

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

October 2019

## UPCOMING SERVICES

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

Social hour is between the two services; you may 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.

### What Does it Mean to be a People of Belonging?

October brings the theme of belonging, which has both inside and outside dimensions, essential not only to our sense of community, but also to our sense of personal wholeness. As Brené Brown teaches, "true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world." If not here, in this community of wonderfully imperfect selves aspiring to love courageously, where shall we bring the fullness of who we are?"

#### October 6 She, He, They...We! Rev. Kevin and Allison Rivers Samson

Usually, the first thing we learn about a baby is "boy or girl?" As if there are only two choices. These days, our understanding of, and language about, gender is evolving, becoming more nuanced than "boy or girl." Often, people make assumptions about the pronouns and forms of address used to refer to a person, based on appearance or name. It's true, we can't judge a book or the person in front of us by his/her/their cover. As we enter our month of "belonging," let's learn to welcome each other as fully as we can.

*First Sunday: Please bring non perishable food for people and pets.*

#### October 13 Indigenous Peoples' Day Shelly Covert, spokesperson of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, with Rev. Kevin Tarsa

In celebration of this year's Indigenous Peoples' Day, in this month examining belonging, we seek to honor the historic and current truths of indigenous peoples' experience and resilience. We are grateful for the presence and insight of Shelly Covert, spokesperson of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, who will share from her great heart, insight and knowledge. *Soup Lunch at 12:45 PM*

#### October 20 Join our Cause, Not our Club Rev. Kevin Tarsa

We continue to explore "belonging" through the lenses of identity, trust, shared purpose, and commitment in which community takes

root. We'll gather the waters from among us in our annual water ritual, welcome our newest UUCM members, and bless our visionary Board of Trustees. As Starhawk puts it, "Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done," as well as "arms to hold us when we falter." Indeed.

*Please bring a small amount of water (~¼ cup or less) from your home or a place that has meaning to you. We will gather that water in a shared ritual.*

#### October 27 Belonging, from the Inside Out Members and Friends of UUCM, with Allison Rivers Samson, Worship Associate

Brené Brown teaches that belonging is essential. That we must belong to something, to someone, to somewhere, and that true belonging begins with belonging to ourselves. Knowing what matters to us personally and moving from the inside out may guide us toward a more authentic sense of how we might choose to belong to each other.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Please contact Rev. Kevin or our Office Administrator to make an appointment for Rev. Kevin's office hours.

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule appointments at other times.

[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058 -  
[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or (530) 274-1675

### What does it mean to be a people of belonging?

This month's theme gets to the heart of what it means to be human: the need for both separateness and togetherness, as Family Systems theory puts it. It also gets to the heart of the entire religious venture, which has to do with how we feel and understand our identity and our place in existence, as well as how we navigate the journey meaningfully, well, and responsibly with others. The idea of belonging thus taps into both of the anchoring pillars of our Unitarian Universalist Association principles, rooted as it is in both the inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as our complete interconnectedness.

In most arenas of the first part of my life I felt two or three – or seven – notches removed from a sense of complete belonging with the people that surrounded me. While that sometimes felt troublingly lonely, I have since come to understand it as normal. We are never 100% fused with nor 100% separate from others, well, not if we are emotionally healthy enough to navigate the world more-or-less safely.



This month, I invite you to dive deeply into your own sense of belonging, as a human being and as a member or friend of this particular community. Belonging is not a static thing, and no matter how long you've been associated with UUCM, your sense of belonging here is alive and in motion. UUCM has been changing (as if there were a choice), and the roots of connection are finding their way anew, and in new soil.

I invite you to dive deeply because it is in a meaningful sense of belonging that we can best anchor ourselves to reach out into the risky, uncertain territories of both acceptance and growth. It is also in a meaningful sense of belonging that our individuality is witnessed and affirmed.

