

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 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 last page.

- Enjoy!

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.

Upcoming Worship Services

November 2
Rev. David Usher
Beth Karow - WA

November 9
Rev. David Usher
Jo Waters - WA

November 16
Rev. David Usher
Lindsay Dunkel - WA

Daylight Savings Time
November 2, 2014
An Extra Hour of Sleep!

**Set your clock back one hour and enjoy
the extra rest!**

David Usher's Sermons on the Website

Not all of David Usher's sermons are in manuscript form: some are in notes or entirely extempore. Those that are in manuscript will be available on the website, and a note to that effect will be in the order of service for that day.

Five New Members Welcomed

November 23
Rev. David Usher
Sam Lautzenhiser - WA

November 30
Gail Johnson Vaughn
Beth Karow - WA

We are delighted to welcome five new members during the service on the 26th. They are Brendan Banister, Stacy Harr, Benjamin McPherson, Melissa Ridgeway and Sarah Scott. Brief bios for each of them will be included in the next issue of The Chalice. Please make sure you extend your own personal warm welcome.

CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

Monday, Oct 27
12:45 Transition Team

Tuesday, Oct 28
9:00am - Morning Meditation
6:00pm - PFLAG Meeting
6:30pm - Worship Comm.

Wednesday, Oct 29
8:30am - Men's Get-together
6:00pm - the Death of
Josseline Book Discussion

Thursday, Oct 30
8:30am - Men's Group at
What's Up Coffee
6:00pm - Interfaith Scripture
Study

Friday, Oct 31
4:00pm - Dinner Prep at
Utah's Place

Sunday, Nov 2
11:00am - Sunday Service
12:15pm - General Meeting

Monday, Nov 3
5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Nov 4
9:00am - Morning Meditation

Wednesday, Nov 5
8:30am - Men's Get-together
10:30am - Humanism
Discussion Group
6:00pm - The Death of

Minister's Reflections



by Reverend David Usher

Dear Friends,

On November 4th, you will have the opportunity to participate in your national democracy. Though not one of the "big" elections, still all elections are important and I urge you not to be cynical about the importance of politics but to exercise what is not only your duty but your privilege. It is one of our seven Unitarian Universalist principles to believe in the democratic process, and a weary dismissal of public life and all those in it is an abandonment of that principle. Unitarian Universalists have long since been in the forefront of public life and social reform, with an historic influence way out of proportion with our relatively small numbers, and that is something of which to be rightly proud and which we should strive to continue.

Though I am newly returned to the United States and am not as familiar with domestic issues as I might be, and as a non-citizen am not eligible to vote anyway (nor as someone not native born am I permitted to be your President, which is a serious crimp to my career ambitions), of course I have my political opinions and prejudices. As, no doubt, do you.

What is important for us all is that our political opinions reflect our religious values. Our individual UU theologies might be diverse but our religious values are more universally consistent, and as a body we have a strong bias towards the politics of social liberalism. As part of our longstanding emphasis on the rights of the individual, in more recent times we have been vocal champions of women's reproductive rights, full equality of the LGBT

Josseline Book Discussion
7:00pm - Drumming Circle

Thursday, Nov 6

8:30am - Men's Group at
What's Up Coffee
6:00pm - Behind the Kitchen
Door

Sunday, Nov 9

9:00am - Moving on from
Church Folly Lane
11:00am - Sunday Service

Monday, Nov 10

5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Nov 11

9:00am - Morning Meditation
4:30pm - Stewardship
Committee

6:00pm - Women's Group

Wednesday, Nov 12

8:30am - Men's Get-together
6:00pm - What in the World is
a UU
7:00pm - Drumming Circle

Thursday, Nov 13

8:30am - Men's Group at
What's Up Coffee
10:30am - Writers Group
6:00pm - Behind the Kitchen
Door
6:30pm - Board of Trustees

Saturday, Nov 15

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

Sunday, Nov 16

9:00am - Moving on from
Church Folly Lane
11:00am - Sunday Service
12:15pm - General Meeting

Monday, Nov 17

5:30pm - Choir Practice

Tuesday, Nov 18

9:00am - Morning Meditation
1:00pm - Grandmothers for
Peace

community, the rights of religious and ethnic minorities, and the humane and compassionate treatment of those who fall foul of the judicial and immigration system.

