

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

Each Sunday, you may choose to attend services at either 9:45 A.M. or 11:30 A.M.

Social hour is between the two services; either stay after the first service, or come early to the second one.

Religious Education classes for all children and teens are during the 9:45 A.M. service. Nursery care is available for both services.

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks back and enjoy an extra hour's sleep on Sunday, November 1st.

November 1 Rev. David Usher

Celebration of the Day of the Dead. Please bring photos, mementos or other keepsakes of those you would particularly like to remember as part of the service. Dedication of *Black Lives Matter* banner between the services, at 10:45 A.M.

November 8 Rev. David Usher

November 15 Rev. Jo Victoria
Worship Associates:
Lindsay Dunckel and Bev Lyon

November 22 Rev. David Usher
Music: UUCM Choir

Pass the Plate will be on behalf of Hospitality House

November 29 Rev. Lynn Gardner
Worship Associate: Sam Lautzenhiser

Rev. Lynn Gardner serves as co-minister of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists. She is very fond of stories, yoga, rivers, hiking, and delicious food. She shares her life with Rev. Wendy Bartel, their daughter, Meghan, and their small, shy dog, Luna.

December 6 Rev. David Usher

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*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Adult Safety

There are members of UUCM who have taken on the responsibilities as well as the privileges of leadership, serving on the Board, chairing committees, doing all manner of things so that everyone can enjoy what UUCM has to offer. Sometimes those responsibilities include making decisions which will not please everyone, but they make those decisions with good will and intention. But prior and more important than the leadership role which they have undertaken is the fact that all of them first came to UUCM to satisfy their own needs – perhaps for a spiritual home, for a meaningful community, for comfort in a time of pain or distress.

Becoming a leader does not abolish those needs. UUCM's leaders have the right to come to Sunday services or any other program to have their own legitimate needs met and not be ambushed by someone who has a bone to pick.

If you wish to speak to a member of the Board, a committee chair or even the Minister, please refrain from cornering them at a UUCM occasion when they are there for other reasons. Please have the courtesy to make an appointment to speak with them at another mutually convenient time. It is part of our Covenant of Right Relations.

Black Lives Matter Banner

Rev. David's sermon on September 6 addressed the current state of the Black Lives Matter movement, one year on from the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri following the killing of Michael Brown by a police officer. He concluded the sermon by wondering whether UUCM might erect a Black Lives Matter banner as many other UU churches have done. The response to his question was overwhelmingly positive, and at its meeting the following Thursday the Board approved the idea.

A banner has now been commissioned. It will be dedicated on November 1 between the two services, and erected above the main entrance where the Standing on the Side of Love banner is now situated. Before it is put in place, all members and friends of UUCM who wish to do so are invited to sign the back of the banner as a way of registering your personal support and identification with this national movement.

The experience of many UU churches who have erected BLM banners or signs has been to have them vandalized, removed or destroyed. That might be our experience in Grass Valley also. We hope to be motivated by faith and not fear, and as the Rainbow flag was controversial when it was first raised, indeed was stolen, but is now accepted, so we will persevere until Black Lives are as honored and respected by the people of Nevada County as LGBTQ lives now are.

Dear Friends,

Many UUCM members and friends stayed after the second service on October 11 to hear the presentations by the Board, the Transition Team, and the Ministerial Search Committee. All three presentations included some exciting highlights about what can be expected during this current year.

On behalf of the Board, President Rob Ferroggiaro outlined the main issues which he and his fellow Board members plan to focus on – empowering the Search process, adopting and implementing policies such as Building Usage and Child Safety, and strengthening the committee structure.

As Chair of the Ministerial Search Committee, Taylor Carey thanked the congregation for its excellent response to the recent survey (83%!) and the various focus groups which have been held. He outlined the well-established process recommended by the UUA which the committee is following which, it is hoped, will lead to the successful appointment of the settled minister to start next summer.

All four members of the Transition Team participated in their presentation, referring to the intentional design of an Interim Ministry as a time for change and experimentation, and listing some of the very positive accomplishments of the past five years.

Then Susan Sanford, as herself, gave an additional little presentation about how we each might embrace changes which might initially be uncomfortable. She also mentioned that one reason for the new UUCM Forum was to guard against the possibility of ad hominem postings on the former General list.

The whole meeting lasted less than an hour, and was conducted in a most congenial and positive spirit. All the feedback from members and friends that I heard immediately afterwards was appreciative both of the opportunity to be kept informed, and of those in leadership who are doing such good work.

This will be a very important year in the life of UUCM. I am glad to be a part of it. I hope you are too.

See you in church!

David



Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

Dear UUCM:

In mid-September the Board of Trustees held their annual retreat which was a great opportunity for team building, reflection, and development of plans for the year ahead. Here are some of the priorities that were identified.

Ministerial Search: The Board and congregation will be supporting the Search Committee financially and otherwise. Also, there is a unique opportunity to distill down all the member input that has been gathered and apply it to guide leadership in the months ahead.

