

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2018

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Two Service Times on Sundays: 9:30 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 children (K-5th grades) are offered during the 9:30 A.M. service, and classes for youth (6th-12th grades) are offered at 10:30 A.M.

Nursery care is available for both services.

### MAY THEME: CREATIVITY

What does it mean to be a people of creativity?

**May 6**      **Feel the Rhythm: All-Music Service**  
 Choirs and musicians of many ages with  
 Jordan Thomas-Rose, Director of Music

We enter our theme of creativity by immersing ourselves in music. Bring your voice to the choir and consider the sources of your own songs.

**May 13**      **Mothering Invention**  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa

This Mothers' Day, art by UUCM members and friends will grace the building as we celebrate the creativity born of necessity, or at least from the arising circumstances of our lives.

**May 20**      **Enter, Rejoice and Come In**  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa and our Newest Members

Becoming a member of a congregation like this one is an ongoing, creative process. Joining is only the beginning. Explore what membership is meaning to you, or perhaps what you would like it to mean, and welcome UUCM's very newest members, your new companions on this journey.

**FLOWER CEREMONY:** Please bring a flower or stem of flowers to add to our communal bouquet

**May 27**      **To Be Announced**  
 Chuck Champlin, Worship Associate

Watch for an email with service details...

**June 3**      **Blessed are We!**  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa and the Congregation

**NOTE:** There will be a single 10:30 a.m. Service this day, followed by an Interfaith Block Party!

As we draw near to the end of UUCM's fiscal year, when various leadership positions will change hands, we take time to express our gratitude for all who have been serving UUCM so generously with their time and talents.

**AND THEN:** after the service we will head outside to celebrate an interfaith block party with our religious neighbors! - Food trucks, music, a multi-congregation scavenger hunt... Come meet and connect to our neighbors.

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*Rev. Kevin Tarsa*  
*UUCM Minister*

## From the Minister

When it comes to creativity, I think often of my mom's pragmatic farm family simply doing what needed to be done with the materials available. My grandfather's creations – a homemade wheel chair lift run by a small electric drill, a reaching, grasping handle for my then wheelchair-bound grandmother, a spinning grass seed spreader made with a large coffee can, a sheltering winter cab for his tractor, a small steam engine – all were wonderfully elegant in design. No more and no less than exactly what was needed, usually from parts and pieces neatly stored out in his garage workspace.

I pride myself in my pragmatic resourcefulness and my creativity. I find great satisfaction in working with the ingredients at hand, though sometimes I need to remember that it's okay to go out and get some of the new parts I need. And some of my creations are overbuilt. One of my brothers – another creator of elegant designs, taking after my grandfather - looked at the tabletop garden I had created for my mom and said, "Great. We can also use it as a tornado shelter!"

Music? Ah, with music creation I can usually be much more elegant. To be maximally creative it helps to have parameters. Ask me to compose some beautiful piece of music and I will struggle. Tell me that you need a three-minute song to celebrate a couple's 75 wedding anniversary, that they are Italian and funny, and that the song needs to be accompanied by tuba, accordion and tin-whistle, and I'm all over it, my creativity surprisingly liberated.

I am thoughtful lately about how I bring these same propensities to ministry, working with the ingredients at hand, sometimes overbuilding, needing to be reminded that we might need to go outside to get some new parts and pieces sometimes, ...and about how much I delight in other people's creativity.

UUCM has a newly articulated mission, and that is not the end of the process. The work and the joy now is to discern the creative and available ways UUCM members and friends can live it out and be inspired to fulfill it. As our Soul Matters materials remind us this month, such creativity is best a shared undertaking.

I invite you to tap into UUCM's new mission:

- If you want to be part of a team that creatively imagines the possibilities for inspiring action around the mission and "building our mission muscle," as Beth Freedman puts it, please contact me.
- If you are a leader or member of a committee or team at UUCM, ask out loud how the work of your committee or team lives out UUCM's mission. Put it in writing.
- Consider how you can best give of your time and talents joyfully and creatively in service of UUCM's mission.

Let the structure of the mission statement and the institution of UUCM liberate your creativity. I look forward to seeing what emerges.

*- Rev. Kevin*

## Are You a Visual Person?

*By Kevin Tarsa, UUCM Minister*

Do you rearrange your furniture frequently? Like your home to feel a certain way? Want your table settings to feed the eye? Had an idea for the altar? Have you been sitting in services imagining how you might strengthen the visual environment in the room?

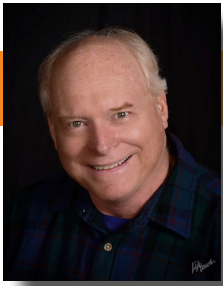
Please join with kindred spirits to imagine creative possibilities together. There is no assumed commitment beyond this creative brainstorming, though of course we would love for you to be part of helping bring your visions to life over time.

Come. We'll begin with a video from Marcia McFee to inspire our creativity, and then we'll open ourselves to full-out, free, creative brainstorming. We are currently working with schedules to figure out the time and date which will accommodate the most people. Please contact Kevin for the date and time if you are interested in attending.

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.,  
Wednesday: 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. and Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
*Other times by appointment.*

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule an appointment:  
[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058



Taylor Carey,  
President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees

This month's President's Column focuses primarily on our upcoming Congregational meeting scheduled for May 20, at 12:45, or as soon thereafter as tables, chairs, and wandering attentions may be brought to bear on the subject. Your attendance is vital to the success of this meeting. This is the time at which we will consider a number of Bylaws amendments and, most importantly, the Budget.

