

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Summer 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

Summer Service Schedule June 28 through September 6:
One Service at 11:00 a.m.

- June 28** **Service Leader:** *Gail Johnson Vaughan*
Spirituality Café - Explore Life's Big Questions
- July 5** **Service Leader:** *Bev Lyon*
with contributions from others who attended GA
- July 12** **Service Leader:** *Lindsay Dunckel*
- July 19** **Service Leader:** *Bev Lyon*
A Tapestry of Faith Service
- July 26** **Service Leader:** *Rev. Karen Foster*
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby

Rev. Karen Foster is Minister of Religious Education of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada in Reno. After the service, she will lead a workshop for those interested in developing our program for children and youth.

- August 2** **Service Leaders:** *Willow Karow-Digangi*
& Sam Lautzenhiser

Two of our young adults, Willow and Sam will have attended this year's General Assembly. They will introduce this special service which will feature a video of one of the GA's main worship services.

- August 9** **Service Leader:** *Jessica Clay*
Worship Associate: Sam Lautzenhiser

A guest preacher at UUCM in the Spring, and by popular demand returns to lead another service.

- August 16** **Service Leader:** *Annie Haymaker*
Music Service featuring many UUCM musicians

- August 23** **Service Leader:** *Rev. David Usher*

- August 30** **Service Leader:** *Rev. Barbara Meyers*
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson-Vaughan

Rev. Meyers is a Community Minister associated with the UU Fellowship in Fremont. Her special focus is Mental Health, and this service will be part of UUCM's increasing witness in this important but often neglected social need.

- September 6** **Service Leader:** *Rev. David Usher*
Worship Associate: Jennifer Dahlgren

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*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

As most of you will know, I returned to my native Australia for two weeks in June, mainly visiting my middle daughter who has been in Melbourne since last November, but also spending time in Sydney with my brother and in my home town of Adelaide. I get back to Australia very seldom, although on this occasion it had been only two and a half years since my previous visit.

When I first left Australia in 1976, I thought it was to be for just a few months of exploring in neighbouring New Zealand, but somehow that got extended to take in North America and Europe, and while I was travelling the idea of ministry took root and I ended up studying for the ministry in England. My adult life ever since has been in the UK and US. I have returned to Australia several times in the intervening years, and each time I am struck by the sense of home-coming, even though I have not lived there for such a long time and do not actively miss it when I am not there.

A sense of "home" is complicated. Homelessness carries with it a deep psychological void, and is much more than just a lack of physical shelter. Is "home" where you are originally from, or is it what you have made for yourself? Is it "where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in" as Robert Frost observed in *The Death of the Hired Man*? Something you somehow haven't to deserve? I am very grateful for the life I have had, with opportunity to live in several different countries, but a price I have paid for that privilege is that I no longer know for sure where "home" is. For two years I will be living here in Grass Valley, but does that make it "home" or just a temporary residence? In contrast, two of my brothers have never lived anywhere but Adelaide. In fact, they each have never lived more than five miles from the house where we all grew up. They certainly know where they belong.

Where is "home" for you? Is it where you happen presently to live, or does your heart really belong somewhere else, to which you return and where you immediately reconnect with a deep sense of belonging? Is your "home" somewhere you enjoy in solitude, or is it made home because you share it with others you love?

And if UUCM is your spiritual home, what exactly does that mean for you?

See you in church!

David

Minister Summer Schedule

Rev. David Usher will be attending the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, June 21 – 28. For much of July he will be on vacation, and on study leave in August. During his absence he may be reached primarily by e-mail: minister.uugv@gmail.com

Annual Meeting Approves By-Law changes

The Annual Meeting on May 31 was as smooth, short and good-humored as it could possibly have been. Rob Ferroggiaro gave his Presidential Report, Joel Houtman gave the financial report in the absence of our Treasurer, Janet Dunstan, and Rev. David Usher gave his Minister's Report. All the proposed by-law revisions were approved without discussion or dissent, and the whole thing lasted for not much more than half an hour. The Meeting was a tribute to the Board's thorough preparation and an indication of the congregation's general good health.





Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

Hello, UUCM!

June 30th will be the end of our church year, and this past year has been a year of richness, and also of challenge. We are completing the first of two years in the interim ministry, a transition period that presents a unique opportunity to open our minds and hearts to new ideas. We set out to examine our programs and practices, and experiment with ways in which they might be more effective so we can lay the best possible foundation for the arrival of a new settled minister.

At our Annual Meeting on May 31st we recognized the people who have served as volunteers in myriad ways to make our programs and activities so effective during the past twelve months. If you are among those who have given of your time and talent but weren't able to join us at the meeting, rest assured you are appreciated.

In September the Board of Trustees will hold a planning retreat to bring our leadership team together, to review the past year, and to make plans for how our UUCM community can bring to life a common vision for our future. Your Board of Trustees is looking forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm. These are exciting times and we are among great people.

- Rob

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

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

Members at Large:

Dawn Bateman, Kern Hildebrand,
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.*

UUCM members are welcome to observe with prior notice.

Board of Trustees

June Meeting Highlights

- The finance committee reported on options for the future of the five rental garages. More study is required. Efforts will be made to find rental opportunities for the RE space during the week.
- Keith Johnson, Kia Hatch, and Leal Portis were appointed as delegates to General Assembly
- The 2015-16 Ministerial Search Committee budget was approved in the amount of \$12,000 as presented at the recent annual meeting.
- Bonnie Bennett and David Ferrier were appointed to the Committee on Ministry and will join the Transition Team to fill vacancies left by members joining the Ministerial Search Committee
- Terry Holliman was appointed chair of Finance Committee.
- The Board finalized plans to hold its annual retreat on September 16th and 17th.
- Joel Houtman presented the proposed design for a new mantel which will replace the wood boxes in the alcove at the front of the sanctuary. The design and funds for construction were approved.

