

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Monthly Newsletter for March 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

Two Service Times: 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

March 1 **Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson**
Worship Associate: Sam Lautzenhiser
Music: Jim Lowe

Sermon entitled "Living the Liberal Faith".

March 8 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Beth Karow
Music: Tom Wernigg

This service will mark the launch of the Generosity Campaign

March 15 **Joe McHugh**
Worship Associate: Lindsay Dunckel
Music: Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young

Sermon title is: "The Telling Takes Us Home: What Family Stories Can Teach Us About Compassion, Forgiveness, Morality, Serendipity, and the Afterlife."

March 22 **Rev. David Morris,**
co-minister of Mt. Diablo UU Church
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby
Music: Choir

Rev. Morris presents a sermon entitled, "Suspending Judgment".

March 29 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson Vaughan
Music: Michael Bankston & Randy McKean

April 5 **Rev. David Usher**
Easter *Worship Associate: Bev Lyon*
Music: Conrad Sisk

Come celebrate Easter Sunday from a UU perspective

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*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Maundy Thursday Communion Meal Thursday, April 2nd at UUCM

Maundy Thursday falls this year on April 2. It is the end of Lent and marks the start of the season of Easter, the most important festival on the Christian calendar. To celebrate this festival Rev. David invites you to share in a simple Maundy Thursday meal of bread, cheese and fruit, with wine and non-alcoholic alternative, along with guided conversation about the place Jesus has in your personal theological pantheon. Suggested minimum donation: \$5. The meal will begin at 6.00 pm.

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health Thursday, March 19th, at UUCM

The first of four sessions studying David Usher's book, *Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health*, will be held on Thursday 19th March. A practical manual, designed for use by anyone seeking a fuller, more meaningful life- "life measured by quality and intensity, not quantity"- within the context of everyday demands and distractions. It does not assume any formal belief system or religious affiliation on the part of the reader, although it draws inspiration from a wide range of world faiths.

The journey to spiritual health can start at any point, and the twelve steps of this book do not have to be followed in strict sequence, provided that readers are willing to be led out of their familiar comfort zones at some point. The journey can be undertaken alone, or by groups of like-minded people as a shared exercise. Each chapter ends with questions for individual reflection or group discussion. David now has copies of the book available for sale for \$15.

Save the Date! UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon June 24-28

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 24 - 28. These annual meetings are great occasions, full of excellent lectures, presentations, workshops, worship and fun times. Those who have been in the past nearly always return inspired, invigorated and enthused. The meetings are peripatetic (next year will be in New Orleans), so having them relatively just up the road is an added reason to attend. Full registration details are in the UU World magazine.

Dear UUCM Members and Friends,

In early February I had the great good fortune to attend the Institute for Excellence in Ministry, held at Asilomar in Pacific Grove and sponsored by the UU Ministers' Association. This was the third such Institute. I attended the first four years ago, also at Asilomar, but missed the one two years ago in Florida. About 450 UU ministers came from all over the country, with an international sprinkling as well, for five days of wonderful worship, workshops and conversation, all of it in glorious sunshine in that spectacular coastal setting. What a treat!

I have been a minister now for almost 34 years. Add the four years I spent at college studying for the ministry, and that constitutes nearly all of my adult life spent in the preparation and practice of ministry. I feel amazingly blessed to have spent my career doing the work of my vocational choosing, work which has brought me great satisfaction and joy though also not a few sleepless nights. I get out of bed virtually every morning eager for what the day will bring.

Yet, for all my many years in ministry, I remain challenged by its many demands. I remain challenged by the idealism which first called me to this work; I remain challenged by the vision of what yet might be; I remain challenged to draw from the best of who I am in service to the best of what Unitarian Universalism is. I remain glad and grateful to have been born into this faith so that I did not have to spend time without it or in search of it. It was there for me from birth, and it has always been part of who I am.

I returned from those five days at Asilomar with renewed conviction that what we offer the world is of great value, with strengthened determination that we will offer it with generosity and goodwill, and that here at UUCM, we will be the best that we can be. We will be a community which subscribes to noble ideals and which seeks to live out those ideals in our daily lives; we will be a community which demands excellence in our worship and our witness; and we will be a community standing on the side of love in our dealings with each other and with the hurting world.

I am very glad to be here with you.

See you in church!

David



Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

February Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

Hello, UUCM!

At our January congregational meeting our UUA Ministerial Search Consultant, Bob Miess, explained the main steps in the search process and offered advice for us to consider as we conduct our search. We will be posting on the Denominational Bulletin Board a timeline of key ministerial search activities as well as a list of some of Bob's hints. We will update the timeline as the search progresses. We also have plans to place key ministerial search-related information, including the time line, on our web site for easier access.

