

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 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-8th grades) are offered during the 9:30 AM service, and older youth are encouraged to attend one of the services. Nursery care is available for both services.

What Does it Mean to be a People of Wisdom?

When our Men's Circle of Trust explored the theme of integrity in January, members wondered aloud together how to be in "integrity" when telling the truth stands in the way of love. They realized that learning to accept and helpfully use the contradictions and "messiness" of life – a part of having integrity – embodies wisdom. Drawing on all our ways of knowing, on heart as well as head, wisdom finds the truth that is open-ended and shines a light on the way forward. Wisdom takes us where we want to go, whether we know it or not.

This month, as our annual stewardship campaign unfolds, as the equinox arrives, in the midst of Womens' History Month, let's get our wisdom on and see where it leads us.

Jeff Stone, March Worship Associate

March 1 What is Given From the Heart Rev. Kevin Tarsa

All month long we'll notice that wisdom has one anchor in the heart and one anchor in the head. Better yet, we'll realize that wisdom is rooted in our entire being. So too, our skillful and courageous giving of the gifts with which we are blessed. Our annual Stewardship kick-off Sunday calls us to remember what this whole communal venture is about.

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

March 8 Feminine Wisdom for Ourselves and our Planet UUCM Member Dr. Claire Leve Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate **Note: Spring Forward TIME CHANGE TODAY!**

For much of our history the health and well-being of our species and all with whom we share our planet have benefited from ancient wisdom based on the feminine principle where our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health were integrated with knowledge of our need for good nutrition, sleep activity, exercise, relationships, and purpose. In more recent history other competing realities have nearly devastated our planet.

This Sunday, our own Dr. Claire Leve will weave together her own life experience, song, and soul, as she invites us to restore our knowledge of feminine wisdom and to remember that everything done within the paradigm of devotion, respect, honor, awe, and love makes a difference for the better.

Soup Lunch at 12:45 PM, followed by Spiritual Practices Sampler at 1:30: a singing circle with Claire Leve and Rev. Kevin

March 15 Two or Three Things I Know for Sure Members & Friends of UUCM with Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Doug Larson wrote, "Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk." This Sunday, we ask those who have listened deeply to life, to do a little of the talking. Playing on Dorothy Allison's title for her memoir, we've asked a few folks to share one of the "things they know for sure." Together, their sharing and our listening will embody the essential spiritual practice of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

and the ways you contribute your insight, your wisdom, your vision, your time and energy, and, yes, your financial resource, whether hard won or dropped in your lap, whether abundant or doled out in carefully rationed supply.

Everything about a Unitarian Universalist congregation is anchored in shared ministry - in what the members bring to it, in what they ask of their minister, in what the minister brings to it, and, ultimately, in the pooling of everything we have to offer. That's the wisdom our tradition holds. The wisdom is not contained in permanent particulars, but in our knowing that the deepest and most necessary wisdom available to us relies on the ongoing contribution and participation of all of us.

What does it mean to be a people of wisdom?

Wow, things are stirring at UUCM!

In tune with the spring rhythms of the earth, new ideas are emerging as teams and committees envision what they will want or need to spend next fiscal year in order to further the congregation's mission through their particular work.

Processes long "on the table" are at last moving forward, things like policy reviews and processes to help UUCM figure out what it wants and needs to do with its building and property.

A number of amazing newcomers are joining the congregation, and not lightly, but with real forethought, depth and commitment.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) is being offered not to our teens but to our young ones beginning this month, knowing that helping our Kindergartners and First Graders learn about keeping their bodies healthy and safe will serve them throughout their unfolding lives.

And members long in leadership are feeling calls to shift their focus toward new, sustainable ways of being and participating, ways that match their changing lives and their current joys as well as their personal gifts.

All kinds of metaphors come to mind, most readily the image of a seed or bulb or root that has been moving out of sight, underground, putting down searching roots and drawing in nutrients. The above ground movement, the emergence of green edges, seems sudden, but of course it's not. Many green edges are emerging at UUCM right now, the result of the last several years and rooted in the previous 25 years, and shaped by the times and cultures we now inhabit.

You are an important part of this current emergence and what it will mean for the congregation and those it serves, you



When visiting stewards contact you Members and Pledging Friends, welcome their invitation. If some internal idea of money talk gives you hives and sends your enthusiasm packing, let that notion go, and open yourself to real and meaningful conversation with someone who cares about you and about this community.

Let what is emerging in you, at this point in your life, feed the life of this community, knowing that doing so will serve you in your own journey at the same time.