Board Thanks Bonnie Bennett

At the June Board of Trustees meeting, outgoing board member Bonnie Bennett was celebrated for all she has accomplished as a board member and teammate during this past year. The Board will miss her, but as always she will continue in service in other leadership roles. Bonnie has served a total of eight years as a UUCM board member!



Search Committee & Transition Team Updates

Board Appoints Search Committee

After a thorough consultation with the congregation which followed UUA guidelines, the Board has been delighted to announce the seven members of the Search Committee charged with finding the next settled minister. They are: Taylor Carey, Lindsay Dunkel, George Dunstan, Beth Freedman, Keith Johnson, Bev Lyon and Corrie Silva. They will be commencing their work this summer. Much of the Search Committee's work entails soliciting views from the congregation, but please note that it is essential that the Search Committee must maintain strict confidentiality until they are ready to make their announcement. In other words, the Search Committee may ask you questions, but please don't ask them questions.

Early Steps of Search Process

By UUCM Search Committee

Your UUCM Search Committee has started the early steps in the search process and we are on track and looking forward to this yearlong effort that will lead to a new settled minister for our congregation. On June 10th we held our first official meeting and were joined by Bob Miess, the Pacific Western Region Ministerial Settlement Representative. Bob described his role as our coach, consultant, and cheerleader during the search process and we discussed the structure of the Search Committee, the upcoming committee retreat, the policies of and support offered by UUA, and the timetable for the entire search process.

The Search Committee will be surveying the congregation and holding small meetings to gather the information necessary to answer the questions: Who are we? How do we see ourselves? Who are we called to be as a congregation? How do we want to develop? What kind of ministerial partner do we need? The information gathered will be used to prepare our Congregational Record that will be shared with ministerial candidates to let them know who we are. The Search Committee will also use that information to evaluate ministers to determine if they are a match for us.

We will post a calendar of the tasks involved in the search and update where we are in the process as we proceed. We look forward to working with all of you during this exciting time.

Your search committee,

*Taylor Carey, Lindsay Dunkel,
George Dunstan, Beth Freedman,
Keith Johnson, Bev Lyon and Corrie Silva*



Transition Team and Committee on Ministry

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro

Please Note: As we did last year, CoM/TT will be taking a summer break in July and August.

The Transition Team meets with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. The congregation recently voted four members of the Transition Team/Committee on Ministry to be on the Ministerial Search Committee. Consequently, the BOT at their June 11th meeting appointed Bonnie Bennett and David Ferrier to now serve on TT/CoM, bringing the number of TT/CoM members back to the normal amount.

The Committee on Ministry is part of the Transition Team, so this is the group to contact regarding our shared ministry and congregational relations.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is UUCM's guiding principle. Please see the Covenant and the Options for Addressing Challenges on our web site before contacting us about attending a meeting: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/about-us/covenant-of-right-relations/>

Then, if there's anything you'd like to bring to the team's attention, please contact one of the members below. Attendance is by prior arrangement only, since people may be bringing deeply personal situations to the team.

Our next meeting will be in September.

Suzanne Ferroggiaro
Susan Sanford
Bonnie Bennett
David Ferrier

suzanneferro17@gmail.com
ssanford@sonic.net
freedomwriter47@gmail.com
davidsdrums@gmail.com

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship on Slow Summer "Simmer"!

By Beryl Maclean Beckwith
UUCM Stewardship Committee
Chair

Your financial contribution is vital in helping UUCM fulfil its role as a place of inspirational worship, meaningful relationships, and service to the wider community. Your generosity not only empowers UUCM to do that important work for the benefit of others, it is an essential indicator of your own spiritual health. A generous spirit is a healthy spirit. Please remember if you have not already done so to complete your pledge payment for any remaining balance for the 2014-2015FY, due by June 30th. Thank you!



Openings on Stewardship Committee

By Beryl Maclean Beckwith
UUCM Stewardship Committee
Chair

The Stewardship Committee is in need of a few new volunteers to replace a few of who are now serving in other important roles in the coming year, such as the Ministerial Search Team. Contact Beryl if you are interested in knowing more about the rewards that Stewardship work can bring to your life in our Community. If interested, please email me at: beckwithbm@gmail.com or call (510) 384-7162.

Electronic Giving Now Available at UUCM!

The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making your regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Collection basket offering can fluctuate significantly from week to week due to travel, illness and other circumstances, but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis – and you don't have to worry about forgetting or getting behind on your pledge.

To set up your online donations at UUCM's website home page:

1. Go to www.uugrassvalley.org
2. Click the "Online Giving" button
3. Click the "Create Profile" button
4. Follow the on screen instructions to create your online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Thank you!

Online Giving

Stewardship Events for the Upcoming Church Year

Here are a few dates to keep in mind. Summer is slow, but we start kicking it up a bit this fall! Come join in!

August 29	Long-Term UUCM Stewardship Program Planning Workshop with The Rev. George "Bud" Swank
September 11	Fall Wine Market
October 2	Clara Barton Fundraiser
December 6 & 13	Winter Boutique and Auction
February 13	Spring Live and Silent Auction
March 6 - May 1	2016-2017 Pledge Campaign
March 11	Spring Wine Market

Membership and Hospitality

Our Next "Intro to UUCM" Class will be Held in October

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, October 10th. It will be an opportunity to share your personal spiritual journey 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.

If you would like to take the class next fall, please let one of the greeters know next time you are at UUCM.

Hospitality Training Available

If you would like to help set up and/or clean up the coffee and snack table, but don't know your way around the UUCM kitchen, Carol Kuczora would be happy to show you the ropes. She can show you where supplies are stored, how much coffee to make, how to operate our dishwashers, and lots more.

