

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2020

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 Integrity?

Our journey through the theme of integrity this month calls us to look deeply into the center of who we are – as persons, as a religious community, and as a society. As our Soul Matters authors point out, integrity isn't always about adding, being better, or being more. It is at least as much about removing whatever hides our inherent wholeness from our awareness. Let us move into this new year with the centered thoughtfulness and focus that will see us through.

January Worship Associate: Beth Karow

Jan. 5 **Listening for Our Song** Rev. Kevin Tarsa

David Blanchard writes of a people who believe that we are each created and welcomed into the world with our own song. Few of us know our song, he adds. At this turning of the year we begin our journey with "integrity" by looking within ourselves, remembering, as best we can, who we are at heart. Once again, we'll invite you to choose a focus word for the year, a journey partner as you listen for your song.

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

Jan. 12 **Connected Beyond Belief** Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Creating and sustaining community is a spiritual, religious, emotional, psychological and physiological journey – the work of head and heart and, to a degree that may surprise you, the body. The covenantal nature of our UU tradition is not merely an historical idea or a conceptual ideal; it is profoundly and continually rooted in what it means to be human. This week, our focus turns to the integrity of this gathered community.

Soup Lunch at 12:45 PM, followed by Spiritual Practice Sampler

Jan. 19 **Breaking Open** Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Lindsay Dunkel, and all

This Martin Luther King Jr. weekend we'll listen to his call, and in our interactive full-community service we'll listen for the inner voice that connects us to our integrity.

Jan. 26 **Let's Be Real** Beth Karow, Worship Assoc. with UUCM Members and Friends

In this Tapestry service, we turn once again to the wealth of our UU community to find stories, songs, poetry, and reflections rooted in and branching out from our personal experiences of integrity.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Board of Trustees.....	3
Membership & Intro of New Members.....	4
Hospitality for January.....	5
Just Coffee.....	5
Caring Team.....	5
Fundraising Thank You.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
Service Auction.....	6
Love Reaches Out Congregational Workshop.....	6
Justice News & Activities.....	7-8
Community Connections - Social & Spiritual.....	9
UUCM Family Ministry.....	10
Soul Matters.....	11
Book Groups.....	11
Adult Religious Exploration.....	12
Monthly Calendar.....	13
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours.....	14



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

The new year arrives with the theme of integrity. Always a meaningful theme.

These post-holiday weeks invite reflection each year. Birth family and chosen family gatherings or lack thereof, the gift giving and the receiving that evidence our connections or lack thereof, the memories of childhood and of a lifetime that surface with annual holiday touchstones, our reactions this year to the holidays and holy days...it all invites us to consider who we are, how we live our lives, and how we intend to be in the future.

This year that reflection comes within our worries about the future of the earth and its human inhabitants, frustration with the harmful and maddening behavior and rhetoric of political figures, and uncertainty about how to reach life-saving common ground amid numbing polarization.

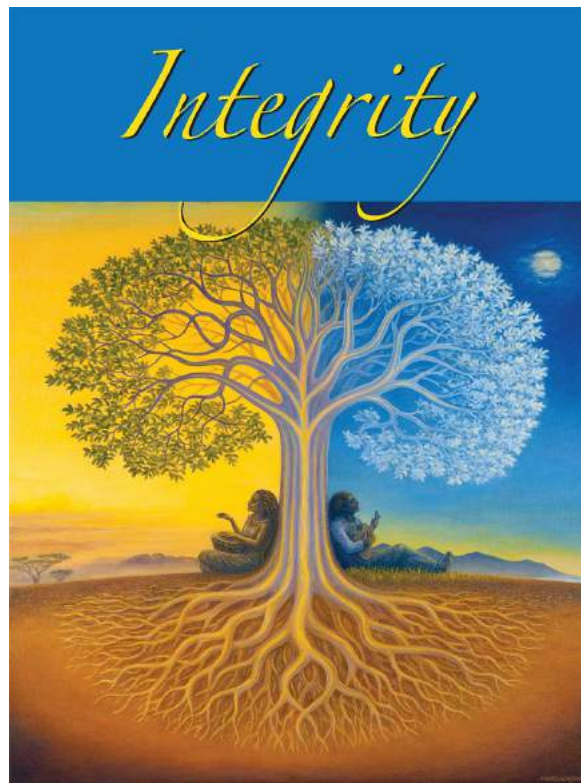
This is why we gather as a religious community, my friends, to locate, cultivate and live from our integrity in the midst of such uncertain, troubled and troubling times.