Social Justice: The Social Justice Committee has completed a series of workshops and surveys, and an action plan was endorsed by the Board of Trustees. So far 65 UUCM community members have signed up to work with one of our partner organizations.

Religious Education: It is our intention to rebuild our RE program so we can attract and hire a Director of RE for the 2016-17 year. New ideas are being implemented that have worked elsewhere.

Organization Building:

- Find new ways to help visitors and members build stronger connections to our UU community. Includes expansion of the Chalice Circle program.
- Find new ways to match the skills and interests of our community members to opportunities to serve in rewarding roles as volunteers and lay leaders.
- Continue to develop appropriate policies to guide us; i.e. Child and Youth Safety Policy, and a policy for facilities use and rental.

Long Term Facilities Options: Preliminary assessment of the maintenance and improvements that would be required if we were to commit to staying at our current site long term. Also we'll begin an initial, generalized exploration of alternative approaches to possible relocation. This will be just the start of a long term study which will require extensive research and congregational input. It won't be completed this church year.

- 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.
Members are welcome to observe with prior notice.*

Board of Trustees October Meeting Highlights

- Job descriptions for the nursery teacher and music director were approved along with the employment agreement for the nursery teacher
- Minutes for the May 2015 Congregational Meeting were accepted
- The Board is moving forward with plans for an ongoing system to archive official documents
- Extra work hours were authorized for Conrad to work on replacement of our old database software
- Ron Drake was appointed chair of the Finance Committee
- The Board agreed to proceed with the previously announced changes to our internet communications as scheduled. A message of explanation to be sent to members.
- Approved the year one plan for implementation of our Child and Youth Safety Policy

Board Meetings

Board minutes are posted on the notice board in the side corridor as soon as possible after each meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings by prior arrangement, but are not permitted to speak unless specifically given permission by the President.

Search Committee



Beyond Categorical Thinking Program

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Services at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.
followed by a
light lunch of soups and bread
followed by the
Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop
1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Please RSVP either on the Forum or by calling Conrad (530-274-1675) so that we can plan ample food. If you need childcare, please indicate this with your response.

Beyond Categorical Thinking

Congratulations are in order for the entire congregation. As some of you may have heard, we had an 83% response rate on the Congregational Survey. What a stellar performance! One of the conclusions from the survey is that we are looking for more diversity at UUCM. A good place to find that is in the selection of our new settled minister. On Sunday, November 15 we'll have the opportunity to broaden our outlook to include the entire universe of UU ministers.

Under the leadership of the UUA, UUCM will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. The Search Committee invites everyone, members and friends alike, to participate in this engaging, interactive program.

We all want to believe we are free from bias, but many of us recall the exercise in which Rev. Usher led us in January where we wrote down a six-word statement about a personal experience of racism. It was startling to see how many events, unbidden thoughts and memories from childhood were tinged with racism. The exercise could just as well have been about many other biases from disability to age to gender to orientation and more.

Ministers in our faith include people of color, bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, differently-abled, young, old, ethnically different or of a different class – all of these credentialed ministers still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair and unconscious discrimination in the search. It includes a Sunday morning service with a BCT facilitator from the UUA followed by a light lunch and a three-hour conversation guided by the facilitator. In this conversation we will discuss real-life UU case studies and explore how thinking categorically sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, *Chair*
George Dunstan, *Associate Chair*
Lindsay Dunckel • Beth Freedman
Keith Johnson • Bev Lyon • Corrie Silva

Volunteer Opportunities

There is a new brochure, *Committees at UUCM*, outlining the various committees which would appreciate your participation. Please consider ways in which you can contribute. There is also a Volunteer sheet suggesting other one-off ways in which you can be involved. Please fill it out and return it to the Office as soon as possible.



Stewardship Committee

Generosity in All Things

UUA PACIFIC WESTERN REGION'S 2015 THEME

By Beryl Maclean Beckwith, Chair
Stewardship Committee

Rev. Usher's sermon on Sunday, October 11th pointing to and exploring the more personal relevancy of living our seven key UU principles, along with a request for a summary from our Ministerial Search Committee - both turned me in a reflective direction over the last year about what our UUCM Stewardship Program has accomplished and should by all means make us feel proud as a congregation, because together:

- we shifted to a culture where we can talk about money as a congregation - we don't shy away from the conversations or the "ask"
- we emphasized the importance of supporting our ministries with our pledge revenue as a community, not just paying the mortgage, light bill and minister's salary
- we created and completed a new design and format for our annual pledge campaign based on a theme of the spiritual benefits that can come from generosity; focusing on not everyone being in a position to give at the same level but rather that everyone can be generous within their means
- we aimed for a 15% overall pledge revenue increase in creating our 2015-16FY budget and successfully landed on that target
- we successfully executed numerous fundraising events to meet our 2014-15FY budget
- we are continuing to lay the groundwork for generosity in all things as it relates to actions for daily congregational life - how we can infuse this concept in our congregations by looking at praise and gratitude, the assumption of good faith around process, attentive listening, mentorship and perhaps most importantly, embracing change through the lens of generosity
- we are building the stepping stones towards better stewarding of beloved community both within and beyond UUCM's congregational walls
- we are looking to restructure our Stewardship committee to better serve our community internally and externally