I also want to take this opportunity to pass along a reminder that the UUA General Assembly will be held June 24-28. As many of you know, the location changes each year and this year it will be in Portland, Oregon. This is the first time in several years that it has been on the west coast, so it's a great opportunity for our UUCM Community to participate. Make plans early since registration fees are discounted prior to May 1, and less expensive accommodations tend to fill early. More information about the event, including info about accommodations, can be found at www.uua.org/ga/

- Rob

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

Rob Ferroggiaro, *President*
Amy Renee Patterson, *Vice-President*
Janet Dunstan, *Treasurer*
Scottie Hart, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

Dawn Bateman, Bonnie Bennett,
David MacLeod, Carol Wong

Board of Trustees Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Channing Room at UUCM. All are welcome.

- Rev. David provided additional detail on plans for the Vision Day meeting on Feb 28th which will be attended by the Board, minister, and representatives of the Finance and program committees. This will help the Board set goals for the remaining 16 months of the interim ministry.
- David MacLeod reported on the Finance Committee's planning for the 2015/16 budget and the forecast for 2016-17. The main financial challenge will be the addition of the ministerial search costs, and direct and indirect expenses associated with the settled minister. The Board concurred with the options the Committee plans to explore. Among them were possible short term borrowing, and an additional fund raising activity as recommended by our Stewardship Consultant.
- A meeting date was set for representatives of the Board and Finance Committees to meet with our UUA Ministerial Compensation Consultant to begin development of a first draft of the Ministerial Compensation Package that we would offer to candidates for our settled minister position.
- There was continuing discussion of options for improvement of internet communications.
- The Board reviewed options for updating and clarifying our building rental and use policy. Action was deferred until March.
- Future Board of Trustees meetings will start at 6:00 PM.

Vision Day February 28th

Members of the Board and representatives of the main program committees met with Rev. David on February 28 for a Vision Day. The purpose of the day was to look honestly at where we are now, and where we reasonably hope to be by July 2016 when David will leave at the end of his two year Interim Ministry.

Stewardship Committee

Engaging Our World with Generosity – Serving People and Changing Lives

by Beryl Maclean Beckwith
UUCM Stewardship Chair and Generosity Campaign Team Leader

UUCM continues to work closely with our skilled consultant, Bud Swank. Bud is guiding the work of UUCM's Generosity Campaign Team and Stewardship committee, and many other church leaders and congregants, to help establish both a short and long term stewardship plan. Our focus is to enlarge our visions as a congregation, and to match those visions, with an enhanced spirit of giving accompanied by an ongoing spiritual journey to finding the joy of generosity.

The goal for UUCM's upcoming spring generosity campaign is to reach a 15% increase as a congregation. Some of our people are already giving so generously that we'll just be asking them to keep on doing what they're already doing. Others will be asked to consider making that 15% increase, and there may be some that would be able to consider doubling their giving. No one can make a gift they do not have, but everyone can be generous.

Generosity Campaign "Gold Star" Team Picking Up Steam

More and more people continue to receive gold stars for volunteering in ways both small and large to be part of the team working to make 2015 the most generous-hearted year ever. Keep on the look-out for more gold stars on the name tags of those volunteers, and be sure to thank and congratulate them.

Save the Date – April 10th is UUCM's Annual Spring Wine Tasting and Sale!

Please mark your calendars for Friday April 10th, 2015 for the UUCM's Annual Spring Wine Tasting and sale with our own Dave Luce. This is a perfect chance to stock up on your summer wines. Detail and further information will be provided as we get closer to this fun event.



Save the Date - April 19th is UUCM's Generosity Commitment Sunday

Please mark your calendars for April 19th so we may all come together for a very special day of commitment and offerings as a congregation. This will include worship with our special guest speaker Rev. John Buehrens, Minister at San Francisco Unitarian Church and former President of the UUA. We'll also serve a delicious light brunch as we spend a beautiful day together to bring forward our commitments to our church and its ministries. We ask for your support as we continue the ongoing spiritual journey to finding the joy of generosity. Stay tuned for more details!

KEY STEWARDSHIP DATES

Be sure to put these dates in your calendar now.

March 8	The Generosity Campaign is officially launched
April 8	Generosity Leadership Training and Commitment Supper (for invited leaders)
April 10	Spring Wine Market Fundraiser
April 19	Generosity Commitment Sunday
May 2	Spring Live and Silent Auction Fundraiser
May 17	Generosity Celebration Sunday

UUCM Spring Auction – Save the Date – Saturday, May 2nd

by Bob Miller

UUCM's annual auction will have a new twist this year. On Saturday, May 2nd you are invited to attend a catered dinner and auction at UUCM. Some items will be auctioned live while others will be offered for silent bidding as we have done in previous years. We will be selling tickets nearer the event. Expect a fun evening with some irrational behavior!

