23

8:30am - Men's Get-together
4:30pm - Finance Committee
Mountain Chalice Published

Thursday, Apr 24

8:30am - What's Up Coffee -
Men's Group
10:00am - Writer's Group
6:30pm - Vegan Supper Club
Potluck

Friday, Apr 25

Pacific Central District Assembly
7:00 - Fourth Friday Film

Saturday, Apr 26

Pacific Central District Assembly

Sunday, Apr 27

Pacific Central District Assembly
9:30am - Social Action
Committee
11:00am - Sunday Service
12:30pm - Lifespan Religious
Education Meeting
12:30pm-OWL - Our Whole

accountability of the job s/he is about to do. New Board members elected each year all start out with the same understanding.

Regular review and modification of policies, procedures, and job descriptions are normal and necessary as things change; typically these are not major overhauls (unless the documents are very outdated).

Your Board's goal is not to see how many rules we can make, but to reduce the number of routine issues that need to be handled. This allows the Board and Committees to devote their time discussing how to support the mission and purpose of UUCM.

During our next fiscal year, the Community will be going through the process of discovering who we are as UU's in Grass Valley. UUCM will define our purpose, our reason for existing as a Community, and what we are here to do. From this we will develop our Mission-Covenant statement, our unique identity in the world, and one that will bind us together in a focused committed movement.

Once the Mission-Covenant statement is written and adopted by the voters, Community goals will be established. The minister, the Board, and the committees will determine how, by working together and synchronizing our efforts, these goals can be achieved.

Policies should not hinder us, but free us to do the work we have been called to do.

bREaking news

in Lifespan Religious Education

by Paige Anderson-Torgimson, DLRE



What We Learn By Teaching

As teachers, mentors, and volunteers in the Lifespan Religious Education program - we have an important role in guiding our children and giving them opportunities to learn, to wonder, to experience, and to form their own opinions and beliefs. We make an important contribution to the spiritual lives of our youth.

In turn, our youth reward us with lessons on the practice of patience, remind us what "pure joy" looks like, allow us to experience that long forgotten feeling of "awe," inspire us with their actions, and can cause us to completely rethink our own beliefs with one innocent question.

Lives
2:00pm-Poetry Reading

Save the Date

UUCM's CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

April 12th, 2014 is the date for this year's UUCM Congregational Dinner. Join us to celebrate the end of our successful Annual Pledge Drive with fellowship and entertainment.

Tuesday Afternoon Coffee

Join Rev Denis and a lively bunch of folks with nowhere else to be on Tuesday afternoons, as they enjoy fine coffee and better conversation at Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters, 671 Maltman Drive, attached to Tomes Books. The group meets every Tuesday from 2:00 - 4:00, but Rev Denis will be there when he is in town on March 4 and 18.

UUCM Contact Information

Minister

Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul
Please call or email for an appointment or to talk to Rev. Denis.

UUCM office 530.274.1675

**Rev. Denis cell phone
415.310.5051**

revdenis@uugrassvalley.org

Mountain Chalice Editor

editor@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM Board of Trustees
President - Janet Dunstan



"Working with the children and youth in the UUCM Religious Education program is one of the most rewarding things I do" says Carol Ann Jones. "Whether it's planning a Spirit Play story for the 4-8 year-olds or a session on UU Theology for the Coming of Age 14-16 year-olds, working with our youth helps me put my values and beliefs into perspective."

Brett Torgrimson, agrees. "As an RE teacher, I have learned so much about what we believe - our 7 Principles - and how we live out those beliefs in our daily life. Our own decisions and everyday actions serve as living, breathing lessons for our children. It's nearly impossible for me to forget to recycle that cardboard box when my 6 year-old is standing nearby ready to recite the 7th principle to me. "

"The reason I love teaching in our UUCM lifespan program is because the kids inspire me and remind me of what's important," say Beth Freeman. "In our Soul Explorers class (ages 10 -13 years), I have had an opportunity to continue my own spiritual journey as I introduced our class to different spiritual beliefs and practices and how we live out our own beliefs through social action."