Congregation Passes the Plate

Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Once a month, the congregation donates all of the offertory to a chosen charity, and since the start of the new church year, the donations have been as follows:

July	Animal Place	\$506
August	UU Justice Ministry of CA	\$370
September	Emergency Action Coalition	\$689
October	Habitat for Humanity	\$673
Total Plate		\$2,238

Deep gratitude to all of you who have contributed. Future recipients for Pass the Plate will be:

November 22	Hospitality House
December 6	Inter Faith Food Ministry

Generosity in All Things

(REPRINTED FROM THE PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT OF THE UU ASSOCIATION'S OCTOBER NEWSLETTER)

Rev. Jan Christian,
Congregational Life Staff
jchristian@uua.org
602-908-7576

In 2002, when I became the minister of our congregation in Ventura, California, there was no minister's discretionary fund. When I left in June of this year we were giving away every offering, totaling over \$45,000 a year. A few of those offerings went to our Inreach/Outreach Fund, but the majority went to recipients chosen by our congregation's members.

How do we grow this kind of generosity? Well, it's a process. In the Pacific Western Region, we are focusing on an understanding of "Generosity in All Things." This is both a goal and the path. In Ventura, we found the process included things like assuming good intentions and examining the ways "scarcity thinking" was impacting our individual and shared lives. It involved looking at our role in the larger community. In my new role as Congregational Life Staff, I am excited about two upcoming webinars that will help move us toward a better shared understanding of how we might live out "Generosity in All Things." The information follows. Please consider gathering a group from your congregation to join us. You can find more information on these and other webinars at <http://pwruua.org/pacific-western-region-webinars/>.

PLEASE NOTE: UUCM is planning to have two gatherings for these webinars in November. Please see details on page 6.

Stewardship Committee

UUA Pacific Western Region Stewardship Webinar Presentations Scheduled at UUCM

There are two excellent PWR UUA webinars that will be presented in November sponsored by UUCM Stewardship in a small group viewing format so we might learn together about focusing on an understanding of generosity in all things. Please feel free to join us for the presentations and an informal light supper that will be provided for our viewing pleasure! If you would like to attend viewing of either webinar, please call 530-615-0248 or email stewardship@uugrassvalley.org

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 FROM 6:30-8 P.M.
IN THE ANTHONY ROOM

Generosity in All Things: Actions for Daily Congregational Life
(Presenters Rev. Jan Christian & Kay Crider)

The PWR's theme for this year is Generosity in All Things. Join the PWR's Rev. Jan Christian and PWR liaison Kay Crider from Stewardship for Us to explore how you can infuse this concept into your congregation. We'll look at praise and gratitude, assumption of good faith around process, attentive listening, mentorship and embracing change all through the lens of generosity. Get energized about living out your mission and vision through generous enhancement of the well-being of your church community

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 FROM 6:30-8 P.M.
IN THE ANTHONY ROOM

Stewarding Beloved Community Beyond Your Walls
(Presenters Rev. Deborah Holder & Kay Crider)

Join us to learn about successful strategies for building beloved community beyond the walls of your congregation. The PWR's Rev. Deb Holder and PWR liaison Kay Crider from Stewardship for Us will co-facilitate an interactive webinar to share ways congregations can work together within our denomination and with the larger interfaith community on mission-centered outreach. We'll start with some concrete practices around restorative and compassionate community, explore social change as ministry in the context of a faith community, share success stories, and provide information about funding mechanisms. For an overview of the concept of beloved community, see www.bethelove.net as an introduction to the framework that we'll apply to collaboration and outreach.



UUCM 2014-15 Fiscal Year Open Pledge Balances

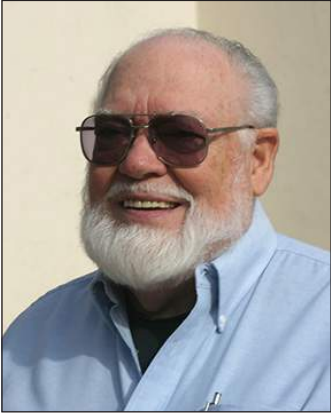
A short administrative and financial housekeeping note to our beloved community regarding remaining open balances on last year's pledges. We have now entered the second quarter of our current 2015-2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). Any remaining open balances for the prior 2014-15 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) will be written off so we may close our financial books for last year. This amounts to approximately 3.8% of the total amount pledged for 2014-15, but not received. All congregants have been contacted about remaining open balances on their account.