In our services this month, we will extend our circle of belonging, we hope, by realizing and acknowledging that traditional simplistic identities – like female and male – are, for many, not nearly so binary or so simple. We will have a

chance to hear and take to heart experiences and perspectives from outside our bubble, from a member of the local Nisenan tribe, and so to face, in response, the legacies of the dominant culture's ways of thinking and being that withhold belonging. We'll celebrate our newest UUCM members and charge and bless the leadership of the congregation in a service that

ritualizes, through a gathering of water, the shared ownership of this community. And we'll close the month celebrating the wisdom of members who gift us with their insight and experience.

In the midst of all of it, I invite you to consider deeply this month how you most want to belong to this community now, and how you want to help others

belong. What circles of care and conversation, thinking and imagining, concrete tasks and active doing, or serving others will you be a part of this year? Look for the places where you can be you (with the integrity that helps you know you belong, as is) in ways that serve the good of all. Religious community is not lived by simply looking in. The gifts of belonging in community are released and realized through participation. What will that look like for you this year?

We'll do our best to ask you, as a whole and one by one, but I encourage you always to be proactive, if you can. Help leaders know where you might get most happily connected and involved. Which possibilities for being active with a team or a group or a circle feel most inviting and exciting to you? I invite you not to let October end before you've thought about and acted upon the moves you want to make toward belonging most meaningfully to and in this UU community. For you and for UUCM, what's the most exciting win-win?

- Rev. Kevin



## Your Board of Trustees

Rev. Karyn Packard  
President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees

### **Autumn Chant** by Edna St. Vincent Millay

*Now the autumn shudders  
In the rose's root.  
Far and wide the ladders  
Lean among the fruit.*

*Now the autumn clambers  
Up the trellised frame,  
And the rose remembers  
The dust from which it came.*

*Brighter than the blossom  
On the rose's bough  
Sits the wizened, orange,  
Bitter berry now;*

*Beauty never slumbers;  
All is in her name;  
But the rose remembers  
The dust from which it came.*

At our September BOT meeting, Janet Dunstan opened with the above poem. It spoke to each of us differently. The line that jumped out at me was "But the rose remembers the dust from which it came." Janet brought her last blooming rose to grace our table. I had come to the meeting wrestling 16 handouts for our new binders. People had prepared their materials and wanted to make sure we had enough time for everyone to share their hard work. We also had guests; Finance Chair Bob Packard and our Stewardship Chair Keith Johnson.

This "living into the Governance Model" is the underpinning of our current BOT process. There are a lot of ways that churches decide to organize themselves to be efficient and effective in their ministry. The original team was formed by then President Dave MacLeod with the goal of remedying some serious governance policy and structure issues. The team included Taylor Carey, Janet Dunstan, Kern Hildebrand, Joel Houtman and Bob Packard, with Dave MacLeod serving as Board Liaison. They studied many models and settled on a structure from "Governance and Ministry" by Dan Hotchiss. UUCM didn't want to "put new wine in old wineskins" Mark 2:22. We wanted to be the best we could be.

Our last meeting both challenged and rewarded us. I am proud to share where we have come from and where we now find ourselves, prioritized for a bright future. Governance has been studied, redesigned, communicated in both large and small venues, and presented several times to the congregation which gave unanimous support for going forward. This year, we have worked hard to actualize it with a discerned direction for UUCM. Here are

our results.

It started last year with the design and implementation of our mission statement. "With courageous love and a sense of wonder, we cultivate our spiritual, emotional, and intellectual strength to create a world more compassionate, sustainable and just." This provided a lens through which to evaluate everything we say and do as a church. We have now moved into the next stage.

When our BOT met in retreat at the beginning of our term, we developed goals for the "Ministry" side of our "New Governance" equation. Ministry was meeting in the next month and needed our direction. These were the goals we gave them: 1) Develop a strong, well-functioning Ministry Council, 2) Increase the participation and integration of people in the congregation, and 3) Increase UUCM'S visibility in the wider community in order to enhance connections, to be useful, and to be a stronger influence. This was how we began to articulate just how we would live out our mission.

We have now finalized our "open question(s)" for the congregation as a whole. These are not questions to be answered, but are meant to encourage communication and commitment on the part of our members and friends. The BOT will structure opportunities big and small during the year, to engage the congregation in these questions, providing the data that next year's BOT will need to develop their own goals. The question(s) are: How shall we do meaningful outreach? How shall we do meaningful in-reach?