"I find that being with our teen group - whether it's teaching Popcorn Theology or the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program - is

president@uugrassvalley.org

Vice President - Rob Ferroggiaro

Treasurer - Joel Houtman

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At Large - Brett Torgimson, Sophia

McKean, Scottie Hart

LRE Director

Paige Anderson-Torgimson

dre@uugrassvalley.org

DLRE Office Hours:

Thursday 9-2, Friday 9-12

Director of Music Ministry

Annie Haymaker

Committee Chairs

Religious Education - Jo Waters

Membership - Shannon and Andy

Dooley-Miller

Social Action - Carol Kuczora

Worship - Lindsay Dunckel

Building and Grounds - Wally Holtan

Finance - Joel Houtman

Caring - Gwen Eymann

Stewardship - Wally Holtan

Green Sanctuary - Carol Kuczora

Committee on Ministry - Suzanne

Ferroggiaro

Endowment Fund - Christy Barden

Office Administrator -

Marion Peterson

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Office phone: 530.274.1675

Office Hours:

Sunday 10-12:30

Tuesday 2-5, Friday 11-4

rejuvenating," says Paul Elias. "Being around these amazing people gives me a positive outlook for our future."

"That's true," agrees Carol Ann. "I believe that teaching, or volunteering as a mentor or chaperone in the youth RE program rewards us again and again by giving us the opportunity to get to know these incredibly smart and creative younger members of our community. One never knows what surprising gems of insight will come from their fresh perspective. If it doesn't keep me younger, it certainly does keep me happier to know that the future belongs to these extraordinary young people!"

If you would like to volunteer as a teacher, be a member of the Lifespan Religious Education Committee, or help with a specific event, please contact Paige Anderson-Torgimson or Jo Waters - Religious Education Committee Chair.

Small Group Ministries



by Janet Dunstan

Community is about connecting, and small groups are a way of making connections. With a Small Group Ministry program, we deepen our relationships with each other, integrate new

members, and welcome visitors.

Affinity Groups

At UUCM we have a variety of common interest groups. These groups are typically formed around a common interest with the purpose of building community around that interest. Current Affinity Groups are: Drum Circle, Humanist Group, Meditation Group, Men's Groups, OWS (Older Women's Support Group), Spiritual Book Group, Women's Group, and the Writers' Group.

Affinity Groups usually meet year round, once or twice a month and are always open to new members. Since Affinity Groups do not create a group covenant they have regular and irregular attendees; people join and leave the group for any reason at any time.

Covenant Groups

These groups will be introduced during the summer for a fall start. They will be lay-led small groups which enhance and expand the life of a congregation. The purpose of these groups will be to build community and develop relationships, while providing the opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and a search for meaning.

Covenant Groups will meet for a finite period of time (September - June) to discuss a topic of their choice. Having a

10-month cycle provides an opportunity for people to change groups and join new ones each year. Group members (6-10 people) make an intentional commitment to remain in the group for the designated period, to participate in the discussion of the topic chosen, and to interact according to the group's promise (covenant) with each other. Creating a covenant encourages people to stay in the group to work through any conflicts or issues that arise while enabling spiritual growth and transformation to take place.

Later this summer, facilitator training will be made available to all Affinity Groups and to those interested in facilitating a Covenant Group.

If you would like to join an Affinity Group, please check our calendar in the Sunday Order of Service or stop by the Visitor Table in the foyer.

More information on Covenant Groups (fall schedule and signups) will be available in the coming months.

UU History Class

by Keith Johnson

Interested in learning more about our UU heritage? Join Keith Johnson and others in a UU history class which begins Tuesday, April 15 through Tuesday, June 3. Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church. We will explore our history from Roman times all the way to the present. Topics include Ralph Waldo Emerson's Divinity School Address, Universalism in America, 20th century Humanism, and much more. Please join us! For more information, contact Keith Johnson.

Caring Notes

by Gwen Eymann



This has been a month of much loss and sadness, and within this community we are given the opportunity to connect and show our care for one another. Please keep those who have experienced loss and those who have had challenges in their lives in your caring thoughts.