UUCM Stewardship does not view its job to be a collection agency, nor to badger our congregants about monies pledged and owed. After appropriate reminders from our bookkeeper and the Stewardship Committee, we will move onward and upward in our current fiscal year. We will no longer carry over a prior year balance and apply a current year payment to that old balance. This is too confusing and complicated for our bookkeeper, the Stewardship Committee and our congregants. You may see a prior year balance as a line item notation for the prior fiscal year, but that's where it will stop. We are growing large enough that one-on-one follow-up become less and less viable, and we trust our congregants to make their commitments as pledged.

If you ever have a question about your pledge payment status or balance owed, feel free to call our Stewardship Chair, Beryl at 530-615-0248 or email our confidential committee at stewardship@uugrassvalley.org. Meeting our annual pledge revenue target is extremely important, but the Friends and Members of our community and their specific financial challenges are equally, if not more, important. We care about you and are here to assist in all ways possible, but we do very much appreciate communication of specific situations rather than no response at all.

Membership Committee

Introducing Five New Members Who Joined on Sunday, October 25



Darrell Berkheimer

DARRELL BERKHEIMER is a retired journalist who spent nearly 30 years as a daily newspaper writer and editor, and 13 years as a coast-to-coast truck driver. Along with an older brother, he was raised in York, Pennsylvania in the United Church of Christ denomination. He has an adult daughter who lives with her family in Bakersfield.

A friend told him enough about UU congregations to stir him to do his own internet

research, which resulted in discussions with, and love for Mary Orr. He enjoys reading, photography, camping, kayaking and the beautiful outdoors, and is most proud of the five books and the many articles he has written about a slice of life and needed social reforms.



Mary Orr

MARY ORR was raised a Baptist in Southern California, and has lived in Grass Valley since 1978. She shares her home with Darrell, her daughter, Caryl, a cockapoo named Annie, and a cat named Louie. Mary started attending Chico State University in her mid 40s, and earned her BA in Sociology at age 49.

She found out about

Unitarian Universalism after meeting Darrell, who was exploring the UU religion on line, and attending the UU church of Salem, Oregon. When Darrell moved here, they started attending UUCM, the first church she'd attended in 35 years. Mary is artistic, she loves to read and write, is an avid gardener, and enjoys traveling. She is a nurturing, caring person and enjoys learning about the world, the people in it, and a multitude of other subjects.



Laura Zimmerman

Laura is a retired Contracts Manager from the City of Palo Alto. Soap-making, sewing, weaving and singing are Laura's passions. She has offered chant night services and pagan holiday services at the UU Fellowship in Redwood City for the past fifteen years. She hopes to grow a vegetable garden and learn to keep chickens at her new home in Nevada City. She and Charlie have two daughters, nine grandchildren and two cats.

Next Intro to UUCM Class

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. If you are interested in becoming a member, or just curious about our community, please let someone at the Greeting table know.

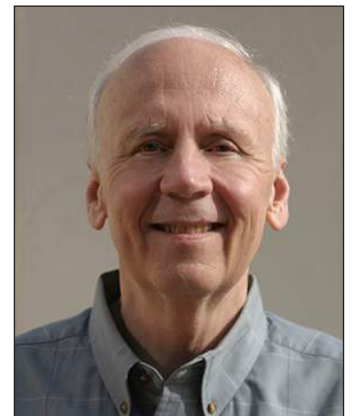
JENNIFER TAYLER-WIGHTMAN Though her family came to Grass Valley way back in 1850, Jennifer was the only member to NOT be raised here. Looking for roots and connection, she decided to settle here 15 years ago. A lifelong UU, Jennifer teaches 7th and 8th grade science at Seven Hills in Nevada City. She loves spending time with her family, gardening, and canning. She also is interested in animal husbandry and dog training. Currently going through a divorce, Jennifer strives to get through this difficult time with grace, and focuses her energy on her most important job – being a good mom to her five year old son, Jesse.



Jennifer Tayler-Wightman

CHARLIE AND LAURA ZIMMERMAN

recently moved to Nevada City from San Carlos, in the Bay Area. Charlie is a retired software engineer from Cisco Systems who loves woodworking, singing and hiking. He is setting up his woodshop in his new digs. He has been a member of the UU congregation in Redwood City for several years, and is one of the three woodworking artists who crafted a new pulpit, chalice stand and dais table for the Redwood City Fellowship.



Charlie Zimmerman

Committee Updates

Help Us be a Welcoming Congregation

Every Sunday morning, at both services, the membership committee has greeters at the entry. Our small committee really needs some non committee members to help welcome people at the entry on Sunday mornings. It's a simple job, and we'd be happy to train you on the spot. The job description is pretty short: be friendly and welcoming, and encourage visitors who plan to come again to fill out a visitor card so we can make them a name tag, and start emailing our newsletter. If you would like to be a greeter from time to time, please let one of the current greeters know, or email: kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.



Kitchen Help Needed

By Carol Kuczora, Kitchen Coordinator

Coffee and other refreshments are served between the two Sunday services, from 10:45 to 11:30 A.M. Set-up is done during the first

service preferably by a couple of people who will attend the second service. Clean-up is done preferably by a couple of people who attended the first service. I would be happy to show new volunteers how these jobs are done. Or David Ferrier or Donna Foddrell can do so when they are here.