As chaotic as the times may feel, "we were made for this," as Sue Phillips put it.

And so, the green shoots emerge. I am excited to see what grows.

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

"Little by little becomes a lot." - Anonymous

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Your Board of Trustees spends three hours + at our monthly meetings to do the required "Board" work of the church.

That doesn't count all the other meetings done within the month in preparation and on special projects. Sometimes these meetings are uplifting and sometimes they challenge us to just keep putting one foot in front of the other "little by little". But we try to remember that each step matters in working towards our goals. This month's meeting was primarily focused on establishing financial needs for next year to establish the budget. It will be presented to all of you at the next Congregational Meeting on May 31st. We are aiming to have our information to the Finance Committee in a timely fashion. Thank you to everyone for staying with this task for such a long time. With one more side-bar meeting, we will have completed our part of the pre-budget process and be able to move forward with "possibilities".



MINISTRY COUNCIL

This month, I would like to highlight two UUCM functions of congregational interest. Part of our new Governance model is the Ministry Council. It meets every other month. We have two facilitators, BOT representative Jim Perkins and, of course, Rev. Kevin Tarsa. They work with the council to advance the ministry of our church. The Ministry Council has been meeting since July of 2019 and is making wonderful progress. The team leaders come to meetings with enthusiasm and work together to report, plan and coordinate the various aspects of UUCM's ministry. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to talk with Rev. Kevin or one of our two facilitators, Dennis Weiher or Lesley Champlin. A comprehensive listing of the team leaders and how to contact them is nearing completion. It will be available online and on paper.

FACILITIES EXPLORATION

In preparation for our future facilities exploration, the BOT met with our Buildings and Grounds team leader, Wally Holtan, as well as Charlie Brock, our Real Estate advisor. Our task is to determine how best to prioritize the maintenance and repairs needed to keep our building safe and protect it from further damage. Items that are slated to be done include an

assessment of termite, dry rot, and water damage. This will be done as soon as it can be scheduled. The results of the assessment will direct the work ahead. The BOT also approved new air-conditioning and windows for the upstairs RE rooms. Other areas that will be closely monitored are the flat section of the roof and the area that previously leaked into the childcare room. A product called Thoroseal will be researched to be used on the concrete in areas where unwanted water is an issue.

Taking care of this building is a big task. We thank Wally Holtan and the other volunteers who do so much to provide care for our UUCM home. Often this involves being on ladders or climbing in and out of difficult spaces. Part of our wish list for next year's budget includes hiring someone to work regularly on our building's upkeep. It is an idea whose time has come!

In the grand scope of things, we are not solving world peace. However, "Little by little becomes a lot."

Preparation leads to possibilities. Thanks for your support.

Blessings,

- Rev. Karyn Packard

Our BOT meetings are open to UUCM members. Please note a change for this month's meeting: **the fourth Thursday, March 26, 2:30 PM.** If you plan to attend, please let us know..

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

Karyn Packard	<i>President</i>
Jim Perkins	<i>Vice-President</i>
Sandi Lauher	<i>Secretary</i>
Joel Houtman	<i>Treasurer</i>

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.*

Stewardship



Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions About Stewardship

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Team

The 2020/21 Stewardship Campaign is underway! Below are questions and answers that often arise at this time of year.

- Q. *What is a Stewardship Campaign and why is it necessary?*
A. During the Stewardship Campaign UUCM members and friends make their annual pledge. It is necessary because UUCM relies on pledges for over 90% of our annual revenue.
- Q. *What is the financial goal of this campaign?*
A. The Stewardship Team is asking each member to make one step up on the pledge ladder. The ladder will be displayed on this year's pledge card.
- Q. *What is a Visiting Steward?*
A. A Visiting Steward is a member of the congregation who has volunteered to engage in face to face conversations with others about what it means to be a member of this community. Enjoy your conversation and please thank your visiting steward!
- Q. *When do I receive and return my pledge card?*
A. You will receive your pledge card from your visiting steward. Please return it as soon as possible so the Finance Committee can complete a draft budget.
- Q. *How is UUCM doing?*
A. We are doing great. Projected membership for this year is up 10%, our mortgage is paid off, and we have implemented a new governance model as well as a new justice model.
- Q. *How much should I give?*
A. Give until it feels good. Consider the UU tithe, which is 5% of your income to the church and 5% to other non-profit organizations. See Rev. Kevin for a pledge waiver if you are experiencing financial difficulties.

