

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Monthly Newsletter for April 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

March 29 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson Vaughan
Music: Toon Vandervorst

April 5 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby
Music: Conrad Sisk
Easter Celebration

April 12 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Jo Waters
Music: Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young
Earth Day Celebration

April 19 **Rev. Dr. John Buehrens**
Worship Associate: Rev. David Usher
Music: Choir and Drumming Circle
Generosity Sunday

"The Chicken and the Egg". The question is: Which comes first, the faithful generosity of the people or the good works of the liberal church?"

April 26 **Bill Drake and Jamal Walker**
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby
Music: Toon Vandervorst
Black Lives Matter

"How You Can Change the World Without Going Crazy". Bill Drake will discuss three important aspects of social change that will help people make a significant difference in the area of racism as well as other areas.

May 2 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Jennifer Dahlgren
Music: TBD

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*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Over the past six or so weeks, I have been very moved by what various people have said during services about what UUCM has come to mean to them. They have each brought their own rich perspective in talking about how they first came to this community, what they were looking for and what they found. They have spoken of forming deep friendships, of being challenged to deepen their personal faith, of engaging with stimulating ideas, of the satisfaction of contributing to the well-being of the congregation, of finding opportunities to be involved in the work of the wider world. Several others participated in the video which was shown during the services on March 8th, and which is now available on UUCM's website. Perhaps you have been similarly moved by hearing these testimonies of others, and have been prompted to consider what UUCM means to you.

Unlike most of you, who have come to Unitarian Universalism either from another religious tradition which you no longer found satisfying, or from no religious tradition which had made you feel you were lacking something, I was raised as a Unitarian. It has always been there for me, a part of who I have understood myself to be. I am very grateful for that, but it does mean that I have never had the experience of discovering this faith, of having to change my denominational loyalties, or learning that it was okay to question, to challenge and to doubt.

There are many reasons I am glad to be a Unitarian Universalist, and some of them have been articulated by those who have spoken on Sunday morning or on the video. But perhaps the most compelling for me is that it encourages and enables me to be my best authentic self. It provides me with a theological and existential framework within which I can wrestle with life's big questions. The history of Unitarian Universalism is littered with people who have led exemplary lives – lives of sacrifice and service, lives of intellectual rigour and artistic excellence, lives of deep human compassion and vivid imagination. I am inspired by their examples, and given markers about how my life might also be. It provides me with a contemporary community of people striving for justice for all, working to heal our troubled world, refusing to settle. It offers me gentle space in which I can reflect on life's meaning, and give thanks for it.

Unitarian Universalism is not a franchise. Each UU congregation, though belonging to a larger whole, is

independent in governance and the identity it forges for itself. UUCM is unique. It is we make it what it is; it is we who will make it what it might become.

As you listen to the testimony of others, I hope you will be reflecting on your own story of what UUCM means to you, and how you can contribute to the continuing prosperity of its many ministries.

See you in church!

David

Apartment to be Interim Minister's Residence

The Board has decided to convert the upstairs apartment back into a residential space, where the Interim Minister will live for the rest of his time with us. The apartment is not being considered as the residence for the future settled minister. This decision has been made in light of some pressing financial considerations, and also in recognition of the regrettable fact that the current numbers in the Religious Education and Youth program do not warrant the space being designated for RE's exclusive use. This decision can be reviewed in a year's time, and if RE numbers have recovered or financial needs have changed then the apartment can be adapted back for RE use. The target date for the minister to move in is 1 May.

Ministers' Retreat

David Usher will be attending the Spring Retreat for ministers in the Pacific Central District, Tuesday, April 14th to Thursday, April 16th. He will be available through the office for emergency pastoral needs.

Maundy Thursday Communion Meal at UUCM

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 6:00 P.M.

Hosted by Rev. David Usher

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. To RSVP, please write your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet in the foyer of the sanctuary at UUCM.



Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

Hello, UUCM!

Here's some news about a subject I know is near and dear to all of our hearts, the UUCM Policy Manual. OK, so maybe you don't find policies all that exciting. Nevertheless, the policies that UUCM developed over the years provide essential guidelines for consistent and reasoned approaches to the various aspects of congregational life, particularly as our congregation has grown, and communications and governance become more complex.

At its March meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a new policy outlining how the monthly board meetings would be conducted. Up until now, the only guidelines in place were in the bylaws and they were very limited. As important as these monthly meetings are, we needed more complete guidelines covering all key aspects of meeting conduct. After consultation with leaders at other UU churches who had such policies in place, the Board of Trustees recently approved our new policy. For example, it defines how agendas are created and communicated, publication of minutes, and how guests will be accommodated should a member wish to attend a meeting. (The practice of posting minutes on the bulletin board came as a result of discussion about this policy.) For those interested in seeing the complete policy, it will be posted on the bulletin board.

