

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 2018

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Two Service Times on Sundays: 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM**

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 AM service, and classes for youth (6th-12th grades) are offered at 10:30 AM. Nursery care is available for both services.

### DECEMBER THEME: AT THE EDGE OF MYSTERY

As the darkening days draw us into winter, they guide us toward contemplation on mystery and hope. Stories of the season invite us to the edge, to the thresholds and doorways of deep questions that have no final answers. Held here in beloved community, in courage, kindness and compassion, we each choose whether and how to open the doors before us, and how to face the awesome unknown that lies beyond.

#### Dec. 2 Embracing Mystery

**with Lindsay Dunkel, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, et al**

Our take on mystery - the unknown and unknowable - is central and essential in Unitarian Universalism. How do you, how do we, face what we do not know and the thresholds and doorways that lead to places beyond our sight, our knowledge, our certainty?

#### Dec. 9 Let the Mystery Be: Everything is Holy Now Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Religious Naturalism offers a this-worldly approach to mystery, awe and unanswerable questions: let the mystery be. How can not knowing the answers be a source of comfort, security and salvation.

#### Dec. 16 The Sound of Silence Wendy Wernigg, et al

There is powerful value in silence, but discomfort as well. What surfaces in silence can be a mystery that is difficult to face. What is at the root of this discomfort? What are we afraid of and can we befriend the mysteries of our own mind?

#### Dec. 20 Solstice Celebration - 7 PM Thursday

Solstice is a hope-filled threshold as, year after year, the darkening days begin to turn toward the light. In a cycle as old as time, death and rebirth in the world around us bring hope that invites us to open us to mystery and awe.

#### Dec. 23 Unwrapping the Inner Gifts of Christmas Rev. Kevin Tarsa

In the heat of the holidays, let's face, even embrace, some of the many holiday emotions - joy, sadness, compassion, and silence - with the help of Tom Owen-Towle's wisdom captured in

Unwrapping the Inner Gifts of Christmas.

#### Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

##### 5:00 PM Each Night a Child is Born is a Holy Night

A joyful collage of carols, songs, stories, candlelight and participation celebrating the joy of community and the miracle of new life at the center of this holiday.

##### 8:00 PM Silent Night, Holy Night

On this 200th anniversary of the song, "Silent Night," candlelight, carols, compassion and joy grace this gentle service steeped in the multi-faceted spirit of the season and the meanings to be found in the Christmas Story..

#### Dec. 30 Cider Sunday

**Anita Wald-Tuttle, with Wendy Wernigg**

In this special annual service at the turning of the year, we will review the past year and look to the year to come. The center of the service is an opportunity for all to share brief personal reflections. Gathered in a circle and holding each other in care, we'll remember, imagine, and, yes, share glasses of cider at this threshold to the new year.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

I know that many of you are caring and feeling deeply about those affected by the Camp Fire, and are yourselves now more worried about the possibility of fire closer to home. It is a time to offer extra care and compassion to yourselves and to one another, as well as a time to reach out to be of service.

You may look to the weekly eChalice, Sunday orders of service and Member emails for information about arising ways to help. As we know already, the immediate help will come fast and powerfully. It is the long-term support that will be critical. Right now, you can support members of our sister congregation in Chico by sending donations, with "Camp Fire" in the memo line, to:

UU Fellowship in Chico  
1289 Filbert Avenue  
Chico, CA 95926

Watch also for invitations to be readying ourselves.

I know that for many of you the fires are but one weight piled on day after day of late, and that you struggle to find hope and joy. Again, this is a time to offer extra care and compassion to yourselves and to one another. This too is a long-term journey, one that we make together and in good company.

All of this unsettledness of mind, body and spirit reminds us of the ever-present uncertainties of life, lifting the veils that allow us to imagine that things are secure most of the time. And so we meet uncertainty anew, face to face.

This month's theme – What does it mean to be a people of mystery? - brings to mind those Magic Eye pictures popular in the 90s. These are pictures, often of repeating patterns, that look simply dizzyingly busy until you soften your gaze, as if to focus slightly behind or through the surface of the picture. If all goes well, and one relaxes just enough, and then focuses



just right, suddenly a three-dimensional image rises and/or recedes from the page. It is mind bending, available all the time, but accessible only part of the time, and only to some. Not everyone's eyes can see the images, and kids often get there much more quickly than adults.

As our Soul Matters authors note, mystery is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be acknowledged and experienced. And goodness knows there is plenty of mystery around us, of both the worrisome

and the grand and awesome kinds.

May we heed the current invitations to notice that life is always precious and precarious, to realize that this is and always has been the nature of things, and to know that together, we can move into and learn to navigate uncertainty and mystery, and in so doing, find our way home.