Got other questions? See me or any other member of the Stewardship Team: Keith Johnson, chair, Lesley Champlin, Maryanne Currington, Bob Miller, Bob Packard and Carmen Riley

Stewardship Team email: Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org

Finance Committee

Reporting In...

By Bob Packard, Chair, Finance Committee

In January I reported how we are doing in adhering to our budget for the fiscal year ending in June. That report showed that our income is exceeding our expectations and our expenses are under budget. These trends are continuing, thanks to the really generous hearts of members and friends, and the hard work of our Fundraising Team.

Today I'm discussing the bigger picture – and inviting you to become a part of it. While we work this spring to develop next year's budget, for the fiscal year starting in July (FY21), our Board of Trustees has begun discussions that will eventually bear fruit in significant changes to our most significant asset, our Building. As you know, we meet there every Sunday, and the *eChalice* will attest to the fact that in most weeks, many of us are there for other meetings as well. Now we are finding that this building is not meeting our growing needs. The Board is exploring ideas for adapting it, expanding it, or replacing it, so that UUCM can continue to thrive.

These are big ideas that will require lots of analysis, assessment, and planning, and the decisions have big financial implications. We need to know what we can and cannot do and even the learning process will cost money. The Finance Committee's work is part of the journey along this path, tracking our current assets and liabilities, and looking ahead, recommending moves that affect our financial posture.

The Finance Committee works directly for the Board and provides support for all financial decisions. Committee members come from a variety of trades and professions and have a variety of abilities. Some of us can read between the lines of financial statements and some are content to scan the summary view. We ensure that UUCM's taxes and fees are paid, that UUCM is insured against risks, and that internal financial controls are in place. However, the common thread that best defines Committee members is a strong interest in seeing UUCM flourish and use its resources efficiently as it creates "a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just."

If you share this interest, we have an important place for you. Right now, your Finance Committee needs new members. Get in touch with Bob Packard or Joel Houtman, and we'll find that place, and give you a chance to make a contribution that will strengthen our church.

Finance Committee email: Finance@uugrassvalley.org

St Paddy's **CEILIDH** **CELEBRATION**

🍀 **SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020** 🍀

Live Music from 5-9PM 🍀 Dinner from 6-7PM

\$15/Show \$25/Dinner & Show

FREE/under 5 • \$5/5-12 years (+\$10 for food)

🍀 **FEATURING** 🍀

Irish Jam Session Kick Off - Bring your instruments!

Three Times Through
Strayaway • Fire in the Kitchen
The Celtic Amigos

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 South Church Street, Grass Valley

Tickets available at UUCM or Brown Paper Tickets
530.346-6995 for Information



Membership Team



Welcome New Member Gail F. Schulz

The Membership Team is pleased to announce new member, Gail Schulz, who signed the book on Sunday, February 16th.

GAIL'S STORY:

I grew up in Michigan, received bachelor and masters degrees in History from the University of Michigan, and after a 9-year break and two children, went back to school and received my JD from the University of Michigan Law School. I specialized in corporate law. My husband, Robert, and I lived in the Washington, D.C. area with our children for over 20 years, and we retired to Charleston, South Carolina in 1997. We re-retired to Berkeley in 2003, to be closer to our son, Brian, and his partner Jack.

I've been a UU for 60 years, and active in several congregations over the last 25 years, serving on the Board in both Charleston and Oakland. In Oakland, I chaired the project to do a \$2 million earthquake retrofit on our church, which was built in 1891, while serving as the Treasurer of the capital campaign to pay for the project.

We moved to Eskaton in Grass Valley almost 2 years ago, when Brian and Jack moved to Nevada City. Robert has severe Alzheimer's and lives in the memory care unit at Eskaton, while I live in a separate apartment. I'm active with the Residents' Council at Eskaton, and working hard to regain full mobility and eliminate my need for a walker. I look forward to getting to know all of you, and lending a hand where I can be useful.

Circle Suppers

Sign Up for a Circle Supper

By Claire Miller, Coordinator, Circle Suppers

These small potlucks in members' homes are wonderful, relaxed chances to connect to others. So far, forty-four members and friends have participated, and several hosts have come forward to offer their homes for the next phase of Suppers.

Sign up in the entry area now to attend.

If you are interested in being a "host," please contact Claire Miller (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com).

Hospitality Team

March Hospitality Schedule

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:

March 1 - last names beginning with A to E

March 8 - 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!

March 15 - last names beginning with K to R

March 22 - last names beginning with S to Z

March 29 - Fifth Sunday: Everybody!!

