



the Mountain Chalice

Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains

March/April 2016

UPCOMING SERVICES

- Each Sunday, services are offered at both 9:45 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise. (See April 3)
- Social hour is between the two services; please 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.

March 6 Jerry Jacoby

First Sunday: Please bring gifts of non-perishable food

When asked a question about the universe the only mature response is to "look and see." To the question, "What happens when we die?" philosophers and theologians for thousands of years have pointed to their sacred literature, but the only mature response is to "Ask someone who has been there."

March 13 Jo Waters & Paganism Chalice Circle

This service will focus on the Spring Equinox, also known as Ostara. This service is sponsored by the Paganism Chalice Circle and will include participation by some of our young people.

March 20 Rev. David Usher
Musicians: UUCM Choir

March 27 Rev. David Usher
Easter

April 3 Rev. Vail Weller & Rev. David Usher
CELEBRATION SUNDAY!
ONE SERVICE at 11:00 a.m.
with Celebration After the Service
Musician: Conrad Sisk

April 10 Rev. Theresa Novak
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby

April 17 Rev. David Usher
Musicians: UUCM Choir

April 24 Youth Service
Musicians: Our Young People!

This service will be planned and lead by our youth!

May 1 Candidating Service I

This service will be led by the candidate chosen by the Search Committee to be presented to the congregation as UUCM's next settled minister.

May 8 Candidating Service II

This service will be the second service led by the candidate chosen by the Search Committee to be presented to the congregation as UUCM's next settled minister. The service will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to vote to accept our new minister.

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Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Minister's Letter

Rev. David Out of the Office

MARCH 3 TO 17

Rev. David Usher will be out of town March 3 - 17, with a combination of vacation, attending an international UU conference in Massachusetts, and participating in the Pacific Central District's UU Ministers' Chapter Spring Retreat. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please in the first instance contact Conrad Sisk at the church office (530-274-1675 or admin@uugrassvalley.org).

You Choose the Hymns!

Since December members have been choosing and introducing their three favorite hymns for the congregation to sing. If you would like to choose the hymns one Sunday in March or April, please contact Rev. David and he will be happy to find a date to suit.

New Worship Committee Forming

The Worship Committee is being reconvened in anticipation of the arrival of the next settled minister. The initial work of the Committee will be to plan services during the summer months, and then to work with the new minister in whatever way he/she/they best suits him/her/them. If you are interested in being a Worship Associate, helping to create and lead services for a congregation with a wide range of theological and liturgical styles, please come to a first meeting of this newly forming Worship Committee on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 P.M.

Dear Friends,

For my column in this issue of Mountain Chalice I offer this prayer for Passover, written by my colleague Rev. Vanessa R. Southern.

*Bound as we are in common life,
we gather in prayer and in meditation.*

*Some of us are praying to God, others to a spirit of life, some
praying to the best that is in ourselves and in the world.
Together we cry out our dreams and
our brokenness.*

*We pray this day for all who are oppressed.
For those trapped in poverty;
For all whose bodies and minds and spirits are enslaved
by addiction, by mental illness;
For all held captive by false doctrines, serving cruel gods;
For those whose circumstances have blinded them to larger
possibilities for the human race and for themselves;
For those who have been crushed by disappointment
and loss and forgotten the ache of freedom and hope;
For captive and for captor;
For oppressed and the one who oppresses;
For us and for them;
For a world bound together in hope
and hopelessness;
For today's beauty and tomorrow's promise;
And for today's pain and tomorrow's evil
We pray for liberation and a rebirth of hope.*

*We pray for freedom, this day.
We pray for the love that sees its own errors.
And for a world that is filled with hope, banished of cruelty
and alive to the promise and the grandeur of each day.
We pray for peace.*

So may it be. Amen.

See you in church!

David



Board's Perspective

Dear Members and Friends,

As we enter a period of reflection on our level of willingness to be generous, and with the keen awareness that we are a mere two months away from candidating week, we suggest that the time is ripe for us to ask ourselves these Mission questions: "What is the vision we hold for UUCM? How do we want UUCM to feel in six months, one year, or five years? Will there be vital programs? How are we treating each other? And, what is our relationship to the larger community: are we insular or outward reaching?" The intentions we hold right now, our actions, and the choices we are making presently will determine what we become.