As to that, while we cannot report all black ink as we had hoped, the Board of Trustees is proud to announce that our projected deficit based on reported pledges and conservative estimates of anticipated additional income over the course of the coming fiscal year is dramatically less than that in the current year's budget. We project a deficit of less than \$5,000, as opposed to the roughly \$31,000 in red ink from our current budget. What's more, we have pared the deficit while keeping faith with our obligations to our Minister and our staff, and remaining a full Fair Share Congregation. The Board feels a deep debt of gratitude to our Treasurer Charley Zimmerman who carefully steered us back to a more solid financial footing, Bob Packard, Chair, and all the members of the Finance Committee, whose careful gleaning of all the data made the Board's work on the budget so much easier, and to Keith Johnson and the Stewardship Committee for a successful Pledge Drive.

This is all good work and we all should take pride in our enormous progress, but we can only rest on our shovels for a moment. There is much to be done. Our building is old and shrinking (or maybe we're growing). We would like RE to be more robustly funded. And there are people in our community who still do not know who we are or what we are about.

Typical of Unitarian Universalism, our congregation tends to be of the age of comfort, success, even retirement, yet young people benefit from our faith more than anyone. Kathryn and I know from happy experience that raising children as UUs confers a life of blessings on both parents and children. Don't

just take my word for it. Greta Gerwig, whose movie "Lady Bird" enthralled the nation, was raised in the UU Society of Sacramento and went through the OWL program just a few years ahead of our kids and it shows in every frame of that lovely film.

Oh, did I mention the OWL program? Yeah, well, we're still a few hundred dollars short of being able to afford it but we'll get there. We have to get there. One of my son's best friends is hispanic, a fluent speaker of Spanish. Nevertheless he got a "D" in high School Spanish, to which my son queried "Cardo, what the hell is wrong with you?" I don't want our young people asking us that question down the line because we failed them for a few cents a month.

In other news, the Nominating Committee is still looking for a candidate for the office of Treasurer to fill the shoes of our esteemed Mr. Zimmerman. Come on, it's time to dust off the green eye shade and garters and sharpen up the quill. Your destiny awaits. Please contact Kathryn Young, Chair, or any member of the Nominating Committee if you want to step up from Sudoku and the crosswords. Now that we have a paid book keeper, and a fully functional Finance Committee, the job of Treasurer is much more manageable, and we are discussing an "Assistant Treasurer" position to make it even better.

- Taylor

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Taylor Carey	President
Lindsay Duncel	Vice-President
Charlie Zimmerman	Treasurer
Sandi Lauher	Secretary

#### Members at Large:

George Dunstan, Beth Freedman, Chuck Champlin

Board of Trustees meetings are **NOW** held:  
👉 **the third Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m.** 👈  
in the UUCM Channing Room.

UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!  
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice  
so the agenda timing can be adjusted.

### Don't Miss Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

Sunday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m.

All interested may attend; however only UUCM  
Members are eligible to vote.

... AGENDA INCLUDES ...

- Bylaws Amendments
- Budget for 2018-19
- Elect Board of Trustee and Nominating Committee  
Members for 2018-19

# Nominating Committee



*Kathryn Young, Chair,  
Nominating Committee*

## UUCM Nominating Committee Looking for a **TREASURER!**

The UUCM Nominating Committee is charged with the task of finding candidates to fill all available board of trustee positions, as well as members of the Nominating Committee. So far, we have found some great candidates for every position *except* Treasurer. We really need someone who is comfortable with numbers and spread sheets to take on this role. You will have help from the Finance Committee to take care of the various responsibilities, and we now have a professional bookkeeper to provide up-to-date financial reports. If you have any interest, or know someone who you think would be a good fit, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, listed in the box at the right.

### **SUNDAY, MAY 6 - MEET AND GREET**

Your Nominating Committee wants everyone, new and old, members and friends to become acquainted with the slate of nominees for the 2018-19 Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. We look forward to introducing you to this year's candidates. In addition to the biographies in this issue of the *Mountain Chalice*, we will have a short "Meet and Greet" on Sunday, May 6th between services in conjunction with the Hospitality Time. Please get coffee and a snack and then come join us in the Alcott Room off the kitchen. We'll introduce the candidates and you'll have an opportunity to chat, ask questions, and thank them for "stepping up" to help govern at UUCM.

If you wish to run as an independent and have not contacted the Nominating Committee yet, it is not too late. Of course, legally you can announce as late as within the Congregational Meeting. Call or email any of us before the date of the May 6 and we would be happy to include you in our Meet & Greet.

### **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

Our UUCM election will be held at our Congregational Meeting after the second service on Sunday, May 20th. Please put that on your calendars! If you cannot attend, please let our Board Secretary, Sandi Lauher know so you can get a proxy ballot.

A sincere thank you to all who have volunteered to step up and serve our congregation in 2018-19 and beyond!

## UUCM NOM COM

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Kathryn Young	<i>Chair</i>
Robin Hart and Melissa Ridgway	<i>Members</i>
Dave MacLeod	<i>Alternate</i>

## GET TO KNOW OUR 2018 CANDIDATES...



**TAYLOR CAREY**  
**PRESIDENT, Board of Trustees**

Taylor Carey and his wife Kathryn Young have been Unitarian Universalists since 1995. They raised their five children in the faith while members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento. Their two youngest (twins), Rachel and Rebekah, are CPAs in Sacramento; Netty is a PhD candidate in political anthropology at the University of Florida; John is an environmental engineer; and Jacob is a programmer for the State Department of Social Services. Taylor and Kathryn became members of the UUCM in 2012, shortly after their move to Nevada City.