- Rev. Kevin

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

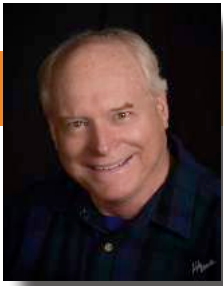
Tuesday	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Wednesday	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Thursday	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

*Other times by arrangement.*

*Please call or email Rev. Kevin to make an appointment.*

[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058

## Board of Trustees



*Taylor Carey,  
President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Years ago, when I was a young attorney working in the State Department of Education, I was assigned a new case from a class of cases that we all hated. They arose from federal audits of the state-administered, federally-funded Migrant Education program, the program through which the feds provided monetary support to states with high migrant worker populations. In staff meetings, whenever the Chief Counsel needed to assign one of these turkeys, every attorney in the room would try to become invisible.

Because I was relatively new and lacked sufficient seasoning, these mind-pulverizingly complex cases generally landed in the laps of my more experienced colleagues. The simple fact is that it didn't really seem to matter to whom they were assigned. We never won... ever. In fact, none of the states engaged in the migrant education program ever won. The net result was that the states would accept the funding, and expend it in support of their migrant ed. programs. Then, after audit, the feds would demand a substantial portion of their money back for alleged misallocation of the funds. In California the federal claims could reach many tens of millions of dollars.

The situation became so bad that some states banded together to hire specialized outside, private legal counsel at great expense to help them fight the Reagan Administration's confiscatory policies. In California, the Attorney General's office threw up its hands and allowed the Department of Education to take the cases back to defend by itself. That's where I entered the picture. Due to my litigation background while in private practice and general, deer-in-the-headlights inattention to my own peril, I was thrust into the role of canon fodder against the fed's juggernaut.

I knew nothing about the subject. I had no affinity for numbers – my parents were resigned to the belief that I would never learn my times tables. I have the same attention for detail that a cloud has for its individual rain drops. I was assigned four of these nightmares. I did not get a good night's sleep for the next three years.

The only thing I had going for me was a life-long need to consider everything in life from a different perspective. Things are not as they appear on the surface. I enter buildings from the side door, the back door, through back alleys, and through kitchens. Among life's mysteries, the body compensates for disabilities by heightening other senses. The simplest acts require immediate, fluid reinvention and adaptation.

And wonder of wonders, that's how California became the first

state in the nation to beat the feds at its own game.

The process involved the state appealing the adverse audit findings by the federal government. This would require extensive research, briefing, and a trip to Washington D.C. to the federal Education Appeals Board, which routinely denied our requests for relief. The state's only recourse was a further appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal in San Francisco which, like the EAB, would typically send the state packing.

My first two cases were consolidated and I lost them both before the EAB and the Ninth, though a very talented program staff member was able to use an ambiguity in the Court's decision to negotiate a 50% reduction in the amount owed.

I lost the next two EAB decisions too. But, while briefing these matters for the Ninth Circuit, a very dim light began to glow. Not through cleverness, erudition, or brilliance, it suddenly dawned on me that we were all struggling up the wrong stairs. The particulars are so boring that even a brief recitation would put anyone still awake after reading this far, fast asleep. But, the Ninth Circuit bought my argument ... twice. Our victories, coupled with the rising congressional anger against the Reagan Department of Education and its draconian audit practices eventually forced a complete overhaul of the Migrant Ed funding mechanism.

Life "is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma" (Winston Churchill). Sometimes it is miraculous. Sometimes it is serendipitous. Sometimes it is just weird. The only thing Donald Rumsfeld ever said that made any sense was that we don't know what we don't know. Equally perplexing, however, is that sometimes we don't know what we do know.

- Taylor

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019**

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Jim Perkins	<i>Vice-President</i>
Charlie Zimmerman	<i>Treasurer</i>
Karyn Packard	<i>Secretary</i>

#### **Members at Large:**

Chuck Champlin, Maryann Currington & Dennis Weiher

*Board of Trustees meetings are held:  
the third Thursday of each month at 5:15 PM  
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.*



# Welcoming and Membership Team

## Introducing our New Name

By Claire Miller, Chair, Welcoming & Membership Team

To be consistent with the new governance structure and terminology at UUCM, the former "Membership Committee" will now be known as the "Welcoming and Membership Team."

Many of the day to day tasks previously done by this group will remain the same. However, some adjustments will evolve over the near future, to help us better reflect our new UUCM Mission Statement. Would you like to be part of this Team? And part of this evolution? There are several areas that could use your time and talents. In all cases, training and support is provided – as you ease into your new role.