Regardless of denomination, churches go through common changes based on attendance size. Shifts happen when average attendance levels reach specific limits during a church's growth cycle. Churches can make a conscious choice to stay the size they are. The Ministerial Search Survey had questions to determine just what UUCM members want; approximately 70% of respondents expressed that growth was favorable, approximately 30% were neutral.

We are in the midst of a size change from Family size church (1-75 in attendance) to Pastoral size (51-175). The shift issues for this transition, as cited by Robert Latham, are: Leadership, Trust, and asking "Why are we here?" In this respect we are right on track. The transition from one stage to another can be traumatic, painful, and leaders are often the casualties of the resistance to these changes.

If UUCM fails to make the shift in organization and function, we can easily enter the 'maintenance mode'. This is characterized by minimal vision, motivation, commitment, voluntarism, resources, and energy. To stay small is a valid choice. However, it is just not the one your BOT has heard from you. As a result the BOT has been working for over two years to create an infrastructure, foundation and boundaries for healthy growth, but we cannot do this alone. We must have the congregation's support to succeed.

As we hold in our heart the hope to successfully call a settled minister, your generosity of heart matters greatly. What you give, not just your money, but your time, your trust, and whether or not your intention is loving and selfless, will determine our course.

- The Board of Trustees

Vision Day Review

Our second Vision Day was held the end of January with participation from the Board and Committee Chairs and/or representatives. We started by looking back at our meeting in 2015 and acknowledging the successes of the past year in the key areas that we had identified as needing the most attention: Children & Youth, Music, Social Justice, and Communications/Organization.

Progress included restructuring the RE program and starting a children's music group. A new Music Director was hired to play the piano and direct the choir. In three workshops, the congregation identified two Social Justice areas for UUCM focus: Environmental Justice and Economic Justice. Communications/Organization accomplishments included a new publicity manager, weekly e-blasts, improved Mountain Chalice, printed events list, revitalizing UUCM Facebook page,

updated and current website, implementation of a Member Forum, and selection of new database software. Working with committees and other members, the BOT revised bylaws, created new policies for Building Use, Child & Youth Safety, Background checks, BOT Meetings, and Paid Leave with updates to the Personnel Manual.

This year in our Vision Day Leadership Workshop we identified three areas to work on: Membership, Stewardship, and Administration. The Membership Committee is considering a new member mentoring program, increasing fellowship opportunities, and continued focus on personal invitations to new members for Circle Suppers.

Stewardship will be concentrating on creating a mindset of abundance rather than scarcity, and increasing awareness of generosity in our lives. Other opportunities for improvement include a better understanding of the governance structure/process at UUCM, review of the feedback loop from Congregation to BOT, and continuing Town Talks four times a year.

For more detail on the 2015 Vision Day issues and successes, see the UUCM bulletin board. A summary of this year's Vision Day is being compiled and will be posted when complete.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Amy Reneé Patterson, *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 6:30 P.M.
in the Channing Room at UUCM.*

*Members and friends are welcome to observe.
Please contact the president at least 48 hours in
advance to speak at a Board meeting, or to attend if
you are not an active member or friend.*

More Board News

Board Meetings to Use Chalice Circle Format

The Board is keen to encourage as many UUCM members and friends as possible to participate in a Chalice Circle. These are groups of no more than twelve people who have a common purpose and who, when they meet, follow a format which invites more open and intimate sharing. As part of that encouragement, the Board plans to devote the first thirty minutes of its monthly meetings to being a Chalice Circle. This Chalice Circle will not be open to guests, but guests are welcome to observe the business part of Board meetings, which will start at 6:30. Guests who are not active members or friends must contact the president (president@uugrassvalley.org) in advance to attend Board meetings. If you wish to address the Board, please submit your request to the president (president@uugrassvalley.org) 48 hours in advance, so that the agenda timetable can be modified to accommodate your request.

March Board Meeting

In a departure from typical scheduling, the March Board meeting will be the second Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Talk

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 12:45 P.M.

The next Congregational Town Talk will be after the second service on Sunday, March 20.

Membership Policy

After consultation with the relevant committees and interested persons who attended an open conversation, at the time of going to press the Board was in the final stages of approving a new Membership Policy which clearly defines the meaning, expectations and privileges of membership. It will be made available to the congregation as soon as possible.

YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, *Chair*
George Dunstan, *Associate Chair*

Lindsay Dunckel • Beth Freedman
Keith Johnson • Bev Lyon • Corrie Silva

Search Committee



The Home Stretch

By the time you are reading this, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) will have completed two of our three pre-candidate visits. Our final visit will take place in March. By the end of March we will have had the opportunity to meet with each pre-candidate, have meals with them, introduce them to the area, and have in-depth conversations to explore their personal style, professional approach, strengths, and possible weaknesses.

The ministers have also been assessing us. What are our strengths and challenges as a congregation? Who are we, where do we shine, and where do we need guidance? Are those characteristics a good match with their own talents and the work they feel called to do?

Toward the end of each visit, the MSC will have traveled with each minister to a neutral pulpit where we'll have had a chance to hear each of them present a worship service and deliver a sermon.

After all three pre-candidates have met with the MSC, the committee will sit down together to discuss and evaluate each of the ministers. We will review again all of the information we have received from the applicants, including their Ministerial Record, their Packet, their references, their answers to questions we raised in the Skype interviews, our discussions with them when they came for their pre-candidate weekend visit, their preaching style, and our overall impression of their personality (did anyone really resonate with us on a personal level; did anyone feel like a particularly good fit with the UUCM culture). We'll also pay close attention to the questions they ask of us. It is our expectation that our deliberations will take many hours over the course of several meetings.

The Committee hopes to name the final candidate by mid-April. "Candidating Week," as it is called, will run from April 30 through May 8. During that nine-day period you will get your chance to listen to the candidate deliver two sermons, meet the candidate personally, and evaluate the person we believe is the best fit for UUCM. We await those days with great hope and anticipation!

*Blessings,
Your Search Committee*

Membership

Considering Membership at UUCM?

INTRO TO UUCM CLASS - SATURDAY, APRIL 16

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, April 16th 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 in the foyer know.

The class includes a chance to share your personal spiritual journey, meet fellow seekers, eat a meal together, tour our building and, of course, find out more about our community and what it means to become a member. Please contact Kathryn Young at 530-478-1329 or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com for more information.

Looking for a Few Good Hosts!

The last round of Circle Suppers potlucks were very fun and we made a lot of connections with fellow UUCM-ers. The membership team heard over and over – "Let's do this more often!" We have decided to hold them again in May, so we are asking for volunteers to host.

We would like to have sign up sheets available in April for dinners in May. We will need you to pick a date and time in May, the number of guests you can host and what you plan to serve for your entree. If you would like to host, please contact Kathryn Young at 530-478-1329 or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or talk to a greeter on any Sunday.

Keeping the Kitchen Clean!

If you use the kitchen for anything during the week, please ensure that you leave it neat and tidy so that those who come early on Sundays to set up the Social Hour refreshments don't have extra work to deal with.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Committee meetings are at 12:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Anthony Room.

We are always in need of friendly people to help greet at the door on Sunday mornings, please let us know if you would like to help.

Contact: Kathryn Young, 530-478-1329
kathryneyounguu@gmail.com

Hospitality Team



Sign Up to Come Host Social Hour With Us!

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer at UUCM and have fun at the same time? Newcomers and old timers alike can offer their service by

becoming a Hospitality host or hostess. It's a great way to meet people and 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.

We will be happy to train you for this wonderful job, just contact Kathryn Young (hospitality@ugrassvalley.org, 530-478-1329) or Conrad Sisk (admin@ugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675). Thank you all for your service in our newly organized kitchen!

Hospitality/Social Hour participation sign-up page (**Make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this form**): <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>

To learn more about Hospitality/Social Hour, please see this page: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/hospitality/>.

Transition Team & Committee on Ministry

Transition Team Information

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair

Transition Team and Committee on Ministry

The Transition Team meets with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. 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.ugrassvalley.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.

Suzanne Ferroggiaro suzanneferro17@gmail.com
David Ferrier davidsdrums@gmail.com
Allan Duncan duncanallan@hotmail.com
Tom Wernigg tomwernigg@gmail.com

Stewardship Committee

The Auction is Over: Let the FUN Begin!

By Bob Miller
Service Auction Coordinator



45 members and friends gathered together at UUCM on Saturday, February 13th to conduct a live and silent auction.