Also at the March meeting, the Board held an in depth discussion regarding plans for a Child and Youth Safety Policy. As UUs, our commitment to the inherent dignity and worth of each person compels us to do our very best to ensure we protect children and youth from harm and create a nurturing spiritual environment. Based on UUA suggestions and input from other congregations, we have begun work to develop a policy which will include guidelines and necessary new procedures so we do everything possible to provide a safe environment for youth and children. Stay tuned for more on this as the policy takes shape.

Finally, we have plans to create a separate "Members Section" on our web site where documents like our policy manual can be more readily available for reference. In the meantime, our printed policy manual is always available for viewing in the office.

- 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 6:00 p.m.
in the Channing Room at UUCM.
Congregants are welcome to observe with prior notice.*



SAVE THE DATE!

General Assembly Meeting
JUNE 24-28, 2015 IN PORTLAND, OR

The annual General Assembly of the national Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 24 – 28.

These meetings are truly stimulating, with some superb speakers (Cornel West is a major presenter this year, a very timely choice given the unhappy but also historic events around racism of the past year), great workshops, first class worship and lots of opportunity to meet with enthusiastic UUs from around the country and beyond.

There is already a sizable UUCM contingent planning to go, and you could be part of it.

See UU World for details about registration and program, or visit: <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Stewardship Committee

The Call to Generosity 2015-2016

by Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister



Dear Members and Friends,

In the relatively short time that I have been with you as your Interim Minister, I have been impressed by the deep level of care and commitment you have for your shared religious community. This care and commitment shows itself in how you take seriously the need to gather together for worship Sunday by Sunday, so much so that we have had to transition to two services to accommodate all of you; in the many ways in which you reach out, individually and collectively, to make the world a better place; in the ways you like to engage in the life of the mind with thoughtful discussion and study; how you show your care and compassion for each other in times of crisis and need, as well as how you like to have fun together; and how you keep the building and grounds in attractive and well-maintained condition.

All of these things indicate that UUCM is a vibrant and happy place, a place for meaningful deepening of the spirit as well as stimulation of the mind; a place of friendship and real human connection; a place of noble ideals and worthy action.

One very real way in which you can not only express your appreciation for all that this community offers you and others, but also enrich your own spiritual health is through the practice of generosity. UUCM is on the threshold of an exciting time. Soon you will embark on the process of calling your next settled minister. With a growing membership and worship attendance, you are on the cusp of a new threshold of church life. There is a keen sense of anticipation for the future. Your generosity will make that future possible, and you will be part of the future you have helped to create.

I share in your sense of celebration, and your eagerness to seek, to savor, and to serve.

Blessings!

David

WHAT WILL YOUR PLEDGE EMPOWER?

UUCM's total budget is well in excess of \$200,000, and this is spent on four main programs, with salaries and the costs of buildings and institutional maintenance factored according to time.

WORSHIP

This is the cornerstone of who we are as a religious community, and to ensure worship of consistently high standards we employ a trained minister to craft and coordinate services which speak to the heart and to the mind, we have musicians who enhance our worship with their artistry, we maintain a building which will be a comfortable and inspiring environment, we have an administrator who assists with the myriad of tasks involved in making worship happen week by week.

EDUCATING OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN

For us, faith development is a lifelong journey, engaging the mind in study and thought as well as engaging our whole beings in healthful and aware living. Our minister devotes much of his time to ensuring that there are stimulating classes and courses for the adults, and our Director of Lifespan Religious Education ensures that our children and youth have their own engaging programs in their own comfortable space.

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Our faith is about deeds, not creeds. At UUCM we strive to continue Unitarian Universalism's proud record of involvement in the world. We have been leaders in the abolition of slavery and the continuing fight against racism, in women's emancipation, in reproductive rights, in prison reform, economic justice, LGBT equality and environmental activism. Whether engaged in advocacy or hands-on help, we at UUCM take our responsibilities to the world seriously.

NURTURING FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY

In a world in which social isolation is a blight for so many, UUCM offers the opportunity for real connection with others. There are small special interest groups, discussion groups, large parties, circle suppers, Covenant groups and a host of other ways to find meaningful relationship while deepening the spirit.

KEY STEWARDSHIP DATES

April 8	Generosity Leadership Training and Commitment Supper (<i>for invited leaders</i>)
April 10	Spring Wine Market Fundraiser
April 19	Generosity Commitment Sunday
May 2	Spring Live and Silent Auction Fundraiser
May 17	Generosity Celebration Sunday

Stewardship Committee, continued...

Spring Wine Market – Friday, April 10 at UUCM

by Wally Holtan

Dave Luce presents 12 wines, both whites and reds, for your tasting, and provides a brief description of the wines you taste. He selects top quality wines in a very affordable price range and sells them by the bottle or case.



It is a great experience for both wine connoisseurs and wine-drinking novices who are just starting to appreciate fine wine. Everyone can expand their knowledge about what makes wines taste the way they do, what food pairings work best, how wines are made, and where they come from in the world.

It is also a perfect time to try a variety of wines and stock up for your summer activities. You are encouraged to bring friends from outside of our community, too. Everyone gets a chance to try before they buy, and get some great deals on wines you know will be appreciated on your table during the next few months.