### 1) Sunday Morning Welcoming Team

These team members are charged with creating a warm, inviting and inclusive environment for everyone before and after Sunday early and/or late services.

*Requirements - A friendly nature, and ability to be comfortable talking to someone you don't know. Lots of flexibility in scheduling. This is an ideal starting place for getting involved in the work of UUCM.*

### 2) Social Events: planning, organizing, hosting

*Requirements – enjoy working as a team with one or two others to create events. Truly enjoy having fun with others and willing to try new things.*

### 3) Supporting People on the Path to Membership

*Requirements – must be a member of UUCM and involved in the life of the community yourself. Moderate level of computer literacy – or willing and able to learn – and your own computer. Good communication, record keeping, and team work with other Welcoming Team members.*

### 4) Supporting Existing Members

*Requirements - Be involved in the life of the congregation yourself. Willingness to get to know a wide range of people. Good communication skills, record keeping, and team work with other team members. Minor computer skills.*

## PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

You may become a member of UUCM at any time during the year. Here are the steps that will take you along that path. If you are interested, or would like more information, please talk to Rev. Kevin or Claire Miller.

Whether you are a member or not, please know that wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome at all services and most social events and activities.

- Attend one of the "Meet the Minister" events between the two services on the first Sunday of each month
- Let the Welcoming and Membership team know that you are interested. (Talk with Claire Miller, chair, or any of the ushers.)

- Talk with Rev. Kevin about the privileges and responsibilities of membership
- Plan to attend one of the "Small Group Dinners" with Rev. Kevin, someone from Membership Team, and a few other interested new people. These will be casual events – part social, part informational - to help you feel more at home at UUCM. Talk to Claire Miller for details.
- Plan to attend the next "Intro to UU" class -- date to be determined. If you are interested, let Claire or an usher/greeter know, and they can take your name and contact you once it has been scheduled.

## Fun for All – UUCM Social Events!

Get to know other UUCMers and have some fun at these upcoming UUCM Social events:

### SOUP SUNDAYS - SECOND SUNDAYS

After the second service, join in a casual Soup Potluck Lunch - eat and enjoy conversation with UU members, friends and newcomers. Willing to bring a soup? Or bread or a dessert? Contact Marilyn Young: [MarilynY04@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynY04@gmail.com)

### HOLIDAY TREE TRIMMING - PARTY - FRIDAY, DEC. 7, 6 PM

Join us for a snack food potluck and tree-trimming party -- everyone is invited. We'll make "mystery" ornaments, cut snowflakes, decorate the tree, and drink cider. Fun for all ages.

### EVERYBODY CHOIR CAROLING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Time to be announced. We'll be gathering at UUCM, heading out to do some caroling in the neighborhood and/or retirement homes, and then returning for hot drinks and a dessert potluck. Wear your festive Christmas sweaters & hats!

### CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2:00 PM

Share the bounty of a wonderful pot luck meal with all the trimmings. Stay for caroling and storytelling around the fire. All are welcome. There will be a sign up sheet closer to the date to help us plan for numbers, or contact the office:

[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or 530-274-1675.

## Hospitality Team

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 AM

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

- December 2 - last names beginning with A to E
- December 9 - last names beginning with F to J
- December 16 - last names beginning with K to R
- December 23 - last names beginning with S to Z

If you plan to bring a snack, please contact Marilyn Young ([MarilynY04@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynY04@gmail.com)).

ANNOUNCING OUR

# Annual Holiday Bazaar

**Sundays, December 2 & 9 between Services**

*(All proceeds to benefit UUCM)*

**Thank you for all the donations you've been leaving in the big box in the office.  
Keep them coming! We're going to have a great sale!**

We welcome handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, knitting & crocheting, sewing, woodwork, metalwork, quilts, pottery, canned fruits\* and jams\* and pickles\*, chutneys\*, sauerkraut\*, re-gifting treasures.

**QUESTIONS? OUR TEAM MEMBERS ARE:**

Janet Bullock, [janetbullock41@gmail.com](mailto:janetbullock41@gmail.com) and Bob Miller, [bob@sierramiller.com](mailto:bob@sierramiller.com)

*\*Foods we will gratefully accept: high-acid canned and pickled fruits and veggies, salsa, chutney, sauerkraut, kimchi, jams, jellies, applesauce. Foods we, regretfully, will not accept: sauces; dressings; canned foods containing meat, fish, dairy; pesto; baked goods; dried foods; beverages.*