To make it easier on the kitchen crew, I created a sign-up sheet with four columns: Set Up, Clean Up, Sweets, and Healthies (fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers, chips, dips).

I usually take up the slack for any chores not done or refreshments not brought. The Sign-Up sheet is on the bulletin board just outside the kitchen. Sorry to say, it's blank. It's been blank for weeks. HELP!

Bakeware Lost and Found

By Anita Wald-Tuttle

There are some nice baking dishes in the lost and found. Your pans have been homesick for many months! Please check the lost and found box, which is under a table in the foyer, if you think you may be missing these, or other items.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Rebecca Ebeling, Kathy MacLeod,
and Claire Miller

Committee meetings are from 5:15 to 6:30 P.M.
on the second Wednesday of each month
in the Anthony Room

"Getting Connected" Brochure Now Available

Wondering what activities are available at UUCM and how you can get involved? The membership committee has recently updated our "Getting Connected" brochure and it is now available on the brochure rack in the foyer. It contains a list of many

activities we sponsor at UUCM, along with a short description and the email and phone number for a contact person who can help you get involved.

It includes listings for book groups, womens' and mens' groups, social justice activities, choir and much more!

Please note:
The brochures we JUST distributed on Sunday, October 25 have an error. Claire Miller's telephone number should have been listed as: 530-205-5324.

We apologize for the confusion.

New Ushers Needed

Melissa Ridgway, Usher Coordinator

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer at UUCM and have fun at the same time? New comers and old timers alike can offer their service by becoming an usher. It's a great way to meet people, to serve the community, and it does not require a huge commitment, because it all happens when you are at Sunday Service. Just one Sunday a month would be a huge help. You can look over the Usher Information guidelines and we will be happy to train you for this wonderful job, just contact Melissa Ridgway (mmr13762@gmail.com), Conrad Sisk (admin@uugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675), or Gwen Eymann (eymann@sbcglobal.net).

Usher information, including ushering guidelines and a link to the sign-up page: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/ushers/>

Usher sign-up page: <https://doodle.com/poll/y7iac6vrke3rf3re>
Thank you all for your service!



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:

- **Anne Lyon** had hip surgery in Santa Rosa last month. She is hoping to return to Grass Valley in the next few weeks and looks forward to moving into her own place. Anne may be wanting some help to get settled and with rides.
- **Otto Haeisen** is 101 years young and he would enjoy having visits from old friends and the occasional meal. Please call first before visiting.
- **Rob Ferroggiaro's** sister suffered a recent stroke and she is in rehab in the Bay Area. Please keep Rob and his family in your caring thoughts.
- **Allan Duncan** got the all clear from his doctor and is relieved that he is cancer-free.
- **Marcella Hardt** has been moved to Lincoln and is no longer at Eskaton. She will be missed.
- **Donna Foddrell** has been experiencing medical problems with her eyes which has restricted her ability to drive. She would love to go to UUCM events and needs help with rides. She lives off Hwy 49 near Alta Sierra if you can help.

The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. We may be contacted via email at caring.committee@uugrassvalley.org or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530-274-7965 for more information.



Building & Grounds Report

By Wally Holtan, Chair,
Building and Grounds Committee

WATER CONSERVATION:

Congratulations! In the last month UUCM has used 24% less water than all of our neighbors. Our water usage has been below 900 gallons per day. This has been accomplished by all of you thinking of your water use at UUCM. For those who remember from last month, our percentage use difference is less than the previous month, but this is because we had a long way to go in decreasing our water consumption. We are still 23% higher than our neighbors for the year, but it is much better than the 50% higher we were last spring. As this year moves forward, we will continue to work at making UUCM a pillar of what can be accomplished by people who care.

B&G MEETING:

One of the topics this month was a discussion about setting up a list of routine projects that can be accomplished by an individual person. This came up after one of our members suggested such a list for people who might not be able to make it on weekends. A list would allow a person to sign up to do a specific project on a different day. There would be reoccurring projects on a monthly basis or one time tasks that need to be accomplished during a month's time. If a task was reoccurring, an individual would not have to sign up for every month. I would like your input. I will post this item on our UUCM Forum in November for discussion.

SPECIAL THANKS:

I would specifically like to thank Mike Stolla for his behind-the-scenes help in keeping our heating and air conditioning system functioning. He has spent hours of volunteer time working on our temperamental system over these last months. When you see him thank him for being there and saving UUCM numerous repair charges on our heating and cooling system.