Now is the time to think about your donation – dinners, guided tours, hikes, cakes, pies, car washing, baby minding, vacation homes, bike maintenance, harp lessons, gardening help, brain surgery, new unused items – whatever skill, interest or item you wish to donate to UUCM. See Bob Miller to work on your service/item.

We already have the beginnings of a team – Master of Ceremonies – Christy Barden; Catering – Wally Holtan; Wine/beer sales – Keith Johnson. We can use your help too – contact Bob Miller (530-205-5047 or bob@sierramiller.com).



Membership and Hospitality

Meet our Newest Members

As part of the service on February 15 we were delighted to welcome nine people into membership at UUCM. We look forward to their participation in the life of the congregation. An additional four joined, but could not participate in the ceremony. Please make an effort to reach out and welcome each of these new members next time you see them.

EUNIS BENECKE

Eunis was born on Folly Beach, South Carolina, near Charleston, and never quite got the sand out of her shoes. Although she loves the beauty of the foothills and mountains, she believes Mother Earth visits the mountains but lives at the beach! She has lived in Nevada County since 1987, is married, spent 20 years as a "Navy Wife," in a military family; has traveled extensively around the world; has 4 children, 3 of whom graduated from Nevada Union, but none returned after completing college. Consequently, she travels often to Long Beach, Houston and Atlanta to visit them and three grandchildren, soon to be four (her joy this week)! She had three careers; retiring in 2009 from the last, Network Administrator, instructional computer labs, Sierra College, Rocklin. She comes to UUCM for a deeper spiritual connection to this community, for the intellectual and progressive message; for the respect of individual beliefs, and a continued pursuit and development of her personal faith and quest for peace.

BOB BRANSTROM

Though born in New York, Bob grew up in California, moving to the Bay area in 1983 to work for Wells Fargo Bank for a decade. He returned to school for a doctorate in psychology, and worked another 10 years as a researcher at United Behavioral Health, a managed care company specializing in mental health care. He retired five years ago, and moved to Grass Valley in October of 2013, where he now enjoys living in co-housing at Wolf Creek Lodge. At various times Bob has fancied himself an outdoorsman, an urban farmer and an artist. In truth, he's dabbled in all of these, becoming a jack-of-all-trades, master of none. His current interests include hiking, photography, music and videography. He volunteers with the Nevada County Master Gardeners and in the Compassionate Care Program at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. He's happy to have found a community of thoughtful and caring people at UUCM.

JENNIFER AND ERIC DAHLGREN

Jennifer and Eric originally became UUCM members in the early 2000s and are returning after a hiatus of several years. They were very involved here; Jennifer chaired the Worship Committee, was a worship associate, a choir member, and both helped with landscaping. Eric also ushered, and continues to work with Leal at Hospitality House.

Eric is self-employed in the healthcare equipment leasing business. He was raised Episcopalian, and appreciates the diversity and openness of Unitarian Universalism. He enjoys sports and is a volunteer baseball coach at the high school in his spare time.

Jennifer is self-employed as a PR consultant. She enjoys singing with Music in the Mountains, as well as cooking and gardening. Jennifer and Eric have a son, Zach, who is 23 and is a software engineer in Marin County. They look forward to getting more involved again at UUCM.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Theresa Houtman, Kathy MacLeod,
Claire Miller, Sarah Scott

Committee meetings are from 4-5:30:00 p.m.
on the third Monday of each month
in the Anthony Room

*We're always looking for friendly people who
enjoy getting involved...come join us!*

NANCY FINLAY

Nancy Finlay has dipped in and out of Unitarian life since early childhood, with some Quaker meeting thrown in for good measure. She has never made a formal commitment to become a member until now. Nancy feels ready to commit to this wonderful community and is eager to get to

know everyone better. She feels that she has a lot to learn and that we are a terrific source she hopes to draw upon. You may already know her sister, Barbara Chestnut.

A further five people have indicated their wish to join also, but were unable to attend. We look forward to welcoming them formally as part of a service sometime in the Spring.

CAROL AND TERRY HOLLIMAN

Terry and Carol arrived in the Auburn area three years ago from Oklahoma, motivated by the empty nest opportunity to find more congenial weather, and by Carol's work with IBM selling to California clients. Carol has spent many years as a meditation practitioner and teacher as a means of achieving balance with the intense corporate world she travels in. Her religious background started in adulthood with explorations in both Protestant Christian denominations and Eastern teachings.

Terry was educated at the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor in Architectural Engineering, Masters in Construction

Membership and Hospitality

Management and Environmental Science, and PhD studies in Indoor Air Quality. He has over 40 years experience with various forms of meditation as well as progressing through Protestant Christian churches from Southern Baptist to United Church of Christ. His personal study interest is in the mysticism of the Early Christian Church and Integral Spirituality. Both Carol and Terry are interested in joining a religious and spiritual community that supports open dialog and diversity of thought.