A variety of delicious appetizers will be served from 6:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., and the wine tasting begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and will be available in the Foyer between services.

Generosity Commitment Sunday April 19th, at Both Services

We are honored to have the Rev. Dr. John Buehrens be our special guest preacher on April 19, our Generosity Sunday. The Rev. Buehrens is currently serving as Development Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco, and was President of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001. He is a noted preacher, not to be missed.

All members and friends of UUCM are urged to attend this important occasion, to help ensure the success of our Generosity Campaign which will enable us to do the many things we hope to do during the 2015-16 financial year. Be a part of that success. Help make it happen.

As part of the Generosity Campaign, a video has been produced featuring several members of the congregation – Brendan Banister, Beryl Beckwith, Taylor Carey, George Dunstan, Kia Hatch, Beth Karow, Leal Portis and Amy Renee. Sincere thanks to Marion Peterson for her photographic and filming skills in putting it together. It was shown during the service on February 8 and if you missed it, it is on the UUCM website. Check it out.

UUCM Spring Auction – Saturday, May 2nd

by Bob Miller

Bob@sierramiller.com, (530) 205-5047

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Catered Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

This year there will be a live auction for some items and a silent auction for others. Expect a fun evening even if you spend too much! (You know it supports a great community).

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

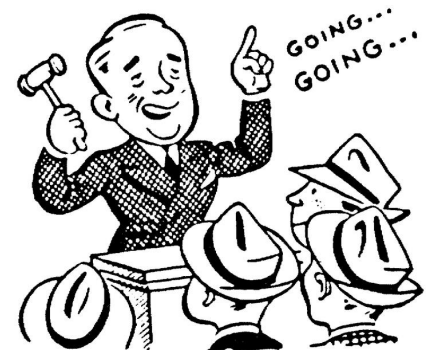
- **FIRST:** Visit www.togetherauction.com/uucm, click on the large rectangle on the left to browse items already available. You will be able to bid for them on the night or you can “login” and make an early bid now.
- **SECOND:** Think what you may be able to donate: What do you like to do – offer to show/bring others? What skills/knowledge can you share? What items do you no longer want that may be treasured by another?
(Ideas: handicrafts, cakes/pies, vacation homes, dinners, art work, play-reading evening, handyman work, hikes, gift baskets, movie dates, luncheons, house sitting, and more).
- **THIRD:** Contact one of our donation consultants. They will have great suggestions and will get your item entered into our on-line auction site:

Bev Lyon bml@mtnlyon.com

Lin Jovanovic linmosaic@yahoo.com

Taylor Carey tsckeyuu@gmail.com

Tickets will be on sale soon at \$20.



Membership and Hospitality

Become a New Member Mentor!

by Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair

Help the Membership Committee make UUCM a truly welcoming Congregation!

You may have noticed quite a few new faces at UUCM lately. We have had an abundance of new people joining our congregation this past year and we are really excited to get to know them. However, the Membership Committee is small, (though mighty!) and we could use some help making sure new people get connected into our community. (We don't want anyone to fall through the cracks and leave the congregation because no one took the time to notice them and make sure they got involved.) We'd like to start a mentor program, and have each new member get paired with a mentor from our congregation.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DOES A "MENTOR" NEED?

Mostly a friendly personality and willingness to make a connection with another person.

A mentor's job would be to seek the new member out each Sunday to say "hello," to introduce them to a few other members with whom they may have things in common, to encourage the new member find groups or activities that would interest them, and check on them every couple months by phone or in person to see how they are doing, answer their questions, and find out how their experience at UUCM has been going.

Each mentor-mentee relationship will be unique, so there is no exact formula for how to do it, but we have some ideas we could share with you. And, as you connect with your mentee, you'll find out enough about them to guide them to activities and programs that will make them feel welcome and connected. Busy people could probably accomplish everything in 10 minutes a week; those with more time could certainly expand the job to suit their own schedules and abilities.

If you are interested in helping the Membership/ Welcoming committee by becoming a mentor, please talk to Claire Miller or Kathryn Young at the welcome table in the foyer any Sunday, or send an email to truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.

Are you Considering becoming a Member of UUCM?

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

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, May 9th. The class runs from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., and includes a delicious lunch. It is an opportunity to share your story with others, and to learn something about Unitarian Universalist theology, history and governance, as well as what are the privileges and expectations of membership. There is no pressure to become a member after taking the class, and it is open to newcomers

as well as to people who have been around a while but would like a refresher. The next New Member Welcome Service will be May 31. If you would like to take the class or participate in the service, please let one of the greeters know next time you are 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!*

The Hospitality Crew Could Use Help

The same four people have been taking turns making coffee, setting the tables, and cleaning up each Sunday. Since we went to two services, we often end up missing the service, because each one does it all on his or her week.

There is enough work for two people to set up during the first service, and another two people to clean up during the second service. So, we could use 16 people to cover a month of Sundays.