We are in new territory. The familiar landmarks that previously guided us appear not to serve, and the tools we've counted on to navigate life and community do not function as they once did. The rules and realities we knew have changed in many ways. It is challenging our perennial Unitarian and Universalist optimism regarding humanity, and our middle-class expectations of ease and upward progress.

I noticed that a colleague was reading a book titled *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. I purchased it immediately, of course, and will make it my new year's reading. I encountered the concept of "liminality" in a world religions class almost 40 years ago. We were learning about rites of passage the world over, rites from many traditions that nonetheless shared common stages: 1) removal of and from all that is familiar, 2) a liminal, disorienting, re-orienting, in-between time, literally a

"threshold" time, when the old is no longer and the new is not yet known or manifest, and 3) a return - in new, transformed form - to the community that holds one before and after the transformation.

We are in an unavoidable, disorienting/re-orienting, liminal time, during which our sense of our intact selves - our integrity - each and together, is being called into question, or at least into examination. So let's together dive into the liminality of it all, recognize that we are between answers and sureties, and thus free ourselves to birth new ways of seeing and being. Let's enter the uncertainty fully enough to make room for future clarity.



The congregation's work to reach out, to claim and live its mission, to figure out what to do regarding the building and property it will own outright in a few months, and to discern who it can best serve in the wider community, is all on the table as we enter 2020. Join us for the Love Reaches Out workshop on January 11 to participate in one piece of that conversation. Find the sustainable and happy ways to get involved in serving and leading this congregation and engaging the arising conversations. Choose a word for the year as a touchstone, a word you can wrestle with or dance with toward your own deepest integrity in these threshold times.

Come, my friends, "heaven knows where we are going," but going together is going to be our salvation.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin

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 or (231) 883-1058 -
admin@uugrassvalley.org or (530) 274-1675



Your Board of Trustees

Rev. Karyn Packard
President,
UUCM Board of Trustees

I write to you in the midst of the holiday cheer to report on your Board of Trustees' December meeting. Many boards have the month of December dark, but not *your* board. They are committed to their work and see the few months until the end of the fiscal year as a carrot that leads us to the positive completion of our goals. Onward!

Dennis Weiher brought our opening words. They set the tone for our evening. He quoted Joseph Campbell who used the metaphor of a snake shedding his skin. His point: there is a constant "need" for change, but inherent in the changes are both challenge and possibility. We try to keep that in mind as we address our work in support of this congregation. Each of us are problem-solvers for UUCM. We try to be cautious, creative, and hopeful.

June of 2018, the Committee on Shared Ministry (Janet Dunstan, Kevin Tarsa, Gwen Eymann and Kate Canan), at the request of the BOT, completed their evaluation of communications at UUCM. Their extensive report was presented to the board January of this year. It has required a great deal of absorption and prioritization before tasks could be tackled and evaluated with our current mission and goals. Sandi Lauher, Maryann Currington, and Jim Perkins took on this daunting task and have been giving us monthly updates. I am pleased to bring you some of our early successes. Of course, there is more work to do. We tackled the things that took man/woman power, but not big overages on the budget.

- The committee chairs now receive timely and accurate financial information to manage their budgets. *Achieved*
- A comprehensive list of team/committee chairs, and BOT members is in the final stage of being compiled and checked for accuracy. There will be an email address for each committee/team chair for easy access, even when personnel changes.
- We are hard at work on a UUCM comprehensive calendar. To date, Governance and Ministry are providing their information. Finance presented theirs at the last BOT meeting.
- Excellence in BOT minutes: comprehensive, transparent, accurate, informative and timely. *Achieved*
- Regular and timely financial reports. *Achieved*
- Signage (i.e. doorbell, restrooms etc.) *In process*

- Make our website accessible, accurate, and attractive. The team is discussing this with experts and the UUA, and coming back to us with a "scope of service" that includes costs.

As you all see, we are constantly in the process of shedding our outgrown "skins" and developing into the best we can prepare ourselves to be. Happy New Year to all of you. In Hawaii we would say *hau'oli makahiki hou!*

Blessings,

- Rev. Karyn Packard

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11,
LOVE REACHES OUT CONGREGATION WORKSHOP
All are invited to this day-long workshop to explore UUCM's plans for outreach. Stay tuned for more information via email and the eChalice

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 10:45 AM
CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

Karyn Packard	President
Jim Perkins	Vice-President
Sandi Lauher	Secretary
Joel Houtman	Treasurer

Members at Large:

Maryann Currington, Janet Dunstan & Dennis Weiher

*Board of Trustees meetings are held:
the third Thursday of each month at 2:30 PM
in the UUCM Channing Room unless stated otherwise.*

*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.*

Membership Team



Learn More About UU & UUCM!