To self direct: What are the actual goals that will lead our current BOT? We've decided on the following: 1) A well-functioning finance system which will include evaluating the need for professional staff support (e.g., building and grounds, administration, technology, RE, etc.) 2) Long-range facility planning, and 3) Effective implementation of the new governance model. We are aware that there are a lot of needs and desires that are valuable. However, it is our task to focus. These are not easy goals and they will not be completed by the end of our term, but we believe they will hold us all accountable. They will give us a lens through which to prioritize our work and the use of our resources. Just as in the congregation, there are various interests and points of view in our team. I believe that works *for* us. It will not make for the shortest or easiest of meetings, but the results should be enhanced by our respectful sharing of our viewpoints and our commitment to finding common ground. We will attempt to represent the breadth of our UUCM family.

So here we all go, living into our new Governance model remembering "the rose remembers the dust from which it came." May we continue to bloom.

Next meeting time: October 17, 2:30

*Blessings,*

*- Rev. Karyn Packard*

## Membership Team

### Find Out More About UU and UUCM!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Wondering where Unitarian Universalism comes from and what UUs believe? Wanting to get connected? Curious what is required to become a member and where you might find an entry point at UUCM? Come find out more!

#### SIGN UP FOR THE 4-SESSION STARTING POINT SERIES.

In this rich, small group format, newcomers as well as current members will have a chance to connect and to experience what it means to be Unitarian Universalist, rooted in the understanding that religion is a journey, not a set of beliefs.

The four sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays, October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, from 4:30-6:30 pm at UUCM. Sign up on Sundays, or contact UUCM's office administrator at [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or 530-274-1675.

### Sign Up for a Circle Supper!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Circle Suppers are small-group potluck meals in people's homes, scheduled throughout the year. They are great chances to get to know others in a relaxed yet meaningful way.

Claire Miller is organizing Circle Suppers this year. Look for sign up sheets on Sunday mornings in the entry way, and watch for online postings and sign-up options soon.

## Hospitality Team

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour

Every Sunday, everyone is welcome to enjoy snacks and refreshments, along with socializing, between the two services from 10:30 until 11:20 AM in the Alcott and Channing Rooms.

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

October 6 - last names beginning with A to E

October 13 - last names beginning with F to J

Also - Soup Lunch at 12:45 on October 13 - all are welcome (Soup, Bread & Butter, Cookies...please contribute if you can!)

October 20 - last names beginning with K to R

October 27 - last names beginning with S to Z

If you plan to bring a snack or a Second Sunday Soup Lunch contribution, please let Marilyn Young know. We especially appreciate healthy snacks, and at least one gluten-free baked offering. ([MarilynY04@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynY04@gmail.com))

## Stewardship

### Save the Dates!

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team is busy planning the following events to help fulfill our mission, raise funds, and tickle your fancy.

October 22nd, 29th, November 12th, and 19th  
Joy of Giving Adult RE Class with Rev. Kevin

November 2nd - UUCM Annual Wine Market with Dave Luce

November 3rd, 17th, and 24th  
Small Group Meetings at UUCM (Watch for Your Invitation)

November 9th - UUCM Valley Music Fall Concert

December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th  
UUCM Holiday Bazaar

Mark your calendars now for these exciting events and stay tuned for further details. (Please see flyers on page 5.)

## Nisenan Project Team

### The Nisenan Project Update

By Carmen Riley, Nisenan Project Team Chair

"With new and insightful input, (our) Nisenan Project Team is in the midst of a rich and meaningful review of its primary goals." – Rev. Kevin's statement to the UUCM BOT at their September meeting

Our Project Team continues to move forward in following the lead of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe in accordance with our own UU principle of cherishing justice and equality in all human relations.

This past month, Frank Lawrence joined us for our Task Team meeting where he was able to shed light in regards to both federal and state legal ramifications facing all First Nation people throughout this country, not just the local Nisenan. We would like to thank Frank once again for spending the evening with us while sharing his expertise.