Want to see someone smile? Volunteer! Please contact Donna Foddrell, Shannon Dooley-Miller, David Ferrier, or Carol Kuczora.



And, if you would like to bring snacks, either fruits and veggies, or cookies and cakes, or cheese and crackers, please sign up for a turn on the bulletin board just outside the kitchen.

Thank you.

Membership and Hospitality

Circle Suppers a Success!

A warm thank you to the Circle Supper 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!

Get to Know our Newest Members

Two of our newest members, Phil and Suzannah Hart, were traveling during the last new member ceremony, so they were not included with the rest of the introductions in last month's Mountain Chalice. In addition, we had photos taken that we didn't receive in time to include in the March issue, so please enjoy them this month! Please make an effort to reach out and welcome each of these new members the next time you see them.

SUZANNAH AND PHIL HART

Suzannah was born in Richmond, Virginia, grew up in Houston where she attended the University of Houston. She moved around the US before settling in California, becoming a Real Estate Broker. Retiring and moving to Grass Valley with her husband Phil in 1997, she pursued personal and spiritual growth with a Masters in Spiritual Psychology, followed with work with Women Within International as a facilitator in women's work. As a child she was raised in the Methodist church, but was attracted to the Unitarian philosophy in early adulthood. She is an avid tennis fan, a voracious reader, loves to travel and "suffers" from wanderlust.



Phil and Suzannah Hart

Phil was born, raised and educated in Southern California. He graduated from UCLA and moved here in 1997 after selling his company which he founded. He has pursued deeper personal and spiritual growth through his Masters in Spiritual Psychology, training as a Life Coach and volunteering with The Mankind Project. He loves choral singing, fishing, tennis hiking and the theater. Phil was raised Methodist and Presbyterian, and recently he has been attracted to the New Thought Philosophy and Science of the Mind. Phil and Suzannah have four children and three grandchildren. He comes to UUCM looking for community connection and deeper insights about this stage of his life.



Becah Ebling, Doug and Sam Lautzenhiser



Bob Branstrom



Nancy Findlay



Eunis Beneke



Terry and Carol Holliman



Jennifer and Eric Dahlgren



Yvonne Mills

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 extra support and caring to the following people:

- Sharon Moore is now in hospice care, and loves receiving cards with your thoughts
- May Lawrence recovering splendidly from her broken ankle, and loves visitors at Golden Empire Convalescent Hospital
- Bruce Hart recovering from surgery with Scottie at his side
- Anne Lyon recovering from a broken ankle, she has several weeks before she is walking and driving again
- Jim Lowe recovering from lung cancer surgery – we will miss his music while he is away

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.

Building & Grounds: Next Work Day Scheduled for SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 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. This month we had Joel and Theresa Houtman, Kia Hatch, Gwen Eymann, Anita Wald-Tuttle, David Ferrier, Yvonne Mills, Linda Siska, Michael Branston, Beth Freedman, and her sons Max and Wally. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a group of dedicated individuals.

We are looking at some great things happening. We continued our goal of placing bender board for the placement of bark and cardboard over the grass on Walsh Street to save our water usage. The backyard has been brought under control. David Edwards started the stabilization of the rails on the front steps. Cleaning was done on the inside areas of the church including Rev. David's office. Kia and Yvonne scrubbed

the cement floor of the Alcott room, off the kitchen. It was a great work day – we had fun, had good conversations, got a lot done, and enjoyed lunch together afterward.

Remember if you want to participate in keeping our building and grounds in good condition, we can use your help. We are always looking for volunteers on work party days. The next scheduled work day is April 18, 2015. I hope to see you there.

Social Justice Workshops

MAY 3RD, JUNE 7TH, AND JULY 12TH,
12:30 P.M. AT UUCM

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair
Social Justice Coordinating Council

Please mark your calendars for May 3rd, June 7th, and July 12th at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Sponsored by the Social Justice Coordinating Council, the congregation will partner with the UU Justice Ministry to put on these 90-120 minute workshops. They are designed to help us assess the quality of our social justice program, develop a vision for the future based on UU values, and design a plan to achieve this vision.

The workshops, formally referred to as the Social Justice Discernment and Engagement Program, are spaced about one month apart to allow for survey work and feedback between sessions. This is an interactive program- most of the work is done in small groups led by the Minister, Board members, and social justice leaders. The first session takes a look at the congregation's history around social justice. In the second session participants consider critical issues for the congregation which, if properly addressed, will lead to a more effective social justice program. The third session brings it all together by analyzing the material and feedback for the creation of a new social justice model.

On behalf of the Social Justice Coordinating Council, I hope you will attend these worthwhile workshops. The program has already been favorably received at the UU Church in San Mateo, and the SFUU church is signed up for the fall.



Social Justice Activities

Black Lives Matter

Most of us know that African Americans are more likely than whites to be incarcerated, but do we know just how much more likely? A sampling of five states is a shocking reminder.