BECAH EBELING, DOUG AND SAMUEL LAUTZENHISER

Doug, Becah, and Samuel first laid eyes on Nevada County in the winter of 2000 while visiting friends. They fell in love with the landscape and local vibe, and subsequently moved to Nevada City in 2003.

Doug works as a Project Coordinator at Telestream, Becah is employed as an Office Manager at Designer Business Forms, and Samuel is Junior at Nevada Union High School. You may recognize Samuel, as he joined the Worship Committee last year and has been the Worship Associate on numerous occasions.

The family became familiar with UUCM through their volunteer work at Hospitality House, this will be their maiden voyage at church membership. Bon Voyage!

YVONNE MILLS

Yvonne was born and raised in Grass Valley. At age eleven, she moved with her parents to Santa Clara County where she attended the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. After retiring from a career with the County of Santa Clara, she happily returned to the foothills. She enjoys genealogy and walking through nature, and is excited to join our community.

JULIE AND DAN TEICHERT

Julie became curious about UUCM when her best friend Rochelle described to her it's mission and encouraged her to come check it out. Now Julie is honored to join this just, open, and progressive group. Julie is an RN working in labor and delivery, and after 25 years is still in awe of the births she gets to attend. Last year she and her family hosted a student from Germany, and it inspired her to become the program's coordinator for our Nevada County region where her role is to connect American host families with great international students. Julie has possibly the best husband in the world, Dan, and together they have shaped their lives around their three unique and delightful children.

Many years ago Dan's parents moved him to the fine town of Grass Valley. Time went by and Dan eventually met his future wife, Julie, at 4H camp up in the Sierra wilds. They married, went off to college, had three wonderful kids and eventually

found their way back to Grass Valley after many years of adventures and travels. Dan is a Jack of all trades including credentialed teacher, mechanic, carpenter, welder, plumber, electrical guy as well as other dabbings in organic gardening, tree trimming, wood cutting, Homesteading and ditch digging. The last of which is his true calling.

Circle Suppers are Here!

Circle Suppers are potluck dinners held in members' homes giving people an opportunity to enjoy an evening with other members, friends and visitors of our community. They provide a more relaxed and intimate setting to get to know people on a deeper level.

A warm thank you to the hosts who offered their homes in February and March: Leal Portis, Kathy and Dave MacLeod, Walter Holtan and Gwen Eymann, Lin and Bane Jovanovic, Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young, and much appreciation to Sarah Scott, our new Membership Committee member who offered to organize the suppers this go round!

Look for our next Circle Supper event in the fall! If you'd enjoy hosting one, please let one of the greeters in the foyer know, or send an email to Kathryn Young at kathryneyounguu@gmail.com. It's fun and not too much work since it's potluck!

The Hospitality Crew Could Use Help

Each Sunday morning, a small group of dedicated individuals has been making coffee, setting up tables, and arranging snacks on plates for us to indulge on between services, then cleaning up afterward. They welcome donations of finger foods for the snack table, as well as set up and clean up help. Please sign up on the sheet on the clipboard – either on the snack table or the bulletin board in the Alcott room off the kitchen.

Interested in Membership?

Our Next "Intro to UUCM" Class and New Member Sunday will be in May

If you have been attending our community for a while and are ready for the next step, we have two offerings available that may interest you. A class will be offered on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., to give you more information about UUCM, and the privileges and expectations of membership. It includes lunch and a tour of our building. Then, on Sunday, May 24th, we'll have our next New Member Sunday when we officially welcome those who decide to become members of our community during the service. Interested? Please mention it to a greeter any Sunday.

Committee Updates

Caring Committee Notes

by Gwen Eymann, Chair,
Caring Committee

The Caring Committee serves the UUCM community by offering support, help, and contact to folks during times of special need. We, as a community, can all be part of the UUCM Caring Team by reaching out to each other to offer support, kind words, offers of help, and good works. Please give a little extra support and caring to the following people:

- Sharon Moore is in hospice care loves receiving cards with your thoughts
- May Lawrence recovering from a broken ankle
- Snow Hernandez, our Director of Life Religious Education in nasty car accident, but was fortunate to escape with relatively minor injuries on February 20.

The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. We may be contacted via email at caringcommittee@uugrassvalley.org or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530.274.7965 for more information.

Committee on Ministry and Transition Team

by Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair,
Transition Team/Committee on Ministry

The Transition Team meets monthly with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. Since Committee on Ministry is now part of the Transition Team, this is the group to contact regarding our shared ministry and congregational relations.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is UUCM's guiding principle. Please read the Covenant and the Options for Addressing Challenges, at our UUCM website, before contacting us about attending a meeting. Then, if there's anything you'd like to bring to the team's attention, please contact one of the members listed below.