Accounting for ticket sales, wine sales, raffle tickets and auction bids and deducting food, wine, printing costs, taxes and other costs, we will contribute over \$8,500 to the well-being of UUCM. This could be more depending on post-auction sales.

But just as importantly we will improve hula hooping, knitting, singing and recorder playing skills among the congregation. Members will gather together over six sold out dinners. Other groups will explore Nevada City, cruise with Phil on a lake, gaze at the stars and set off into the unknown on snow shoes.

Last, but not least, we sold our well-used minister for \$150. Trading in him continued after the auction. Last I heard he is owned by the humanist group. Make them an offer they can't refuse.

This was the second year of a new format that includes a dinner and live bidding as well as silent bidding. We did not sell as many tickets as last year. We would prefer to sell many more. This format provides a fun evening out and can produce some financially advantageous competitive bidding. However, it's difficult to include those who cannot, or do not want to, attend the evening event. We will do it all again next year but the format will depend on examining what happened over the past two years (and previous years) and listening to board and members' feedback.

Thank you Bev Lyon, who as MC, led the action. Thanks are also due to the consultants - Dave Canaan, Laura and Charlie Zimmerman and Lin Jovanović, to décor - Beryl Maclean Beckwith and Claire Miller, to the volunteer auctioneers - Lin Jovanović and Beryl Maclean Beckwith, to the backroom staff - Beth Freedman, Janet Dustan and Walt O'Maley, to the recorder - George Dunstan, to the runner - Charlie Zimmerman, to the dinner team - Wally and Gwen Eymann, to the wine crew - Alice and Keith Johnson, to the setup crew - Wally's friends, to bid sheet and item setup - Anita Ward-Tuttle and Janet Bullock and to crisis management - Claire Miller.

Special thanks to our dinner/lunch/tea hosts and vacation home donors - these are the big ticket items.



Generosity is a Spiritual Matter: TRANSFORMING STEWARDSHIP IN OUR CONGREGATIONS SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. AT UUCM

UUCM will host this workshop in which we will explore stewardship from theological, spiritual, and practical angles. There will be time for personal reflection, small group conversation, as well as opportunities to hear about other congregations' best practices. The main focus will be on the spirituality that undergirds stewardship. UU congregations in Auburn, Chico, Davis, Reno, and Sacramento are invited.

"Generosity Is a Spiritual Matter" will be presented by Rev. Vail Weller, Congregational Giving Director at the Unitarian Universalist Association, working to help our congregations support one another through the Annual Program Fund. Vail is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist who has served congregations in Michigan and California. She lives in San Mateo with her children.

A Night on the Vine Wine Market FRIDAY, APRIL 15 FROM 7-9 P.M. AT UUCM

\$25 per person - Advance Reservations Preferred - Limited Reserved Seating. Proceeds of seatings and wine sales are being generously donated to UUCM and Western Sierra YouthBuild of Nevada County. Please plan to join us for this special Spring fundraiser and invite your friends!

This event includes guided tastings of 12 superior quality wines accompanied by paired and lovingly prepared nosh. Dave Luce, wine broker extraordinaire, delivers a genial informative evening as he unfolds the intricacies of a dozen hand selected top quality red and white wines at special prices. Taste and judge for yourself before you purchase - it promises to be a splendid event for neophytes, aficionados, devotees and general grape nuts!

Can't attend in person? No problem - we'll send you an order sheet so you may peruse Dave's special event wine offerings the week of the event. Then you may place your order and have your wine purchase benefit UUCM and WSYB!

For more information, to ensure a reservation or to receive an order sheet to purchase wine please email wine@uugrassvalley.org or call 530-615-0248. See this site to reserve your seat: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-on-the-vine-tickets-21795241153>





Please join us for our

GENEROSITY CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

April 3, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE – NOT YOUR ORDINARY SUNDAY!

We want everyone to come together for a festive celebration of the place UUCM has in our hearts and in our community.

INSPIRATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER

Reverend Vail Weller

UUA Congregational Giving Director

MARVELOUS MUSIC • SCRUMPTIOUS REFRESHMENTS • MAGICAL DELIGHTS

ALL OF US, ALL AGES, TOGETHER!

SHOW UP! BE PRESENT!