WANTING TO GET CONNECTED?

CURIOUS ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER?

Sign up for the four-session Starting Point series. In this rich, small group format, newcomers as well as current members 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, January 15, 22, 29, and February 5.
6:30-8:30 PM at UUCM.

(If you are interested, but cannot attend in the evenings or on Wednesdays, please let us know!)

Sign up on Sundays, or contact UUCM's administrator at admin@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1675, or contact Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org.

Welcome New Members

Please Welcome Four New Members

UUCM welcomed four new members into membership on December 15, 2019:

LYNDA GUTHRIE

I moved to Grass Valley in June of 2018 after spending most of my adult life in Berkeley where I raised my three children. My sister has lived in Grass Valley for many years and I looked forward to being closer to her and my brother who lives near Placerville. Miraculously, I discovered Wolf Creek Lodge co-housing where I now live and enjoy the companionship of like-minded active adults.

While I have not been a UU member in the past, I've attended services with friends in Berkeley and Oak Park, IL. The latter experiences inspired me to pursue UUCM soon after I arrived in Grass Valley. I was immediately drawn to the intimacy, compassion and welcoming nature of this community and decided to make it a home away from home. Thank you for being here and welcoming me into your family!

MARY PICKETT

I moved to Grass Valley this September to be near my daughter's family in Nevada City. I grew up in North Dakota, earned a journalism degree at the University of North Dakota and worked in Iowa and Washington, D.C. where I met my husband, Rod. We moved to Hawaii in 1967 where Rod introduced a variety of businesses to the new world of computers and I did ocean education at Sea Life Park and the Waikiki Aquarium. We raised our two children, Maile and John, now both residing in California. Rod succumbed to cancer in 1996. I retired in 2006 and moved to New Mexico and then to Santa Cruz, CA. following my children and four grandchildren.

I believe God's presence is in the care, concern and love that can be found in a diverse community like UUCM and I want to be a part of that.

CHRISTY SHERR

Although my family (Greg and Delaney) and I have attended UUCM services and activities sporadically for several years, I recently felt compelled to pledge a higher level of support to our church community by officially becoming a UUCM member.

I resonate especially with UU Principle #7 – the Interconnected Web of all Life. I've been so blessed to live my passion with this principle most of my life through careers as a Park Ranger, Wildlife Biologist, and now a Climate and Environmental Activist and Educator. The natural world, and especially our own California flora and fauna, are a continual source of awe and wonder for me.

I read a lot...natural history field guides, books about geology and anthropology, even Chemistry (ok, not Physics)...stuff that puts most people to sleep! I enjoy helping Delaney with her homework because it's exciting to witness her making connections, and it also feeds my desire to continually learn... especially all the good 8th grade Constitutional History which is so currently relevant!

MARTHA TURNER

I give thanks to have found UUCM at a time of life that had become clouded with despair over the state of our country and the world. This past year has been uplifting to be part of this community that shares the sorrow and offers hope. Hope for humanity. Hope for the future. THANK YOU ALL for the heartfelt and warm welcome.

So, after a year of attending most Sundays I feel that officially joining the church is the perfect thing to do!

*Welcome, Lynda, Mary, Christy, and Martha!
We look forward to journeying with you toward ever
greater compassion, justice and love in our hearts, in our
community, and in our world.*

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:

January 5 - last names beginning with A to E

January 12 - last names beginning with F to J

Also - Second Sunday Soup Lunch at 12:45 – all are welcome; we need soup, bread & butter, cookies...please contribute if you can!

January 19 - last names beginning with K to R

January 26 - 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)



ORGANIC SHADE-GROWN FAIR
TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE

By Joyce Banzhaf

We now offer *Just Coffee*, the organic, fair-trade coffee at our Hospitality Hour between services. Because it costs

more than what we have been serving, we have a donation jar at the coffee station to help offset the added cost. If you've enjoyed *Just Coffee*, here's how to get it for yourself at home:

You may order coffee by emailing me at joycebanzhaf@yahoo.com and asking for Robusta (high caffeine), Arabica Sweet, or Decaf. Also, please specify 1 or 5 pounds, regular or dark roast, whole beans or ground. Coffee is \$9 for a one pound bag, and \$37 for a five pound bag. Decaf is \$10 for one pound, and \$42 for five pounds. Once I get 30 pounds of orders, I will send in the order. Thanks for supporting organic, shade-grown coffee where all profit goes to the co-op workers in Mexico.