May and Frank Lawrence, and the Lawrence Family for the loss of their beloved husband/father/grandfather, Jerry

Kia Hatch for the loss of her sister

Sharon Moore

Custis Haynes for the loss of her husband, Ed

Joan Toensing for her recent fall

Cards and/or caring notes are appreciated.

We hold members of our community in our hearts for the spoken and unspoken concerns and joys.

Social Action



Fourth Friday Film Forum presents:
WHY In The World Are They Spraying? (73 min)

When: Friday, April 25, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Where: UU Community of the Mts. 246 South Church St.,
Grass Valley, CA

Since the release of the groundbreaking documentary, WHAT in the World Are They Spraying?, people have woken up to learn the government is fighting climate change by depositing various chemicals into the air. Many citizens are disturbed to learn these chemicals may be harmful to all life forms. As those who were previously unaware of these programs are now taking action, the question that is often asked is: why is this happening without public approval? Produced by Michael J. Murphy and in association with Barry Kolsky.

Hot Tea and Dessert available.
Stay for the lively discussion to follow film.
Suggested donation: \$5

Sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center of Nevada County
and the UUCM Social Action Committee.
FMI: <http://www.ncpeace.org/>

Art and Theology



by Robin Hart

Art and Theology - A 4 Part Artistic Event for the congregation of UUCM.
Rev. Denis L. Paul and the new UUCM Art and Aesthetics Committee will be presenting a 4 part artistic event for the congregation over the next two months. Come channel your spirituality and inner artist in these creative workshops following Sunday service in April, May and June. Materials will be provided.

Sunday, April 6th - RE classes - The children will do Abstract Expressionism in their RE classes today. This part of the project is for the kids to paint any wild way they want on the 7 - 30" X 40" illustration boards with acrylic paint.

Sunday, April 27th - 12:30-1:30pm- Session 1) Abstract Expressionism - "Who am I?" After the kids complete their part, we will be cutting the large painted boards into 240 pieces (that will eventually fit between the wood tracks that Joel Houtman installed in the back of the sanctuary). Everyone is free to explore their inner Jackson Pollock and add their personal touch to the cut painted

boards.

Sunday, May 18th - 12:30-1:30pm - Session 2) Photography - "To whom do I belong?" Bring a printed photo from your computer, from a store like Walgreens etc., or something from a magazine that has some personal meaning to you and decoupage (glue) the images to a painted art board.

Sunday, June 1st - 12:30-1:30pm- Session 3) Text as an image - "What am I called to do?" This last workshop will explore writing inspirational messages and adding them to the art boards.

When these are dry and completed the A&E team will magically arrange your masterpieces on the track wall in the back of the sanctuary and the following Sunday you will be treated to the completed Art Project.

For more info please contact Robin Hart

Annual Congregational Dinner



by Lin Jovanovic

In the past, the congregational dinner was held as a kick off for the canvas. This year your Stewardship Committee, ably chaired by Wally Holtan, invites you to celebrate a successful canvas and our stewardship as a congregation! Our annual congregational dinner will be held April 12, 2014 at UUCM from 5:30-9:00pm. There will be a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30, with dinner starting promptly at 6:30. BY this time you should have received an Evite to this event and we request that you RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan for staff and meals. Childcare will be provided if we have enough interested people. Additionally, we will need to be able to accurately plan the main course based on selected food preferences. The theme for the dinner is Italian and the menu includes antipasti, lasagna (meat, vegetarian, vegan), seasonal salad, bread, and a variety of bite-sized desserts. Wine, beer, coffee, tea, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available throughout the event.

What can you do? RSVP!! If you have any questions, please contact the coordinator for this event, Lin Jovanovic, at 209-484-0710 or linmosaic@yahoo.com.

Green Up Your Act



by Anita Wald-Tuttle

The Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to be a part of Earth Day on April 20.

Following the morning worship service there will be a ZERO WASTE EVENT in the Alcott Room. EVERYONE is invited to bring finger food that is local and organic - the use of plastic one-use containers is being discouraged.