Attendance is by prior arrangement only, since people may be bringing deeply personal situations to the team. Our next meeting will be Friday, March 13th.

The Transition Team/Committee on Ministry members are:

Lindsay Dunckel	lindsaydunckel@gmail.com
George Dunstan	gvgeode@gmail.com
Suzanne Ferroggiaro	suzanneferro17@gmail.com
Keith Johnson	kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com
Bev Lyon	bml@mtnlyon.com
Susan Sanford	ssanford@sonic.net

Building & Grounds:

Next Work Day Scheduled for

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST AT 9:00 AM

by Wally Holtan, Chair,
Building and Grounds Committee

I would like to thank all the people in our community that help keep our building and grounds looking great. It is always fun and rewarding to work with those people.

This month we had some new faces! Five new people came. I would especially like to thank Linda Siska, Yvonne Mills, Sarah Scott, her daughter, Kylie, and Benjamin McPherson, all of whom all came for their very first time. And of course, I am always grateful for the dedicated crew who are there faithfully month after month. The work was very productive and fun. I hope everyone had a good time and will come again.

We are looking forward to some great things happening. In the next months we are going to paint the sanctuary and foyer. We will be continuing our goal of spreading bark and cardboard over the grass on Walsh Street to save our water usage. We also are starting to plan for the paving of the front area for coffee after the services on nice days.

If you want to participate in keeping our building and grounds in good condition, we can definitely use your help. We are always looking for volunteers on work party days. The next scheduled work day is March 21st, 2015.

I hope to see you there.



Social Justice Activities

Black Lives Matter Public Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 7:00 P.M.

As part of our continuing witness to the Black Lives Matter movement, we are pleased to welcome to UUCM the Chief of Grass Valley Police Department, John Foster. He will address a Public Meeting at UUCM on Monday 9th March, at which he will speak about community policing and the training, support and accountability of his officers. His presentation will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Our Call to Clergy



Facing Mental Health Challenges Together – Latest Flash!

by *Scottie Hart*

More than thirty people turned out for the second UUCM mental health gathering February 1. Work groups were formed to consider four basic areas: Group Support, Individual 1-on-1 Support, Education, and Supportive Environment. The groups kicked around lots of exciting ideas. Long-range possibilities and preliminary activities were identified.

The next general meeting will be Sunday, April 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will compare notes and identify the next steps. Everyone is welcome; you will find this an inspiring meeting whether or not you have attended earlier gatherings.

Want to know more? Contact Scottie Hart at 272-5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com for a free, absolutely no-obligation update.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew is Looking for Volunteers

by *Leal Portis*

UUCM's Friday for dinner at Hospitality House is the 3rd Friday March 20th. You can contact Leal if you can help with time, food, or money. Time volunteering is from 3:45 to about 6: 45. Leal can be reached at 265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com.

UU Animal Ministry News

by *Carol Hyndman, Chair,*
UUCM Animal Ministry

Saturday, February 28th, the 2nd annual Animal Film Festival will take place at Center for the Arts in Grass Valley 314 W Main. It is an all-day event showing a variety of animal related films from around the world. www.animalfilmfestival.org

Saturday, March 21st, Animal Place 17314 McCourtney Rd Grass Valley will host a meat out event. The sanctuary will be open from 11:30 until 2:30 for self-guided tours to visit the rescued farm animals. Info on meat free meals and samples of goodies will be there

Green Power Points

by *Anita Wald-Tuttle, Chair,*
Green Sanctuary Sub-Committee of SJCC

"Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do."
Writer Wendell Berry

"The crisis we now face calls for passion...Why shouldn't I be angry, emotional, passionate? Madmen and madwomen are wrecking this beautiful, blue-green, living Earth...We must break out of society's freeze on our passions. We must feel the tug of the moon, hear goose music overhead. We must love Earth and rage against her destroyers."

- *Environmentalist Dave Foreman*

and from our GREEN GLOSSARY

HEIRLOOM:

An heirloom crop has been developed by farmers through years of cultivation, selection, and seed saving, and passed down through generations. Buying and/or growing heirloom crops preserves the biodiversity that makes this planet a marvel.

These thoughts come from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar - as true now as SIX years ago!!!



Social Justice Activities

Fourth Friday Film Series presents "Look Up!"

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 AT 7:00 PM AT UUCM

Have you noticed the clouds looking very different these days? People around the world are noticing that our planet's weather is dramatically changing. They are also beginning to notice the long lingering trails left behind airplanes that have led millions to accept the reality of government weather modification programs. Could there be a connection between the trails and our severe weather? In this documentary film you will learn how the aerosols being sprayed into our sky are used in conjunction with other technologies to control the weather. While geoengineers maintain that their models are only for the mitigation of global warming, the film posits that geoengineering is being used for political and economic purposes to the detriment of trees, plants, bees, and all life forms. For more information please see environmentalvoices.org or geoengineeringwatch.org. We will also have local activist Lisa Thomas share her information.