Caring Team

Giving Tree Generosity Abounds!

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

It gives me the sense of awe and wonder when I look around UUCM and see so much caring in the hearts and hands of this community. We share pieces of our lives, our joys and our sorrows. This sharing gives us the opportunity to grow deeper in connection with one another, to share our lives with each other, and to be known for who we are.

The Caring Team's Giving Tree Project was a success. With the congregation's help, we were able to provide gifts for five families in our greater community. When we delivered the gifts, the folks at the Salvation Army were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Thank you all so much for participating in this great service and gift of love.

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

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

Fundraising Thank You

UUCM reached an all time high pass-the-plate total in November, collecting over \$1100 for the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project! Thank you to everyone for your wonderful generosity.

January's Pass-the Plate recipient is Interfaith Food Ministry, another of our favorite UUCM causes.

We are also happy to report that the November Wine Tasting offered so generously by Dave Luce brought in approximately \$1700, the Fall Music in the Valley Concert raised \$1300, and the Christmas Bazaar headed by Janet Bullock raised around \$1,000.

Thank you all for your generosity, and please thank our Stewardship Team, including Bob Miller, Bob Packard, Janet Bullock, Claire Miller, Siobhan Boylan, and Keith Johnson.

Stewardship

Stewardship – Save the Dates!

By Keith Johnson, Stewardship Chair
kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com

2020 is upon us and your Stewardship team is hard at work. Here are key dates - please mark your calendars.

January - Selection of visiting stewards

Let us know if you would be willing to serve as a visiting steward.

Saturday, February 15 - UUCM Auction

What would you like to donate? Please let Bob Miller know.
bob@sierramiller.com

Saturday, February 29 - UUCM Congregational Dinner at the Grass Valley Methodist Church

Dinner will be catered and an exciting program is in the works.

January through March - Testimonials (Member Moments)

Members will make brief presentations about their commitment to UUCM and why they donate their time, talent, and treasure. If you would like to be a presenter, let me know.

March 1 - 29 - Pledge Campaign

Please return your pledge cards as soon as possible after you receive them by mail.

UUCM Service Auction

Get Ready for a Big Night Out!

By Siobhan Boylan

Plan to attend a fun evening including a catered dinner with UU friends, and a chance to bid on a variety of useful and/or entertaining items. (Rev. Kev for sale!!, amazing bargain apple pie!! and so much more!!)

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1) Save the date, Saturday, February 15, 2020 – Doors open at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM.
- 2) Think about what you might donate for the auction.
- 3) Think about items that you might like to buy – and are hoping will be donated by others.

To discuss ideas, please contact one of our catalogue consultants:

Claire Miller (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)
Siobhan Boylan (Siobhan.boylan@gmail.com)
Jenny Dewey (jennyd@cybermesa.com)

Love Reaches Out

Love Reaches Out:

A learning and idea event for UUCM January 11, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, BOT President Karyn Packard,
and your UUCM Board of Trustees

Religious practice and the place of religion in U.S. culture are changing rapidly. How can UUCM respond accordingly in our community? How can UUCM be seen and heard and so further its mission and purpose amid the increasing barrage of attention-grabbing sensory inputs?

Please come explore these questions together on
Saturday, January 11, 9:30 - 3:30.

In *Love Reaches Out*, we'll explore:

- **The Changing Religious Landscape** (and how UUCM can respond)
- **Who we are, What we do, and Why it matters** (as a congregation and as UUs)
- **Where to start: Sweet Spot and Entry Points** (ways for UUCM to reach out into the community while staying grounded in our core identity and mission)

Rev. Kevin will be facilitating with UUCM President, Karyn Packard, Vice-President Jim Perkins, board member Dennis Weiher, and Lindsay Dunckel.

The results of the day will not only inform the ongoing decisions of the Board, Minister and other UUCM leaders; they will also serve as early foundational work informing decisions related to the future of UUCM's building and property.

A simple lunch will be served.

Please RSVP with Carol, our office administrator at:
admin@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1675.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this important day. We look forward to seeing you there, and to heading into the new year together.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

Social Justice News

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Social Justice Team, please contact Steve Temple at 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).

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).



Justice News and Activities, Continued

What's Up with our Justice Ministry?

By Keith Johnson

YOU ARE NEEDED!! Read on to see how you can make a difference!