Let's show how important UUCM is to each and every one of us.

RSVP no later than Sunday, March 20, 2016

*by putting an RSVP card in the offering basket any Sunday,
or in the Stewardship Committee mailbox in the UUCM office; or telephone: (530) 615-0248;
or e-mail your response to: stewardship@uugrassvalley.org*

Caring Committee

Caring Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Caring Committee Chair

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 foot surgery on 2/16/16 in Rohnert Park. She is recovering at her son's for a couple weeks before returning to Grass Valley. She will be unable to drive for several months and could use calls, visits and offers of help during her long recovery.

LEAL PORTIS is facing a recurrence of cancer. She intends to win this battle just like she did her last round with cancer 6 years ago and plans to stick around until after her 92nd birthday.

LYNN WHITSON lost her father on February 13. May we share in the sadness of her loss and offer support and loving thoughts.

ERNIE JACKSON was admitted to hospital on February 20 with severe pneumonia. He is recovering but will need time to regain his strength. Please keep Ernie in your thoughts.

RALPH HITCHCOCK will be having Aortic Valve Replacement Surgery on 2/25. Please keep him in your thoughts with wished for a speedy recovery.

DON FOSTER has trouble with dizzy spells that are serious enough to keep him from coming to UUCM activities. He is still very much a part of the fellowship and appreciates calls and connection with the community.

KIA HATCH is happy to report that her hip replacement went well. She will be hitting the streets and trails of Nevada County before long. Hip-Hip-Hooray!

The Mountain Chalice Caring notes come from individuals and from specific notes in our *Joys and Concerns Caring Book*. If you do not wish to have your words in *The Mountain Chalice*, please make a note in the *Joys and Concerns* book. 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.

Memory Circle for Bill Toensing

TUESDAY, MARCH 29 AT 3:00 P.M. AT UUCM

Bill Toensing was a founding member of UUCM, and a regular attendee up until his death late last year. His family has decided not have a public Memorial Service, but those who knew him are invited to a simple Memory Circle in his honor, to be held at UUCM on Tuesday, March 29 at 3:00 P.M.

Ushering Team!

Come Usher With Us!

Melissa Ridgway, Usher Coordinator

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer at UUCM and have fun at the same time? Newcomers and old-timers alike can offer their service by becoming an usher. It's a great way to meet people and 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 one of the following:

Melissa Ridgway (mmr13762@gmail.com),
Conrad Sisk (admin@uugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675), or
Gwen Eymann (eymann@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you all for your service!

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>

CARING COMMITTEE

Gwen Eymann, *chair*

Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Hart, Robin Hart,
Jerry Jacoby, May Lawrence, Ann Lyon, Leal Portis,
Corrie Silva, and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m.
on the second Tuesday of each month
in the Anthony Room.

If you would like to reach out to members
in need with rides, hot meals, home visits and
more, please let us know.

Contact: Gwen Eymann, 530-274-7965
eymann@sbcglobal.net

Social Justice

Social Justice Notes

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Social Justice Committee

Thanks to all who attended the February 14 service and workshop with Reverend Amanda Ford of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. Amanda was both entertaining and informative about the critical need for environmental justice and the stakeholders involved in doing that work. We will continue to dialogue with her regarding actions that UUCM can take with EJCW to promote water justice in impacted communities.

Mark your calendars so you can attend the upcoming justice events. See me or any other member of the Social Justice Committee for more specific details.

- March 9 Public Hearing in Grass Valley on NID's proposed Centennial Reservoir Project
- April 9 UUJM Regional Justice Training in Stockton
- June 4 UUJM Economic Justice Summit in San Francisco
- July 16-19 UUJM Walking the Walk Retreat in Applegate

Don't forget to check out our new Social Justice Bulletin Boards when you are in church.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place FRIDAY, MARCH 18 AT 4:00 P.M.

By Leal Portis

UUCM volunteers make dinner at the Hospitality House on the third and fifth Fridays each month. We also leave food for breakfast the next morning. Breakfast foods have to be packable as clients have to take breakfast and lunch with them (except on rainy/snowy days).