Please come back to the kitchen and look for Carol or one of the other regular volunteers (David Ferrier and Donna Foddrell) and let them know you'd like to help. You can help provide a much needed and appreciated service for your fellow parishioners. This is a perfect job for someone who wants to contribute, but isn't ready to make the commitment to be on a committee.

Starting June 28th at UUCM, we'll just have one service each Sunday through September 6th, so the coffee hour will follow the service as in the past. We will need people to come before the 11:00 service to get the coffee made, and/or to stay after to clean up and put away any left overs.

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

Thank you!

New Member Wall Coming Soon

By Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair

As has been mentioned earlier, we have a lot of new members joining our community. The membership committee is planning to post photographs and introductions of our newest members on the wall at UUCM so that everyone can have a chance to get to know a little bit about them. They'll be in the hallway on the way to the Alcott room and kitchen. Look for them soon! You'll also find introductions of the folks who joined on May 31st following. We are grateful for Clarita Nolan for taking their photos!

I invite you to find out a little more about these folks, and introduce yourself! Perhaps there is a group

or activity you enjoy at UUCM that you could invite a newer member to attend. Please help us welcome all visitors and new members... let's get connected!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Kathy MacLeod, Claire Miller,
and Sarah Scott

Committee meetings are from 4-5:30 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!*

Please Welcome our Newest Members:



ARDIE ANDREWS

Ardie first attended UU "church" in Los Angeles, eventually becoming Board chair at the UU Riverside Fellowship. After moving to San Diego, she joined the UU Congregation there, which became one of the first churches to participate in a rotating overnight shelter program.

Upon retirement from the Housing Commission in San Diego, she headed East, volunteering for six months at UU Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Western Massachusetts, then moving into a tiny farm house up the road. For the first time in her life, she was able to do work that she truly loved—as assistant director of a transitional housing program, a family/youth mediator, an AmeriCorps member, and a "go-fer" for the start-up of an innovative residential program of foster and adoptive families in Easthampton.

Membership Committee Updates

Welcome our Newest Members:



KATE AND DAVE CANAN

Kate and Dave Canan grew up in Billings, Montana at the First Presbyterian Church, and both played hooky from Senior High Youth Group there. After they married, they slept in on Sunday mornings for over twenty years until they found the Unitarian Universalist

Society of Sacramento in 2000. Kate was especially active in music and adult education at UUSS. They decided to move to the foothills after their three children were grown, recently buying UUCM member Ruth Ghio's house.

Dave works from home for IBM and loves his new view of the forest. Kate teaches Latin, flute, and recorder; and she performs a wide range of music from medieval to contemporary. She has already been enticed into the UUCM choir.



PETER MUSSER

Peter was born and raised in Auburn and joined the Navy in 2008 in order to be a Chinese and Spanish language interpreter. He was stationed in Hawaii for most of his time in the service, and then got out in 2014 to pursue other interests.

One of Peter's passions is the right for everyone to have access to education. Last year, he traveled across North America and Europe interviewing folks who are involved in the online education scene. In fact, you can see some of his interviews on YouTube.

Peter plans to go to Grad School in the next few years, most likely to get a degree in library science, and become a librarian. He currently works in Grass Valley doing technical support for a solar company.



KAREN COPENING

Karen Copening is a Unitarian Universalist lifer – she had her naming ceremony at the First UU church of San Diego at the age of four.

She met her husband Phillip in 1976 dancing at Zacs in Sausalito – World Famous for Turtle Races.

Professionally, Karen was director of Petaluma Community Access Media Center, and is wild about production! She served on the board of FCAT (now NCTV) upon moving to Nevada County in 2000.

As a Legal Assistant she coordinated a program for victims of domestic violence in Truckee in the 1980s. She and her husband of 35 years, Phillip, were also professional puppeteers performing at art fairs and fundraisers.

Although she would never consider herself not a member of all UU fellowships, she is rejoining Grass Valley UUCM because she feels supported in her own beliefs, and she appreciates the creativity and inclusiveness of the people here.



MARILYN YOUNG

Marilyn was born and raised in Oakland, California and attended UC Berkeley. After her husband's early death, she raised their four children in Santa Cruz County, returning to the work force as the Director of the American Cancer Society in Santa Cruz.

When her youngest son left for college, she entered the University of Santa Clara Law School, graduating and passing the bar on her first attempt. She then spent four years in Maryland with her oldest daughter's family, helping start a bed and breakfast inn in historic Ellicott City. She returned to California, spending two years in Sacramento helping Kathryn with her newborn twins, then four years running a children's book store in San Francisco. She resettled in Sacramento about 20 years ago, and last fall, she moved to Nevada City, to be closer to two of her children, Kathryn and Scott. She has found the members of U.U.C.M. to be friendly and caring and is happy to join our community.

Membership Committee Updates

Welcome our Newest Members:

PAUL BROUGHTON

Paul, spent the first six years of his life attending a Unitarian Church, while living with his foster family in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, before being returned to his Catholic Family in Worcester. Over the years he felt something missing in his life and in 1999, Paul reconnected with his foster family. He attended the Unitarian Church with the sister of his heart, Louella Mann and felt he had returned home.

Paul has worked as a high school teacher, track coach, college professor, High School Principal, and now, in retirement, serves on the Yuba City School Board.

He and his wife, Becky's greatest blessings are their four adult children: Lisa, Jennifer, Meagan, and Robert, along with six grandchildren, and he is especially close to his 5 year old granddaughter Regan, who renews his faith in unconditional love.

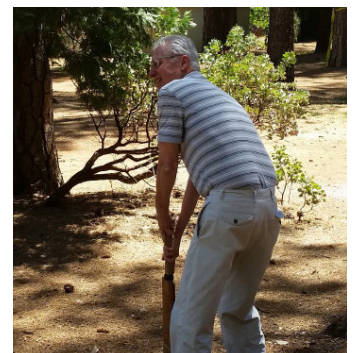
(Unfortunately, Paul was ill and missed the ceremony, so we don't have his photo.)