Taylor retired from the California Department of Justice as a Deputy Attorney General in 2013, having also held the positions of Special Assistant AG and Acting Chief of the Department's Civil Division before joining the Department's Opinion Unit under then Attorney General Jerry Brown. Prior to his service with DOJ he served for 11 years as Assistant Chief Counsel/Chief Administrative Law Judge with the California Department of Health Services (now the Department of Public Health), and four years as staff counsel with the State Department of Education.

Taylor is currently Treasurer of the Nevada-Sierra Regional IHSS Public Authority Governing Board; Past Chair of the Northern Sierra Chapter of the ACLU; and guitarist/singer with the Banner Mountain Boys bluegrass band. AND, President of the Board of Trustees at UUCM... running for a second term.



**JIM PERKINS**  
**VICE PRESIDENT, Board of Trustees**

I am relatively new to UUism. I grew up in the Methodist Church but found it (and Christianity) unfulfilling. I have found in UUCM a strong sense of community and spirituality that inspires me and informs my life. I especially appreciate its emphasis on social justice, particularly its concern with confronting white racism.



# Nominating Committee introduces...

I served on the Mission Renewal Process team and found working with the congregation in that capacity to be very rewarding. I loved seeing the energy that church members put into that process.

I am seeking this position on the Board to give back to the community and to utilize leadership skills I possess to support the work of the congregation, and especially to help the transition to our new governance plan. I have a doctorate degree and many years of experience in public health education, which entails extensive experience in group process, program planning and implementation, and adult education. I was also for a brief period of my life an ordained United Methodist minister so I have an appreciation for how church polity works.

I am excited about this opportunity to serve the community and appreciate your support.



**KARYN PACKARD**  
**SECRETARY/Board of Trustees**

Karyn Packard and her husband Bob have been members for 1-½ years. Karyn is ordained clergy, retired. She was Director of Pastoral Care and CPE supervisor at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital for almost 20 years.

Since joining UUCM, she has participated in leading various worship experiences from Solstice to more recently the MeToo service. Karyn is a facilitator for a Soul Matters Circle and administrates the UUCM book club, "Undaunted". Most recently, Karyn has facilitated two ½ day workshops at UCCM, using MBTI/Kiersey Temperament Indicator evaluation for 60 people in our congregation, with the goal of both self-awareness and team development.

Rev. Karyn is also a Board member for the Hospice of the Foothills, and will be their secretary for the next term. She has been active in interviewing candidates for their new Executive Director and Director of Spiritual Care positions. Karyn writes a monthly political book review for the local Democratic Party organization and she and Bob regularly participate in a group of Progressives in Lake Wildwood.



**MARYANN CURRINGTON**  
**MEMBER AT LARGE /Board of Trustees**

Ken and I raised our three children in the lovely, historical town of Oyster Bay, New York. I was a Special Ed Teacher specializing in learning disabilities. It was a deeply fulfilling career. I was so fortunate to earn a wage for something

I loved doing. But, on a vacation to see where my daughter decided to settle, we saw Lake Tahoe and packed our bags. We left family, friends and a community we loved for the irresistible beauty of Tahoe. After 16 years, we decided to retire our skis, put away the snow shovels and move closer to our newest granddaughter. Our new community has much to offer but, for me, the proximity to a Unitarian Church was particularly special. I had been a visitor to several UU churches on both coasts but, never lived close enough to consider joining. After visiting UUCM for a year, I felt confident in becoming a member.

Although, the Sunday Services left me filled with the spirit of our wonderful community, my true connection with the Church began with my involvement with the Caring Committee. The name of this committee says it all. It is, indeed, a group embodying compassion, love and service. I hope I will always be a member of the Caring Committee. Last winter, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and became a member of the Stewardship Committee. Now, I was no longer a guest of our Church, but a working member. I learned that saying yes to a necessary – but not always easy task – had many unexpected rewards.

I look forward to serving my UU community in as many capacities as I am capable, and am honored to be asked to serve on our Board of Trustees.



**DENNIS WEIHER**  
**MEMBER AT LARGE/Board of Trustees**

Dennis Weiher has been a UU since the early 60s, with membership in more than a dozen churches in Kentucky, Oregon and California. His significant leadership experience has been in Southern California with roles on the board as Vice President, President, and chair of Facilities, Membership, Leadership

Training and Finance. He was instrumental in growing our Thousand Oaks church over a 20 year period from under 30 members to over 210. As well he led the church in purchasing its permanent building and changing the governance model from pastoral to program. Finally Dennis spent 2 years on the Pacific Southwest District board and four more running district Leadership Training Schools.



**LIN JOVANOVIC**  
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

I found a group of like-minded people in 2002 when a friend took me to a circle dinner. From there I began to attend Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County and joined that year. Over the 11 years I was there, I became

## Nominating Committee introduces...

deeply involved in the community and served on the Board of Trustees for 8 years, two as President. I volunteered to lead the annual auction, various fundraisers, help write a policy and procedures manual, help to hire an interim minister, and worked with so many other on community outreach projects. UUism is in my blood! My husband, Branislav, and I moved here four and a half years ago, in part because I knew there was an active UU congregation in the community. I've been able to volunteer for a number of different committees and happenings in our community, although I work full time, which limits what I'd like to do. Being on the Nominating Committee will allow me to continue to serve our community and I look forward to the opportunity. I will be out of town for the meet and greet, but feel free to stop me and ask any question you have.