UUCM does not have money in its budget for this endeavor, but rather is relying on the generosity of its members. Currently just a few folks are stepping up to the plate. It's more challenging to supply Utah's Place than it was in the past, as the Health Department requires all food to be cooked there or come from a commercial kitchen. Some folks do not care to provide food for our standard menu so give Leal money for shopping. This is acceptable as Leal does not mind shopping.

Please figure out how you can help, and contact Leal Portis at 530-265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com. Remember Utah Phillips was a member of UUCM and along with his wife Joanna was the founder of the homeless shelter.

Community Connections

Thanks for Recent Donations to the UUCM Library!

Our library received several donations recently. The UU Community of the Mountains thanks Trudy Boardman, Custis Haynes, and Carol Kuczora for their gifts! The library is located in the Anthony room, behind the sanctuary. Books can be enjoyed at UUCM, or checked out using the notebook located on the fiction shelf.

New Deep Ecology Books in the Library

By Carol Kuczora

Two oversized coffee-table tomes of ecological significance are in the UUCM library. Both are copywrited by the Foundation for Deep Ecology. Do examine them. Each measures 13 1/2 by 12 inches. They lay horizontally on the hutch shelf.

Energy: Overdevelopment and the Delusion of Endless Growth is one book. It was donated by Chickenfoot Ranch. This book describes both clean and polluting sources of energy, and associated risks and challenges.

Overdevelopment + Overpopulation = Overshoot is the other, donated by Carol Kuczora. This book contains poetic essays about the inexorable march of escalating human population and the consequent depletion of all other life forms in the web of relations that makes up the planetary life-support system. Both books are lavishly illustrated with pictures of both great beauty and heart-breaking devastation, and they include essays by many authors. These are

lessons we ignore at our peril.

Unitarian Universalist tour to England

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 7

Rev. David will be leading a group of Unitarian Universalists on a tour of England, September 27 until October 7, 2016, staying in London, Oxford, Bath, Salisbury and Windsor and lots of beautiful places in between. This is something he has done several times before, not only for UUs but for all kinds of other groups. Ask him for details if you are interested.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.discovereuropeltd.com/unitarian-england-27-september-7-october-2016/>



UTAH'S PLACE

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle in March & April–

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016, 6 P.M.

Let's Get Organized! Her name is Marie Kondo and she has shown millions *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*.

If you want to organized and/or tidy-up then please join the women's group as we cover some of the tips that are in her book, such as: Tidy by category; Start with clothes, end with mementos; Keep only things that spark joy.

I have read many organizing books and this one made me laugh out loud as I read it. I found it very endearing. How she relates to items that are in the house, how passionate she is about tidying up, showing respect and love for all that you own and brings you joy motivated me to just do it! I'm still doing and I have lots to share with you about my experiences in following her inspirational instructions.

Marilyn Winters will also be with me and she will be sharing her experiences and how it has helped her. More than that, she has generously offered to donate two books "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up", and Marie's second book "Spark Joy." Two of you ladies will be the lucky winners.

We will meet at the Chapel on Tuesday, March 8 at 6 P.M. We will begin with a potluck. Let's do Asian since Marie Kondo is from that region of the world.

Please RSVP and let us know what you will be bringing to share. See you there.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016, 6 P.M.

April is UFO Month! Not the kind Will Smith shot down in Independence Day, but the nonviolent UU version. Bring your unfinished craft objects for an old fashioned evening, making the labor more fun with conversation and potluck. Potluck contributions can be unfinished as well, missing an ingredient that we have to guess...! (Or not.)

If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please contact either Kathryn Young or Clarita Nolan, below, or send an email to Conrad Sisk at: admin@ugrassvalley.org and he will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

RSVP to Kathryn Young or Clarita Nolan, and let us know what you plan to bring to the potluck.

Clarita's contact information is: 530-575-2229. (text or call)
Kathryn's is: kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329

Men's Groups and Book Club

From 8:30 – 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday mornings 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.

In addition, 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.

UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada: Women's Retreat

SAVE-THE-DATE: MAY 13 – 14, 2016

Kristin Famula, Connections Coordinator, UUFNN
membership@uufnn.org or 443-517-3371

Our Women's Retreat this year will be at Camp Galilee in Glenbrook, Nevada. This change of venue offers us lakeside views and a deeper connection to the natural world. Camp Galilee has a reputation for exceptional food and a welcoming environment. The sleeping arrangements will be more rustic and require four people to share a space. But remember, it is only one night!