The Justice Team held a series of brainstorming sessions, ably facilitated by Gail Johnson Vaughn. It became clear that a new justice model was necessary and it had to be 1) focused on specific activities that were measurable and accountable and 2) inclusive enough to offer justice opportunities for everyone.

Focus is the hallmark of the justice model developed by Rev. Richard Gilbert in *The Prophetic Imperative*. Gilbert, a UU minister for over 50 years, argues that congregations should rely on task forces to promote justice. Relying on the Gilbert model, UUCM now has three task forces: Challenging White Privilege, The Nisenan, and Carbon and Dividend. Each of these task forces has at least five UUCM member activists and at least five additional supporters. Further, each task force has prepared a petition and strategic plan which has been approved by the Justice Team. Copies of these documents will be available on our UUCM website. Formal approval of the task forces by the congregation will be scheduled soon. For more information on each task force see Carmen Riley for the Nisenan, Bob Miller for Carbon Dividend, and Jim Perkins for Challenging White Privilege.

Creation of the task forces addresses the need for overall focus in our Justice Ministry. As to inclusiveness, we can only achieve this goal by entering into partnerships with local, state, and national justice organizations. Some UUCM members prefer to offer direct service to local nonprofits such as Hospitality House, Interfaith Food Ministry, Sierra Roots, or to be affiliated with state or national organizations such as the UU Justice Ministry of California or the UU Service Committee. Rest assured there will be justice opportunities for all, whether it is with task forces, partnerships, or administrative support necessary to maintain a comprehensive Justice Ministry at UUCM.

"What does all this have to do with me?" you wonder. The answer is *everything*. The Justice Team envisions a Justice Ministry that operates from the bottom up. The congregation decides when task forces will be created and disbanded and what their objectives will be. The congregation will also decide when and how partnerships will be recognized.

Justice Ministry at UUCM will proceed at full speed when members are involved in justice activities as they are willing and able. We have designed a justice model that emphasizes multiple avenues of involvement. Now we are looking forward to filling the following Justice slots:

- **Planners** – Consider joining the Justice Team and/or the justice team's Planning unit.
- **Doers** – Join the task force, the Rapid Response team, or become a justice Firebrand
- **Communicators** – Help with internal and external communications to publicize and recognize our efforts within and beyond the UUCM community.
- **Coordinators** – Coordinate our local, state, and national partnerships, our *Pass the Plate* program, and *Justice Nights*.

We will be conducting a rollout of the new Justice Ministry model in early 2020. The goal will be to fill all the vacant justice slots in this new model. Where is your niche in our Justice Ministry? We have a place for you!

See you at the Justice rollout.

The Big Shoe?!

The Shoe Story

by Bob Miller, Justice Ministry Member,
Coordinator, Carbon Dividend Candidate Task Force

Do you know how much carbon dioxide gas you produce (and deliver to the atmosphere) when you use (burn) a gallon of gasoline in your car.

The Carbon Dividend Task Force is working to demonstrate the answer. Hidden away at UUCM is a giant shoe – see Anita Wald-Tuttle and Ginny Hoyt peering into the shoe.

The volume of the shoe is the same as the volume of carbon dioxide you release into the atmosphere when you use a gallon of gas. Think of how many gallons of gasoline the citizens of planet earth have used and visualize how much gas has been released into the very thin atmosphere. It's no surprise we are changing the climate.

The shoe needs more work so that the finished product can be featured in parades, demonstrations and wherever we can spread the message throughout Nevada County. Contact Ginny or Anita if you can help.



Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Humanist Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

The January meeting of the Humanist Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, January 8th at 10:30 at UUCM. *Please note that this is NOT our usual FIRST Wednesday of the month date as that is New Year's Day.* Our topic for January will be Cognitive Biases and Logical Fallacies. Before our meeting we will send out a list of biases and fallacies so people can select their favorites for discussion at our meeting on the 8th.

For those of you interested in reading up on these topics before receiving the list here are links to each topic:

<https://yourbias.is/>

[Thou shalt not commit logical fallacies](#)

I look forward to seeing you on January 8th.

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.

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. The fall weather and Bridget's coffee cake inspire us! Cat-friendly dogs on leashes are welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman at (530) 277-9294 to confirm.



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.



Women's Circle & Potluck

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:00 PM AT UUCM
ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The time has come to look back at what we did this past year and look forward to what we'd like to do in the coming year. We'll start with a potluck, then review the things we liked best from past meetings. Please bring your ideas for future meetings too! Remember, it takes all of us to make our get-togethers enjoyable and meaningful, so your suggestions and willingness to step up and lead are very welcome.