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.* (Hospitality@uugrassvalley.org)



ORGANIC SHADE-GROWN FAIR TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE

By Joyce Banzhaf

Need Coffee? Cafe Justo is for sale between Sunday services. *Warning to decaf drinkers who do not buy*

organic: methylene chloride, banned in paint removers, may be in your decaf. It is not in organic coffees which are water decaffeinated.

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

Meet the Caring Team Members

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

Have you ever wondered about the people on the UUCM Caring Team and why we do what we do? For the next few months we will be featuring a statement from our team members about who we are and what this work means to us. Allow me to introduce Jenny Dewey:



"As a member of the Caring Team I find opportunities to know the congregation of UUCM in greater depth than would be possible otherwise. However, the primary goal for me is to stay in touch with people undergoing difficulties and needing extra care. On a personal level I find this rewarding because I am drawn out of my small Universe into the concerns of others."

- Jenny Dewey

The Caring Team is taking some time to learn about community resources. Last month we had a very informative presentation about the services offered by *Full Circle Living and Dying Collective*. Donna and CMA explained about the organization and the ways the volunteers support and help prepare individuals and their loved ones in the face of terminal illness and death. It was very informative and made us all aware of the need for conversation within our own lives about this often difficult subject that each of us will inevitably face.

The UUCM Caring Team monitors 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 or someone you know 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, David Moss, Tom Wernigg

Nisenan Project Task Force

Upcoming Book Discussion Group

by Carmen Riley, Nisenan Project Task Force Leader

As one of the Nisenan Team's many up-coming events in Twenty-twenty, the Nisenan Project has three Team members lined up for UUA's READ OF THE YEAR, *The Indigenous People's History of the United States*, by Indigenous scholar and activist, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

"Justice seekers everywhere will celebrate Dunbar-Ortiz's unflinching commitment to truth—a truth that places settler-colonialism and genocide exactly where they belong: as foundational to the existence of the United States."

— Wasiyatawin, PhD, activist and coeditor of
For Indigenous Minds Only

The Indigenous People's History of the United States is a book that begs to be discussed and shared in a trusted community such as ours. Please join Eileen Hale, Holly Rice, and Suzanne Ferroggiaro on April 1 from 2:00-4:00 PM for an insightful and stimulating discussion as they delve into the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual challenges presented from the Indigenous point of view.

An RSVP would be helpful to the presenters.
Nisenan@uugrassvalley.org

We also have several of these books available for loan. Please see Eileen Hale if you'd like to borrow a copy. Her email is: eileenmice@eileenadelehale.com

You may also be interested in the upcoming Nisenan Speaker Series with Shelly Covert, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribal Spokesperson.

**Nisenan Speaker Series on *Anl'to'o'pe*
Thursday, March 5th from 5:30-7:00 PM
Madelyn Helling Library**

Anl'to'o'pe, a children's book in the Nisenan language by Shelly Covert, with translations and illustrations by Dr. Sheri J. Tatsch is about a young Nisenan girl who dreams of the return of the Grizzly, Antelope, Condor and other endangered California beings.

Shelly and Dr. Tatsch will share their process of writing the book and show a PowerPoint of the pages. This picture book will be distributed to 4th Grade classrooms across the county.

Art & Aesthetics Team

Art & Aesthetics Happenings

By Robin Hart, Chair, Art & Aesthetics Team

The Art and Aesthetics team is pleased to announce that we will now have a monthly column in the Mountain Chalice. We want to keep the congregation informed about all the creative happenings the team is up to around UUCM. We also want this to be a space where we feature art and poetry from congregants who are willing and able to share their thoughts and vision.

In the Channing Room we now have the A&A Creative Play Space. Post your art, poetry, or anything creative that you would like to share with the folks at UUCM on the bulletin board. Postings will be available for a month before leaving space for new work. Please make sure you have contact info on the back of your work, so we can return your items to you.

Have you noticed the two new beautiful wooden stands around the sanctuary from Joel Houtman and John Vaughn? They match the chalice stand Joel created three years ago, and will be used in worship services in varying capacities. We are very blessed to have this kind of talent to make UUCM more spiritually and visually pleasing.