**MAYA KNOWLES**  
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE ALTERNATE**

I am Maya Knowles and I'm running for the position of Nominating Committee alternate. I have been coming to UUCM for almost a year and became a member in October 2017. I have been taking the New UU series classes to learn all I can about what UU stands for and how it operates. I joined the usher team right

after becoming a member and have enjoyed welcoming visitors as well as members at the door.

I have been involved in several UUCM Services and projects in small ways. I am enjoying implementing our new mission statement. If I am on the nominating committee, I will get to know more of our beloved community and help to bring in the best fitting candidates for the governance of UUCM



**LINDA SISKA**  
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Linda Siska and her husband, Pat, have been fortunate enough to have lived in some spectacularly beautiful places. Their first home was in Williamsburg, Virginia where they lived within walking distance of the restored colonial section and where Linda taught kindergarten in a school next door to the Governor's

Palace. In 1979, they moved to Germany, home for over twenty years, where they raised their two children and enjoyed working alongside a wonderful mix of nationalities both in Frankfurt and in Heidelberg. When Pat retired, they moved to the sugar white sands of Perdido Key in Florida to enjoy a life of beaches, boats and gorgeous sunsets. And now they have found Grass Valley, this beautiful, little Victorian town tucked into the Sierra foothills, and here they intend to remain for the rest of their days. Since coming to town four years ago,

Linda has become involved with a local art quilting group and more recently, UUCM, where Linda has been dividing her time between the Arts and Exploration group and Youth RE -- both of which she finds enjoyable and inspiring.



**CARMEN RILEY**  
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A little about myself – I grew up in the Napa Valley during the 50's and 60's, and graduated from SF State University in 1976. In the past, I've worked in the Professional Horse Industry as an Assistant Trainer at San Antonio Arabians – home of, Cass Ole, who starred in the original, Francis Ford Coppola movie,

'The Black Stallion.' I've been a Barn and Breeding Manager, and was in charge of the Secret Service Horses for the Western White House during the Reagan Administration. While living outside of Telluride, Colorado, I worked as a Veterinarian Assistant, and EMT.

I began attending UUCM during the summer of 2016, and became a member that fall. Upon joining, my first volunteer position was on the Membership Committee, where I continue to unofficially serve. I often usher on Sunday mornings, and currently volunteer with Building and Grounds, the Library Team, and facilitate the UUCM non Twelve-Step Addiction Support Group, 'Recovering Spirit.' I'm also a regular attendee in several of UUCM Adult Education classes, and participate in the Meditation Group, and newly-formed Walking Group, as well as usher UUCM memorial services.

Outside of UUCM, I volunteer at Sammie's Friends -- a no kill animal shelter, and am currently grooming my adopted kitten, Khaleighsii, to serving as a Comfort Animal, in order that we might participate in local children's reading and courtroom programs, as well as at adult medical facilities. I'm also one of three facilitators for the Non-UUCM Meditation Addiction Support Group, 'Mindfulness Recovery.'

My hobbies vary – writing, reading and communing with nature. I garden, sketch, make jewelry, follow the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) as my 'sport of choice' on TV, and have participated as a competitive runner in the past. After several years of hiatus – my current goal is to get back into shape so that I might begin racing once again.

One of the many joys that I experience as a member of this congregation is seeing and greeting fellow members of UUCM on all occasions, as well as seeking out and chatting with newcomers, who consistently walk through our door each Sunday morning; a role that I'm very comfortable with.

I hope you will find me worthy of your trust in allowing me to represent you as a Member of the Nominating Committee for this coming year.

## Membership Committee

### New Members Sunday, May 20!

The next "New Member Recognition Sunday" will be at both services on May 20th.

The steps to Membership are:

- 1) Participation in a "Welcome to UUCM" class,
- 2) A conversation with Rev. Kevin,
- 3) Making a pledge of financial support to UUCM,
- 4) Signing the Membership book (this can happen as part of the service on New Member Sunday, or at any other time by arrangement).

*If you would like to move towards Membership or if you have questions about any part of the process and would like to find out more, please talk to Claire Miller, Bridget Brackley, Carmen Riley or any of the Sunday morning ushers.*

### Social Events: Make New Friends, and Keep the Old!

*By Claire Miller, Chair, Membership Committee*

#### SATURDAY, MAY 5, ANNUAL UUCM SERVICE AUCTION

The annual UUCM Services Auction will have a Mexican theme this year in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Plan to come and bring friends, to enjoy Mexican food and music, watch the fun, and bid for unusual / fun / useful services which have been donated by UUCM members and friends. Also, begin thinking about what you might like to donate.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 9, VALLEY MUSIC CONCERT #2

Our very own Rev. Kevin, Jordan Thomas-Rose and musical friends will be back for a second evening of delightful entertainment.

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 - CONCERT AND FIREWORKS

Bring your own picnic supper and beverage, and join UU friends, old and new, for a lovely evening at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. There are entrance and parking fees.

#### SEPTEMBER END OF SUMMER HOE DOWN

Date to be determined, enjoy an evening of fun, food, singing and fellowship, including a talent show and other entertainment (still to be determined)



## Hospitality Team

### Snack Teams for May

*By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour*

Every Sunday we enjoy snacks and refreshments along with socializing, between the two services - 10:30 until 11:20 a.m.