It is very important, however, that we do not make the lazy assumption that we all vote for the same party or have the same view on every issue. If we are to be a safe place for all, then those with minority political views must know that they can voice those views with the expectation of honest and respectful engagement rather than ridicule. The politics of bigotry, hatred, violence and fear are not welcome at UUCM but, as with theology, we must always remind ourselves that in politics it is possible for good people to have different views on many issues.

So, vote early and often on the 4th. And be glad that you live in a country where you may do so.

See you in church!
David

This and That... **UUCM General Updates**

By Reverend David Usher

Social Hour on the Patio

The lovely autumnal weather should last for several more weeks and while it does, we might experiment with having our Social Hour after the service on the front patio rather than in the Alcott Room. That

way we can avoid the congestion in the Alcott room and the corridor leading to it, enjoy the sunshine, and show passersby that we are a lively congregation which knows how to enjoy itself.

Sunday School Children to attend the first part of the service

As of November 2, the children, youth and leaders of the Sunday School programme will attend the first part of the service, retiring for their own programme after the story. They are asked to sit in the front pews. This will be a resumption of the former practice. The young people of our congregation are a full part of who we are.

Latecomers

Services start promptly at 11.00, but inevitably some people arrive a little late and this can cause some congestion and noise in the foyer. As an experiment

4:00pm - Membership
Committee
7:00pm - David Rovics
Concert

Wednesday, Nov 19

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

Thursday, Nov 20

8:30am - Men's Group at
What's Up Coffee
2:00pm - Barbara Covenant
Group
6:00pm - Behind the Kitchen
Door

Friday, Nov 21

4:00pm - Dinner Prep at
Utah's Place
7:00pm - Humanism
Discussion Group
Mt. Chalice Articles Due

Saturday, Nov 22

10:00am - Stewardship
Workshop
5:00pm - Guest at Your Table
- Dinner

Sunday, Nov 23

9:00am - Social Justice
Coordinating Committee
9:00am - Moving on From
Church Folly Lane
11:00am - Sunday Service

Tuesday, Nov 25

9:00am - Morning Meditation
6:00pm - PFLAG Meeting
6:30pm - Worship Committee

Wednesday, Nov 26

8:30am - Men's Get-together
4:30pm - Finance Comm.

Thursday, Nov 27

THANKSGIVING DAY

Friday, Nov 28

7:00pm - Fourth Friday Film
Mountain Chalice Published

Saturday, Nov 29

12:00pm Wiley Martin
Memorial Service

starting on November 2, late-comers will be asked to enter by the side entrance off Walsh St.

All Souls/Day of the Dead Service, November 2

The service on November 2 will be an opportunity for us to remember those whom we have loved in life but have passed on to the mystery beyond. Please bring a photograph or other memento of those you wish to be remembered. These will be placed on an altar during the service.

Inter-generational Thanksgiving Service

The Service on November 23 will be an Intergenerational Celebration of Thanksgiving, with everyone remaining in the sanctuary for the whole service.

Calendar Planning & Co-ordination

There will be a meeting of all programme groups and committees on Wednesday 5th November at 2.00pm in the Channing Room. The purpose of this meeting will be to plan and co-ordinate the calendar of events for January - June 2015 so that we not only avoid clashes of dates but also ensure that our overall programme is balanced and comprehensive.

Stewardship Workshop

The Board has invited George Swank to lead a Workshop on Stewardship on November 22. He has an excellent reputation for his work with congregations looking at their stewardship and financial practices, and his workshop will be very timely as UUCM contemplates the exciting challenges and possibilities for the immediate future. The Workshop is designed for the attendance of the Board and members of the Stewardship, Finance and Membership Committees only.