The retreat will begin with check-in starting at 4:00 P.M. Friday evening and will conclude after dinner on Saturday night. The cost will be slightly less than previous years and will include the cost of Saturday night's meal. Price and specific details will be provided in the spring. But for now, mark your calendars for May 13 - 14 and get excited for what is already looking like an amazing retreat!



Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities



Pacific Central District Assembly APRIL 22 – 24

Charles B. Rosene, District Administrator
Pacific Central District – UUA
510-530-1437 or email: pcd@pcd-uaa.org

Registration is now open for District Assembly 2016 at the Newark Fremont Doubletree Hotel.

Please see: <http://www.pcd-uaa.org/events/district-assembly/>

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2016 FEATURES:

- Friday Night Banner Parade and Worship led by the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt (President, Starr King School for the Ministry)
- Saturday morning Keynote and General Session led by the Rev. Scott Taylor (Director of Congregational Life for the Unitarian Universalist Association)
- 18 stimulating afternoon workshops
- PCD Annual Meeting
- Saturday Banquet Presentation by Leela, "The Bay Area's home for playful, honest, intelligent improv!"
- Sunday Morning Closing Worship led by the Rev. Dr. David Usher (Interim Minister, UU Community of the Mountains, Grass Valley, CA)
- 5 levels of Child & Youth programming

And more! There's something for everyone at District Assembly!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Onward and Upward,
- Chuck Rosene

Annual Family Camping Trip to Scott's Flat Lake Campground AUGUST 26 – 28, 2016

By Beth Freedman

Woohoo! We are going Camping again together!

We come together and hang out, kayak, play games, hike, potluck, play music, have campfires, long conversations, enjoy UU's got Talent Show, sing songs, walk dogs and take naps. Something for everyone. For those who don't want to camp, we are close enough to come "Day Tripping". We invite you to come up especially Saturday and enjoy the potluck, talent show and music circle.

I reserved seven of our favorite camping sites from last year. Scott's Flat upgraded to computer reservations which is a big step forward and just slightly higher reservation fees.

The campsites are very large and we normally share two camping families per site. For example, two families with two cars would be \$45.00 per camping family for the weekend. Check out the website to see extra fees for dogs, kayaks, etc: <http://orchardspringscampground.com/scotts-flat-lake-2/scotts-flat-lake-rates/>

The church reimburses me upfront and we collect the fees as soon as we possibly can from all of you happy campers. If you want a particular site, now is the time to let me know ;)

If you are interested in helping me coordinate some camping activities, let me know. Here is a rough outline of what normally goes on:

- Friday night social hour
- Saturday - day hike, crafts for kids, kayaking, potluck, UU's Got Talent, music and fire circle
- Sunday - Worship under the trees

This is one of our favorite events and a great way to get to know the community better. So please consider joining us. There are many happy campers who come year after year that would be happy to tell you more. Send me a note and we will contact you with more information.

For now.....SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 26-28th, 2016

Let me know if you want to reserve a site now.

I am looking forward to another fun camping trip with all of you!

Beth Freedman, *Camping Coordinator*
bethannfreedman@gmail.com
530-575-9319



Claire Miller
Coordinator of Programs
for Children and Youth

Religious Education Updates

UUCM Children & Youth Program

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES for children up to Grade 6 continue during the 9:45 A.M. service. Children begin the morning with their families, and then are dismissed to their classes after the story. Nursery care for babies and toddlers is available at both services.

APRIL 24 – THE ENTIRE SERVICE WILL BE LED BY THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF UUCM!

There is a role for everyone. Please talk to Claire (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or 530-205-5324), to help decide which role feels best to you - short speaking parts, readings, chalice lighting, music, ushers, greeters and coffee hour hosts.

ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

AUGUST 26-28

Save the date and sign up early for a fun weekend with UU friends old and new at Scott's Flat Campground. Talk to Beth Freedman for details (bethannfreedman@gmail.com or 530-575-9319).

OUR WHOLE LIVES

OWL (Our Whole Lives) comprehensive sex education program for children in Grades 7 through 10 has begun on January 24. Enrollment is now closed.

TEENS AT UUCM

Teenagers are always welcome to join their families in either service. There are also several "work opportunities" available for teenagers that would like to maintain regular involvement, and contribute their energy and talents to the life of UUCM. Talk to Claire if you are interested (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or 530-205-5324).