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

- May 6 - last names beginning with A to E
- May 13 - last names beginning with F to J
- May 20 - last names beginning with J to R
- May 27 - last names beginning with S to Z

If you plan to bring a snack, please contact Marilyn Young ([marilyn04@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn04@gmail.com)).

## Committee on Ministry

### Communications Evaluation

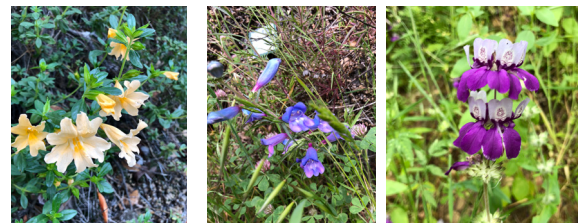
*By Janet Dunstan, Chair, Committee on Ministry*

The Committee on Ministry (COM) would like to thank those Members, Friends, and Visitors who shared their experiences and thoughts about UUCM communications in our recent survey. A Leadership Focus Group was also held to discuss their communication issues in particular. As of the writing of this article, Congregation Focus Groups are scheduled for April 29 after each service on Sunday.

The Committee will be analyzing the survey data and compiling the comments and suggestions we have received. By the end of June we plan to submit a report to the Board on our findings, assessment, and recommendations.

You are always welcome to contact any member of COM if you have questions.

Janet Dunstan, [janetldunstan@gmail.com](mailto:janetldunstan@gmail.com)  
Kathryn Canan, [kathryn.canan@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.canan@gmail.com)  
Gwen Eymann, [eymann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eymann@sbcglobal.net)



#### MAKING CONNECTIONS!

*A group of intrepid UUCMers hiked the Buttermilk Bend Trail at the South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport, and admired wildflowers including Bush Monkey Flowers, Foothill Penstemon and Purple Chinese Houses....and many more.*



## Mission: Possible Update

By Keith Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair

On behalf of the Stewardship committee, I would like to report the results of the 2018/19 pledge campaign to date. First, I want to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has already pledged in support of this congregation and its mission. Thank you.

While we await pledge cards from several members, in order to prepare a timely report for you, we have estimated next year's total pledge income using prior pledge history data for those members. With that understanding, we project total pledge income for next year to be \$198,828.

Where does this amount put us, budget-wise? Some background:

Last May, we adopted a budget that estimated pledge income for this year at \$179,000. During the course of the year, actual pledge income rose to \$198,761, an 11% increase! Amazing.

In addition to that good news, we celebrate that in this current Stewardship campaign:

- 28% of congregants have increased their pledges by at least 15%. Wow!
- An additional 6% have increased their pledges between 1% and 14%. Again, wow!
- 25% of our members are able to maintain their pledges at this year's level. Not something we can ever take for granted.

This is solid and inspiring stewardship!

It so happens that those welcome pledge increases equal almost exactly the loss of pledges from those who left UUCM, moved away, died, or had to decrease their pledges. Given that our anticipated pledge income for next year matches the pledge income from this current year, we have both great reason to celebrate and reasons to steward our financial resources very thoughtfully this coming year.

This year we drew heavily on our reserves. Our increased pledge total will put us now within reach of a balanced or nearly-balanced budget, though this will require that we hold most expenses to current levels and that we reduce spending in some areas.

Your Board of Trustees will soon recommend a budget for 2018/19 to be adopted by the congregation at the congregational meeting on May 20. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information.



Meanwhile, we will continue to analyze the data to identify patterns or trends that can inform us going forward. And if we again have a significant increase in pledging income as the year unfolds, that will be wonderful and most welcome!

As this campaign winds down, we want to express our gratitude to:

- our new and existing members who have honored their pledges
- all who have pledged this year, with gifts of all sizes
- all who served as visiting stewards and/or gave testimonials in church.

Special thanks to everyone who helped with the member receptions and congregational dinner. The dinner was truly a memorable event.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this year's pledge campaign you may contact me or any other member of the Stewardship committee – Lesley Champlin, Maryann Currington, Lindsay Dunckel, Bob Miller, and Bob Packard.



## Come to our Cinco de Mayo Dinner & Auction!



By Bob Miller, Member, Stewardship Committee

Our Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Auction is on Saturday, May 5th with an authentic Mexican dinner and live music, silent and live auction and more! Tickets are \$10.

Thought of something to donate? If so, please email or phone one of the following as soon as possible:

Cynthia Schuetz	<a href="mailto:cynthia43@gmail.com">cynthia43@gmail.com</a>	530-268-0960
Charlie Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:cezwho99@yahoo.com">cezwho99@yahoo.com</a>	530-478-1953

To donate, bid and receive notifications you need to be registered on the auction website. We registered most people last year but if you are new to UUCM, have changed your email address or phone number, please let Bob Miller know.

**Brought to you by the 2018 Auction Project Team**

Questions: [bob@sierramiller.com](mailto:bob@sierramiller.com) 530-205-5047





## Caring Committee

### Caring Committee Update

By Anne Lyon, Chair, Caring Committee

We welcome the month of May and our new members! We are a caring folk at UUCM, and it shows in so many ways. Our own Caring Committee is always looking for new ways to help our congregants who need a bit of love and support. We do so with confidentiality, so though we are a proud folk, prone to NOT asking for assistance, rest assured that Caring Committee concerns are private. Please feel free to let one of us know if you need a ride to the doctor's or UUCM; perhaps an errand run; or a meal or three.

