

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 2021

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are now held online AND on-site!
9:30 AM on-site and Zoom, and 11:30 AM on-site each Sunday
You MUST reserve your seat(s) to attend in person.
Watch your email and eChalice for sign-up links, or contact the office at admin@uugrassvalley.org

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ON SUNDAYS:
 Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/746107217>
 Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1-669-900-9128
 Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

• • • See Page 11 for Kid-Centered Activities • • •

NOVEMBER THEME: *Holding History*

Nov. 7 **TIME CHANGE TODAY - Set Clocks Back!**
Holding History: Body, Mind, and Spirit
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Cheryl Morris, Worship Assoc.

What does it mean to “hold our history” when history tells us so much more about how we see ourselves now than about what happened in the past? Or are those two things closer and more integrated than we think? What history are you holding, and why, and how?

Nov. 14 **Holding History: Rooted in the Rich Soil of our Theological Heritage**
 Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud’homme, with Beth Karow and Cheryl Morris, Worship Associates

UUCM welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud’homme, who serves as Assistant Professor of Religion and Education at Starr King. She has served as a minister of religious education in the Unitarian Universalist churches of Oakland, Davis, and Berkeley as well as the Pacific Central District. She is the co-creator and co-director of Chalice Camp, a Unitarian Universalist summer day camp that has been running for over 17 years in the Bay Area and replicated in sites across the country.

Rev. Prud’homme holds a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies in history and theology from the Graduate Theological Union. Her dissertation focused on 19th century Unitarian minister Thomas Starr King’s use of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada as sacred texts, asking what his ecotheology might have to contribute to contemporary ecotheologies as well as offering needed correctives to his imperialist project.

Nov. 21 **Holding History: Meaning 3.0**
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Chuck Champlin, Worship Assoc.

Jamie Wheal claims that the world has entered a third stage in the human effort to make meaning: beyond the first, religious stage which linked meaning to salvation and exclusion, beyond the second stage, modern liberalism, which anchored meaning in inclusion at the expense of salvation, to a third stage, which Wheal says needs to integrate the first two in order to navigate the current collapse of our traditional anchors. How can history, the human story so far, help us move hopefully and courageously into what comes next?

Nov. 28 **Holding History: Of Thanks and Hope and Stuff**
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Jeff Stone and Cheryl Morris, Worship Associates

Ah, Thanksgiving, a holiday that has accrued layers and layers of meaning, feelings, rituals and expectations, even when one decries it entirely. On this first Sunday of Advent, we’ll dig below the surface to unearth a bit more history, a bit more honesty, a bit more gratitude, a bit more hope.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Board of Trustees.....	3
Building and Grounds.....	4
Lay Pastoral Care Team.....	5
Parish Care Team.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
Pass the Plate.....	6
Audio Visual (A/V) Team.....	7
Art and Aesthetics.....	7
Justice News and Activities.....	8-9
Community Connections.....	10
UUCM Family Ministry.....	11
Full Community Education/Soul Matters.....	12
Sunday Book Group.....	12
Monthly Calendar.....	13
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours.....	14



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Seeking spiritual sustenance? Spiritual growth? Spiritual companions?

Recent research and teachings regarding how we hold memories and experiences in our bodies has me thinking in new ways about this month's theme of "holding history." We hold history not only in the conscious stories we tell and retell, but also in our postures, our tastes, our reactions, our stubborn behaviors, our lower back aches, our sight, our frustrations, and our passions and joys.

It also has me wondering how we have been shaped by and been internalizing our pandemic experiences. How are we holding our most recent history, I wonder, and are there ways that we can more consciously shape and hold that history-in-the-making?

This month we'll look at history-holding in general, at pieces of Unitarian Universalist history with the help of Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme, at history as a resource for understanding and moving into the cultural transformations currently in motion, and at history, approached honestly and openly, as a source of hope and gratitude.