**Come Shop for Unique Gifts & Have FUN!**

*Please come to our annual*

## Tree Trimming Party

**Friday,  
December 7,  
6-8:00 PM**

**Activities for ALL ages!**

- ☆ Snowflakes
- ☆ Mystery Crafts!
- ☆ Finger Food Potluck
- ☆ Hot Cider



ENJOY A  
**CHRISTMAS  
FEAST AT  
UUCM**  
TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 25  
AT 2:00 PM

*Come to UUCM's Third Annual  
Christmas Potluck with  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and your  
UUCM family and friends!*

**Everyone is Welcome! Please sign up in the Foyer!**

## Stewardship Committee

### Stewardship's Committee Update

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Committee

In the midst of the holiday season your Stewardship Committee has much to be thankful for. As of mid- November the total amount pledged for 2018/19 is \$206,768. A total of \$106,033 has already been received which is 51% of the amount pledged. Great job! Your timely pledges are greatly appreciated. If you have fallen a little behind schedule consider this a friendly reminder. If unforeseen circumstances make it impossible for you to honor your pledge in full, we understand but ask that you contact Rev Kevin or a committee member as soon as possible.

This year's fund raisers are off to a flying start. The Fall Concert and Fall Wine Tasting were fun for all and profitable as well. We earned about \$2400 from both events. Next up is the Holiday Bazaar which will be held on December 2nd and December 9th. Please contact Mary Ann Currington or Janet Bullock if you have items to donate. It is never too early to begin thinking about the UUCM Auction which is scheduled for February 16. The Auction is our biggest fund raiser. What would you like to donate to make this the most successful ever?

So far we have hosted seven Cottage Meetings with nine more scheduled from December through February. If you have not already attended a meeting, please watch for your invitation. It is our hope that everyone will be able to attend a Cottage Meeting. They are fun, informal, and a great opportunity to meet and connect with other UUCM members. When you receive your invitation please respond promptly, even if you must send your regrets, in order for us to facilitate attendance at each meeting. Thank you in advance for this courtesy. Be well and safe during this holiday season.



#### FUNDRAISER CALENDAR –

#### SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE 2018/19 FUNDRAISER EVENTS!

Sundays, December 2 and 9	Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, February 16	UUCM Auction
Saturday, April 27	Valley Music Spring Concert
Saturday, June 8	Annual Yard Sale

## Endowment Committee



### Your Simple Gifts and Endowment Legacy Gifts are Appreciated

By Joel Houtman, Endowment Committee Chair

The Endowment Committee wishes to thank Theresa Houtman for her Simple Gift to the Endowment Fund in honor of her husband's birthday (someone I am very close to).

Thanks also to Miles Pope for his donation to the Endowment Fund via the Simple Gifts Program.

We are continuing to build our Endowment Fund for the future! We would like to encourage you to give a Simple Gift in honor of someone on a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, etc.

If you wish to participate in the Simple Gifts Program, brochures and envelopes are available in a rack near the main double doors. Make check out to UUCM Endowment Fund in the small envelope provided and place in the Endowment Fund mail box in the office.

#### UUCM ENDOWMENT LEGACY GIFTS:

Six families/individuals have added the UUCM Endowment Fund as a beneficiary to their retirement fund or estate. Four other families are in the process.

If you wish to participate in the UUCM Endowment Legacy Program please contact any of the following committee members:

Joel Houtman, Chair	<a href="mailto:jhout46@att.net">jhout46@att.net</a> 530-273-2925
Kern Hildebrand	<a href="mailto:khildebrand13@gmail.com">khildebrand13@gmail.com</a> 925-818-3758
George Dunstan	<a href="mailto:gvgeode@gmail.com">gvgeode@gmail.com</a> 530-205-8159
Dawn Bateman	<a href="mailto:dawn.bateman@sbcglobal.net">dawn.bateman@sbcglobal.net</a> 530-273-6471



## Caring Team

### Our Annual Giving Tree is in the Entry!

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

Please note: Gwen will be serving as acting Chair of the Caring Team until Anne Lyon is ready to resume her position. We all hope she is back with us soon.



The Caring Team kicked off the Christmas Season with UUCM's annual Giving Tree for families from Women of Worth. We have selected several families from our community who are in need. With the wonderful generosity from our UUCM community, we can all help to make their Christmas special. Please consider selecting a tag from the tree and giving a gift of love to someone less fortunate.

As always, we continue to monitor the congregation for folks who might need a hand, a ride, a meal, or a listening ear. Our strength as a congregation is reflected in the wonderful people who have stood up and offered to help in so many ways. If you know someone who could use help and support, please let us know.