In the Library Gallery this winter are the acrylic paintings of Phil Horning. Phil began attending UUCM last year and is currently enrolled in the starting point membership classes with his wife Linda. Here in his own words is a bit about the artist, the works in the show, and his background:

The artwork in the library is a collection of my paintings and some drawings mostly completed since I retired as the Forest Landscape Architect for Tahoe National Forest. There is one pen and ink drawing of an Armenian cemetery done while I was a peace corps volunteer in Iran and a pencil drawing of an elephant in Nepal while I was traveling after the peace corps and returning home. All of the paintings are of the great outdoors which is my interest. The paintings are based on photographs I or my wife Linda have taken. In most cases I have changed the composition or colors to some extent to provide more visual interest. It is called artistic license. Several of the paintings are of the Sierra in the winter which reflects my passion for back country skiing and cross

country skiing at local resorts. Three of the paintings show me skiing so you could consider them self portraits, but I would like to think the figures are more about scale and action and could be anyone in the back country. The paintings of the Kurdish farmer and the shepherd were completed last year in time to take to a 50th anniversary of peace corps volunteers reunion in San Diego. The paintings were based on slides taken almost 50 years ago. My guess is that those mountainous Kurdish areas have not changed much since then. The other paintings are from local hikes or trips to Colorado or Nepal.

I grew up back east in Pleasantville, New York, a suburb of New



*"South Yuba Falls,"
acrylic painting by Phil Horning*

York City. My mom taught nursery school and did oil paintings as a hobby. As a kid I liked to draw and did a few paintings. In high school I worked for a neighbor down the street and built a dry wall and installed landscaping. Between the interest in art and landscaping led me to pursue Landscape Architecture as a profession. After graduating from Syracuse I joined the peace corps in Iran and worked there for 4 years designing and building city parks in Gonbad Kavous and then worked for the Iranian National Park Service in Tehran. During this period I did drawings when there was time and continued this when I traveled for nine months through most of Asia. Upon return to the USA I worked for the US Forest Service on four different forests in California and took a special assignment to Tasmania, Australia to set up a visual management system for the Tasmanian Forestry Commission. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to hike in a wide range of mountainous and forested areas and these experiences have been an inspiration to me.

Now that I am retired I paint scenes that I hope capture some of the experiences that I find inspiring. Sometimes it is the special lighting as the sun sets. Sometimes it is the composition of ridges and mountain peaks that attracts me. In other cases it is the vivid colors of fall or the dramatic motion associated with a large waterfall. It seems to me that mother nature provides endless opportunities, both dramatic and subtle, to observe amazing colors, shapes, textures, and compositions and I just try to paint a few of these examples to share with others.

- Phil Horning

Justice News and Activities

Justice News

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Justice Team, please contact Steve Temple or Stu Matthews at Justice@uugrassvalley.org

Local Volunteer Opportunities

By Keith Johnson, Member, 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 extra hands Thursdays from 8 to 11 AM for sorting and packing, and on Fridays from 8:30 AM to 1 PM for distributions. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

IFM's Matching Campaign kicks off March 1st, and goes through March 31st. Your donations will be matched.

If you're a Briar Patch owner AND IFM volunteer, you're eligible for discounts at Briar Patch thanks to new PatchWorks Nonprofit Neighbors program. Volunteer for six hours or more and you'll receive a 15% off coupon for one shopping trip. If you volunteer for 12 hours or more, you will get two coupons, good for that month. Questions? See Anne Lyon.

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).

Pass the Plate

UUCM members, friends and newcomers donated \$659 to Interfaith Food Ministry in January! Thank you for your generous support of IFM and its mission to reduce food insecurity in Nevada County.



Sierra Roots, our February justice partner totals will be shared in the April Mt. Chalice.

March's Pass-the-Plate justice partner is Nevada County Citizens for Choice: promoting reproductive justice through education, health care access, and advocacy.

Justice Team



UUCM Hearts in Action for Hospitality House

A Processing Party! That's what Hospitality House calls it. Thirteen UUCM members and friends spent four hours of their Saturday volunteering at Bread and Roses Thrift and More. This is the volunteering that Hospitality

House most needs right now. The re-sale store sales support Hospitality House in its mission to bring homeless people in Nevada County into a circle of community caring that offers shelter, sustenance, medical care, advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as they assist them in transitioning from homelessness to housing.

With an orientation and guidance from store manager Tami Hadley McVay, UUCM folks sorted, folded, priced, stocked and arranged clothing and other store items. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Watch the *eChalice* for future opportunities to put our hearts into action together.



UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

March 22 Trust the Seeds
Lindsay DuncKel, Rev. Kevin and all
Full Community Service

Come, celebrate with heart, body and mind the arrival of spring and the wisdom curled within people of all ages. As UU musician and poet Elizabeth Alexander teaches, "There is joy in planting if you trust the seeds."