Incarceration rate per 100,000

WHITES	STATE	BLACKS
405	California	2,758
170	New Jersey	1,621
326	Pennsylvania	2,675
257	Vermont	2,030
398	Wisconsin	3,787

Do we really believe that African Americans are up to ten times more likely to commit a crime, or just ten times more likely to be arrested and incarcerated?

And just so we understand the full implications of these statistics, this means that in the States roughly one person in thirty is behind bars. Welcome to the land of the free!

April 26th Service at UUCM is about Unlearning Racism

We are pleased to welcome Bill Drake and Jamal Walker to lead our services as part of our continuing awareness-raising about issues of racism in our society.

Bill Drake comes from an ancestry of slave plantation owners and grew up in the segregated world of the South, believing in white supremacy and at times harassing black people. He is the author of "Almost Hereditary: A White Southerner's Journey Out of Racism, A Guide for Unlearning and Healing Prejudice."

Jamal Walker is a black African man who has been resident in Nevada County for the past 25 years. He is a co-founding member of Creating Communities Beyond Bias, and has worked with various non-profit groups committed to social justice in the areas of unlearning oppression, and cross-cultural alliance building.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew is Looking for Volunteers

by Leal Portis

UUCM's Friday for dinner at Hospitality House is Friday April 17th. 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.

Interfaith Food Ministry News

By Pat Paddock

The 2014 numbers are in:

- 89,500 bags of food distributed. Value: almost 2 million dollars!
- 5,000 families registered. Average of 1,700 families a month using services.
- 13,000 people identified as food insecure in Western Nevada County.

SPRING MATCHING FUND CAMPAIGN

Five donors have pledged to match donations reaching \$30,000 by the end of April. To contribute, please write "matching" on your check, and send to: P. O. Box 1174, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

BRASS QUINTET CONCERT - APRIL 12, 2:00 P.M.

at Grace Bible Church

Canned food drive and donations, please.

Volunteers are always needed: Call Pat, 268-6576. And save your brown paper grocery bags!

UU Animal Ministry News

by Carol Hyndman, Chair, UUCM Animal Ministry

There is a new Vegan meetup group in Nevada County. This is a group for vegans, vegetarians and for those who want to learn more about being vegan/vegetarian. Come and meet like-minded people who are interested in a cruelty-free and compassionate world. Learn more about this at meetup.com/Nevada-County-Vegan-Connection.

Green Power Points

by Anita Wald-Tuttle, Chair,

Green Sanctuary Sub-Committee of SJCC

NOW MORE THAN EVER - BUY LOCAL!!!

A challenge for all of you to take: Become a "locavore." Set a radius for yourself, such as, say, 50 miles, or if you're feeling resourceful, 25 miles or less, and see how many products you can purchase from within that range. Look for local wine and beer, local produce and dairy products, and locally made clothes (from locally made fabric). You'll have a tough time with coffee, tea, spices, and chocolate, but you can allow yourself those indulgences. (Just make sure that the products you buy are fair-trade.) And if you uncover some amazing local sources, spread the word. For recycled clothing and accessories talk to Kia Hatch, one of our UUCM fashion mavens. (Tip from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar)

Social Justice Activities

Fourth Friday Film Series PRESENTS

"Thirsty for Justice: Human Right to Water"

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY OF CALIFORNIA FILM

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 AT 7:00 PM AT UUCM

In the richest nation on earth, how can so many people lack access to safe affordable water for their basic human needs? Thirsty for Justice shares powerful stories of those who suffer from this assault on their personal health and human dignity, as well as the inspiring story of the grassroots movement that made the human right to water the law of the land in California. The years-long activism led to the successful enactment in 2012 of the Human Right to Water Bill (AB 685), writing into California law safe, accessible and affordable water for daily living as a fundamental right of every resident.

By donation.

Refreshments available. Stay for discussion following film.

A Unitarian Universalist Justice of Ministry of California film (watch trailer): <http://ejcw.org/thirsty/>

This event sponsored by: Peace and Justice Center and UUCM Social Action Coordinating Committee. For more information call (530) 615-7859 or visit website ncpeace.org, or email at ncpeace@sbcglobal.net.

Community Book Study: "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate"

by Naomi Klein

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH, 3:30-5:00 P.M.

NEVADA CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sponsored by the Nevada County Climate Change Coalition The Nevada County Climate Change Coalition offers a 5-session community book study on "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" by Naomi Klein. The study will be led by Sharon Delgado. For more information go to the Nevada County Climate Change Coalition Facebook page.

Earth Day Fair

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.,

& 7:00 P.M. - ENVIRONMENTAL FILM IN THE BIG HALL, SIERRA COLLEGE, GRASS VALLEY CAMPUS



Nevada County Climate Change Coalition

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST, 7:00 P.M., UUCM

Planning community response to the changing climate – accommodating, countering, lobbying.

"My Name Is Rachel Corrie"

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00 P.M.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING,

119 FLORENCE AVE, GRASS VALLEY

A one-woman show by Ashley Malloy about the girl crushed while defending a Palestinian home from demolition by an Israeli bulldozer. \$10 - \$20 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds. (Park at far end of G.V. Vets Hall lot and pass through the fence to the building at the end of the street.)