End of the Year Outdoor Service was a Big Success!

By Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the outdoor service and barbecue on Father's Day, including Mother Nature who provided a lovely day for us. I am grateful for our barbecuers, Bob Bateman and Mike Stolla, who arrived at 9:30 a.m. to get the coals prepared, Wally and Gwen for picking up chairs and more, and taking them back after the service, Walt O'Malley for bringing extra microphones, Janet Bullock for helping lead songs AND cleaning the grill, Claire Miller, Carol Kuczora, Kathy MacLeod, Jennifer Lundsford, Rob and Suzanne Ferroggiaro, and more for help with set up and clean up, the Houtmans for storing the meat and more in their freezer for a couple weeks, and of course, Rev. David for finally revealing how parrots got their bright coloring, not to mention some of the secrets of the game of cricket, with help from Bob Miller. And let's not forgot the Banner Mountain Boys who came an hour before the service to set up their sound system, and entertained us with their lively music throughout the event.

And it would not have been a picnic without all the fabulous cooks and gardeners who brought their delicious salads, desserts, home grown produce and other delights. (UU potlucks are the best of all!) Thanks to all the energetic UUs who stepped up to help – you made the day a success!!



Committee Updates

Thanks to Building & Grounds Work Day Volunteers in June

NEXT WORK SATURDAY, JULY 18TH AT 8:00 AM

*By Wally Holtan, Chair,
Building and Grounds Committee*

June found us with six willing volunteers working on the UUCM building and grounds. Our major goal was to finish spreading bark in the front of the church. Theresa, Gwen and I braved the warm temperatures and got it done. It looks great and will conserve on our water usage. The project took us three months total and I really appreciate the effort made.

Be sure to check out the new benches and rocked areas that were installed in out front during the month of June. I would like to thank Theresa Houtman and her crew for their hard work – it was a great surprise to come home from vacationing in Minnesota and have this project done!

And now, you can also enjoy the benches in the back patio, installed by our resident wood-working specialist Joel Houtman. Thank you, Joel!!

Keith did his magic on the chairs in the sanctuary yet again. Thank you Keith for your continued excellence. We all know how exciting that project must be on a monthly basis. One of our newest volunteers, Ardie Andrews worked on cleaning the refrigerator in the garage. It looks great. It was donated by Ruth Ghio and has been in need of some TLC since it arrived.

I am always amazed by what can be accomplished in three hours with an energetic crew. 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 – even if you can not stay the whole time. Please, come and join us, we do not bite and have been even known to have fun.

The next scheduled work day is July 18th, 2015.
Hope to see you there.

UUCM Covenant Group Update

*By Bonnie Bennett
Covenant Group Coordinator*

Thank you to everyone who participated in UUCM's Covenant Groups this last year. Special thanks to Doug Rodrick and Barbara Barr for serving as group leaders with me. Also, thanks to close to 30 participants who made the commitment from September through June.

UUCM has added 26 new members this last year, so I'm imagining that we might need six groups next year. Small Group Ministry in the form of Covenant Groups is all the more important now that we've grown so much and added another service on Sunday.

We will be seeking leaders and participants for next year's start-up in October. Rev. David is planning on a September sermon to remind us of the importance of Small Group Ministry in terms of our spiritual health and making a deeper connection to each other.

If you have questions, e-mail me at:
freedomwriter47@gmail.com.

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 in hospice care loves receiving cards with your thoughts.
- Jim Lowe, our beloved pianist, passed away on June 12th. No service is planned at this time, but please keep his family in your heart.
- Sunny Holmes suffered a recent spinal compression fracture and she is not driving. She would love the offer of rides to Sunday service or UUCM events.
- Pat Paddock has recently given up her car and could really use help with rides.
- Marcella Hardt had a recent fall and is recovering at Golden Empire Hospital. She should be returning to her new home at Eskaton later in June.
- Otto Haueisen is 101 years young and he would enjoy having visits from old friends. He is recovering at home from a recent hospitalization.

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

Social Justice Activities

Final All Congregational Social Justice Workshop

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 12:30 P.M.

By Keith Johnson
Social Justice Leadership Team

The second of a series of three all congregation social justice workshops was held on June 14. The workshops are sponsored by the Social Justice Coordinating Council and are presented by the UU Justice Ministry of California. The purpose of the workshops is to revitalize and invigorate our social justice ministry so that it is fully integrated into congregational life.

A total of thirty seven people attended the June 14 workshop. The agenda included a recap of the first workshop, which focused on UUCM's history with social justice, how our religious values are expressed through justice work, and an introduction to models of engagement which allow us to become allies in right relationship. The balance of the June 14 workshop was conducted in small groups. Based on a phone survey of the congregation, six critical social justice issues were identified. Each group explored how these issues can be confronted using the five pillars of social justice work: service, education, organizing, witness, and advocacy. This exercise was informative, thought provoking, and lots of fun. By all reports, a good time was had by all.

The third and final workshop will be held on Sunday, July 12 after the service. Refreshments will be served. Prior to July 12, the congregation will be invited to complete a written survey about their preferences for social justice work. UUJM staff, the Minister, and the social justice leadership team will review the results of the written survey, as well as the phone survey completed previously and the data compiled from the second workshop. Then the leadership team will make recommendations and set up the process for selection of a congregationally based social justice ministry. The third workshop will set the stage for completion of the new model program.

Sound exciting? Don't miss the July 12 workshop. Visitors, friends, and members are all welcome. See you there!