This month, as you consider what history is and what history does or does not mean, I invite you to keep the question, "What happened to you?" as a travel companion. Gail Johnson Vaughan referenced the book of that title by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey in an earlier service. The book explores "trauma, resilience, and healing." What I find wonderfully hopeful in Perry's insight, is that while we are shaped profoundly by what has happened to us, that shaping isn't necessarily permanent. We are being reshaped continually, if often unconsciously. In his vocation, Perry draws on this knowledge to help people find their paths beyond some of the barriers that traumas erect.

It is important to realize this. That we are not merely helpless products of our pasts. Whether our personal histories, our long-time family legacies, this congregation's story, our UU tradition's journey, our nation's triumphs, tragedies, and vulnerabilities, or our experiences of the pandemic, we have chances to shape the history that we will hold here on out. So, take time to consider deeply what happened to you, what happened to us, not only as a source of explanation, but as a guide for writing the history to come.

What you feel in your body may offer some clues.

with care,
- Rev. Kevin

As UUCM's minister, I am charged, first and foremost, with offering "spiritual leadership and initiative." My conscious spiritual leadership and initiative is focused most often through Sunday services, especially during the past year and a half.

Several of you have shared with me your need and desire for other kinds of opportunities to dig in more deeply and more explicitly, to explore your spiritual growing edges and your spiritual sources of sustenance, and for the chance to do so without needing to defend the word "spiritual" or your personal spirituality to the people you are with.

If you are such a person, I invite you to join with me and others to share what you are seeking, to notice your spiritual companions, and to imagine and initiate the opportunities that might meet and serve your spiritual journey.

Please let me know that you are interested and we'll meet in November not only to surface and explore hopes and desires, but also to practice together the shared leadership that is valued in our congregation and tradition.

I very much look forward to the conversation and to the possibilities that will emerge.

Please contact me at minister@uugrassvalley.org

- Rev. Kevin

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Kevin now has Zoom office hours from 1:30 to 2:00 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

<https://zoom.us/j/91942233874?pwd=UlhBaXpFQnNCVklzSlpDQWNXeGhPQT09>

Meeting ID: 919 4223 3874 • Passcode: 300295

Or by phone: Dial by your location
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
(Same meeting ID and passcode as above)

Please contact Rev. Kevin or our Office Administrator to schedule appointments for other times.

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

Board of Trustees



*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

I am writing this article as my husband, Gary, and I travel to Oregon to visit our newest grandchild, James. We made this same trip last month when James was born. At that time the drive was hot and very smoky - the air was actually dangerous to breathe. And now, a mere six weeks later the drive is cool and very rainy! What a difference a bit of time makes. The same is true for our UU Community in that we have endured the full gambit of on-again off-again plans, constantly changing due to external factors. Now we are coming into what we hope is an "on-again" period. With that hope the Board, with consideration for the recommendations of the Pandemic Health and Safety Committee (PHSC), has approved plans to meet on-site for Sunday services. This means that we are now entering a period of true multi-platform offerings, consisting of small group meetings, larger on-site Sunday services and Zoom offerings for all. This 'new normal' requires the efforts of many dedicated, talented and supportive community members to carry out the work. All of this is made possible by the tremendous effort of the minister, worship team and multiple volunteers who handle all the technical aspects of our services. I am reminded of this effort whenever I see the 'behind the scenes' crew for Sunday services and I am so grateful for the amazing commitment of time and energy from these dedicated individuals.

In recognizing that the past 20 months has unduly stressed us all, and in our continuing effort to gain new insight into the needs of our beloved community, the Board is striving to ascertain what is most needed now. To further explore this idea we are offering several opportunities to join others in exploring our Open Questions. Open questions are designed to open our thinking to new possibilities without the pressure of having to find solutions or 'correct' answers. Open questions also provide the opportunity for the Board to benefit from the collective wisdom of the congregation. They give us the

chance to engage with each other and creatively discuss important ideas. In the coming weeks the Board will be offering several opportunities to join in on these discussions. We will be holding the Open Question gatherings in three ways: small groups in member homes; a large group at UUCM; and a zoom session. There will be sign up opportunities so that we can manage group size to follow safe meeting guidelines from the PHSC. Watch for more news on this soon and be sure to join a group that fits your needs.