NEXT B&G WORK DAY IS NOVEMBER 21:

Last month, in the newsletter, I talked about our UUCM motto to "seek, savor and serve". Our Building and Grounds work days are just one of many ways to accomplish that at UUCM. Whether you are new to our community or have been around for a while, our three hour, once a month work days are a great way to get involved without a huge commitment of time. UUCM functions because of our volunteers – without you stepping up to help we would not be here.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 A.M. to noon**, with lunch afterward. *Hope to see you there!*

Social Justice Notes

By Keith Johnson, Social Justice Chair

The implementation of the Social Justice Work Plan is well under way. 65 members and friends, which comprises a majority of the congregation, have signed up to work with our justice partners. Since many people volunteered to work with more than one partner, a grand total of 126 volunteer assignments were filled. When I conveyed this information to Evan Junker, Executive Director of the UU Justice Ministry, his comment was "that is epic." We may not be on the cover of *Rolling Stone* anytime soon, but the cover of *UU World* is a distinct possibility.

But now the real work begins. Social Justice Committee members have recently met face-to-face with staff from Sierra Streams Institute, Habitat for Humanity, and YouthBuild, and other meetings are scheduled. The short term goal is to match the specific needs of each partner with the passion and commitment of our members. If you want to help with this work just let me know.

At its October meeting the Social Justice Committee discussed the Friday Film Forums which currently take place at UUCM in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Center. It was decided that the film *Trace Amounts* would be shown on October 23 as scheduled, but a disclaimer that the film did not necessarily represent the views of UUCM would also be presented. Committee members Bonnie Bennett and Carol Kuczora will meet with Peace Center representatives to further explore the future of Friday Films at UUCM.

We acknowledge and appreciate the various views expressed by the congregation regarding the Friday Films. The Committee will keep you informed of all further developments.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meal at Utah's Place

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 4:00 P.M.

By Leal Portis

UUCM's dinner crew provides dinner for residents of the Hospitality House on 3rd and 5th Fridays 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 530-265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com.

GREEN Power Points

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

Let's go for some quotes this month -

"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one it is right."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life."

– Theodore Roosevelt

And finally - **Truth and Consequences**

How green are you living? Play American Public Media's "Consumer Consequences" game. Find out how many planets we would need if everyone lived like you. Here's the link: <http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/>

Quotes from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar which I got at Salt Lake City General Assembly Meeting.



We Recycle

By Carol Kuczora

UUCM has been recycling for many years, and everyone is encouraged to participate. There is a green bin on the floor in the

kitchen to receive plastic, glass, cans, paper, and cardboard. Please use it. Each item should be rinsed if it contains food. Pizza boxes are not accepted.

Every Tuesday morning Waste Management picks up the garbage. Every other week they pick up the recycling as well. There are two tall, green, covered bins that are put out on the street. The big one is marked for recycling; the smaller one is marked for trash.

Unfortunately, when I put them out on Monday, I find garbage in the recycling and recycling in the garbage. I even found garbage and recycling in the very large green-waste bin, which goes out occasionally with garden trimmings. Please encourage the groups who use the facilities to place their garbage and recycling where they belong. And let's reduce our use of plastic every way we can and avoid excessive packaging. It is a curse on the earth, especially styrofoam, a persistent pollutant. It is not recycled in Nevada County.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Bright Lights: A Program for ALL Ages FOURTH WEDNESDAYS, AT 5:30 P.M.

The second Bright Lights will be on Wednesday, October 28, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. With Halloween only three days away, the theme will be What Scares You? Bring your thoughts to share, or maybe a poem, a song, a painting? The evening will start with some circle sharing, enlivened by the singing and ukulele playing of Susan Sanford, some activity on the theme, and we will end with a pizza supper (\$5 for adults aged 12 and older, \$2 for children, maximum of \$15 per family).

Because the fourth Wednesday in November is the day before Thanksgiving, Bright Lights will be held the following week, December 2, when we'll be anticipating the Christmas season.

Bright Lights is Intergenerational, but is not for families only. It is for everyone of all ages to enjoy some informal program and social time together.

Women's Circle – PMS Party TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015, 6 P.M.

All UUCM women are welcome to come to our next gathering in Alcott and Channing rooms at UUCM. With the holidays coming up, it's time for an easy, fun evening together... A PMS Party... Pizza, Movie and Sundaes! We'll provide pizza, one of Clarita's all time favorite movies, "*The Slipper and the Rose*,"* and ice cream. Please bring some money to help cover the cost of the food, and your favorite ice cream sundae toppings! Nuts, berries, fudge sauce, whipping cream, cherries...and?

RSVP to womensgroup@uugrassvalley.org, or contact either Clarita Nolan: photosbyclarita@att.net, 530-575-2229, or Kathryn Young, kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329.

*"*The Slipper and the Rose*" is grand musical adventure. This lavish production features Richard Chamberlain in a spirited re-telling of the classic Cinderella fairy tale. The Academy Award-nominated music score is provided by the Sherman brothers, the Oscar-winning song-writing duo. "*The Slipper and the Rose*" is a brilliant mix of fantasy and realism that will enchant viewers of all ages.

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 A.M. 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.



New Men's Group Book Club

A group of men meets 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 A.M., a self-directed group of congregants meets 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.