Our Team is honored to be hosting Shelly Covert, who has agreed to join Reverend Kevin in the pulpit on Sunday, October 13, for our service celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day. Shelly is the Executive Director for C.H.I.R.P.: California Heritage Indigenous Research Project, and Spokesperson for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. Services will begin at 9:30 and 11:30 AM. We hope you'll make plans to join us!

Watch for information regarding upcoming local and regional Nisenan Rancheria fundraisers and special events. Meanwhile, please refer to both the C.H.I.R.P. and Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe websites.

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains presents their annual

# Fall Wine Market

**Saturday,  
November 2 at UUCM**

**6:30 to 9 PM**

**\$20 per person**

*includes tasting several selected  
wines, accompanied by an array  
of appetizers and desserts!*



# VALLEY MUSIC

Saturday, November 9, 2019

7:00 P.M. AT UUCM • \$20



*An eclectic and fabulous night of music spanning from  
the Renaissance to the very moment, with friends, family, and your hosts,  
Jordan Thomas-Rose and Rev. Kevin Tarsa.*

## Yuba River Clean Up

By Bob Miller, Your Local Wolf Creek Reporter

Members of UUCM joined other volunteers from SYRCL (South Yuba River Citizens' League) to remove trash from the water shed. The UU group, organized by Keith Johnson, was assigned an area bounded by the Raley's shopping area and the new Wolf Creek Trail. This is mostly a steep bank. Along with others we collected the trash in bags and then formed a human chain down a steep path to bring the trash out of the trees down to the trail. There are similar piles around the area awaiting collection.



Although the official opening will be sometime in October, the new Wolf Creek Trail is open to the public. You can start at the mining museum at the junction of Freeman Lane and Mill Street, proceed down the trail, around the water works and continue on to the end where switch backs let you climb back up to Freeman Lane. It's surprisingly scenic. You can walk, run or ride your bike.

## Building and Grounds

### A Little Rain Can't Stop the Hard-Working B & G Team!

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Team

This month's work day was not only held on a Monday, but was blessed with almost an inch of rain. The rain allowed us to really focus on the inside of the building and catch up on some long needed indoor projects. Not only did Keith vacuum all the chairs, but Gene Gilligan and Anita evaluated each of the chairs for felt pads while also cleaning the chair feet, a first in months. George Dunstan did some wait-listed patching and touch up painting, Gwen spot cleaned the Alcott room carpets, and Theresa and Connie cleaned the upstairs rooms. Paul Elias was on the sanctuary floor scratch repair duty along with continuing to work on matching electrical panel switches for various outlets and rooms. As always, I want to thank all of our volunteers for the willingness to help keep our UUCM building and grounds in good shape.

Thus far, our door on the back stairs is working and as of this date, we have not had any visitors to our roof. As summer fades away, you may find yourself looking for something to do. If you consider volunteering a few hours a month for our community, our work days are a great place to start.

**Our next work day is planned for Saturday, October 19th.**

## Caring Team

### We're Here for YOU!

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

In this community we belong and in this belonging we are able to share our joys and our sorrows. This gives us the opportunity to grow deeper in connection with one another, to share our lives, and to be known for who we are.

Our thoughts are with **Sage and Maya Knowles**. Sage has recently had spinal surgery to remove a growth. We will be holding Maya and Sage in our hearts with loving care.

**Gail Johnson Vaughan** asks for all of us to join her in visualizing her full and speedy recovery from her September 30th surgery. She is optimistic and in good spirits.

Congratulations to **Paul Elias and Rochelle** for the birth of their grandson, Asa, who was born on August 23. Although Asa needed surgery hours after his birth, he is doing well. Both Rochelle and Paul will be spending time in Florida over these next weeks helping the new parents settle into their life with this wonderful little person.

**Dave MacLeod** is recovering from hip surgery on September 11. He is doing well and both he and Kathy are grateful for all the caring and support they have had from the UU community.

The Caring Team continues 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 ways people have stepped up and offered to help. If you know someone who could use help and support, please let us know.