Please RSVP to the Women's group email list: womensgroup@uugrassvalley.org. Let us know what you plan to bring to the potluck... and remember, bring the recipe! We are still collecting your favorite recipes for the on-going cookbook project. (If you are not on the list yet, you can RSVP to kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.)

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

Singing Meditation Circle

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7-8:30 PM

Open to all, the 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.

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 at BriarPatch, 290 Sierra College Dr, Grass Valley, except for the **second Thursday of each month** when we meet at IHOP, 746 Taylorville Rd in Grass Valley at the Pine Creek Shopping Center.

Drop-In Support Circle

SUNDAYS 10:50 TO 11:25 AM, ANTHONY 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 or 415-204-7448), Janet Bullock, Wally Holtan and Tom Wernigg.

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

Exciting New Youth RE Offering

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO A WORLD IN CRISIS

An exploration of innovative responses to the challenges of a changing world. Led by Linda Siska and Walt O'Maley with special guests.

BEGINNING JANUARY 12, 2020

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 TO 11:00 AM

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH AGES 12-18

CLIMATE FRIENDLY SNACKS INCLUDED!

Fire and drought, flood and storm, dying bees and refugees. We are faced with the reality that the future will challenge us in ways that humanity has, perhaps, never been challenged before. But it is equally true that by living in right relationship to the earth and its inhabitants, we can begin to heal the wounds humanity has inflicted and prepare ourselves to meet an uncertain future with creativity, courage and resilience.

The youth RE will be exploring some of the obstacles the world is facing and the innovative ways that people are addressing those challenges — ways that include urban farming, regenerative ranching, clean power generation, water collection and conservation. We will be weaving together our UU principles and our soul matters themes with practical solutions for a changing world.

We will not only be talking about things we can do, we will be doing things we can do. The youth will be designing and implementing projects of their own choosing, connecting with members of the community at large as they expand their horizons, work within their values, and develop their leadership potential.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE – A UUSC FUNDRAISER

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and of UU culture since 1975. UUSC's program started after Institutional Advancement Director Warren Salinger visited the Netherlands and was inspired by a similar organization's program, entitled "Gast aan Tafel", to educate its supporters about its work and raise vital funds using colorful boxes the whole family could contribute to together.

Our congregation is gratitude focused and out of that gratitude we seek to assist the UUSC in this year's theme of

Women Leaders, Strong Communities. We will learn about women who are increasing representation for women in their communities, while strengthening access to justice for all.

The fundraiser began on December 1 but lasts through February 2, so it's not too late to get started if you haven't yet. Coming your way will be inspirational stories and colorful boxes for your own table. As we span the months of Awe, Integrity, and Resiliency, may we celebrate those women leaders who so powerfully serve our UU values.

Be sure to pick up a box and collect your donations for this wonderful tradition that benefits the UU Service Committee. Donations to **Guest at Your Table** help UUSC and partnership organizations advance women-led human rights initiatives around the world. Collections will be finalized in February. <https://www.uusc.org/resources/congregations/guest-at-your-table/>

JANUARY EVENTS

In this month of Integrity, Family Ministry would like to thank all of you for the wonderful support of inter-generational events and we promise to keep them coming!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 5:30-8:30 PM

FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

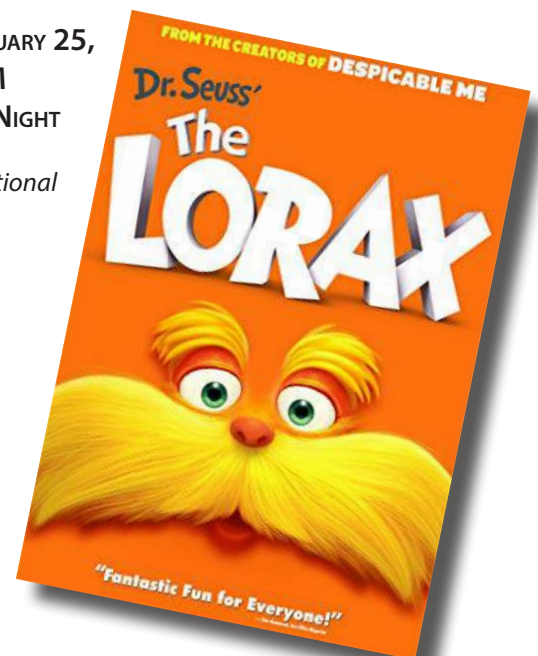
TACO BAR!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25,

3:00-5:30 PM

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

*The Lorax -
An inter-generational event!*



Full Community Education



What Does It Mean to be a People of Integrity?