If you are drawn to support the well being of others through care and kind attention, please contact me. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM at UUCM, and I'd be glad to speak with you about the possibilities. Contact: Anne Lyon, (619) 933-1618, Gwen Eymann (530) 274-7965, or [caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@uugrassvalley.org)

Wishing you all a Holiday Season full of meaning and love.

### CARING TEAM

Anne Lyon, *chair*

Maryann Currington, Gwen Eymann, Penny Harlan, Maryann Hart, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, May Lawrence

Our meetings are at 4:00 PM 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)

## Nominating Committee

### Fostering Leadership Development

By Lin Jovanovic, Carmen Riley, and Linda Siska  
Nominating Committee Members

Greetings from your new Nominating Committee, affectionately known as Nom Com. We've been meeting this fall, along with Rev. Kevin, to plot our course for the coming year. Given the responsibilities that accompany lay leadership, we've been exploring how we might foster more specific leadership development. Lay leaders give generously of their time and talent, so we want to ensure that they understand the duties involved, and that they receive the support and training that they need to feel secure in their work.

Starting in January, we will be sharing descriptions of the positions included in the Board of Trustees, as well as actively reaching out to our beloved UUCM congregation to help people make informed decisions about serving in leadership roles. Potential leaders will be advised as to trainings offered in the PCD and will be informed of online classes and webinars designed to fit busy lives. For now, please take some time to consider your strengths, your interests, your gifts, and how you might personally benefit from developing your leadership potential. As always, feel free to talk with those of us on Nom Com about any questions you might have or any ways you might feel called to serve here at UUCM.

## Building and Grounds

### Thanks to November's Volunteers

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Team

I would like to thank Keith Johnson, Joel and Theresa Houtman, George Dunstan, Connie Wright, Paul Elias, Gwen Eymann and Bob Packard, a new volunteer, for their hard work last Saturday. We were able to complete a number of projects, but there are always some that end up being put off depending on our volunteer numbers.

Saturday was winterizing yard work and normal outdoor yard maintenance. Inside we were able to clean the chairs and start preparing for the new television that will be used in the sanctuary. Also, if you notice red lettered exit signs over the exit doors, they are new because the old ones were no longer working. Let us hope we will never need them.

Next month our work day falls on the 15th of December. I hope that we will continue to see new volunteers. Keeping up with the yard work and inside maintenance is rewarding but hard work. If you have an extra three hours on the third Saturday of the month, we can always use your help. There are always projects and cleaning that we are unable to get to in a given month. So hopefully we will see you next month or in the new year. In the meantime, please enjoy your holidays!

# Social Justice News and Activities

## Social Justice News

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

Please join us for our monthly Social Justice Nights on the fourth Thursday at 5:30 PM where we present a topic we are concerned about and share a meal of pizza. Watch for announcements in the eChalice for current information.

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Social Justice Committee, please contact Stu Matthews at [stu@fourmajor.com](mailto:stu@fourmajor.com) or 530-362-8456

## 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 groups listed below. 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 people to volunteer. They 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. Sammie's Friends has a great foster program, and adoptions are up. They help with medical needs and food for pets whose caretakers can't afford it. All three of these organizations need help feeding, cleaning, walking, and socializing with animals. Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

UUCM makes lunches for Habitat workers on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 AM 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).

## DONATIONS FOR NEVADA COUNTY PETS OF THE HOMELESS/PETS IN NEED

*By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee*

Please remember donations for Nevada County Pets of the Homeless will be collected on the first Sunday of each month when food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry. Nevada County Pets of the Homeless provides food and services for our homeless and their pets. Nevada County Pets of the Homeless is now also called Nevada County Pets in Need, serving not only pets of the homeless but also pets of lower income people. Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).





# Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

## December Women's Circle & Potluck: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6:00 PM

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Our holiday party will be hosted by Beth Freedman at her home located at 10389 North Ponderosa Way, off Rough and Ready Highway. Instead of a gift exchange, we're thinking of doing a collection for Camp Fire victims.

We'll be sharing a holiday potluck feast... We'll send out an email to the women's group list so you can let us know what you're bringing. Beth will send directions to her home closer to the date. Carpooling is encouraged!

RSVP to Beth Freedman ([bethannfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:bethannfreedman@gmail.com), 530 575-9319).

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 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, DECEMBER 5  
FROM 10:30 AM TO 12 PM

By George Dunstan

The UUCM Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, December 5 at 10:30 in the Channing Room at UUCM.

The article we will discuss is by Yuval Noah Harari, "Why Technology Favors Tyranny" published in *The Atlantic* and has been adapted from his recent book *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/10/yuval-noah-harari-technology-tyranny/568330/>

This article is part of a series in the Atlantic that attempts to answer the question: "Is democracy dying?"