"Look Up!" is presented as part of the Fourth Friday Film Forum, cosponsored by the Center for Peace and Justice of Nevada County and the Social Justice Committee of UUCM. \$5 to \$10 donation suggested, for the Peace Center and the church, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Discussion and ideas for activism will follow the film, and refreshments will be served.

For more information call (530) 615-7859 or visit website ncpeace.org, or email at ncpeace@sbcglobal.net.

2015 Interfaith Climate Crisis Conference, "Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril,"

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015, 9:30AM - 3:15PM

3rd annual Yolo Interfaith Climate Conference features:

- Kathleen Dean Moore on Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril
- An Intergenerational Panel on Effective Climate Action
- A vegetarian lunch with song and reflection time
- Two sessions of workshop choices on practical, ethical actions

University Covenant Church (315 Mace Blvd., Davis)

Suggested \$10-\$20 donation includes lunch.

Full program and preregistration at <http://www.cooldavis.org/2015/01/19/interfaith-climate-conference-moral-ground/>

YOU ARE INVITED TO TRAVEL TO DAVIS WITH CAROL KUCZORA.

To carpool, please contact carol.kuczora98@gmail.com or 273-7771.

PFLAG/GSAs

by Pat Paddock

On January 24, the UU Community of the Mountains was filled with the happy sounds of teenagers attending a Summit to learn how to have effective and supportive Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs in their high schools. They and some of their advisors came from 13 schools, including four local high schools and three community colleges. The trainers came from the Bay Area.

This was the first GSA Training Summit ever held in Nevada County--a momentous occasion! PFLAG expressed gratitude to UUCM for hosting this event, and for its support over the years. To quote the officers, "UUCM has been awesome in how they help PFLAG." The importance of our participation was evidenced by the number

of young people who questioned "Are you part of the UU church?" before signing up for the Summit, no doubt because they have had bad experiences in their own churches and don't want to deal with that type of rejection one more time.

In another instance, the lesbian interpreter for a deaf young man attending the Summit, was amazed to learn that UU is very supportive of the LGBT community, and that they don't need to be concerned about having negative experiences when they are at a UU church. That interpreter was going to look for a UU close to her home.

At the Placer County PFLAG meeting in early January, a first-time attending mother of a transgender child told about having gone to her pastor for help, and was told that because their church doesn't believe in being transgender that the parents would have to go elsewhere, thus rejecting not only the 24-year-old but his parents as well.

Keep that rainbow flag flying!





Annie Haymaker
Director of Music Ministry



Musical Notes

Jim Scott Leads Pete Seeger Songfest

Pete Seeger's legacy was alive and well on February 18 as Jim Scott, UU singer-songwriter who sang with Seeger many times, shared an evening of his songs with accompanying stories. Among them were "Turn, Turn, Turn," with new words written by Seeger's wife Toshi; "Of Time and Rivers Flowing," set to a 17th century tune; "I Come and Stand at Every Door," a setting of Nazim Hikmet's haunting anti-war poem; and "All Mixed Up," a lilting Caribbean tune with a message of diversity. A highlight of the evening was "Minuit," including a story about the 1986 Great Peace March, with the audience singing along in four syncopated parts.

Songwriters' Circle

Songwriters' Circle, led by our very own songwriters Tom Wernigg, Kathryn Young, and Taylor Carey, was offered as one of our LRE classes in January and February. Participants shared their songs, gave and received feedback, and worked on harmonies. "A fine time was had by all," according to Tom, and they'd like to do it again.

Next time they are thinking of trying a Song Circle... just bring a song you enjoy playing and would like to share with others, along with lyrics and chords in case others want to join in. You can do your own tunes, or one by an artist you enjoy. Stay tuned!

Evening Choir

Evening Choir is settling in under Janet Bullock's direction, after gaining new members from our enthusiastic Holiday Choir. It rehearses on the first three Monday evenings of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., and plans to sing once a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month.

Newcomers are welcome – please call Janet at 477-8760 for more information.

Morning Choir

Morning Choir, a new singing opportunity led by Annie Haymaker once a month, sang for services in January and February, and plans to sing for the March 29 service. This drop-in group practices the hymns of the day for half an hour before the second service, then adds a little pizzazz to the congregational singing during the second service. All are welcome. The next morning choir will meet at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 29th.



The February 22nd drop-in Morning Choir had a rollicking good time! Please come join us! No experience required.

Drumming Circle

On the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month, David Ferrier leads a Drumming Circle in the Sanctuary. Come and join him and others for this fun activity. No previous experience necessary. Call David at 530.559.5902 for further details.