March 29 Life, the Universe and Everything
Rev. Kevin and UUCM's newest members

Many of you already know the "answer to the meaning of life, the universe, and everything." If you don't know, spoiler alert: it's 42. At least that was Douglas Adam's whimsical answer. Meaning is very much what we make it, and as our month of wisdom and our stewardship campaign draw to a close, we'll consider the meaning of it all, welcoming our newest members and celebrating your generosity in the process.



Don't Miss These Upcoming UUCM Cultural Events!

It's Kindergarten All Over Again

By Ken Harris

"*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*" will be presented by UUCM members in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM on Friday, March 20, as a fund raiser for the community. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

The play by Ernest Zulia is based on the writings of UU minister Robert Fulghum, and it will be presented in dramatic reading form. Cast members include Anita Wald-Tuttle, Reine Thibeault, Bob Branstrom, Chuck and Lesley Champlin, Janet Bullock, Custis Haynes, and Mel Berry. Music will be provided by Bev Marks.

Do you remember all the things you learned in kindergarten? That's where we learned how to live, what to do, how to be. We learned about life outside our immediate family. We learned to share, to be nice to each other, to clean up our own messes. Fulgham's Kindergarten lessons are recounted in dramatic form all over the country and have delighted all who have seen them.

Help Needed for Poetry Reading

By Ruth Ghio

Please put the Poetry Reading on your calendar for Sunday, April 5th at 2:00 PM. Currently we have a full slate of poets, from people who have never read to well-established poets. I am very excited by the inclusive nature of the reading.

I would greatly appreciate help with the following tasks:

1. Someone to be at the door to greet people. There will be a basket close to the door for donations.
2. Help with coffee, tea and snacks during the intermission.
3. Spread the word to friends, neighbors and invite them to join us in the afternoon for about one hour and forty minutes of poetry.

Please contact: Ruth Ghio: rgchio@me.com, (530) 277-6955

My thanks and gratitude to the poets and everyone else who is helping to make this event a success.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Humanist Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

The next meeting of Humanist Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 10:30 at UUCM and we will continue our discussion of Logical Fallacies. We hope to see you there.

The links to two articles we used to begin our discussion last month are as follows.

<https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com>

<http://www.csun.edu/~dgnw61315/fallacies.html>

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

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 at Walking@uugrassvalley.org to confirm.



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.

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. Contact: Shelley North-Gerson, Meditation@uugrassvalley.org



Women's Circle & Potluck

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 6:00 PM AT UUCM

GAMES NIGHT

Bring a favorite game you'd like to share. We'll check in, share a meal and then break into smaller groups to play together... nothing better than playing a game to find out more about each other!

Hope to see you all there!

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.

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.

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

Wisdom in March

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

What does it mean to be a family of Wisdom? This month I'm reflecting on the wisdom that I believe to be the foundation of Family Ministry. Will you take a guess at it? It's way more than all the fun ideas to keep kids busy. The wisdom of Family Ministry is You. It is Us. Like a large family of elders and youngers, our congregation holds the space for each other to become more curious and confident about exploring our faith. In the simplest ways, with our smile or our promise to show up, we create the sacred container for the younger folks to feel safe and learn how they will show up in the world.

When we show up together and notice that we are all here – *that is the magic*. It shows that we care about this place and a cause, that we find meaning in being together, and that we have each other's backs. We bring our identity and discover who we are as Unitarian Universalists. The power of Family Ministry is rooted in the whole congregation, in all of our glorious and wonderful differences, as we bring our cares to the table. This is how we hold space for one another. Thank you for all of the ways that you show up. We are a great family.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLASSES

In Religious Exploration classes this month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to become "a people of wisdom." To get at that, our sessions are each built around five sources of wisdom. The wisdom of: simplicity, clowning around, our UU sources and Pi, our story, and finally – the wisdom in our bodies. We'll have a great time playing with the understanding of wisdom and enjoying good snacks! Special thanks to Lindsay Dunckel and Walt O'Maley for their commitment to our kids!

THANK YOU TO A SPECIAL TEACHER

A very special thank you to Linda Siska who cares deeply enough about the future of the planet that she developed a curriculum to help understand how to heal the climate crisis and an amazing game to explore those ideas. Linda plans to keep the energy going and invite youth to engage as they are willing and able. Thank you, Linda!

UUCM FAMILY MINISTRY OFFERS A NEW OWL CLASS FOR KINDERGARTEN-FIRST GRADE!

Register now for our new OWL class for Kindergarten – 1st Grade. See the flyer below for more details about this amazing opportunity!