I look forward to seeing you on December 5.

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).



## UUCM Walking Group News

By Theresa Houtman

Our walking group is thankful for Bridget's baking. Join us for walking, coffee and treats on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 AM, at Houtman's, 418 Chapel, GV. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome on this gentle two mile walk. RSVP to Theresa: 530 277-9294

## Singing Meditation

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00-8:30 PM

Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice in which singing and shared silence alternate in a deepening rhythm. The songs and chants are drawn from a variety of religious traditions and participants are invited to bring song ideas. The music is taught as we go.

The Singing Meditation Circle is open to all. We will be glad for your presence, your voice, your heart, your spirit.

## Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 at Summer Thymes, (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 AM  
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.

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

## For Families

By Lindsay Dunckel, Co-Chair, Family Ministry

Our first UUCM family movie night took place on Friday, November 16 with a showing of "Coco" which fit with the monthly theme of memory. Eighteen people of all ages gathered to watch in the sanctuary while munching on popcorn and other goodies. It was such fun, we've decided to make it a regular feature. Keep an eye out for future announcements of movie nights.

We launched the use of "While I am Listening" bags for our young people at our full-community service on November 3 - and got thumbs up reviews from the kids, who enjoyed being able to keep their hands busy while their ears listened. The youngest among us are experiencing worship, connecting them to what adults do at church and learning the rituals and music that tie us to UUs everywhere. The bags will be available at all full-community services.

Families gathered on November 30 to discuss what it might look like for the UUCM community to support families - we'll be sharing the ideas generated at the gathering in the next Mt. Chalice.

*The following resources help us as we engage with the question: "What does it mean to be a family of Mystery?":*

## With Your Kids/Grandkids/ Neighbors/Friends' Kids

### FAMILY ADVENTURE IDEAS

#### DECEMBER STAR GAZING AND THE GEMINID METEOR SHOWERS - CONNECT WITH THE MYSTERY

Arrange a time when your family can find a place to view the stars at night. December 13 and 14 will be the prime viewing time for the Geminid Meteor Showers.

<https://www.space.com/34921-geminid-meteor-shower-guide.html>

#### TAKE A MYSTERY ROAD TRIP

Here are all the instructions you'll need!...

<http://www.mykidsadventures.com/mystery-road-trip-adventure/>

#### TAKE A MYSTERY TRAIL WALK

Check out the step by step guide:

<https://tinkergarten.com/activities/mystery-trail-walk>



## BOOKS TO READ TOGETHER

### I WONDER BY ANNAKA HARRIS

[https://www.amazon.com/I-Wonder-Annaka-Harris/dp/1940051045/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1536591460&sr=8-1&keywords=i+wonder+annaka+harris](https://www.amazon.com/I-Wonder-Annaka-Harris/dp/1940051045/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1536591460&sr=8-1&keywords=i+wonder+annaka+harris)

"Eva takes a walk with her mother and encounters a range of mysteries: from gravity, to life cycles, to the vastness of the universe. She learns that it's okay to say, "I don't know," and she discovers that there are some things even adults don't know—mysteries for everyone to wonder about together!" -Amazon

### A SMALL MIRACLE

by Peter Collington (Author)

Book: [https://www.amazon.com/Small-Miracle-Peter-Collington/dp/0375871500/ref=sr\\_1\\_24?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1537241703&sr=1-24&keywords=the+nativity+creche](https://www.amazon.com/Small-Miracle-Peter-Collington/dp/0375871500/ref=sr_1_24?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1537241703&sr=1-24&keywords=the+nativity+creche)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17y0HYZnpzl>

In this case, we LOVE the video!

"The wooden figures in a Christmas crèche come to life to save a poor old woman in this truly original, deeply moving contemporary parable. Told with 96 pictures by Peter Collington, the master of the wordless story, this is a Christmas treasure the entire family can enjoy."

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IDEAS

### MOVIE: HARRY POTTER SERIES

Movies based on JK Rowling's books are a great way to explore mystery and are appropriate for different age groups. Here's an age guide from Common Sense Media with suggested ages for viewing:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/harry-potter-age-by-age-guide>

### MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

"If you're looking for a great introductory version of A Christmas Carol to show the kids, then look no further than this special. <http://collider.com/a-christmas-carol-adaptations-ranked/#mickey-mouse-scrooge-mcduck-1983>

### THOMAS & FRIENDS: BLUE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY: THE MOVIE (PRESCHOOL)

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/movie-reviews/thomas-friends-blue-mountain-mystery-the-movie>