If you are drawn to this important work of supporting others through care and kind attention, please contact me or Rev. Kevin. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM at UUCM, and we'd be glad to speak with you about the ways you can participate and help serve this wonderful community.

Contact: Gwen Eymann (530) 274-7965,  
or email: [caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@uugrassvalley.org)

**Caring Team Members:** Gwen Eymann, *acting chair*, Maryann Currington, Jenny Dewey, Penny Harlan, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, Anne Lyon, David Moss

# Social Justice News and Activities

## Social Justice News

By Steve Temple, Chair, Social Justice Team

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Social Justice Team, please contact Steve Temple at [srtemple@ucdavis.edu](mailto:srtemple@ucdavis.edu) or 530-220-0995.

## Local Volunteer Opportunities

By Keith Johnson, Member, Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team 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. Following are descriptions of each group and volunteer help that is needed. If you are moved to do so, please reach out to the designated UUCM contact person 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 Team, please contact team chair Steve Temple (530-220-0995).

### 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 11:00 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 Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

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 three times per week to those in need. Currently they need both drivers and packers. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

### SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND RAISER FOR IFM

Paulette's Country Kitchen, 875 Sutton Way in Grass Valley, will be hosting the annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, October 25th starting at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Paulette's or an IFM representative in advance or at the door. Dessert and beverages are additional; all proceeds will be used to buy food for IFM's clients.

### 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 Citizens 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 in Need

By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Team

Please remember donations for Nevada County Pets in Need will be collected on the first Sunday of each month when food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry. Nevada County Pets in Need serves not only pets of the homeless but also pets of lower income people. Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).

## October Pass the Plate

Our October Pass-the-Plate recipient will be Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM), which works to feed the hungry and reduce food insecurity in Nevada County. (See more information about IFM above.)

Thanks to people's generosity, in July we collected \$581 for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

# Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

## Humanist Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2  
AT 10:30 AM

By George Dunstan



The October meeting of the Humanist Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, October 2nd at 10:30 at UUCM. We will be discussing three articles from Scientific American September 2019 issue titled "Truth Lies & Uncertainty, Searching for Reality in Unreal Times". The articles are entitled "Why We Trust Lies," "Contagious Dishonesty" and "How to Defraud Democracy." Thanks to Dave MacLeod for providing the articles and he suggests that we read them in the same order as they appeared in the magazine. If you need copies of the articles, please contact George Dunstan.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: 530-205-8159 or [gvgeode@gmail.com](mailto:gvgeode@gmail.com).

## Meditation Group

Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM, 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

By Theresa Houtman

Join intrepid walkers at 8:30 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Houtmans, 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. We walk a gentle two miles and then have coffee, conversation and treats. Cat-friendly dogs on leashes are welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman (530) 277-9294 to confirm.

## Singing Meditation

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7-8:30 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, and your spirit.

## Women's Circle in October: Share Your Family Favorite Recipes!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019, 6 PM

This month the UU Women's Circle will be meeting at UUCM for a potluck featuring our favorite family recipes!

Siobhan Boylan and Shannon Dooley Miller are teaming up to create a UUCM Women's Cookbook with YOUR help. Everyone should bring ONE dish for which they are willing to share the recipe, preferably one that is a favorite family recipe or one they're "known for." They should also either bring a paper copy of the recipe or email it to Shannon and Siobhan. ([shannondooleymiller@gmail.com](mailto:shannondooleymiller@gmail.com), [siobhan.boylan@gmail.com](mailto:siobhan.boylan@gmail.com)) They'll format it and bring it to the November potluck in a simple binding. Women who aren't able to attend can also send a recipe (or a photo of their paper copy) and they'll be sure to include it in the anthology! Of course if people want to send more than one recipe, that's welcome, too.

They'll make a few extra copies and test out how popular it would be to create a recipe collection from the wider congregation. If people are interested, they'll iron out the details and organize something in the new year!

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, ([kathryneyounguu@gmail.com](mailto:kathryneyounguu@gmail.com)) 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.

## Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00, 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. The Thursday meeting location is now at Valentina's Bistro, 841 Sutton Way in Grass Valley.