Survey Says: Your input needed before July 12 Social Justice Workshop

The Third Social Justice All Congregation Workshop is scheduled for Sunday, July 12. Before that workshop, we need more input from you about which issues you consider to be the most important (i.e. Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Racial Equality, Immigration Reform, Healthcare,

Reclaiming Democracy). Please go online at uujmca.org/uucmsurvey and fill out the survey. Paper copies are also available at Sunday services.

– Bonnie Bennett, Chair SJC

UU Animal Ministry News

By Carol Hyndman, Chair,
UUCM Animal Ministry

The Pass the Plate for July will be Animal Place, the farmed animal rescue sanctuary in Grass Valley. It will be on the July 12 service. Kim Sturla, executive director and co-founder of Animal Place, will be there.

DONATE FOOD FOR HUNGRY PETS

Please remember to bring donations for Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter to UUCM on the first Sunday of each month.

GREEN Power Points

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

RECHARGE IT, PLEASE!

Whenever you can, buy rechargeable rather than disposable batteries. Rechargeable batteries live longer, of course, but they also can be recycled, while disposable batteries can't. In general, never put batteries in the trash without checking with your local solid waste management district (listed under County Government in your phone book) for any outlets for household battery recycling. Also remember to inquire at local jewellers, pharmacies, or battery retailers to see if they'll accept button batteries for recycling.

STRIP TEASE

If you work away from home bring a power strip to work - or request one the next time someone's ordering office supplies - so you can plug all your electronics into one place and unplug them all with a single yank at the end of the day. Why? Electronics and appliances eat up energy - known as "standby" or "leaking" electricity - even when they're not being used! A study from the University of California, Berkeley showed that the average California household pays between \$50 and \$70 every year to keep things humming while they're just sitting there!

Final Words from Rachel Carson -

"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

(From my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar from G.A. way back when)

Social Justice Activities

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place

*THIRD AND FIFTH FRIDAYS AT 4:00 P.M.,
JULY 17, JULY 31 AND AUGUST 21*

By Leal Portis

UUCM's dinner crew provides dinner for residents of the Hospitality House on third and fifth Friday of every month. We are always in need of volunteers to cook and folks to either provide part of the food or donate money to shop. We also leave food for breakfast – no more cereal as they have to take a bag breakfast now. If you can help, please contact Leal at 265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com.

Fourth Friday Film Series presents "CITIZENFOUR"

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT UUCM

When filmmaker Laura Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald flew to Hong Kong to meet Edward Snowden for the first time, Poitras brought her camera with her. The result is a 100% real-life espionage story unfolding minute by minute before our eyes, giving audiences unprecedented access to their encounters. Poitras had already been working on a film about surveillance for 2 years when Snowden contacted her, using the name Citizenfour, in January 2013. For more info, please see: <https://citizenfourfilm.com/>



California CareForce Event Planning

LOCATION: BRIAR PATCH COMMUNITY ROOM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 FROM 6 TO 8 P.M.

A growing number of Nevada County people are volunteering to help prepare for the free medical, dental and vision 2-day clinic being brought to Grass Valley by the non-profit California

CareForce next November 14th and 15th . If you or your organization, religious affiliate, etc. want to help local people in need of these health services, come to our next meeting!

For more information: <http://www.californiacareforce.org/>



Fourth Friday Film Series presents "GROUNDWELL RISING" at UUCM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children's Air and Water brings us into the lives of people from all walks of life and all sides of the political spectrum who are dedicating themselves to resisting, slowing down or stopping fracking.

We meet parents, scientists, artists, teachers, clergy, community organizers and business leaders who are convinced that this unproven form of gas extraction is a serious health and environmental risk. Driven by a deep moral conviction, we see how they are standing up to one of the world's most powerful industries.

The film takes us back to the groundswells of the past such as the civil rights movement, women's rights, the denormalization of cigarette smoking, and the environmental movement, for connection and inspiration. And looking forward we see how the resistance to fracking is part of a growing movement towards dealing with climate change and making the transition to sustainable energy. The notion that burning more fossil fuels as a bridge to a cleaner planet is explored. For more info, please see: <http://www.groundswellrising.com/>

Discussions to follow films. Refreshments will be available. \$5 - \$10 donation requested; no one turned away for lack of funds. Co-sponsored by The Nevada County Peace and Justice Center and the UUCM Social Justice Coordinating Council.

For more information, call (530) 615-7859, visit www.ncpeace.org, or email the Nevada County Peace Center at ncpeace@sbcglobal.net.



Musical Notes

Jim Lowe, Music Man

By Annie Haymaker

Jim Lowe was born in the late 1930s, and grew up in the Midwest. His father was a pianist, and supported the family during the Depression as a working musician; he told a story about a job where he played 8 hours for \$3 and all the beer he could drink, but if he took a bathroom break he only got \$2. Jim had piano lessons as a child, and his first gigs were recitals and USO shows in the 1940s.



He started playing professionally in 1955, when he moonlighted playing piano in a jazz club during his senior year in high school. He served as pianist with the 298th Army Band in Germany, also improvising on glockenspiel with the marching band. He attended seven institutions of higher learning for brief periods of time, with no degrees. He played in Chicago with the Ted Weems Band, a popular jazz-novelty band, and his musical idol was the great pianist Art Tatum, famous for his exuberant and sophisticated interpretations of jazz standards.

In the 60s Jim headed for the San Francisco Bay area, a very creative environment for musicians, artists, theater people, and poets, and a hotbed of anti-Vietnam war protest. He played solo piano and led his own jazz combos in North Beach, sharing billings with Lee Konitz, John Handy, Charlie Haden, Wes Montgomery, Vince Guaraldi, Mose Allison, Sonny King, Big Mamma Thornton, Jefferson Airplane, and the Grateful Dead.