"A delightful story with a dose of mystery, played out by a cast of unique characters and set to engaging animation and fun music, makes this a well-rounded movie for adults and kids... the movie goes even farther to reflect society's multicultural nature to open kids' eyes to the unique challenges that face newcomers to a country." - Common Sense Media

## For Families

Please come to our annual

# TREE -TRIMMING PARTY!

**Friday,  
December 7,  
6-8:00 PM**

*Activities for  
ALL ages!*

- ☆ Snowflakes
- ☆ Mystery Crafts!
- ☆ Finger Food  
Potluck
- ☆ Hot Cider



## Everybody Choir Caroling Party!

By Jordan Thomas-Rose, UUCM Music Director

Happy post Thanksgiving! I'd like to invite anyone and everyone to come caroling with our Everybody Choir on Thursday evening, December 13. We are still working out the exact schedule and times, but we plan to sing at some of our local retirement homes before heading back to the church for hot drinks and dessert. As soon as it's figured out, we'll let everyone know, but save the evening.

If you want to come share the joy of singing with our community, email or come find me after a service and let me know you are interested! [Music@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Music@uugrassvalley.org)



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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/REatUUCM/>



## 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to the Monthly UUCM YOUTH BRUNCH BUNCH



**WHEN:** Second Sunday of each month

**WHERE:** Meet in the UUCM Entry at 10:25 AM

**WHAT:** Walk to Summer Thymes 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 Mystery, Trust, Beauty & More



**...and have FUN!**

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



# Adult Religious Exploration



*...Cultivating our spiritual, emotional and intellectual strength to create a world more compassionate, sustainable and just.*

## Adult RE Continues Momentum

By Lesley Champlin, Adult RE Team Member

We're very excited at the turnout and positive responses to the Adult RE sessions to date!

- Rev. Karyn Packard and Elizabeth Fries led an audience of 44 people through the "5 Wishes – Prepare your Advanced Health Care Directive. There was lots of opportunity to ask questions, and participants received several accompanying documents/resources that are applicable in our area.
- Gail Johnson-Vaughan's course, "From Troubling to Terrific," about how to have effective "crucial conversations" is going really well: everyone is very engaged and putting what they are learning immediately to work in our communication-challenged time.
- Many thanks to Elizabeth Fries, Anita Wald-Tuttle, and Marilyn Young for the well-received Aging Workshop; they will be back on the second Saturday in January with a new topic.
- Our appreciation also to Rev. Leisa Huyck who conducted a thoughtful follow-up workshop to her sermon "Not the Opposite of Life." We continue to be grateful for the deep and wide experiences our community has and their willingness to share them.

As our name says, Adult RE is about *exploring*; we aim to present you with spiritual and practical, thought-provoking and possibly life-changing information you can use on your journey.

If you have questions or want further details, please send them by email to our new adult RE address:  
[AdultRE@ugrassvalley.org](mailto:AdultRE@ugrassvalley.org).

### PLEASE NOTE:

*RE offerings with an \* are either a part of a series of sessions, or are full, and are not accepting new attendees. Please contact the specific course coordinator to find out if and when the course may be offered again.*  
Thank You

## This Month's Classes:

### THE AGING WORKSHOP SERIES

...is taking the month of December off, but will resume in January. The following offerings continue in December:

### AMERICAN IMMANENCE BOOK STUDY GROUP \*

WITH REV. KEVIN TARSA - SESSION 4

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 3-4:30 PM - EMERSON ROOM

Chapter 3: Thinking, Feeling and Valuing Immanence – American Immanent Philosophies

### FROM TROUBLING TO TERRIFIC (OPTIONAL SESSION 5)\*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 3-4:30 PM

EMERSON ROOM

This is an optional session open only to already registered participants.

### AMERICAN IMMANENCE BOOK STUDY GROUP \*

WITH REV. KEVIN TARSA - SESSION 5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3-4:30 PM - EMERSON ROOM

Chapter 4: Divining Immanence – American Immanent Theologies

### SECOND SUNDAY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES SAMPLER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1:30-2:30 PM

ROOM TO BE DETERMINED

Our Spiritual Practices Samplers are held the second Sunday of each month, after the Soup Potluck, from 1:30-2:30. They are designed to offer a hands-on introduction to various spiritual practices that members and friends find meaningful and sustaining.

This month we'll practice Singing Meditation - the gentle art of chanting/singing alternating with meditative silence. This is meant for all. Songs will be simple and repetitive, taught as we go. Let your breathing and the vibrations of your voice and body guide you to a connected, centered place.

## December Soul Matters Reflections

FROM THE SOUL MATTERS ORGANIZATION

### What does it mean to be a people of ... MYSTERY?

Unitarian Universalists love puzzles. We proudly announce that we are the religion that loves questions and questioning. Or to put it another way, we love figuring out life's mysteries.