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

We meet the first Wednesday of the month from 10:30 A.M. until noon at UUCM in the Channing Room. For further information, please contact George Dunstan (530-477-7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (530-274-9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com)

Bulletin Boards = Connections!

By Carol Kuczora

In the hall to the side door to Walsh Street are five bulletin boards with news about members and more:

1. Next to the door that goes upstairs, you'll find UUCM in the News: pictures, articles, and letters by and about our members. Watch the newspaper and give clippings to John Burnside to post.
2. Next to that is internal Unitarian Universalist news and other newsletters of interest.
3. Directly across from that, by the door, are posted services available and offered, and events coming up here and elsewhere. These change frequently.
4. Beside that is the Social Justice Committee news board.
5. And between the doors to the sanctuary and entry is the Green Sanctuary bulletin board, with environmental news, resources, and advice.

In addition, in the Anthony Room, is a carpool map and roster. You are encouraged to place your residence on the map if you don't find it there. And, of course, there is the refreshments sign-up next to the kitchen. You can even sign up to help prepare coffee during the first Sunday service or clean up during the second service.

Religious Education Updates



Claire Miller
Coordinator of Programs
for Children and Youth

UUCM Children & Youth Program

The Youth Art exhibit is now hung and available for viewing in the foyer. 14 youths participated, ranging in age from 5 to 15! With mentoring by four adult artists from the congregation, we discussed "What Does UU Mean to YOU?" Coming from varying places in their lives in general, and from Unitarian Universalism in particular, the results are as varied (and as special) as the young people who agreed to share their thoughts with us in this way. Many, many thanks to Kathryn Young, Robin Hart, Liberty Frederickson, and Joyce Wycoff for sharing your time and energy with the children to make this project a success.

The theme for the next month is "Social Justice". Sunday, October 18, we began with discussion of the questions, "What is Fair?", "Is 'Fair' ever possible?", and an offshoot question that evolved during the class, "Is completely 'Fair' even desirable (even if it were possible)?" Working with the currency of the day – dried lima beans – we put ourselves into different 'virtual' situations, and then studied our own as well as others' reactions and interpretations of those situations. We ended the session with "The Tangle of Life" game. PS: We did sort out the tangle eventually ;-)

Youth Music!

The first Youth Music night on October 21 went off well - eight children, some singing, three guitars, a violin, a ukulele, a bongo drum, and several rattles!!! Lots of enthusiasm. The verdict is: We want more! We'll be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 P.M. See you there and bring your friends. For more information and to ensure notification of upcoming similar events, contact Jordan (music@uugrassvalley.org) or Claire (530-205-5324 or truckeeclaire@yahoo.com) without delay.



Our Whole Lives

Nevada County Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, (UUCM), offers for a second year, 'Our Whole Lives': Comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education. This year's program is for 8th to 10th graders on Sunday afternoons starting January 24. The thirteen winter to spring 2016 sessions are open to all Nevada County youth; space is limited.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive program on human sexuality with curriculum levels for all ages. The grades 8 to 10 curriculum helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. The program embodies the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity.

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the emotional and social aspects of sexuality. www.uua.org/re/owl/



A parent information meeting will be held at UUCM, 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, 1 P.M., November 22. OWL participation requires pre-registration by December 15, 2015 and parent permission, including a mandatory parent orientation session, Sunday, January 10, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. at UUCM. OWL sessions will be held most Sunday afternoons at UUCM beginning , 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. (lunch provided!). Program fee is \$100.

Facilitators are Emily Gallup, certified OWL instructor and licensed marriage & family therapist (MFT), and Paul Elias, OWL instructor and BA, credentialed K-8th.

For more information or to register, please contact Claire Miller (530-205-5324 or truckeeclaire@yahoo.com).

Bright Lights!

A PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES

OCTOBER 28 AND DECEMBER 2, 5:30 P.M.

by Rev. David Usher, Interim Minister

Please join us for an evening of worship, fun and food designed to appeal to all ages. See page 11 for more details.



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
invites all Nevada County youth 8-10th grades to participate in an
Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class on Human Sexuality this
Winter/Spring 2016 from late January – to late May

When: Sundays, January 24 - May 22, 1-3 p.m. The class consists of two sessions per meeting for 13 weeks, with lunch/snacks provided. (No Owl classes 2/14, 3/20, 3/27 because of school vacations).

Where: Unitarian Universalists Community of the Mountains (UUCM), 246 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA.

Class fee: Fee for the class will be \$100 to cover expenses of materials used for the class and food. Scholarships Available, no one turned away, class size is limited.

Description: Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Grades 8- 10th helps youth gain the knowledge, life principles and skills they need to express their sexuality in life-enhancing ways. It puts sexuality into the context of values and personal responsibility, helping them manage social pressure and advocate for equality. It provides an opportunity to bring values and integrity to the real-life issues. Our two facilitators have been trained in the recently updated Our Whole Lives curriculum for this age group. For more OWL information visit www.uua.org/owl, or www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality-education_our-whole-lives.