President's Perspective

by Rob Ferroggiaro



This is an exciting time in the evolution of our UU community, with the expansion of membership, worship services and programs. We will continue to thrive not only because of the financial generosity of our members and friends, but just as importantly, because there are community members who are willing

Sunday, Nov 30

9:00am - Moving on From

Church Folly Lane

11:00am - Sunday Service

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Sunday: 10-12:30

Mt. Chalice

editor@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM Board of Trustees

President - Rob Ferroggiaro

president@uugrassvalley.org

Vice President - Amy Renee'

Treasurer - Janet Dunstan

Secretary - Scottie Hart

At Large - Dawn Bateman,

Bonnie Bennett, Dave

MacLeod, Carol Wong

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Snow Hernandez

dre@uugrassvalley.org

DLRE Office Hours:

TBA

Director of Music Ministry

Annie Haymaker

Committee Chairs

Religious Education - Jo Waters

Membership - Kathryn E.

to serve in their own unique way as volunteers in the roles that make everything at UUCM possible. This invokes the full meaning of stewardship, including the "time and talent" as well as the "treasure".

During the months ahead there will be lots to do and many opportunities for people to get involved for the first time, with options for a variety of talents. For example you can stick to an area you know, or branch out and try something new. Also you'll likely find people nearby to provide support. So if you have been thinking about contributing time and talent, I'm asking that you "throw up your hand" and step in as a volunteer.

But I'm not suggesting this because there is much to do. I'm suggesting that you do it for yourself. Here's why.

The book *Serving With Grace* (available in our library) points out that becoming more intimately involved in church life does not have to be a burden, but can be considered a part of our spiritual practice. Many of us are finding this to be true.

By becoming more deeply involved you will build nourishing connections with other members. You will get to know them and your UU community in a way that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

You'll get to know yourself through opportunities to interact with people who share your hopes and enthusiasm, but who will have their own unique ideas.

You'll know that you are not counting on others to take care of things.

You'll have the satisfaction of seeing how your energy and ideas can help create the community we yearn for.

If you are open to the opportunity to become more engaged, please see Rev. David or a member of the Board of Trustees. We can explore the possibilities together

RE Reflections

by Snow Hernandez

RE classes are well under way and it's been wonderful getting to know everyone and watching things fall into

Young
 Social Justice - TBA
 Worship - Lindsay Dunckel
 Building and Grounds - Wally
 Holtan
 Finance - Joel Houtman
 Caring - Gwen Eymann
 Stewardship - Beryl Beckwith
 Green Sanctuary - Anita Wald-
 Tuttle
 Committee on Ministry -
 Suzanne Ferroggiaro
 Endowment Fund - Christy
 Barden

place. A big thanks to all who came to the RE kickoff event at the end of September. For those who missed it, I am always available to answer questions or just to chat! Find me on a Sunday morning or send me an email at dre@uugrassvalley.org. Pamphlets describing our RE program as well as the Adult RE schedule can be found on the tables in the foyer.

Further thanks to those who came to our youth BBQ fundraiser! We sold out of food and are thrilled to have had so many folks come out to support the youth program. The BBQ helped the youth fundraise for their annual trip.

In the coming weeks and months, UUCM will be facing some changes, and some of these changes will affect the RE program. There will be many opportunities for all to give input on how to best manage these changes with regards to RE. I welcome any input from RE families, kids, youth, and anyone with an opinion!

In faith,
 Snow Hernandez, DLRE

Stewardship Committee

by Beryl Beckwith



Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent, treasure and commitment.

As a member of UUCM, to what extent you respond to these expectations is for you to determine, but the more wholeheartedly you do so, the more likely that your membership will be meaningful to you and others.

Take your spiritual life seriously. This means coming to worship, the most significant way to be part of the community. Offer some of your time and talent to the community. This is not only because this is necessary for the well-being of the organization, it is necessary for your own well-being. Contribute financially. Your money is needed not to maintain an institution, but to support the work and mission of that institution. Your money supports meaningful, inspirational and inclusive worship every Sunday. How much you give will depend on your

personal circumstances. The important thing is that your financial contribution is a true reflection of the place UUCM has in your life. Generosity is key to spiritual well-being. Give because your heart is open.