Celebrate St. Paddy's at our UUCM Ceili on Saturday, March 14th

by Shannon Dooley-Miller

Dinner served 5-7pm and music starts at 6:30pm It's a Celebration and fundraiser for UUCM There will be live music and dancing, Irish Dinner...Great food and Pub Tickets for Entertainment for Adults \$15 and for youth \$10 Dinner tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for youth.

Tickets will be on sale at UUCM on Sundays and at Briar Patch and the Bookseller and at the door If you'd like to help with event call or email Shannon at 346-6995 or sdooley-miller@got-sky.com.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle – High Tea

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015 AT 6:00 PM

Join us for High Tea at the Women's Circle gathering on the second Tuesday of the month, March 10, in the Channing Room at UUCM.

Break out the scones and creme fraiche! Dust off your fancy hats, flowery dresses and white gloves. Enjoy a fun evening with other UUCM women dining on delicacies, sipping tea out of pretty china cups, and socializing with some of the finest women in town. If you need ideas for food to bring, try "googling" High Tea Party Recipes and you'll get an endless supply of ideas and recipes. Cucumber sandwiches? Fresh strawberries? Cream puffs? Lemon cookies? If you don't have access to the internet, you can call Clarita or Kathryn for ideas.

RSVP to Clarita Nolan, photosbyclarita@att.net, (530.575.2229) or Kathryn Young, kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, (530.478.1329).

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 in the Channing Room, and at What's Up Café on Thursday mornings, men gather to enjoy each other's company and discuss the issues of the day or whatever takes their fancy, in an open and free-flowing way.

Meditation

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00, a self-lead group of congregants meet for an hour of meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more information, call Scottie on 530.272.5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com.

UU Women are Walking!

A small group of UUCM women and friends have started walking together every other Monday. This group is a fairly athletic one, walking about three miles per hour for about five miles on varied terrain. Our next walk is Monday, March 2 and we plan to carpool to the Buttermilk Trail in Bridgeford. This is a fairly easy trail. Those wanting more of a challenge may continue on the Engelbright trail after a snack break. March 16th, we plan a trip to the Steven's Trail near Colfax, followed by lunch. For more information about times, carpools, etc., please contact either Theresa Houtman, (therosa48@sbcglobal.net) or Kathryn Young (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com).

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015 AT 10:30 AM

by George Dunstan

Our UUCM community has a vibrant, active humanism discussion group that meets on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss topics picked by the group at the previous month's meeting. In advance of each meeting we distribute readings on the topic that are helpful to start the discussion but are not necessary to read in order to be able to participate. Our meetings are filled with thought provoking back and forth discussions and insights. We typically have 10-15 attendees.

For those of you not familiar with humanism, here are two definitions:

American Humanist Association: Humanism is a progressive life stance that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives capable of adding to the greater good of humanity.

The Humanist Magazine: Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human being, it supports the maximization of individual liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility. It advocates the extension of participatory democracy and the expansion of the open society, standing for human rights and social justice. Free of supernaturalism, it recognizes human beings as a part of nature and holds that values—be they religious, ethical, social, or political—have their source in human experience and culture. Humanism thus derives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than from theological or ideological abstractions, and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

Topics for discussion over the past 19 months have included;

- Humanism 101
- What is humanism
- How to be a humanist
- Justice
- Morality
- Free will
- Forgiveness

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 4th from 10:30 until noon at UUCM in the Channing room and the topic will be free speech. Please contact George Dunstan (477-7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (274-9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com) for further information.



Religious Education Reflections

*Snow Hernandez
Director of Lifespan
Religious Exploration*

Last month I had the privilege of attending my first PCD LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) retreat in Camp Meeker, CA with my colleagues from around the district. I do not have enough words to properly express the wealth of resources, professional support, and community I found over my short time there. We shared meals, discussed church politics and programs, hiked, held business meetings, laughed, problem-solved, and worshiped together. The retreat helped remind me how important it is that the work I do with children and youth ministry I do is a spiritual calling, and not just a job, and helped bring some of the spiritual aspects back into it. These aspects sometimes fall back behind the floods of emails, planning meetings, and scheduling tasks. What a huge difference it makes in the flow and energy behind the work when it all feels balanced and holistic!

We've made some slight changes to our K-5 group here at UUCM. We have one less teacher now, but will have teachers running the lessons multiple weeks in a row for better continuity with the kids and curriculum. The kids are finishing up their month studying Buddhism and will soon move on to learning about a few other Eastern religions. There are some faces we haven't seen in a while in that group that we would love to see back! It seems the K-5 class is constantly improving, and I'm excited to continue to grow the group. Next up is working on growing our middle school group as well.

I'm thrilled to see positive changes all around me these days, and I hope you are also experiencing those in your own lives. I have faith that our visioning and work here at UUCM will bring positive changes to this community as well.