Public Discussion of Middle East Affairs

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 7:00 P.M.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE, NEVADA CITY

Call Izzy Tooinsky, 210-5387, for more information.

Kathy Kelly: "My Future in Prison"

TUESDAY, APRIL 28ST, 7:00 P.M., UUCM

Kathy Kelly, well known peace activist, discusses her many trips to Iraq, Gaza, and elsewhere, to protest war, and her consequent incarcerations in Lexington. By donation.



Annie Haymaker
Director of Music Ministry



Musical Notes

Women Hymn Writers

Since March is Women's History Month, I'd like to honor the music of our women hymn writers in Singing the Living Tradition. Though the great majority of lyrics and music are by men, women have composed some of our best-loved hymns. The music of these gifted and socially aware women composers speaks to the social issues that continue to plague communities around the world.

Sarah Flower Adams, an English Unitarian poet, wrote the lyrics for #87 Nearer, my God, to Thee. Mary Elizabeth Byrne, linguist and author, translated #20 Be Thou My Vision from the ancient Irish. Hildegard of Bingen, also known as Saint Hildegard, wrote the lyrics for #27 I Am That Great and Fiery Force. Mary Grigolia, a UU minister, wrote #386 I Know This Rose Will Open.

Malvina Reynolds, a political activist who sang with Pete Seeger, wrote songs such as "Little Boxes" and "What Have They Done to the Rain." She wrote the lyrics for #313 O What a Piece of Work Are We.

Alicia S Carpenter specialized in recasting lyrics to very old hymn tunes, for example #360 Here We Have Gathered, and has 10 songs in the grey hymnal.

Shelley Jackson Denham, part of North Carolina's Mountain Quartet, has 5 songs in the grey hymnal, including #55 Dark of Winter, #86 Blessed Spirit of my Life, and #354 We Laugh, We Cry.

Holly Near, a feminist songwriter, wrote #170 Singing for Our Lives in response to the 1978 murder of gay San Francisco City Council member Harvey Milk.

Joyce Poley, a Canadian singer-songwriter and song leader, composed #168 One More Step and #1008 When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place.

Carolyn McDade, UU feminist activist and songwriter, wrote #123 Spirit of Life as a prayer. It is widely regarded as the standard UU anthem.

Sally Rogers, folk musician and songwriter, wrote the lyrics to #131 Love Will Guide Us, based on an old Southern Baptist hymn.

Guest Pianist

Our thoughts are with our regular pianist, Jim Lowe, who had surgery on March 23rd and will have at least till the end of April to convalesce. During Jim's absence, we are delighted to welcome Toon (pronounced Tone) Vandevorst as our guest pianist. Toon is an accomplished pianist, singer and choir director, classically trained but well versed in a variety of musical styles. Please extend to him your warm welcome

Music at UUCM Survey

An on-line survey was recently taken of the congregation's preferences about music in our services. At the time of going to print, 65 people had participated in the survey. You can find a link to all of the survey results by going to <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/results/>.

Thank you to everyone who responded. The Interim Minister and the Worship Committee will take your thoughts under advisement as they plan future services. If you have not already done so, please see <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/results/> for a link to the online survey. The results will be very helpful as we plan how best to incorporate music into our Sunday services.

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, February, and March. 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, April 26th.

Drumming Circle

On the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month, David Ferrier leads a Drumming Circle in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to come to this fun activity. No previous experience necessary. Call David F. at 530.559.5902 for info.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities



Ceili Thank You's

by Shannon Dooley-Miller



Our St Paddy's Day Ceili was enjoyed by a full house with great music and dancing, not to mention delicious food. So glad so many of you could come and join in on the fun evening. It does take a UU village to make a Ceili happen. Huge thanks goes out to our very own wonderful musicians: Tom Wernigg, Rob Ferroggiaro, Frank Lawrence, Charlie Brock, Bill Nolan and Robert Ludgate. Hats off to our MC Christy Barden. Special thanks to Tom Wernigg who also coordinated the evening's program as our stage manager and to Paul Bonani and Walt O' Maley for doing the sound. Thanks also to our minister, David Usher for our Ceili Blessing. And behind the scenes... thanks to all the volunteers for decorating: Robin Hart, Maryann Hart, Michael Bankston, Anita Wald-Tuttle and Beth Freedman. And all our wonderful cooks, servers, and kitchen elves: Theresa Houtman, Kia Hatch, Carol Kuczora, Sheila Meyers, Gwen Eymann, Sarah Scott and Mary Grebenkemper. Can't forget our ticket greeters, Judith O' Neil and Anita Wald-Tuttle. Thanks to Matt Wison-Daley and Allan Duncan for managing the Irish Pub. Thanks also goes out to Clarita Nolan for the poster Design and Andy Dooley-Miller for the publicity. And, to all those who helped clean up and put the sanctuary back in order, many thanks and blessings.