Commit to making a beneficial difference to the wider world. Whether you choose to do this individually or collectively with others at UUCM, expect to take our liberal-hearted, inclusive and love-based values into the world with you.

Introducing the Endowment Legacy Program for Planned Giving



by George Dunstan

The UUCM Endowment Fund is a means for us to effectively manage the financial gifts we make beyond pledges. Over time the Fund will serve as a crucial source of funding for programs and facilities that further the purposes and aspirations of our congregation in a way that wouldn't be possible with only the general budget.

The Endowment Committee is happy to announce the start of a new program. Previously we introduced Simple Gifts, a plan for anytime giving in honor of special life events. We are now introducing the Endowment Legacy Program for planned giving.

People make planned gifts because it is a way to show their support in a more significant way than what is possible with donations from earned income. Often a planned gift is the largest single gift members will ever make.

Brochures with more information about the Endowment Legacy Program will soon be available. You can also talk with one of your Endowment Committee Members; Christy Barden, Rob Ferroggiaro, Ron Drake, and George Dunstan.

Holiday Choir Open to All

By Annie Haymaker, Director of Music Ministry

Music is a big part of the winter holiday season at UUCM,



and our choir contributes some fine songs. This year we're beginning the rehearsals in November, and opening them up to anyone who likes to sing Christmas, Hannukah, and other holiday music. You don't need to have sung in a choir before or know how to read music. Rehearsals are from 5:30 - 7:00 on the first 3 Mondays of each month, Nov 3, 10, 17, and Dec 1, 8, 15, and you may attend as many rehearsals as you wish. Janet Bullock is leading the group, which will sing for the Holiday service on Sunday, Dec. 21. Please call Janet at 477-8760 if you have any questions.

Starting in January, there will be three new opportunities for making music at UUCM. Musicians' Night, with Jim Lowe and UUCM vocalists and groups working on service music, will be held on Monday nights. Evening Choir will continue their evening rehearsals, with Janet Bullock as facilitator. Morning Choir, led by Annie Haymaker once a month before the service, will practice the hymns of the day and help lead the congregation in song during the service. More information about these will be in the December newsletter.

Hospitality House ***Dinner Prep and Serve at Utah's Place***



by Leal Portis

Third and Fifth Fridays of each month!

November 21 is this month's date.

We have decided on a consistent menu of Enchilada Pie, Coleslaw, Cookies, Ice Cream, Lemonade. Breakfast items are variable.

We also have six spaces each time that need to be filled for servers/cooks/helpers.

We meet at Utah's Place between 4 and 4:30 to cook and serve.

Please contact Leal Portis at 265-3887.

Social Justice Coordinating Committee

The committee has been meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Anthony Library. Visitors are always welcome to sit in and discover what we're up to!

Singer-songwriter and social activist David Rovics will be in concert at UUCM in Grass Valley on

November 18 as part of his Fall Tour of the US and Canada. Rovics is well-known in activist circles for supporting peace, justice, and the environment. He's been featured on Democracy Now! and other media outlets and Andy Kershaw of the BBC says "If the great Phil Ochs were to rise from the dead today, he would probably be hailed as the new David Rovics." Check him out at: www.davidrovics.com.

PLUS: Opening band: "Justice For The Peace", with local musicians Jeffrey Gottesman, Jamie Lynn, and friends!

The Concert is co-sponsored by the UUCM Social Justice Committee, the Palestine-Israel Working Group, and the Peace and Justice Center of Nevada County.

Doors open at 6:30. Concert begins at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation: \$10, but no one turned away for lack of funds.

"THE WISDOM TO SURVIVE", presented by the Fourth Friday Film Forum on November 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. "The Wisdom to Survive" accepts the consensus of scientists that climate change has already arrived, and asks, what is keeping us from action? The film explores how unlimited growth and greed are destroying the life support system of the planet, the social fabric of the society, and the lives of billions of people. Will we have the wisdom to survive? The film features thought leaders and activists in the realms of science, economics and spirituality discussing how we can evolve and take action in the face of climate disruption. They urge us to open ourselves to the beauty that surrounds us and get to work on ensuring it thrives.