In the early 70s, Jim founded the Cleveland Wrecking Co. Band, a unique jazz-flamenco-rock band. When drummer Steve Mitchell joined Cleveland Wrecking Co., Jim was giving all the money they made to the Diggers, who had set up soup kitchens and medical clinics to help the needy in San Francisco.



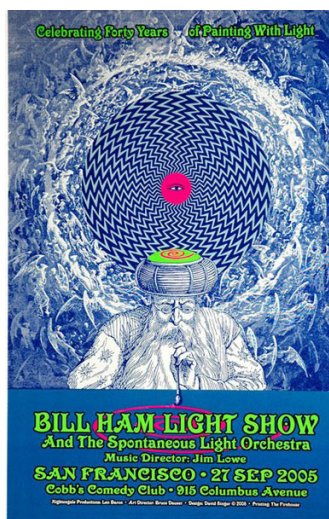
"He was like that his whole life; he never worked to publicize himself or get rich and famous," recalls Steve.

The band had a Baldwin grand piano and a Hammond B3 organ, and Jim and bassist Patrick

McCarthy would remove the legs from the piano, put it on a skid board, and use a dolly to get it and the organ onto their flatbed truck to get to their gigs. Then Jim would spend half an hour re-tuning the piano when they got there. Steve says "Jim would do anything it took to make music and make it happen." They were road musicians, at any moment ready to go to Seattle, New York, or Buenos Aires. The music scene included smoking, drinking, and drugs, and was a hard life and a lot of work, says Patrick, but "Those were the days..."

When their flamenco guitarist left the band, it evolved into the Jim Lowe Trio with Jim, Steve, and Patrick, playing mostly in North Beach. Jim moved to Grass Valley in the early 80s, doing Bay Area gigs with his trio and other gigs all around Northern California. He wrote *Mountain Boys Are Free: Portrait of Ned Guthrie, the Musicians' Abraham Lincoln* (1993), a profile of the musician who led the fight to repeal the unjust Lea Act.

In 2006 Jim began accompanying the UUCM choir, and that fall became the regular Sunday accompanist, replacing Florence Armour, a classically trained pianist. Win Rogers, former choir member, says "Jim did a wonderful job learning to be a church musician while remaining true to his musical roots." Jim also accompanied music classes at a local elementary school, and served as President of Chapter 390 of the California School Employees Union, as well as lecturing on performers' rights and the law.



Bill Ham, creator of the psychedelic liquid light shows at the Avalon Ballroom in the 60s, collaborated with Jim in the 70s. When Ham resumed doing light shows in the 2000s, he asked Jim to play for them, and Jim expanded into electronic music, including multiple instruments and orchestra. Most recently, Jim's main focus was on improvisation within the creative processes of composing music and action painting. He had a show of his canvas and silk paintings at UUCM in 2011.

I met Jim in July of 2006, on the first day I showed up at UUCM to

join the choir. He was very responsive to Judy van der Veen's directing, providing dependable underpinning for the choir in many styles of music. As I became chair of the music committee and then music director, we worked more closely together, and he was always modest and straightforward, with a classic Midwestern sense of humor, understated and earthy. He taught me a lot by example about working with other musicians, and speaking up for the underdog. He last played for us in April, and departed this earth on June 12, 2015. June was also my last month as UUCM's music director, and I am honored to have shared these nine years at UUCM with this talented, decent man.

Many thanks to Bill Ham, Steve Mitchell, and Patrick McCarthy, who kindly shared their memories of Jim with me. Jim's music, art, and photos can be found on his website, www.jimlowemusicman.com.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Choir News

During July and August, the choir will practice as usual on the first three Monday evenings of each month from 5:30 to 7 pm, but will not sing for services. This is our traditional “no-guilt” summer choir, a good time to drop in, sing with us, and see if you might like to join. For more information, call Annie Haymaker at 477-0701.

Evening Choir

By Janet Bullock

I have now completed my work as volunteer choir director. What a wonderful, satisfying experience! What a delicious bunch of people I got to work with! My thanks to them for putting their hearts into making beautiful music with me. My thanks to you all for receiving us and our music with your open hearts. And my thanks to dear Jim Lowe for being our trusty, crusty, and tender-hearted piano-player.

UUCM Seeks Music Director

Applications have been sought for the position of a quarter-time Music Director, and it is hoped that an appointment will be made to start on September 1. We are grateful to Toon Vandevorst who has agreed to be our musician during the interim period.

Women's Circle –

TUESDAYS, JULY 14 AND AUGUST 11, 2015

6:00 P.M. FOR POTLUCK DINNER

Details about our upcoming Women's Circle meetings will be announced prior to the meetings through our Women's Circle e-mail group. Usually we meet at UUCM, but occasionally have off-site activities. If you are not on the list to receive e-mails from the UUCM Women's Circle and wish to be, please let us know and we'll add you! Contact either Clarita Nolan: photosbyclarita@att.net, (530.575.2229) or Kathryn Young, kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, (530.478.1329).

UU Women are Walking!

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS, 9:00 A.M.

Join in! A delightful group of UU women are walking for a couple hours twice a month, getting both exercise and companionship. For information about times, carpools, and locations, please contact Kathryn Young (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.)

We've "gone to the dogs"! Our furry friends joined us for a walk on the Tribute Trail, across the new suspension bridge.

All Ages Hikes Continue!

Claire and Bob Miller led a small group on a hike in the Sierras in June and the participants had a great day. We'll continue to lead hikes that will accommodate a variety of ages and abilities. The next planned hike will be Saturday, July 11 with Kathryn Young coordinating. We plan to hike the Castle Peak trail which has a gradual climb for most of it. (The end is quite a bit steeper, but those who don't want to go to the top can either sit and enjoy the scenery and fresh air, or start back down.) Saturday, August 1, Claire and Bob have plans for another hike. The details for each hike will be sent out to the General UU email list, so watch for it to get organized for carpools to the trail head, and other pertinent information.