KIDS' MUSIC NIGHT

First, Second, and Third Wednesdays of Each Month
from 5:00-6:00 P.M.

Kids' Music Night is a gathering of a lively, enthusiastic and eclectic group of musicians - currently six regulars but new members are always welcome. Contact Jordan (music@uugrassvalley.org) or Claire (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or 530-205-5324) for more information, and/or to let us know you intend to come so we can plan the time accordingly. Kids' Music Night is now scheduled for the first three Wednesdays of each month – from 5:00-6:00 P.M. Additional practices

sometimes occur at other times – by popular demand, or for a little extra coaching on individual instruments.

Adult RE Opportunities

New Chalice Circle Forming: "How The Universe Works"

By Jerry Jacoby

Consciousness! Can it exist outside our brains? Some people claim consciousness is primary. Does that mean the brain is secondary? What happens to our consciousness when we die?

I would like to form a Chalice Circle to look into these questions, among others, and go where the evidence leads. Two times are available at the church: the first Monday of the month at either 1:30 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in joining such a Chalice Circle, please e-mail me at jacobyjj@pacbell.net.



Drop-in Support Circle

By Janet Bullock

The Drop-in Support Circle continues to meet Sundays at 10:50 - 11:25 A.M. in the Anthony Room. We have a dedicated band of people who take turns facilitating the circles. We are there for folks who need a little extra support that day. We are not a therapy group and we don't try to fix one another, but we listen; and we hope that meeting together is helpful. What we say is confidential. All are welcome.

Want to be in a Chalice Circle?

If you have an idea for a Chalice Circle that you'd like to get started, or wish to join the next Chalice Circle forming, please contact Phil Hart. He is coordinating Chalice Circles and would be happy to help you form one of your own, or get you on a waiting list for the next Circle available.

For more information, please contact Phil at: 530-272-6870, home phone or email: philhart115@gmail.com

March and April Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

FEBRUARY

28	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program

MARCH

1	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
2	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Group
		5:00	Youth Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
3	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group – WUC
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
6	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program
7	Monday	TBA	How the Universe Works Chalice Circ
8	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		12:30	Membership Committee Meeting
		4:00	Caring Committee
		6:00	Women's Circle
9	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		11:00	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		5:00	Kids' Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
10	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
		6:30	Board of Trustees Meeting
13	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program
15	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
16	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Faith Beyond Belief Study Group
		5:00	Kids' Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group – WUC
		11:00	Social Justice Committee Mtg
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
18	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
19	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
		12:30	Building & Grounds Meeting
20	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		12:45	Town Talk
22	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
23	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		4:00	Finance Committee Meeting
24	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
27	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
29	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		3:00	Memory Circle: Bill Toensing
		7:00	Worship Committee Interest Meet'g
30	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
31	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee

APRIL

2	Saturday	9:30	Spiritual Roots of Stewardship
3	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		11:00	Celebration Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program
4	Monday	TBA	How the Universe Works Chalice Circle
5	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
6	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Group
		5:00	Kid's Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
7	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group – WUC
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle

March and April Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
APRIL			
10	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program
12	Tuesday	9:00 12:30 4:00 6:00	Meditation Membership Committee Meeting Caring Committee Women's Circle
13	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Kids' Music Night Choir Rehearsal
14	Thursday	8:30 10:30 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
15	Friday	4:00 7:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place Spring Wine Market
16	Saturday	9:00	New Member Orientation Class
17	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program
18	Monday	12:00	May/June Mt Chalice Articles Due
19	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
20	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Faith Beyond Belief Study Group Kids' Music Night Choir Rehearsal
21	Thursday	8:30 10:30 11:00 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group - WUC Social Justice Committee Mtg Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
23	Saturday	9:00 12:30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
24	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program
26	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
27	Wednesday	8:30 4:30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting
28	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group
29	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
MAY			
1	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	First Sunday: Bring Food! New Member Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program
2	Monday	TBA	How the Universe Works Chalice Circ
3	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
4	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Kid's Music Night Choir Rehearsal
5	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group - WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
8	Sunday	9:45 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program

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 through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
 Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator
 Jordan Thomas-Rose, Director of Music

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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