Amongst those featured are Bill McKibben, Joanna Macy, Roger Payne, Richard Heinberg, Gus Speth, Stephanie Kaza, Nikki Cooley and Ben Falk.

Suggested donation \$6.00-\$10.00 and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Organic popcorn & treats available, with discussion to follow film. All proceeds shared with UUCM and the Peace and Justice Center of Nevada County whose mission of bringing information to the public about matters of local and international concern are addressed. For more information call (530) 615-7859 or visit website ncpeace.org, or email at ncpeace@sbcglobal.net

UU Animal Ministry News and Recipe

There will be another tour of Animal Place in Nov. It will be Sat the 8 at 11 am. The cost is \$5. Please call me if you would like to go. 477-1003 or 477-0693. If there is enough interest I would like to order ticket as a group.

Baby potatoes and artichokes with lemon and rosemary
Serves 4

3 Tbs olive oil, divided

1 13.75 oz can water packed artichoke hearts, drained and halved

4 c quartered baby potatoes

1/3 c pitted Kalamata olives quartered

2 cloves garlic, minced (2tsp)

1 tsp chopped rosemary

1 tsp gratd lemon zest

1/2 vegetable broth

Heat 1Tbsp oil in skillet over med heat. Cook artichoke hearts cut side down without stirring, 4-5 min until lightly browned. Transfer to plate, set aside. Heat remaining 2 Tbsp oil in skillet. Ad potatoes. Stir, cover pan, reduce heat to med-low and cook 10 min until potatoes are deeply golden all over. Uncover pan, add artichokes, olives, garlic, rosemary and lemon zest. Stir 15-30 seconds. Add broth cover and simmer 5-6 min until potatoes are just tender and liquid reduces to a light gravy.

"I care not much for a man's religion whose dog or cat are not the better for it."

Abraham Lincoln

Submitted by Carol Hyndman

Green Power Points:

by Anita Wald-Tuttle

Resolve to eliminate all commercially manufactured, chemical-laden cleaning products from your home. Begin the transition by buying a jumbo-sized box of baking soda, which you can use to scrub almost anything; you can even dilute it with water to make a cleansing spray. A short list of other nontoxic products will keep your home sparkling with zero threat to the environment. Google "green cleaning" or check out www.thegreenguide.com.

And another green tip as the colder days creep up on us. To avoid spraying for pests or even having to lay a hand on the odd insect that wanders into your home, find the places where they enter and block them up.

These tips come to you from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar

Guest at Your Table

Saturday, November 22

5 pm at UUCM

by Jo Waters

To celebrate Guest at Your Table this year, come to a fundraising dinner in the name of food sustainability. Food and information will be provided showcasing work being done in Haiti, Honduras, and Kenya by the UU Service Committee. Bring your network - friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, and others - together for a great cause and help raise awareness about vital human rights work happening all over the world. Donations will be collected for the UU Service Committee and to cover the cost of the meal, but donations are not required to attend.

RSVP's requested. Details and sign-up sheets will be coming.

Jesus Seminar

November 7-8

First Congregational Church in Auburn is hosting their annual 'Jesus Seminar' presented by Westar Institute on November 7-8.

The presentations for this Friday evening and all day Saturday event are:
How to Live in an Empire: Then and Now
The Gospel of Jesus
God, Money, and the Military
Life and the Art of Wisdom
Is Jesus of Nazareth Presidential Timber?

They build in a lot of time for questions.

These seminars are done all over the US and George and I have been to several (the first one we went to caused me to leave the Lutheran Church). We have heard these two speakers before and they are excellent and extremely knowledgeable professors. These events seem to attract a lot of UUs.

I have attached the flyer with more details and a registration form. We can take 2 more in our car if anyone is interested.