Our next monthly meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8th at UUCM. We welcome your interest!

#### CARING COMMITTEE

Anne Lyon, *chair*  
Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Currington,  
Gwen Eymann, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,  
May Lawrence, Corrie Silva,  
and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m. on the first 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: Anne Lyon, (619) 933-1618  
[caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@uugrassvalley.org)

## Endowment Committee

### Introducing the Endowment Legacy Program for Planned Giving

By Joel Houtman, Chair, Endowment Committee

Previously we reintroduced Simple Gifts for anytime giving. Now we are introducing the Endowment Legacy Program for Planned giving.

People make planned gifts as a means to financially support our community in a more significant way than is possible with donations from earned income. In return for a planned gift, donors or their families may receive important estate and income tax benefits.

There are a number of creative ways to give to the Endowment Fund. One can simply add UUCM as a beneficiary to IRAs and other retirement funds. Altering a will or trust is possible. Life income gift arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities and gifts of real estate are additional options. It is wise to consult with a qualified attorney or estate planning advisor to assist with planned giving.

Over time, the UUCM Endowment Fund can serve as a crucial source of funding for programs and facilities that will sustain our UU community in the future. Once the Endowment Fund reaches \$50,000, earnings from the fund will become available to pay for UUCM programs and to develop building facilities. Brochures with more information about the Endowment Legacy Program are available. You can talk with one of the Endowment Committee Members; Joel Houtman, George Dunstan and Ron Drake.

Contact: Joel Houtman, Committee Chair  
[jhout46@att.net](mailto:jhout46@att.net), 530-273-2925



## VALLEY MUSIC:

*An evening of music  
with family & friends!*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 7:00 P.M.**

*Tickets on sale soon at UUCM!*  
**Save the Date!**



# Social Justice News and Activities

## Social Justice Committee Needs Help with a Few Simple Tasks

By *Stu Chuang Matthews, Chair, Social Justice Committee*

We are looking for volunteers for any and all of the following. Each task should only take about an hour or two each month. This is a perfect opportunity to step up and make a difference without a huge commitment of time. Can you help? We need...

1. Someone to post a monthly flyer on our front bulletin board about that month's Pass the Plate recipient.
2. Someone to write a brief monthly blurb for *Mountain Chalice* about month's Pass the Plate recipient
3. Someone to write a weekly blurb about local social justice opportunities for *eChalice*

## Local Volunteer Opportunities

By *Keith Johnson, Member, Social Justice Committee*

The Social Justice Committee encourages all members and friends to volunteer for justice work with local non-profit organizations. UUCM'ers are already doing outstanding work for the following groups. Please read the brief description of the group and the volunteer help that is needed, and if you are moved to do so please contact the UUCM contact person to volunteer. The contact person will have further information about the organization and may suggest other volunteer opportunities. If you would like to recommend other service organizations to be included, or if you wish to join us on the Social Justice Committee, please contact committee chair Stu Matthews (530-362-8456).

### ANIMAL PLACE, SAMMIE'S FRIENDS SHELTER,

#### GRASS VALLEY SHELTER

Animal Place cares for rescued farm animals. Sammie's Friends and the Grass Valley Animal Control Shelter care for rescued pets. All three of these organizations need help feeding, cleaning, walking, and socializing with animals.

Sammie's Friends' contract with Nevada County expires on June 30, 2018. They must submit a new proposal to renew the contract. Sammie's has done a great job of running the shelter. They have a great foster program, adoptions are up, they help with medical needs and food for pets whose caretakers are in need. **If you would like Sammie's to continue to run the shelter please submit a comment to Board of Supervisors at [clerkofboard@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:clerkofboard@co.nevada.ca.us) and CEO of county Rick Haffey at [ceo@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ceo@co.nevada.ca.us).**

Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

UUCM makes lunches for Habitat workers on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the church. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

### HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Hospitality House manages and operates Utah's Place, the local homeless shelter. Hospitality House needs help in three program areas:

UUCM purchases, prepares, and serves dinner to our guests at Utah's Place on the third and fifth Fridays of every month. Contact Wally Holtan (530-559-0050).

Hospitality House manages the Bread and Roses Thrift Store and help is needed in all aspects of store operation. Contact Cassandra Holdeman (530-575-4428).

Utah's Place needs volunteer monitors. Contact George Dunstan (530-205-8159).

### IFM

Interfaith Food Ministry provides food at least two times per week to those in need. Currently they need both drivers and packers. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

### SIERRA ROOTS

Sierra Roots is a local homeless advocacy group which requests assistance in operating a cold weather shelter and their one-on-one advocacy program. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

### SYRCL

The South Yuba River Citizen's League is dedicated to preserving and protecting the South Yuba River. Volunteer opportunities include river monitoring, becoming a river ambassador, and clerical support. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

## Animal Blessing Service June 16<sup>th</sup>

By *Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee*

UUCM will offer a blessing of the animals on Saturday, June 16 at 2 P.M. in the sanctuary, led by Rev, Kevin Tarsa, Carol Hyndman and Allison Rivers Samson. All are welcome. If your animal friend is shy and prefers to stay at home, you can bring a photo. A favorite stuffed animal is also welcome. There will be an altar for photos or mementos of animal companions who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Cats and other small animals are best kept in carriers for their safety.