## Drop-In Support Circle SUNDAYS 10:50 TO 11:25 AM IN THE ANTHONY ROOM ANNEX

Join us in the cozy and intimate "library annex" between the two services at 10:50 AM. If you would like a safe, confidential place to share your feelings about life's challenges and give support to others, this group should be a good fit for you.

Facilitators: Corrie Silva ([corriesilva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corriesilva@sbcglobal.net) or 415-204-7448), Janet Bullock, and Tom Wernigg





# UUCM Family Ministry

Family Ministry offers many ways to serve the life of the community.

Contact Rene Wiley if you'd like to find out more! [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)

## October is About Belonging

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

This month we ask what it means to be a Family of Belonging.

Our amazing Faith Formation (RE) teachers Lindsay, Linda, and Grace will be exploring this month's theme with the kids:

Session 1.	<i>Belonging to a History</i>
Session 2.	<i>Belonging to Yourself</i>
Session 3.	<i>Belonging and Not Belonging</i>
Session 4.	<i>Belonging to Big Things</i>

Together they will wonder and learn how we are actually made of stardust, how only when we are all together in our story do we finally understand belonging, how love overcomes all differences, and how the science of intelligent plant life supports the interconnected web. We'll laugh out loud together and have so much fun while finding belonging in our UU values.

## CHILDCARE TEAM

We have a special opportunity to join the Childcare Team! Would you: ...like to make new friends among the youngest set? ...relish the idea of discovering *What's in the Wonder Box* at toddler level? ...love to sing finger-songs and dance out your UU values? Join a paired team that shares lots of smiles and warmth while building the foundations of our accepting and loving UU faith. See Rene Wiley or Rochelle Davisson to learn more, or send an email to [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org).

## JUSTICE AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Ministry is proud to integrate the energy of our youth and families with the Social Justice efforts that interests them most. We are gaining a lot of action around the climate crisis!

"You are never too small to make a difference."  
—Greta Thunberg

One of our youth wrote an effective letter asking the congregation to support the Global Climate Strike and was met with tremendous success! It is the children who inspire us to do more.

A group of UUCM kids and parents have joined the Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) district team and will be delivering constituent letters on behalf of the lobby to Rep. Doug LaMalfa's office this month. They will have an opportunity to engage in respectful communication and ask for an ongoing relationship with LaMalfa's office. They will be meeting soon

to prepare for that meeting. Continued work with CCL may present even greater opportunities for our youth to use the democratic process in this bipartisan solution to the climate crisis. Look for a possible trip to Washington, D.C.

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org> to learn more.

## FAMILY DISCOVERY

### MORE THAN BOWS AND ARROWS

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDICZu12wDQ>

Watch this together for Indigenous Peoples Day on October 8. It is a bit dated, but it underlines how we need many voices to make a history that is whole.

"Discover the many contributions of native peoples to the development of the United States and Canada. Indian inventions such as sunglasses, snowshoes, and rubber have changed the world! From cliff dwellings and ancient cities to over 200,000 prehistoric earthen mounds that rival the pyramids of Egypt...from early mines to medicine men...to astronomical observatories and Hohokam irrigation canal systems, here is an uncommon and unequaled story narrated by N. Scott Momaday, Pulitzer prize winning author."

Theme Connection: So many parts of history have been ignored and warped. When we find out more about the marginalized peoples, like the North American Indigenous Peoples, we realize how much more we need to learn to become whole.

## HAUNTED MOVIE NIGHT FOR ALL AGES

SAVE THE DATE, FRIDAY NOV 1ST

*Phantoms of the Holbrooke*. This locally made docudrama was featured in the 2018 Nevada City Film Festival. The film reveals why some report that the Holbrooke may be the most haunted hotel in the world.



## What Does It Mean to be a People of Belonging?

*From the  
Soul Matters Authors*

You hardly knew  
how hungry you were  
to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome  
that invited you to enter  
entirely...

Tentative steps  
became settling in...

You began to breathe again...

You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing  
is that it will not leave you alone,  
will not let you linger...  
this blessing  
will ask you to leave,  
not because it has tired of you  
but because it desires for you  
to become the sanctuary  
that you have found...