You can support our local bands that came to our Ceili: Three Times Through who play at the Five Mile house and Matteo's Restaurant in Nevada City. Check out their website <http://www.threetimesthrough.com>

The Raw Oyster Band (AKA Beaucoup Chapeaux) plays every Friday nite at the Classic Cafe in Nevada City at <http://www.beaucoupchapeaux>

Slainte to each and every one of you!

Women's Circle – Share Your Favorite Recipe!

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 AT 6:00 PM

by Robin Hart

Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with the UUCM Women's Circle? Appetizer, entree, salad, side dish, dessert, or Aunt Tillie's best cookie recipe? Channel your inner Julia Child and join us April 14th at 6 p.m. Prepare your favorite recipe to share, along with enough copies to hand out to the group.

We are also planning to create a new UUCM cook book. Bring in any cook books from other organizations and/or churches as samples, so we can brainstorm some good ideas of our own. Shannon Dooley-Miller (sdooley-miller@gotsky.com) and Robin Hart (rhstarbird@gmail.com) are hosting this month, and would appreciate your RSVP. Please send us an email version of your recipe, too.

Ladies' Consignment Stroll and Lunch

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 10:30 A.M.

By Beth Freedman

It's Spring time and the UUCM Women's Circle would like to invite you to the Ladies' Consignment Stroll and Lunch on Saturday, April 18th. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Summer Thymes cafe and then stroll to a few consignment stores in downtown Grass Valley, then back to Summer Thymes for refreshments or lunch. This will be a lot of fun, I hope you can join us. Call Beth Freedman (575-9319) for more information.

UU Women are Walking! EVERY OTHER MONDAY, APRIL 13 AND APRIL 27

A group of UUCM women and their 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, but we have been known to split into a couple groups traveling at different paces. For information about times, carpool, and locations, please contact Kathryn Young (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.)



Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015 AT 10:30 AM

by George Dunstan

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 1st from 10:30 until noon at UUCM in the Channing room.

Please contact George Dunstan (477-7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (274-9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com) for further information.

Annual UUCM Yard Sale

Saturday, May 30th
522 SACRAMENTO STREET,
NEVADA CITY

The annual UUCM Yard Sale will be held Saturday, May 30 at the home of Keith and Alice Johnson, 522 Sacramento Street, Nevada City. Items may be dropped off on May 28 or 29, or by special arrangement. The biggest sellers are furniture, tools, and jewelry. All articles are accepted, but please do not bring items of very little value such as old coffee mugs, well-used pots and pans, soiled clothes, etc. Electronics are also discouraged as they usually do not sell.


If you would like to help set up for the sale, you can arrive at the house at 5 p.m. on Friday. Liquid refreshments will be served. We also need volunteers to work the sale. Thank you all and we will see you at the Yard Sale. PS: Please check the UUCM Lost & Found (under the main table in the foyer of the sanctuary) before May 28th, when Lost & Found items will be placed in the Annual UUCM Yard Sale.

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-directed 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.



PCD-UUA District Assembly

Walking a Faithful Path

April 25, 2015

First Unitarian
Universalist Society of
San Francisco

Registration opens at 8:30AM;
Closing Worship ends at 5:30PM,
followed by a reception and a short
PCD –UUA Board meeting.

We are very excited about this
year's program, which will be on the theme "Walking a Faithful Path."

We have a wonderful day planned, including two vibrant services organized by our worship team, Rev. Theresa Novak, Rev. Russ Menk, and Music Director Shawn Reifschneider; an innovative all-generations morning program; an array of dynamic and interesting workshops; and opportunities to discuss some of the current challenges and opportunities facing the PCD today.

The PCD Annual Meeting will be held Saturday afternoon at 3:30PM.

Join us for dynamic worship, workshops, connections, and celebration!

To register, go to: <http://www.pcd-uua.org> and follow the DA2015 link.

Pacific Central District- UUA District Assembly

Registration Open
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015
FIRST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

This year's District Assembly will be held on one day only, April 25, 2015, at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco (<http://www.uusf.org>).

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; Closing Worship ends at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception and a short PCD –UUA Board meeting.

The PCD Annual Meeting will be held Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

We are very excited about this year's program, which will be on the theme "Walking a Faithful Path." We have a wonderful day planned, including two vibrant services organized by our worship team, Rev. Theresa Novak, Rev. Russ Menk, and Music Director Shawn Reifschneider; an innovative all-generations morning program; an array of dynamic and interesting afternoon workshops; and opportunities to discuss some of the current challenges and opportunities facing the PCD today.

Join us for dynamic worship, workshops, connections, and celebration!

To register, go to: <http://www.pcd-uua.org> and follow the DA2015 link.

We hope to see you there!
Charles B. Rosene, District Administrator
Pacific Central District - UUA



*Snow Hernandez
Director of Lifespan
Religious Exploration*

Religious Education Reflections

The past month left me rearranging my schedule due to two unplanned Sundays off for personal factors- a major car accident that left me physically and mentally out of commission for over a week and a family emergency shortly thereafter that had me out of state for that same length of time. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for all of the kind words and support I received during this time from the congregation and specifically my RE team who stepped up to handle things in a pinch. I am so lucky to be alive and so lucky to be a part of such a caring community here at UUCM.