We will enjoy vegan snacks after the service. If you would like to bring something vegan and need ideas or a recipe, please email Allison Rivers Samson at [hello@allisonriverssamson.com](mailto:hello@allisonriverssamson.com). For any questions call Carol Hyndman at 477-0693 or email at [countrycattery@gmail.com](mailto:countrycattery@gmail.com).

# Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

## Women's Circle in May: Annual Swap Party!!

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

Now is the time to get ready for our annual Swap Party. It is taking place on Monday, May 14, at 6:00.

**Please eat before you come as we will NOT have pot-luck this month.** (We have discovered that eating uses up our precious "shopping time.") Bring clothing and accessories which you are ready to part with and take home whatever appeals to you. It's a way to freshen up our wardrobes without spending a penny. Anything left over will go to the UUCM yard sale.

If you have a clothing rack or any extra hangers or paper or plastic bags, let Kathryn know. We will be setting up from two until four on Monday. Your donations can be brought to the church on Sunday, May 6 or 13, or make arrangements with Kathryn for pick up.

We need help during those hours to get set up, and afterward to box up what's left. We have a few volunteers, but it's a big job so if you want to help, let me know.

Kathryn's home phone: (530) 478-1329 or cell: (916) 743-5688  
email: [kathryneyounguu@gmail.com](mailto:kathryneyounguu@gmail.com)

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please contact Kathryn Young, or send an email to Carol Fulkerson at: [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) and she will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

**Humanism  
Discussion Group**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2  
10:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.  
IN THE CHANNING ROOM  
By George Dunstan



At our April meeting we talked about the current youth movement that had coalesced around the gun violence issue and how their actions were so vibrant and impressive. We chose as the topic for our May meeting "How can we support the youth movement"? There are no suggested readings for this topic but will leave it to each of us to come up with ideas.

We also talked briefly about Steven Pinker's new book,

"Enlightenment Now, The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress". Some of us have read part of the book and others expressed interest in reading it. Here is an edited version of Steven Pinker's speech "Knowledge has enhanced human flourishing" presented at the 2017 Freedom From Religion Foundation annual convention in which he discusses his book. It's a very nice summary of the book and I've included a link to the article below.

<https://www.freethoughttoday.com/vol-34-no-02-march-2018/steven-pinker-knowledge-has-enhanced-human-flourishing>

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (530-477-7635 or [gvgeode@gmail.com](mailto:gvgeode@gmail.com)).

## Meditation Group

Tuesday mornings at 9, 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 info: Shelley North Gerson, 272-8930, [shelley10493@gmail.com](mailto:shelley10493@gmail.com).

## Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings at What's Up? Coffee, (1110 E Main St., Grass Valley), men gather to enjoy each other's company and discuss the issues of the day or whatever takes their fancy, in an open and free-flowing way.

## Drop-In Support Circle

SUNDAYS FROM 10:50 UNTIL  
11:25 A.M.

IN THE ANTHONY ROOM ANNEX

We have found our new designated space in the "library annex" to be cozy and intimate. Please join us if you would like a safe, confidential place to share your feelings about life's challenges and give support to others.

The group meets every Sunday, 10:50-11:25.

Circle Facilitators: (rotating) Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, [janetbullock41@gmail.com](mailto:janetbullock41@gmail.com)), Corrie Silva, Tom Wernigg, and Penelope Williams.







# Full Community Education

## Religious Exploration

By Lindsay Dunckel, Co-Chair,  
Religious Education Visioning Team

As the Religious Exploration Visioning Team put together the curriculum on Creativity for May for our young children, it struck us: there could not be a more perfect theme for our children! Our elementary-aged children will explore creative problem-solving as a team, trying to build a tall tower out of dry spaghetti; they will read the beloved book "Roxaboxen" and create a mini town out of boxes; and they will explore improv in music and theater. Our youngest children will similarly explore creativity - seeing if they can build a barn of blocks for a group of animals, drawing to music, and creating colorful flowers.

Curious about what goes on in RE? We'd love to have you visit. Contact Co-Chairs, Rene Wiley ([renemarie@gmail.com](mailto:renemarie@gmail.com)) or Lindsay Dunckel ([lindsaydunckel@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaydunckel@gmail.com)) to set up a visit.

And, as always, we encourage you to engage a child in conversation at coffee hour - ask them what they did today in class, what their favorite thing is about RE, what they like about church - we're sure you'll be as delighted by our young people as we are!

Two of our younger students inspired by the artwork of the UUCM Teen group



## Find Out What's Happening!

Please "like" and join our RE at UUCM Facebook page in order to encourage more of the youth and families to be in the know of what is happening at UUCM.

Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/REatUUCM/>



**6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:**  
*You are invited to come to the*

## UUCM BRUNCH BUNCH

**WHEN:** Second Sunday of each month

**WHERE:** Meet in the UUCM Entry at 10:25 a.m.

**WHAT:** Walk to a Grass Valley restaurant for breakfast with other youth!

**COST\*:** Depends on what you order!

**WHY?:**

- Get to know other UU youth
- Have *authentic* conversations about things that matter
- Explore monthly themes such as: *Hope, Intention, Perseverance*

**...and have FUN!**

*\* Financial assistance available... please talk to Butterfly or Rev. Kevin*



## Food for Thought and Reflection from Soul Matters

**What does it mean to be a people of creativity?**

*Creativity is our ability to dream things up and make them happen.*  
- Peggy Taylor

We're all familiar with that part in the quote about dreaming. Conjuring up new ideas and images is what creativity is all about. Using the building blocks of "what is," we -almost magically- make the "not yet" appear in our minds.