Parent Orientation: A mandatory parent orientation meeting will be scheduled prior to class. All parents/guardians of youth enrolled in the class must attend this orientation before your youth can begin the class. At UUCM on Jan.10th at 1 p.m.

Parent Information Meeting – at UUCM, Nov. 22nd, 1 p.m.

- For more information or to register contact Claire Miller at truckeeclaire@yahoo.com

Adult Faith Development Opportunities

Adult Faith Development Prospectus Available

This is now available in the vestibule and on-line on the website (Please see: www.ugrassvalley.org/prospectus). It lists a rich array of Chalice Circles, Classes, Courses, Affinity Groups and other opportunities for you to explore what it is you believe and why, to deepen personal relationships with others, and to stimulate your mind and challenge your curiosity. Be sure to look at it and to sign up soon for whichever courses or groups appeal to you.



Life Spirit

David Usher will be leading a Chalice Circle based on his new book, *Life Spirit: for groups and individuals exploring deep questions*. Meeting twice each month, the first of twelve sessions will be on Thursday, December 3, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

The book is available from David Usher for \$15.

Chalice Circles

A reminder to check out all the classes, courses and learning opportunities on offer in the Faith Development Prospectus. In particular, Chalice Circles are being offered as an excellent way to get to know others in the congregation at a deeper level while sharing a common interest. If you would like to know more, please contact Phil Hart at philhart115@gmail.com or 530-272-6870.

Art and Spirituality Affinity Group

This group is for people, with or without art experience, who want to create art together in a quiet meditative atmosphere. There will be optional guided exercises, many of which will explore abstract expression. Participants can, alternatively, bring their own projects to the sessions. There will also be exposure to a mindfulness practice woven into the art experience. We will have personal check-ins and check-outs, to deepen understanding, and strengthen support, of one another.

An underlying intention: to nourish and further our development as peacemakers.

Facilitators: Lynn Whitson (530-272-9003)
lynnwhitson@hotmail.com
Janet Bullock (530-477-8760)
janetbullock41@gmail.com

Dates/Time: First & third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.
(eat beforehand or bring your bag supper)
November 17 through February 16

Location: Alcott Room at UUCM

Reserve a space: Call or email Janet or Lynn.

Adult OWL Chalice Circle

OWL (Our Whole Lives) is one of the most important and successful programs offered to our teenagers, but sexuality is for a life-time. This OWL program offers ways for adults to understand and experience their sexuality throughout their lives.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Sexuality and Values
- Sexuality and Communication
- Sexuality and Spirituality
- Discovering the Sexual Self
- Experiencing the Sexual Other
- Sexual Diversity
- Sexuality and Aging

Register by December 20. To register, or learn more, contact facilitators Lin Jovanovic (209-484-0710, linmosaic@yahoo.com) or Peter Musser (916-212-5310, pmusser@gmail.com). Classes will take place in the Channing Room at UUCM.

DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Intro session: Saturday, January 9, 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Sessions: First & third Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
January 19, February 2, February 16,
March 1, March 15

Concluding session: Saturday, March 26, 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

November Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
OCTOBER:			
28	Wednesday	8:30 5:30	Men's Group Bright Lights Gathering
29	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
30	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
NOVEMBER:			
Daylight Savings Begins - Set Clocks Back One Hour			
1	Sunday	9:45 10:45 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Dedication of "Black Lives" Banner Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
2	Monday	6:30 7:00	"Generosity In All Things" Webinar Integral Spiritual Meditation
3	Tuesday	9:00 4:00 5:30	Meditation Social Justice Book Study Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
4	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Choir Rehearsal
5	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group - WUC
8	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
9	Monday	7:00	Worship That Works
10	Tuesday	9:00 4:00 6:00	Meditation Caring Committee Women's Circle
11	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:15 6:30	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Membership Committee Mtg Choir Rehearsal
12	Thursday	8:30 10:30 6:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
15	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 12:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Beyond Categorical Thinking

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Monday	6:30 7:00	"Generosity In All Things" Webinar Integral Spiritual Meditation
17	Tuesday	9:00 4:00 5:30	Meditation Social Justice Book Study Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
18	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 6:30	Men's Group Faith Beyond Belief Choir Rehearsal
19	Thursday	8:30 10:30 11:00 7:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group - WUC Social Justice Committee Paganism Chalice Circle (offsite)
20	Friday	12:00 4:00	Mt. Chalice Articles Due Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
21	Saturday	9:00 12:30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
22	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service OWL Info Meeting for Parents
24	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
25	Wednesday	8:30 4:00	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting
26	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group
27	Friday	7:00	Fourth Friday Film
29	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
DECEMBER:			
1	Tuesday	9:00 5:30	Meditation Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
2	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:30 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Bright Lights Gathering Choir Rehearsal
3	Thursday	8:30 10:30 7:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group - WUC Life Spirit
6	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Street Address: 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
 Sunday Services at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Telephone: 530-274-1675 Website: www.uugrassvalley.org
 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

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