But what if mystery isn't just something to figure out? What if it's also something to be listened to? This is the lesser recognized call of our faith. Being a people of mystery isn't just about engaging life as a marvelous puzzle. It's also about allowing yourself to be spoken to by life's wonder. One of the most elegant articulations of this comes from the poet Mary Oliver, a much-loved poet of Unitarian Universalists. In her poem, *Wild Geese*, she writes,

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—  
over and over announcing your place in  
the family of things.*

Oliver's call to listen for life's announcements implies a letting go. Mystery is funny this way. You can't make it speak. Indeed the more you pursue the answers to life's mysteries; the more distant they become. If we want mystery to speak, it seems we have to be willing to be caught off guard. UU humanist minister and poet, David Breeden, captures this beautifully when he writes,

*I dug and dug  
Deeper into the earth  
Looking for blue heaven  
Choking always  
On piles of dust rising  
Then once  
At midnight  
I slipped  
And fell into the sky*

Slipping, and then falling into the sky. Is there a better way to describe our dance with mystery? Isn't this what all the great



mystics have been trying to tell us from the start? That sitting at the heart of mystery is not the unknown, but unity. We fall into mystery and it falls into us. Its voice is one that whispers, "I am you and you are me." Mystery doesn't put up barriers; it dissolves them. Haven't all of us faced the wonder and mystery of a sunset, the stars, a baby's first cry or a lover's wet kiss and thought to ourselves, "Who I am does not end at the barrier of my skin"?

So friends, this month, let's allow ourselves to fall in and open up. So many opportunities to slip into the sky and let it slip into us. Let's put down all the puzzling and the figuring out. Just long enough to notice that life isn't simply trying to stump us. It's also trying to connect with us.



## Soul Matters

### THEMES FOR 2018-19:

December:	Mystery
January:	Possibility
February:	Trust
March:	Journey
April:	Wholeness
May:	Curiosity
June:	Beauty

# December 2018 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

## DECEMBER 2018

1	Saturday	8:00 AM	Set up for Holiday Bazaar
2	Sunday	<b>First Sunday: Bring Food for People &amp; Pets</b>	
		9:30 AM	Full Community Sunday Service
		10:30 AM	Holiday Bazaar
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:45 AM	Meet the Minister
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Full Community Sunday Service
4	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		9:30 AM	Welcoming & Membership Team Mtg
		4:00 PM	Caring Committee Meeting
		4:00 PM	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:00 PM	Mindfulness Recovery
		6:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
5	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		3:00 PM	From Troubling to Terrific
		4:30 PM	Youth Music (Beginners)
		6:30 PM	Choir
6	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Summer Thymes Bkry
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
7	Friday	6:00 PM	Tree Trimming Party & Potluck
9	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		9:30 AM	Classes for Children
		10:25 AM	Brunch Bunch for Youth
		10:30 AM	Holiday Bazaar
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:30 PM	Second Sunday Salad/Soup Potluck
		1:30 PM	Spiritual Practices Sampler - Singing Meditation
10	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Potluck - Offsite
11	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		10:30 AM	Nominating Committee Meeting
		2:00 PM	American Immanence Study Group
		4:00 PM	Youth Music (Advanced)
		4:00 PM	Stewardship Committee Meeting
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege
		6:00 PM	Mindfulness Recovery
12	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		4:30 PM	Youth Music (Beginners)
		4:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		6:30 PM	Choir

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

13	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Summer Thymes Bkry
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		5:30 PM	Social Justice Night
		TBD	Everybody Choir Caroling Party
15	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
16	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		9:30 AM	Classes for Children
		10:30 AM	Classes for Youth
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:45 PM	Family Ministry Team Meeting
18	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		4:00 PM	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:00 PM	Mindfulness Recovery
19	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Youth Music (Beginners)
		6:30 PM	Choir
20	Thursday	8:00 AM	<b>Mountain Chalice Articles Due</b>
		8:30 AM	Men's Group at Summer Thymes Bkry
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		5:15 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		5:30 PM	Social Justice Committee Meeting
		7:00 PM	Solstice Eve Celebration
21	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
23	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		9:30 AM	Classes for Children
		10:30 AM	Classes for Youth
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
24	Monday	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
		8:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
25	Tuesday	2:00 PM	Christmas Day Dinner & Carol Sing
26	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Youth Music (Beginners)
27	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Summer Thymes Bkry
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		6:30 PM	Worship Committee Meeting
30	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		9:30 AM	Classes for Children
		10:30 AM	Classes for Youth
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service