— Jan Richardson

Jan Richardson starts off her poem by mentioning hunger. It's also a perfect way to begin framing this month's theme of belonging. We've all felt it. Just saying the word "belonging" conjures it up – the hunger to be included, the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening to everyone laughing inside. From the time we are little, belonging is the thing we seek. It's the hoped for Holy Grail at the end of our journeys.

Or is it just the beginning of our journey?

You have to love the way Richardson surprises us with that twist. One minute she's wrapping us in comforting words about settling into belonging and the next she's shaking us awake and telling us to get up and go. And maybe what she's really waking us up to is the fact that there are two types of belonging, only one of which is a blessing.

To use her language, if you find yourself being invited to linger rather than leave, warning bells should go off. Be weary of

those who welcome you with a club jacket and soft couch. They may have let you in, but soon they will enlist you to help with the work of keeping others out.

Instead, as all the true sages and sacred traditions tell us, the true blessing of belonging isn't that you get to come inside the circle; it's that you get to participate in expanding it.

Does this perhaps mean our question this month is different than one we might expect? Instead of "Where can I find belonging?" maybe it is "How can I become belonging for others?"

May that be the question and the type of belonging this month that - to use Richardson's words - "will not leave any of us alone."

## Soul Matters Circles About to Begin Again

*By Rev. Kevin Tarsa*

These small groups of 5-8 people commit to meeting once a month, October through June. They invite personal introspection and deep connection - with each other and with our community - through the lens of our monthly themes.

Each month participants receive an electronic packet of resources (or a printed packet, if needed), and each person chooses how extensively they will explore these resources. The packets offer quotes, poems, suggested practices, questions to consider, book suggestions, music ideas, links to articles, videos and movies, and more.

Attached here is the September theme packet on Expectation so you can see what the packets offer.

Click [HERE](#) to see the September theme packet on Expectation.

Click [HERE](#) to see the Soul Matters Circle Participant Guide on the UUCM website.

Participating in a Soul Matters Circle is one wonderful way to get connected at UUCM, to get to know a few more people meaningfully and well as you explore your own inner life.

If you have questions, are planning to participate in one of the sample circles, or know already that you are interested in participating in a circle, please contact Soul Matters Circle coordinator Jo Waters, at [jowaters@hotmail.com](mailto:jowaters@hotmail.com) or (530) 414-6941.

# Adult Religious Exploration



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

## BOOK GROUPS

**SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - RESCHEDULED TO  
OCTOBER 6, 1:00 PM  
CHANNING ROOM**

Our Sunday Book Group discussion of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* has been rescheduled for October 6th at 1:00 PM in the Library at UUCM. All who have read this challenging book are welcome to join us as Carmen Riley facilitates our discussion. We will also choose our books for the next three months so be ready with your ideas.

**THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - OCTOBER 16, 2:00 PM  
HOUTMAN RESIDENCE, 418 CHAPEL, GV**

Wednesday Book group enjoyed sharing the delights of *Blue Highways* in September and will meet to discuss *How to Read Literature Like A Professor* on October 16. We meet to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* November 20 and *Beneath the Starlit Sky* on December 18. These meetings will be at Houtmans' residence, 418 Chapel at 2 PM.

New members are always welcome in either group. Contact Theresa Houtman, [therosa48@sbccglobal.net](mailto:therosa48@sbccglobal.net) to RSVP or with questions.

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE SAMPLER

**SECOND SUNDAY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES SAMPLER  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1:30-2:30 PM**

Our Spiritual Practices Samplers are held the second Sunday of each month from 1:30-2:30 PM, after the Soup Potluck. 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 take a first look at the intentional use of recorded music and sound to affect our nervous system, our mood, and our spirit. Rev. Kevin will bring 30 minutes of prepared recordings for the first part of our time together. If you are planning to attend, and you have a favorite piece of music to which you listen when you want to influence your emotional/spiritual life, please let Rev. Kevin know, and he'll work with you to have a recording ready to play that day for the second part of the session: [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org).