But what about that other part? The part about "making them happen." When we talk about creativity, that half of the equation often gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real. And it's not just the hard part; it's the scary part too. You have to be brave to try new things and fail. Being creative and unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon; it can also lead to being laughed at and excluded from the group. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is also insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.

Once that's in view, it's clear that we also need to talk about "co-creativity" this month as well. Something as daring as creativity is dangerous if we try to do it alone. Indeed, where did we get the silly idea that artists and inventors are isolated, independent geniuses? When it comes to myths about creativity, that one tops the list. We need to remind each other that there is no such thing as a "person of creativity," only "people of creativity."

The Bible talks of the Holy Spirit appearing when "two or more are gathered." The same rule applies to the creative spirit! For instance, new ideas come from the clash of debate. New art emerges only after inspiration from those who've gone before. Better forms of community are built on the back of those who have toiled and sacrificed long before we put ourselves on the line. Simply put, there are no creators without companions.

It's all a way of reminding us that the secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other. Those sacred sources of inspiration inside us – our imagination, unique voice and inner muses – are like wild animals; they are hungry

to run free but are also shy and easily scared away. They want to come out and play but will only do so when coaxed and cared for by the inspiration and support of others. So, in the end, maybe the most important question this month is not just "What do you want to create?" but also "Who are your partners?"

With gratitude for all our sources of creativity – those within us and those all around us – let us begin.

## Soul Matters Themes for 2018

**What does it mean to be a people of...**

May:  
June:

Creativity  
Blessing

## Understanding You, Understanding Me AN INTRODUCTION TO ENNEAGRAM

By Cynthia Schuetz,  
Adult RE Coordinator



**WHAT:** The Enneagram is a study of the nine basic personality types. It explains why we behave as we do and offers specific directions for individual growth and spiritual development. This is another valuable tool for self-exploration and improving relationships.

**WHO:** The 60-90 minute FREE seminar will be led by Wendy Heaton (raised as a UUer; lives in Nevada City!); she is certified to teach the Enneagram. If there is enough interest, she will offer a 4-6 hour class at a later date and for a reduced rate for us (participation in the introduction not required).

**WHEN:** Two introductory classes, to be held in UUCM's Sanctuary, are available (the introduction will be done at both times; no RSVP necessary):

- Friday, May 4, 3:30-5:00
- Friday, May 4, 6:00-7:30

**WHY:** Study of the Enneagram supports UUCM's recently adopted Mission Statement, which includes, "...we cultivate our spiritual, emotional and intellectual strength." It provides an opportunity for those who participated in Karyn Packard's MBTI/Keirsey workshop to expand our knowledge of why we and others behave as we do and explore options for self-growth. Didn't attend Karyn's workshop? You're welcome too! Questions? Contact Cynthia Schuetz, Adult RE (530) 268-0960 or [learning@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:learning@uugrassvalley.org)



# May 2018 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
<b>MAY 2018</b>			
1	Tuesday	9:00 9:00 9:30 3:00 5:00	Meditation Walking Group - Meet at UUCM Membership Committee Meeting Grief Workshop Caring Committee Meeting
2	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 12:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Committee on Ministry Meeting Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
3	Thursday	8:30 9:00 <b>New Time</b> 7:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Walking Group - meet at UUCM Singing Meditation Circle
4	Friday	3:30 6:00	Introduction to Enneagram #1 Introduction to Enneagram #2
5	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:30</b>	<b>Cinco de Mayo Celebration Auction</b>
6	Sunday	<b>First Sunday - Bring Food for People &amp; Pets</b> 9:30 9:30 10:25 10:40 10:40 10:50 11:30	Full Community All Music Service Classes for Children Brunch Bunch for Youth Meet & Greet Candidates - Alcott Rm Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Full Community All Music Service
7	Monday	11:00	Nominating Committee Meeting
8	Tuesday	9:00 9:00 4:00	Meditation Walking Group - meet at UUCM Developing White Racial Literacy
9	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 11:00 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Recovering Spirit Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
10	Thursday	8:30 9:00 10:30 5:30 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Walking Group - Meet at UUCM Writers' Group Social Justice Night Worship Committee Meeting
11	Friday	12:00	Art and Esthetics Team Install Art
13	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:25 10:40 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service Classes for Children Brunch Bunch for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
14	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle Clothing Swap
15	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation Global Affairs Discussion Group
16	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
17	Thursday	8:30 5:15 5:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Board of Trustees Meeting Social Justice Committee Meeting
18	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place
19	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
20	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:50 11:30 12:45 1:00	New Member Welcome Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle New Member Welcome Service Religious Ed Visioning Team Meeting Annual Congregational Meeting
21	<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Mountain Chalice Submissions Due</b>
22	Tuesday	9:00 9:00 4:00	Meditation Walking Group - Meet at UUCM Developing White Racial Literacy
23	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Recovering Spirit Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
24	Thursday	8:30 9:00 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Walking Group - Meet at UUCM Writers' Group
27	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
29	Tuesday	9:00 9:00	Meditation Walking Group - Meet at UUCM
30	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced)
31	Thursday	8:30 9:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Walking Group - Meet at UUCM



## *Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains*

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Telephone:** 530.274.1675

**Website:** [www.ugrassvalley.org](http://www.ugrassvalley.org)

**Two Sunday Services:** at 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

### **Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:**

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Wednesday: 4 - 6 P.M.

Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

### **UUCM STAFF MEMBERS**

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

[minister@ugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@ugrassvalley.org)

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