From the
Soul Matters Authors

Wholeness is never lost; it is only forgotten. Integrity rarely means that we need to add something to ourselves: it is more an undoing than a doing, a freeing ourselves from beliefs we have about who we are and ways we have been persuaded to "fix" ourselves...

Often in reclaiming the freedom to be who we are, we remember some basic human quality, what we find is almost always a surprise but it is also familiar; like something we have put in the back of a drawer long ago.

- Rachel Naomi Remen, *Kitchen Table Wisdom*

We know the usual "integrity advice": Build your character! Get better at being honest, with others and yourself!

It's about addition, we're told. Being better. Becoming more.

But our faith, like Rachel Naomi Remen, says it's more complicated than that. Some subtraction is also needed. Removal needs to occur. The path needs cleared.

And why? Well, because integrity isn't simply something we build; it's something already there. We UUs talk mostly about inherent worth, but we also believe in inherent integrity. All the building blocks are sitting there, waiting. They are, as Remen says, hidden like something we have put in the back of the drawer long ago.

It's all a reminder that our integrity is much more closely tied to memory than we acknowledge: those moments from our youth when we felt most truly ourselves, and those mentors and models that imparted wisdom about what really matters. It's all there. Just forgotten. As the poet, Charles Bukowski says, "Can you remember who you were, before the world told you who you should be?"

So friends, please don't make this month just about "being better." Make some time to also be quiet. Think of the hunt for integrity more like getting away from all the noise of the traffic so the song of the birds can be heard, or like when we

wandered off a bit too far into the woods as a kid. It could have been scary, but somehow we knew that all we had to do was stand still and listen. We knew the call of our parents would soon come, leading us back home. It's the same with our memories and our deepest selves: they are calling to us from the edge of the woods.

All we have to do is stop and listen.

Book Groups

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - JANUARY 5, 1:00 PM ANTHONY ROOM (LIBRARY)

On Sunday, January 5, Theresa and Joel Houtman will lead a discussion of *A Primate Memoir* by Robert Sapolsky. We will also choose our books for the next few months.

THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - JANUARY 15, 2:00 PM DAWN BATEMAN RESIDENCE, 513 WALSH, GV

Though our discussion of *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* was far-reaching, we had a long discussion regarding the moral complexities of taking a stand when your survival might be compromised. Thank you, Karyn, for leading our time together.

We chose books for the next four months. On Wednesday, January 15, Dawn Bateman will facilitate our discussion of *All Our Names* by Dinaw Mengestu at her home, 513 Walsh. Contact her with any questions at 273-6471 for the January group.

On February 19, we will discuss *Made in the House of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday at Theresa's house. We may have a special session with a potluck meal so that we can also watch a PBS American Masters program on The author. Details later.

We change genres in March to read a murder mystery. Kate Canan will bring her Montana background forward to lead us in a discussion of Russell Roland's *Cold Country* at Theresa's on March 18.

On April 18, Karyn Packard will be our host at her home, 18404 Wildflower Dr., Penn Valley, as we discuss *Truth And Beauty*, a non fiction offering by Ann Pachett. Questions regarding this meeting can be directed to her at 562-900-9546.

All Wednesday meetings are held at 2:00 PM.

Readers are welcome to attend either or both groups at any time. Contact Theresa Houtman, therosa48@sbcglobal.net to RSVP or with questions.

Adult Religious Exploration



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

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND TO GROW?

Here are some of the offerings being prepared. Watch for more information in the eChalice, and future editions of the Mt. Chalice. or contact adultRE@uugrassvalley.org anytime.

Starting Point - orient yourself in the journey of Unitarian Universalism - for newcomers as well as existing members: Four sessions, January 15- February 5, Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30. (see separate article on page 4)

The Shared Pulpit: a lay sermon seminar with Rev. Kevin - rich, small group interaction and learning which gradually guides each participant to the preparation of a full sermon. Up to 8 participants. Eight alternating Tuesday evenings beginning January 21. (see separate article on this page)

A series exploring Quantum Mechanics and what it means to us. -- With resident UUCM physicists Bob Miller and Joel Houtman. Don't know how Quantum Physics works? Well neither do the physicists! They're still trying to figure it out. Come join us in trying to know the unknown. NO prior understanding required! Should be fun! Starts mid-January, exact dates TBD. If interested, please contact Dave MacLeod at dhmacleod@sbcglobal.net or (530) 263-5075.