Stroll while munching and visit tables set up in the Channing, Anthony, and Anthony Annex rooms displaying some of the concerns that Green Sanctuary believes we all should be thinking about. There will be information but few handouts (ZERO WASTE remember). Instead we plan a Tech Station where relevant information can be sent to your home computer. R.E. will be showing the film "Bag It" in the Sanctuary along with sample bags.

Bees, butterflies, water, public transportation, palm oil, CSAs, green cleaning tips, compressionless coolers, farm guides, gardens and more. Come and find out how you can "green up your act"!

Green Power Points

by Anita Wald-Tuttle



The Porcelain Gods.

Thinking of putting your tax return toward a bathroom remodel? The two most important things you can do are to install a water-efficient toilet and a shower head with a "trickle valve", which with a flick of the wrist, brings the flow down low while you lather up. Barring new hardware, you can get the same effect by turning the water off while you soap, shampoo, or condition, then turning it back on for a rinse. (note - This is what I do!)

Buy Buy Baby

Every green shopper needs a helping hand, and the Center for a New American Dream, which "helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice," provides just that. Learn more at www.newdream.org.

These thoughts come via my 2009 Calendar from Page-A-Day

UU Animal Ministry News & Recipe



by Carol Hyndman

This month I have a recipe for your favorite dog Peanut butter crunchies

1/2 c organic salt free smooth peanut

butter

1 c hot water

1 c organic wheat bran

1 c organic bulgur wheat

1/2 c organic flour of your choice

Pre heat oven to 350

Mix all ingredients

Using a large spoon or ice cream scoop, drop dough onto a parchment paper covered cookie sheet. Use a fork to press in the classic pattern on top, if desired. Dough will get harder to work with in just a few minutes so make cookies as soon as ingredients are mixed

Bake 50-60 min until crunchies just start to turn golden brown. Enjoy the wags your friend enjoys a treat you made.

Vegan supper club

Remember the vegan supper will be on Thurs March 27 at 6:30 here at UUCM. Bring a vegan (no animal ingredients) to share. If you have never attended bring yourself and check it out. there will be food enough to share

"You can say any foolish thing to a dog and the dog will give you a look that says, "Wow, you're right. I never would have thought of that."

Dave Barry

Spring Poetry Series

Poetry

by Ruth Ghio

April is Poetry Month. This is our third annual poetry reading. We will have two readings. In honor of Poetry Month we will have our first reading on Sunday April 27th from 2 to 4. We have some returning poets and some new poets reading.

The second reading will be on June 1st from 2 to 4. Again we will have some new poets and some returning poets. In honor of the poets who have been so generous in their sharing with us, it is my hope we will be able to have poets' books available for purchase.

The price of admission will be \$15. All proceeds will go to UUCM. Advance tickets will be available on April 1st for both readings. Tickets will also be available at the door for both events. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

Location: UUCM at 246 Church Street, Grass Valley, Ca.

For more information contact: Ruth Ghio at 530-272-6738 and rghio@me.com. or Eileen Hale at 530-273-1351 or eileenmice@eileenadelehale.com

I have been listening to a fabulous CD, POETS OF PEACE, Vital Voices in Troubled Times. I would like to share a story from this CD. Many of you may be familiar with this story. Please be patient with me, between disappearing memory, my diminished language skills, and dyslexia, I cannot remember the exact place or details, all I can remember is the heart of the

story. I believe that at the end of WWII when the allies visited a particular prison camp, they found stuck in the cracks of the walls of the last cells before execution, the gas chambers and death poems written on toilet paper. For me it was a reminder that poetry is the heart and soul of our deepest humanity.

Introduction To A Practice

Janet Bullock's pamphlet about her Buddhist practice is ready to distribute. The cost (printing) is \$1.50, or she can email it without cost as an attachment (22 pages).

Email Janet at janetbullock41@gmail.com to let her know if

1) you'd like a copy or

2) you'd like it emailed to you.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principle (5 of 7)

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

**Lifespan Religious Education/Spirit Play teaches...
Yearn to Accept and Learn About Ourselves
and Others (Yellow Promise)**

Next Newsletter

Wednesday, April 23rd

Please submit content to
editor@uugrassvalley.org

by Friday April 18th