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015 AT 10:30 AM

By George Dunstan

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

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

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings at What's Up? Coffee, (1110 E Main St., Grass Valley), 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.

Men's Group Book Club

A group of men meet to discuss books at 10:30 a.m. on first and third Thursdays at What's Up Coffee. These meetings follow the regular Men's Group meetings that start at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday. Contact Mel Berry at melnannie@yahoo.com or 530-559-0904 for more information.

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.



Community Connections



Drop-in Support Circle Update

By Janet Bullock

The Drop-in Circle experiment in May went very well, and there is general consensus by participants that we'd like to continue. (The Drop-in Circle was a weekly place on Sundays to share some cares and concerns with others in a supportive environment.)

We're looking now at whether or not we CAN continue (i.e. do we have sufficient resources, can we develop a workable plan?). We'll keep you posted.

UUCM hosting Japanese Language Program

For a month this summer, the upstairs apartment at UUCM will be used during the week by a Language Program for seven Japanese teenagers. If you would like to host one of these guests in your home for four weeks this summer, please see the poster in the church hallway (or see the flyer below), call Cultural Homestay International at 916-791-2425 or 1-877-791-2425, or see: www.chinet.org.



Cultural Homestay International

a non-profit educational exchange program









Tervetuloa Shalom Willkommen Welcome Huan Yin Vitajte Bienvenido Irrashai

HOST A JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENT

Volunteer host families are urgently needed to give a loving home to exchange students from Japan from July 19 August 8/15, 2015 (4-weeks) in the Grass Valley / Nevada City area of California. Students will attend classes at the Unitarian Church in Grass Valley weekdays from 8:00 am to 2:00pm to improve their English skills and to learn about American culture and history. Evenings and weekends will be free to spend with their host families. The following students are also available for the Academic Year Program where they would live with a host family and attend the local high school for the school year.

Open your home to the world and the world will become your home!

To find out more about becoming a world neighbor, please contact CHI Area Administrator Cathy Johnson at 916-791-2425 or toll free 1-877-791-2425 or IEP Teacher Tracy Cameron 530-530-274-0240 or 530-401-1036 You can also find more information on CHI's web site www.chinet.org

(Girl) 	Tomoko belongs to her schools Kendo club (Japanese fencing.) Other hobbies she has are reading book & cooking. In the future she would like to work in foreign countries helping children.	(girl) 	Kiyoka is very musically inclined & plays the piano, horn, guitar, recorder & enjoys singing. She also enjoys doing handicrafts. She hasn't decided what she'd like to do in the future but is hoping to find her career while studying in America.
(Girl) 	Motoko's 3 favorite things are listening to music, talking & cooking. In the future, she would like to be a Cabin Attendant. She also enjoys playing basketball and has played since 3 rd grade.	(boy) 	Gota plays the bass clarinet, piano & recorder & hopes to play in a band while in America. He also enjoys photography & watching soccer games.
(Girl) 	Moeri has been placed for the school year but will need a summer host family. enjoys dancing, going to the movies and studying English in school. In the future, she would like to have a job overseas that requires her English skills. Moeri is allergic to indoor cats.	(Girl) 	Minami would like to work for Disney Productions in the future so that she can use her English skills. Minami plays the Koto, a traditional Japanese instrument and has been a cheerleader in her school. Minami is placed for the school year.
(Girl) 	Narumi would like to be a volunteer interpreter for the Tokyo Olympics in the future. Three things she is most involved in are fashion, cooking & music. Narumi is allergic to indoor cats and dogs.		Kanon would like to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the U.N. in the future. Her 3 favorite things she likes are cooking, listening to western music & playing piano. She plays the piano & would like to be a volunteer

Religious Education News & All-Ages Events

Looking Ahead: Events for All Ages This Summer

By Claire Miller, (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)

Coordinator of RE Programs for Children and Youth

Casual Picnic for All Ages

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH

Meet at Condon Park at 5p.m., bring your own picnic supper, favorite game equipment, and your friends for an evening of fun, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Suitable for everyone.

RE Planning Meeting

SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

Following the Sunday Service, there will be an afternoon meeting called "Planning our RE program for the next year". Religious educator Karen Foster from Reno, will be with us to lead the service and then guide our discussion. All parents and teens are encouraged to participate. This is YOUR program. Let's work out how to make it the very best possible!!

Hikes for All Ages -

SATURDAY, JULY 11 AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Day hike in the Sierras, within 1 hour's drive of Grass Valley. Join UU friends for a day in the outdoors. Bring your friends, get some exercise, and breathe cool mountain air. Out and back trail – so suitable for varying ability/fitness levels.

Details about location and car-pooling will be sent out via our UU general email list prior to each hike, so keep those dates available and plan to enjoy a day in the great outdoors with other UUs!

Annual Family Campout at Scott's Flat Lake

AUG 21-23 2015

By Beth Freedman

Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for more details and highlights. This is a really wonderful time to relax and play together. I encourage all old and new families to come!

We have seven sites reserved and generally two camping families share each site. The approximate cost per camping family is \$44 for the weekend (assuming two cars). We check in around 3 p.m. Friday and check out by 1 p.m. Sunday.

CAMPING

To get a camping spot, please confirm with me as soon as possible. The church advanced us the money for the reservation and now is time to book your spot and pay your fees. Please refer to Scott's Flat website for information on Rules and Fees. There are extra fees for dogs, kayaks etc. <http://scottsflatlake.net/>

DAY VISIT

If you want to come for the day, that is great too. I encourage you to come Saturday and stay for the Potluck, Talent Show and Sing Along. If you come for the day, you will pay a \$10 extra car fee at the gate to get in.

TALENT SHOW

Time to start planning your ACT and share your talents around the campfire. All ages, musical, skits, singing.....we are a very supportive and friendly audience!