More on Westar: <http://www.westarinstitute.org>

2014 Walking the Walk Justice Leadership Summit November 14-16

Registration is now open for the 2014 Walking the Walk Justice Leadership Summit. This year we meet on November 14 - 16 in beautiful Sausalito, CA. This dynamic conference brings together justice seeking UU's for a weekend of worship, workshops, practical skills, networking and community building. Eco-philosopher and activist Joanna Macy and the Reverend Deborah Holder, Minister of Beloved Community for the UUA Western Region will be featured. Workshops by outstanding UU leaders will also be offered to help us strengthen our congregational justice work and become more grounded in UU theologies and history that support action in the world. Learn strategies to address climate change, housing insecurity, and advance immigrant justice, the human right to water, and LGBTQI rights. Network and learn how to build effective multi-faith coalitions. Come be with colleagues and UU's from across the state for inspirational worship and the warmth of UU justice community. We begin with a luncheon for clergy at 12:30 on Friday and end with lunch on Sunday. There is a 15% clergy discount! Just enter the code

"chalicekeeper" upon registering.

To learn more or to register go to the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California's website uujmca.org. Spots fill in fast so reserve your space today.

Youth Ministry Advisor Training

November 14-16

Hosted by: UU Church of Berkeley (<http://www.uucb.org>)

Facilitated by: Eric Bliss and Kristin Famula

To Register:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=mk4zlobab&oeidk=a07e9s1lbhzcaa0f8c9>

Adapted from the UUA Chrysallis Model and integrating the best practices of youth ministry recommended by Mark DeVries: "Sustainable Youth Ministry," this weekend long, 15 hour training will examine the 6 Pillars of Balanced Youth Groups, the Web of Youth Ministry (as put forth by the UUA Youth Ren Module), and concrete, inspiring methods with which to make this very important work nourishing and transformational for adult advisers.

Come hungry. Leave happy knowing you are prepared to partner with your congregation's youth to go deeper than ever before.

Eric Bliss, Director of Religious Exploration at First Unitarian Denver, is a native of Knoxville, TN, where he grew up attending both Westside Unitarian Universalist and Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Churches.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Teacher's Certificate in the States of Tennessee and Utah. As a career educator, Eric has taught secondary science classes from Ecology - to Chemistry - to English as a Second Language. Eric has been active in UU leadership virtually his entire life, beginning as a YRUU group leader, eventually becoming a youth mentor, coordinator, and advisor at places such as The Mountain, NCCJ's "Anytown," Ferry Beach, Ququest Youth Camp, and GA Youth Caucus. Eric is currently a member of the Fahs Collaborative Guiding Team, Chair of his District LREDA Chapter, and Chaplain to Youth for the Mountain Desert District. He is the loving father of a beautiful boy, named Hollis, is an avid soccer fan and coach, loves skateboarding, playing guitar, and exploring the outdoors.

Kristin Famula, a life-long UU, is the Director of Create Meaning Northern Nevada, a "Congregations and Beyond" outreach ministry. Before moving to CA in December, she spent the past seven years as the director of religious education at a UU church in Colorado. She has dedicated much of her UU professional life to working to build offerings that truly meet the needs of children, youth and adults - creatively discovering new ways for all UU's to explore our faith.

Kristin also serves as a program leader for the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice - coordinating educational and experiential travel experiences for UUs (most recently travelling to Mississippi on a multigenerational civil rights journey), and serves as co-founder and program director for the National Peace Academy which offers educational peace-building programs.

In her spare time Kristin enjoys exploring her new town, playing music, and traveling.

To Register:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=mk4zlobab&oeidk=a07e9s1lbhzcaa0f8c9>

Our Unitarian Universalist Principle (5 of 7)

**Lifespan Religious Education/Spirit Play
teaches...**

***Yearn to Accept and Learn about
Ourselves and Others.***

(Yellow Promise).

Next Newsletter

Friday, November 28

**Please submit content to editor@uugrassvalley.org
and put "newsletter" in subject line.**

by Friday November 21