WONDERING HOW TO TALK WITH YOUR K-1 CHILD ABOUT KEEPING THEIR BODY SAFE?

Knowledge Is Protection.

Studies consistently show that children who are educated about healthy bodies are better protected from abuse and exploitation.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) supports parents/caregivers in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families. Following a parent/guardian orientation, classes engage children with stories, songs, and activities.

JOIN OWL!



OWL is a comprehensive, inclusive, secular relationship and sexuality education for six age groups, beginning with kindergarten and continuing through the retired years.



All classes: Sundays, 11-noon
Mandatory Orientation: 3/8
Classes: 3/22, 3/29, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3
Space is Limited to 10 children

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 S Church St. Grass Valley, CA
contact: education@uugrassvalley.org

Full Community Education



What Does It Mean to be a People of Wisdom?

*From the
Soul Matters Authors*

When the topic of wisdom comes up, so do the usual images. Walls and walls filled with dusty old books. Elders with the wisdom of many years carved into the wrinkles on their faces. Diplomas framed and filling one's office wall. Endless letters placed in front and behind your name (Dr., PhD., LCSW, JD, Rev., etc.)

The message: wisdom is about accumulation. If you want to be wise, you need to pile it on. More knowledge. More experience. More books to read. More gurus to follow. More degrees to get.

But then words like these sneak into the conversation:

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.

- Martin H. Fischer

There is no need to "acquire" the knowledge of God. There is only the dropping of the illusion and forgetfulness.

- Omid Safi

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.

- Lin Yutang

It's a reminder that the math of wisdom is often the opposite of what we think. It's more a game of subtraction than addition. Often, accumulation of knowledge doesn't get us closer to wisdom; it's just in the way. There's a sorting, simplifying and stripping away that needs to occur. It's about unknowing as much as knowing.

Just think about how deeply we get tangled up in those cultural messages about money and success. Or the way degrees, IQ tests and SAT numbers get mixed up with status rather than the pursuit of truth. Or the way political parties, religions and even science claim to have all the answers. Maybe this is why the Sufi poet Hafiz wrote:

*The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor:*

*Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.*

And with all the nonsense shaken out and stripped away, maybe what we notice most is not so much the pearls of wisdom themselves, but the sources of wisdom we've forgotten.

When reason and logic hog the spotlight, the wisdom of the body rarely enters the room. When week-long retreats with the newest guru define the path to wisdom, we stop asking what our failures and mistakes are trying to teach us. When "experts" sit in the center, the wisdom of those on the margins is lost.

So many untapped sources. So much wisdom waiting to be known.

Makes one think that maybe the wisest question of all this month is: "Where have I not looked before?"

Book Groups

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - MARCH 1, 1:00 PM ANTHONY ROOM (UUCM LIBRARY)

March 1, we will discuss Isabelle Allende's *A Long Petal to the Sea*. Allende fans will not want to miss this fascinating novel based on the true story of Spanish Civil War refugees rescued by Pablo Neruda and resettled in Chile.

April 5, we will discuss *Station Eleven*, a timely science fiction about the world after a pandemic. It is gripping! This is also a Nevada County Library Read.

May 3, we'll discuss *Testament* by Margaret Atwood. We will also chose three new books, so bring your suggestions.

THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - MARCH 18, 2:00 PM HOUTMAN RESIDENCE, 513 WALSH, GV

Five of us met and had a spirited discussion about *Made in the House of Dawn*. Strong feelings were expressed and insights gained. We will be discussing the much more accessible book *Cold Country* on March 18, at 2:00 PM Theresa's – 418 Chapel, Grass Valley.

On April 15, the group will meet at Karyn Packard's, 18404 Wildflower Dr, Penn Valley, to explore Ann Patchett as a non-fiction writer with *Truth and Beauty*. We will also select three new books so bring your ideas. Call Karyn at 562-900-9546 for information on this meeting

Readers are welcome to attend either or both groups at any time. Contact Theresa Houtman, BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org 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 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.

QUANTUM MECHANICS and what it means to us – with resident UUCM physicists Bob Miller and Joel Houtman.

- **March 8th – Wave Particle Duality**
Things (for example light, electrons and everything else) exhibit both particle and wave properties. We have two contradictory pictures of reality. Are we ever certain?
- **March 22nd – Particle Accelerators**
 - Why high energies are important.
 - What type of particles do we accelerate?
 - $E=mc^2$
 - Types of accelerators and what they're trying to find.
 - The Large Hadron Collider.