I am looking for a few good men and women to join our group of 2015 UUCM Camping Coordinators. Coordinators will help organize our social activities, potluck, and worship, and help answer questions for all of our camping families. If you are interested please let me know (530-575-9319).

I have some confirmed folks in spots and will be calling you BUT please respond again to me so I can be sure to get everyone in a spot. If we need more room, we will have to book more spots very soon.

I am very happy to talk to anyone interested in camping, and can give you more information. I have a detailed information sheet that I will send out as we get closer to the camping weekend.

Hope to see all you Happy Campers again!



Willow
Karow-Digangi's
Bridging
Ceremony
on Sunday,
May 31

UUCM Annual Camp Out

AT SCOTTS FLAT LAKE

Friday August 21st - Sunday August 23rd, 2015

FUN, FROLICKING, AND ADVENTURE AWAITS UUs



Come camp with us under the tall pines and play in the cool lake...

Daily Activities:

- * Hiking, Biking, Swimming & Boating on the Lake
(Bring your kayaks, paddle boards, or rent them from Scotts Flat)
- * Games & Bad Mitton
- * Arts and Crafts

Highlights:

Friday:

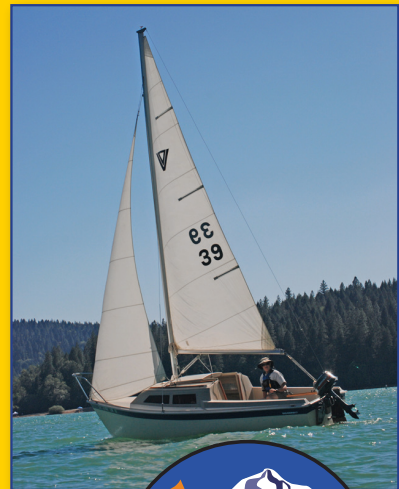
- 5:00 pm: Refreshment Hour
7:30 pm: Fire Circle and Music *(Bring Your Song Books)*

Saturday:

- 10:30 am: Group Hike by the Lake
5:00 pm: Drinks, Appetizers, and Grill Time
6:00 pm: Pot Luck
7:30 pm: ***Again By Popular Demand: UUs GOT TALENT!!***
After Talent Show -Fire Circle & Sing Along Music

Sunday:

- 10:30am: Sunday Worship Circle in the Trees
(Bring your poems, readings & reflections to share)



Contact Beth Freedman
for sign-up & details:
bethannfreedman@gmail.com
(530) 575-9319

Summer Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JUNE			
28	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
30	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation
JULY			
1	Wednesday	8.30 10.30	Men's Group Humanist Group
2	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Group Book Club (off site)
5	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
6	Monday	5.30	Choir Rehearsal
7	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation
8	Wednesday	8.30 11.00	Men's Group Habitat Humanity Lunch Prep
9	Thursday	8.30 10.30 6.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
12	Sunday	11.00 12.30	Sunday Service Social Justice Workshop
13	Monday	5.30	Choir Rehearsal
14	Tuesday	9.00 4.00 6.00	Meditation Caring Committee Women's Circle
15	Wednesday	8.30 6.30	Men's Group Bonnie B Chalice Group (off site)
16	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Group Book Club (off site)
17	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
18	Saturday	8.00 11.30	Building & Grounds Work Day Building & Grounds Meeting
19	Sunday	9.45	Sunday Service
20	Monday	5.30	Choir

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
21	Tuesday	9.00 1.00 7.00	Meditation Grandmothers for Peace Climate Change Coalition
22	Wednesday	8.30 4.30	Men's Group Finance Committee
23	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writing Group
24	Friday	7.00	Fourth Friday Film
26	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
28	Tuesday	9.00 6.30	Meditation Worship Committee
29	Wednesday	8.30	Men's Group
30	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site)
31	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
AUGUST			
2	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
3	Monday	5.30	Choir
4	Tuesday	9.00 12.30	Meditation Stewardship Committee
5	Wednesday	8.30 10.30	Men's Group Humanist Group
6	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Book Group (off site)
9	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
10	Monday	5.30	Choir
11	Tuesday	9.00 4.00 6.00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting Women's Circle
12	Wednesday	8.30 11.00	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
13	Thursday	8.30 10.30 6.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers Group Board of Trustees Meeting

Summer Calendar of Events at UUCM, continued

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
AUGUST			
15	Saturday	8.00 11.30	Bldg & Grounds Work Party Bldg & Grounds Meeting
16	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
17	Monday	5.30	Choir
18	Tuesday	9.00 1.00 7.00	Meditation Grandmothers for Peace Climate Change Coalition
19	Wednesday	8.30 6.30	Men's Group Bonnie B Chalice Group (off site)
20	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Book Group (off site)
21-23	Fri-Sun		Annual Family Campout at Scott's Flat Lake
21	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place Mt. Chalice submissions due
23	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
25	Tuesday	9.00 6.30	Meditation Worship Committee

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
AUGUST			
26	Wednesday	8.30 4.30	Men's Group Finance Committee
27	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writing Group
28	Friday	7.00	Fourth Friday Film
29	Saturday	9.00	Congregational Stewardship Long Term Planning Workshop
30	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
SEPTEMBER			
1	Tuesday	9.00 12.30	Meditation Stewardship Committee
2	Wednesday	8.30 10.30	Men's Group Humanist Group
3	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Book Group (off site)
6	Sunday Labor Day	11.00	Sunday Service <i>Last summer service, next Sunday we return to two services, 9:45 and 11 a.m.</i>



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Street Address: 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services Summer Schedule: 11:00 A.M.

NEW! Summer Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

E-MAIL ADDRESS

minister.uugv@gmail.com
admin@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661
530.274.1675