*In faith,
Snow*

Interest Meeting for UUCM Trip to Ashland, Oregon SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST AT UUCM

The second annual UUCM trip to Ashland Oregon is now set for the weekend of July 24-26. If you are interested in going but would like further information before you sign up,

please attend our meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 1 at 12:30 p.m. in the Channing Room. We will discuss meals and lodging, available plays, mandatory college classes, and much more. Bring your questions to the meeting. If you have questions that cannot wait until the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Keith Johnson at 530-265-0277 or kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com

Unitarian Universalist Ideas about God –

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH AT 6:00

Instead of a second session on Understanding Unitarianism, the Program on March 11 will be an exploration of our ideas about God. Do you feel comfortable using the word, do you prefer to use metaphorical euphemisms, or do you feel uncomfortable with any reference to that which is divine? Come and be part of the conversation. The program starts at 7.00, and is preceded at 6.00 by a Potluck Supper in the Alcott Room. You are invited to both or either.

The New Jim Crow

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH AT UUCM

Racial profiling, criminalization, disenfranchisement, and mass incarceration of African Americans and other people of color constitute today's legal system for institutionalized racism, discrimination, and exclusion in the United States.

Dr. Michelle Alexander, civil rights advocate, litigator, scholar and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* exposes today's racial caste system and how to resist it. Dr. Alexander spoke to an audience of over 600 people at Justice General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix and challenged Unitarian Universalists to learn more, witness, and act to stop the oppression of people of color perpetuated through the criminal legal system in our communities and across the country.

As Unitarian Universalists, we have the religious grounding, the resources, and the opportunity to make a difference in partnership with those who are most affected by institutionalized racism and "the new Jim Crow." What you need: A copy of *The New Jim Crow* by Dr. Michelle Alexander. Available at the UUA bookstore for \$19.95

Facilitator: Keith Johnson, 530.265.0277 or email: kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com for more details.

March Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY OF WEEK TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

February

28 Saturday 9.00 Vision Day

March

1 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service
12.30 Ashland Trip Meeting

2 Monday 5.30 Choir

3 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
12.30 Generosity Team
6.30 Worship Committee

4 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
10.30 Humanist Group
7.00 Drumming Circle

5 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group

8 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
Generosity Kickoff
11.30 Sunday Service

9 Monday 9.00 2nd Monday
Covenant Group
5.30 Choir
7.00 Public Meeting with
Grass Valley Police Chief

10 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
4.00 Caring Committee
6.00 Women's Group

11 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
11.00 Habitat for Humanity
Lunch Preparation
6.00 Potluck Supper
7.00 UU Ideas about God

12 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group
10.30 Writers Group
6.00 Board of Trustees Mtg

14 Saturday 5.00 Ceili

15 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service

16 Monday 4.00 Membership Committee
5.30 Choir
7.00 The New Jim Crow

DATE DAY OF WEEK TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

17 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
1.00 Grandmothers for Peace
7.00 Climate Change Coalition

18 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
7.00 Drumming Circle

19 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group
2.00 Barbara Covenant Group
7.00 12 Steps to Spiritual Health

20 Friday 12.00 Deadline for March
Mountain Chalice
4.00 Dinner Prep/Utah's Place

21 Saturday 9.00 Bldg & Grounds Work Party
12.30 Bldg & Grounds Meeting

22 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service
12.45 Social Justice Coordin.
Committee Meeting

23 Monday 7.00 The New Jim Crow

24 Tuesday 9.00 Morning Meditation
6.30 Worship Committee Mtg

25 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
2.00 Transition Team Meeting
4.30 Finance Committee Mtg

26 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group
10.30 Writers Group

27 Friday 7.00 Fourth Friday Film

29 Sunday 9.45 Service
11.30 Service

31 Tuesday 9.00 Morning Meditation

April

1 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
10.30 Humanist Group
6.00 UU History
7.00 Drumming Circle

2 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group
6.00 Maundy Thursday
Communion Meal

5 Sunday 9.45 Easter Sunday Service
11.30 Easter Sunday Service

St. Paddy's Ceili

Live Music, Dancing, Great Food and Pub

Celebration and Fundraiser

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 So. Church St. Grass Valley

Irish Dinner served 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Entertainment and Ceili start at 6:30 p.m.

Irish Pub open all evening

Tickets for Entertainment - Adults - \$15 Dinner - Adults - \$10
Youth - \$10 Youth - \$5



Purchase tickets at UUCM on Sundays or Briar Patch and The Bookseller

Call or email Shannon or Andy for more information:

346-6995 or sdooley-miller@gotsky.com

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: 530.274.1675 Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services at 9:45 AM and 11:30 AM

Office Hours: Monday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Thursday & Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
minister.uugv@gmail.com
530.274.1661

Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator
admin@uugrassvalley.org
530.274.1675