Right now in RE we are setting our sights on visioning the rest of our church year in June. We are planning an all-ages RE hike, our youth service and bridging ceremony, and looking ahead to summer programming. On Easter Sunday, our children have been invited to join the Easter egg hunt at the Methodist church before service. More details on that to come!

Regrettably, the decision has been made by the board to turn the upstairs RE space back into an apartment that David will rent for the remainder of his time at UUCM. This will provide some much needed budget relief during the increased financial need created by the ministerial search process. The RE team will work its hardest to make sure that we keep our program running as smoothly as possible during this process so that we can serve our children and youth well and continue to emphasize their value and their need for a safe, spiritual home. I welcome any and all feedback on this process as the RE committee and I try to figure out the best way to move forward in light of this transition. The church aims to have the space re-purposed by May 1st. We will make the best of our new means!

*In faith,
Snow*

UU History Course

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST AT UUCM

Facilitated by Keith Johnson

(kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com, 265-0277)

Topics for this course will include the following:

- Week 1, 4/01: Introduction
- Week 2, 4/08: Beginnings- Arius, Origen, and Michael Servetus
- Week 3, 4/15: David and Socinus- Architects of Modern Unitarianism
- Week 4, 4/22: William Ellery Channing and the Emergence of Unitarian Christianity
- Week 5, 4/29: Nineteenth Century Idealism- Emerson and Parker
- Week 6, 5/6: Universalism in America

NOTE: We will not be meeting on Wednesday, May 13th!

- Week 7, 5/20: The Development of Humanism in the 20th Century
- Week 8, 5/27: Where Do We Go From Here?

Participants will be provided handouts for the following week's class. The handouts will mainly be primary sources of about 10 pages that we will discuss at length in class. There will be no other assigned readings. No prior knowledge of UU history is required – let's have some fun and learn about our denominational ancestors at the same time!

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH AT UUCM

Facilitated by Rev. David Usher

The second of four sessions studying David Usher's book, "Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health", will be held on Thursday April 16th. 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.

April Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY OF WEEK TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

March

31 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
12.30 Generosity Team

April

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

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

5 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service

6 Monday 5.30 Choir Practice

7 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
12.30 Generosity Team

8 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
11.00 Habitat for Humanity
Lunch Preparation
6.00 UU History, Beginnings
6.00 Generosity Leaders' Dinner

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

10 Friday 6.30 Spring Wine Market

12 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service
12.30 Facing Mental Health
Challenges Together

13 Monday 9.00 2nd Monday
Covenant Group
5.30 Choir Practice

14 Tuesday thru Thursday PCD Minister Retreat
(David available through
office for pastoral
emergencies)

14 Tuesday 9.00 Meditation
12.30 Generosity Team
4.00 Caring Committee
6.00 Women's Group

DATE DAY OF WEEK TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

15 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
6.00 UU History: Arch. of Modern
6.30 Bonnie B Chalice Group
7.00 Drumming Circle

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

17 Friday 12.00 Deadline for April
Mountain Chalice
4.00 Dinner Prep/Utah's Place

18 Saturday 9.00 Bldg & Grounds Work Party
10.30 Ladies' Consignment Walk
12.30 Bldg & Grounds Meeting

19 Sunday **Generosity Offering Sunday**
9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service
1.00 Pledge Celebration Brunch

20 Monday 4.00 Membership Committee
5.30 Choir Practice

21 Tuesday 9.00 Morning Meditation
6.30 Worship Committee Mtg

22 Wednesday 8.30 Men's Group
4.30 Finance Committee Mtg
6.00 UU History, Emergence

23 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group
10.30 Writers Group

24 Friday 7.00 Fourth Friday Film

25 Saturday 8.30 PCD District Annual Mtg, SF

26 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service
12.45 Social Justice Coord. Council

28 Tuesday 9.00 Morning Meditation
6.00 UU History, 19th Century

30 Thursday 8.30 Men's Coffee Group

May

2 Saturday 6.00 Live Auction

3 Sunday 9.45 Sunday Service
11.30 Sunday Service

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 and Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 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

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains presents their annual

Join wine broker Dave Luce, as he unfolds the intricacies of a dozen wines while you taste and judge for yourself.

This will be a fun evening for experienced wine connoisseurs as well as those just learning to appreciate wine.

In addition to sampling twelve wines, you will be invited to enjoy a delicious array of appetizers and desserts!

Dave assembles top quality wines, both white and red, at very affordable prices. Wines will be sold at discount prices on the date of the event only!

Cash, checks or credit cards accepted.

For tickets and information, please call Wally Holtan @ 274-7965 or Clarita Nolan @ 575-2229.

UUCM is located at
246 South Church Street,
Grass Valley

Spring Wine Market!

Friday, April 10, 2015

7 to 9 p.m. at UUCM

\$20 per person