## NEW CLASSES STARTING IN OCTOBER!

### STARTING POINT

Four Wednesday Sessions at 4:30-6:30 PM  
October 16, 23, 30 and November 6.

***Want to get connected to new folks and to renew your connection to our UU tradition?***

The Starting Point series is designed for long-timers as well as newcomers.

Sign up for the 4-session Starting Point series, an introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Journey. In this rich, small group format, newcomers as well as current members will have a chance to connect and to experience what it means to be Unitarian Universalist, rooted in the understanding that religion is a journey, not a set of beliefs.

To register or for more information, contact the office at 530-274-1675 or [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org), or contact Rev. Kevin at [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or 530-274-1661.

### STEWARDSHIP: THE JOY OF GIVING

with Rev. Kevin, Keith Johnson and Bob Packard  
Four Tuesday Sessions, 5:30 to 7:00 pm  
October 22 and 29, November 2 and 19

Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. This 4-session series affirms every person as a steward—that is, as a caretaker or trustee with a vision for the future. It aims to empower all who participate in it to be stewards of self, family, community, congregation, and our Unitarian Universalist faith. What does stewardship mean to you? What is the story of our congregation? How can we commit more deeply to stewardship at UUCM and in our lives? Come join us as we seek to answer these questions and others in a relaxed, informal setting.

For more information and to register, contact Keith Johnson at [kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com](mailto:kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com), 530-265-0277.

## SEEKING ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR

UUCM is seeking an Adult Religious Education Chair to work with Rev. Kevin to solicit and communicate learning opportunities in the life of the congregation. Please contact Rev. Kevin if this might just be the perfect role for you right now. If you have ideas for learning opportunities that you want to experience and/or facilitate, Rev. Kevin will be glad to know that too! [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org).

# October 2019 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
<b>OCTOBER 2019</b>			
1	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Caring Team Meeting
2	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Yom Kippur Choir Choir
3	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group at Valentina's Bistro Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Singing Meditation Circle
5	Saturday	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Animal Blessing Yom Kippur Choir
6	Sunday	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	<b>First Sunday: Bring Food!</b> Full Community Sunday Service Nisenan UUCM Project OWL Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service Sunday Book Group
7	Monday	6:30 PM	Soul Matters Exploratorium
8	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation
9	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Yom Kippur Choir Finance Committee Meeting Choir
10	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group at Valentina's Bistro Walking Group (Meet at Houtman') Writers' Group
11	Friday	5:30 PM	Parent Get Together
13	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:30 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Nisenan UUCM Project OWL Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Second Sunday Soup Potluck Spiritual Practices Sampler
14	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Potluck at UUCM
15	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Stewardship Meeting UUCM Nisenan Project

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Session Social Justice Committee Meeting Choir
17	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM	Men's Group at Valentina's Bistro Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Board of Trustees Meeting Social Justice Committee Meeting
18	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
19	Saturday	9:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
20	Sunday		<b>Mountain Chalice Articles Due</b>
		9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:45 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Nisenan UUCM Project Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Family Ministry Team Meeting
22	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Challenging White Privilege Adult RE - Joy of Giving workshop
23	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Session Choir
24	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Group at Valentina's Bistro Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting
27	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children OWL Classes Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Book Group
29	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Adult RE - Joy of Giving workshop
30	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Session
31	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM	Men's Group at Valentina's Bistro Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Telephone: 530.274.1675      Website: [www.uugrassvalley.org](http://www.uugrassvalley.org)

**Two Sunday Services:** at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

### Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Wednesday: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Thursday: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*  
Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*  
Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### TELEPHONE

530.274.1661  
530.274.1675  
530.274.1675

**Mountain Chalice Newsletter Submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.**

Submit by email in Word/Pages format (not as a pdf) or simply by typing directly into an email to:

**[MtChaliceTeam@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:MtChaliceTeam@uugrassvalley.org)**

All images should be sent as good quality jpg files separately... not imbedded in your text document.

Volunteer Team Members: Joanne Harris, Pre-Editor; Kathy MacLeod, Final Editor;  
Kathryn Young, Design & Layout  
Staff Contributors: Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Fulkerson