What next? the crisis in particle physics. If interested, contact Dave MacLeod at dhmacleod@sbcglobal.net or (530) 263-5075.

TEMPERAMENT THEORY FOR YOU, YOURS, AND US -

Saturday March 28, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

with Rev. Karyn Packard

Register early and receive your inventory for completion.

Spend a morning learning more about yourself, your spouse, your children or even the folks you work and worship with at UUCM. Using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Kiersey Temperament Sorter, join Rev. Karyn Packard for an insightful time of self-discovery.

You'll complete your inventory online prior to the discovery session (information will be sent to each registrant). Each participant registered will receive a packet of descriptive materials related to their unique temperament type. The session will include learning about the theories and putting them into practice, with fun exercises that help us to better understand both ourselves and others. Size is limited to 24 persons per session.

Karyn has been licensed on these inventories for many years and has provided these sessions for church boards, couples planning on marriage, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and in HR related team building. Contact Rev. Karyn Packard at 562-900-9546 or karyn@seagoer.net to enroll..

NISENAN TASK FORCE & UUA'S READ OF THE YEAR:

The Indigenous People's History of the United States,

by Indigenous scholar and activist, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

Wednesday, April 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Get and read the book any time. Join in a conversation on

Wednesday, April 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM led by members of UUCM's Nisenan Task Force. *See article on page 7.*

THREE WATERSHED UNITARIAN SERMONS – and What They Have to do with Us

Rev. Kevin and Keith Johnson

Unitarian Universalists celebrate our diversity of spiritual and theological beliefs. However, we do have one thing in common – we love a good sermon. Are you familiar with the three 19th century sermons that are universally acclaimed as the three greatest UU sermons of all time (or at least three watershed sermons in our journey)? Please join Keith Johnson and Rev. Kevin as we read portions out loud and discuss the sermons of William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Here's the schedule:

- **Tuesday, April 7, 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)

For each class Keith will provide a brief introduction to the sermon. Next, everyone will read out loud selected passages from each sermon. We will invite your immediate reaction to the sermon. Lastly, Kevin will close by reflecting on the lasting historical impact of these sermons.

Sound interesting? Please contact Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com to register. No need to prepare for this class but if you are so inclined you may read the sermons in advance. Contact Keith for pdfs of the individual sermons, or see *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker* by Conrad Wright. A copy is available in the church library.

COGNITIVE BIASES AND LOGICAL FALLACIES –

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. Classes on hold for now but if interested, please contact Dave MacLeod at dhmacleod@sbcglobal.net or (530) 263-5075. Dates TBD.

STARTING POINT -

orient yourself in the journey of Unitarian Universalism - for newcomers as well as existing members. Next series begins in March. Sign up now with admin@uugrassvalley.org and we'll keep you updated.

March 2020 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
MARCH 2019			
1	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		1:00 PM	Book Group
2	Monday	6:30 PM	Soul Matters Exploratorium
3	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
		6:00 PM	Shared Pulpit
4	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		6:30 PM	Choir
5	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Briar Patch
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
7	Saturday	9:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Day
8	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:30 PM	Second Sunday Salad/Soup Potluck
		1:30 PM	Spiritual Practices Sampler
		1:30 PM	Quantum World Workshop
9	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Potluck
10	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		12:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
		4:00 PM	CWP Reading Group
11	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		4:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		6:30 PM	Choir
12	Thursday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		8:30 AM	Men's Group at IHOP
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		5:30 PM	Social Justice Meeting
14	Saturday	9:00 AM	League of Women Voters Meeting
		5:00 PM	St Paddy's Ceilidh

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:45 PM	Family Ministry Team Meeting
17	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		6:00 PM	Shared Pulpit
18	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
		6:30 PM	Choir
19	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Briar Patch
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		4:00 PM	Kindergarten play rehearsal
20	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
		7:00 PM	Kindergarten Play Performance
21	Saturday	12:00 PM	Choir Festival
		6:00 PM	Choir Festival Concert - FREE
22	Sunday	9:30 AM	Full Community Sunday Service
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		11:30 AM	Full Community Sunday Service
		1:30 PM	Quantum World Workshop
24	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		4:00 PM	CWP Task Force
25	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council
		6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
26	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group at Briar Patch
		8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		6:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
28	Saturday	9:00 AM	Temperament Theory Workshop
29	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:40 AM	Social Time
		10:50 AM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:45 PM	Stewardship Celebration
31	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans')
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
		6:00 PM	Shared Pulpit



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:

MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org

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

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