A Non-violent Direct Action for Climate Justice Workshop with the legendary George Lakey. February 5, 6:00 - 9:00 PM - in conjunction with the local Friends (Quaker) community.

Temperament Theory for You, Yours, and Us - with Rev. Karyn Packard, Dates to be announced.

Spend a great afternoon learning more about yourself, your spouse, your children or even the folks you work and worship with. Using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Kiersey Temperament Sorter, join Rev. Karyn Packard for a time of discovery. Karyn has years of experience with interpreting and teaching these inventories in healthcare and religious environments. Lots to learn and lots of laughs.

Over 90 people in the congregation have taken this class so far, and many more have expressed interest. It is an opportunity to learn more about yourself, your partner, your children and your fellow congregants.

Contact Rev. Karyn Packard at 562-900-9546 or karyn@seagoer.net if you are interested or have further questions.

The UUA Common Read: An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. Get and read the book any time. Join in a spring conversation led by members of UUCM's Nisenan Task Force.

Three Watershed Sermons in Unitarian History - Rev. Kevin and Keith Johnson explore three turning-point Unitarian sermons. You may participate in one, two or all three.

- Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 to 7:00 PM
"Unitarian Christianity" by William Ellery Channing (1819)
- Tuesday, May 19, 5:30 to 7:00 PM.
"The Commencement Address" by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1838)
- Tuesday, June 16, 5:30 to 7:00 PM
"The Transient and Permanent in Christianity" by Theodore Parker (1841)

A series exploring **Cognitive Biases and Logical Fallacies** – with Lin Jovanovic and Dave MacLeod. More important than knowing what to think (facts) is how to think (critical thinking). Come to explore the limits and the possibilities of our thinking. If interested, please contact Dave MacLeod at dhmacleod@sbcglobal.net or (530) 263-5075. Dates TBD.

GOT A MESSAGE TO OFFER?

A LAY SERMON SEMINAR BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Rev. Kevin will once again lead an 8-session sermon seminar for a circle of 6-8 people. The experience has been rich and deep each of the last two years, and has led to wonderful services!

Using *The Shared Pulpit*, a book and a process developed by the Rev. Erika Hewitt, each person will gradually develop a complete sermon, with support, feedback and encouragement from the rest of the circle. Then, willing members will work with Worship Committee members and our Music Director to develop a service around the sermon and its theme.

This will be a significant and meaningful commitment, as the group will meet every two weeks for three hours from January 21 through April 28. The experience will function as both a space of learning and self-discovery as well as a small-group ministry, building deep connections en route to deep expression in one's authentic voice. Our hope is that these sermons/services will then be offered on Sunday mornings at some point, and so benefit the Community as well.

Sessions are scheduled from 6:00-9:00 PM on Tuesday evenings, adjusted as needed with the members of the group.

If this message-crafting possibility calls to you for the new year, if you are interested in being part of this experience, if have questions, contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org

(And if you are interested but the day and time don't work for you, please let Rev. Kevin know that too.)

January 2020 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JANUARY 2019			
2	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group at Briar Patch Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Singing Meditation Circle
5	Sunday	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Bring Food for People & Pets! Full Community Sunday Service Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service Book Group
6	Monday	6:30 PM	Soul Matters Exploratorium
7	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Caring Team Meeting
8	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Finance Committee Meeting Choir
9	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Group at IHOP Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Writers' Group Social Justice Meeting
10	Friday	5:00 PM	Family Ministry Parent Get Together
11	Saturday	9:30 AM	Love Reaches Out Workshop
12	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:30 PM	Sunday Service Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Second Sunday Salad/Soup Potluck Spiritual Practices Sampler
13	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Potluck
14	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Stewardship Committee Meeting
15	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Kindergarten play rehearsal Choir Starting Point Session

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 2:30 PM	Men's Group at Briar Patch Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Board of Trustees Meeting
17	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
18	Saturday	9:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
19	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:45 PM	Sunday Service Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Family Ministry Team Meeting
20	Monday	10:00 AM	MLK Love Walk Workshops
21	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Choir Starting Point Session
23	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Group at Briar Patch Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting
24	Friday	5:00 PM	Family Ministry Movie
26	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM	Sunday Service Social Time Congregational Meeting Drop-in Support Circle
28	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Challenging White Privilege
29	Wednesday	8:30 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Session
30	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM	Men's Group at Briar Patch Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans)
31	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Telephone: 530.274.1675 Website: 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

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

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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

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

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