The Board has also been working to fully staff committees to support the operation of UUCM. We are so grateful to those members who currently staff our committees and continue to carry out the important work of the Board. However, the pandemic has added stress to our lives and left many

members somewhat reticent to make the commitment to work on a committee. But the fact remains that there are still many tasks which must be carried out for the continued operation of UUCM. This has necessitated the need to look for help outside the committee structure. To this end the Board has been working on establishing the essential duties for which volunteers are needed. We will soon be posting those duties on "help wanted" lists. It is our hope that some of these tasks will align with individual members' expertise and that this alignment will be as gratifying to the volunteer as it is essential to UUCM's operation. We believe this is a positive and empowering opportunity for service which

will greatly benefit our beloved community. We hope you will consider helping when the opportunity presents. On that note I will leave you with this poem by Edward Everett Hale:

*"I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse
to do the something that I can do."*

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

Pam Kisor	<i>President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Vice-President</i>
Bob Packard	<i>Treasurer</i>
Rene Wiley	<i>Secretary</i>

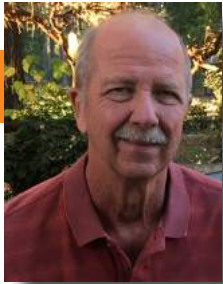
Members at Large: Taylor Carey and Janet Dunstan

UUCM Committees:

Finance • Governance • Endowment
Nominating • Personnel • Health and Safety

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 10:30 AM on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are currently being held in the UUCM sanctuary as well as on Zoom. An email announcing the meeting and a Zoom link will be sent to the community each month, one week prior to the meeting.

If you wish to address the board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.



*Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team*

Building and Grounds Team

November found us with a beautiful fall day and with ten willing volunteers. We had Bonnie working inside to clean up Kevin's office and the downstairs kitchen. Kern, Gwen, George, Connie, Joel, Theresa and Phil were all working on the many yard projects, one of which was to re-attach the down spout of the garages where the fence was damaged by a car. Two roofing people driving by saw George and Joel trying to figure out how do the repair and they stopped and offered to fix it for them as they had the tools and the knowledge. It was such a kind-hearted gesture and it reminds me that there are really good people out there. I would also like to give a shout-out to Mel Berry for volunteering to replaster the nursery after our chronic roof leak as well as helping to get the nursery ready for opening of actual services. We were able to start working on the garages, cleaning out items that we no longer need which will hopefully go to Restore for reuse by someone else. Thank you to all the hardy volunteers who made it a great day.

NEW BUILDING AND GROUNDS PROPOSED CHANGES

Building and Grounds is looking at developing a new work strategy that hopefully will allow more people to volunteer who cannot necessarily work on the weekends. It will also allow people to focus where they would like to volunteer on a regular basis. We'll be dividing the team between working in the building or working on the outdoor grounds.

PROPOSED BUILDING MAINTENANCE PLAN

Building and Grounds is looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer as a leader for the care and maintenance of the inside of UUCM's building. This ideally would involve a monthly commitment for a specific period of time. This person would be responsible for organizing and directing a small group of volunteers (approximately 3-5) who will be responsible for keeping the inner building clean and orderly, and organizing the cleaning supplies that are used at UUCM. The work would be directed toward doing the care



and maintenance beyond the duties of our custodial cleaners. The custodial cleaning service is currently coming in on a semi-weekly basis until services and gatherings can begin inside again.

Building and Grounds inside volunteers would be needed on a monthly basis, either scheduling a single monthly work day which could coincide with the Grounds Maintenance team's work day or another day of their choice.

If this is a position that you might be interested in volunteering for, please contact me at uucmgv@gmail.com for more details.

PROPOSED GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PLAN

Building and Grounds is looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer to take over leadership and management of UUCM's yard and garden. This would ideally be a monthly commitment for a specific period of time. Theresa Houtman is retiring from this position and we are looking for a person who has some basic gardening knowledge and can help guide us in the care and maintenance of our plants and grounds. Theresa would initially still be involved to help in the transition. This person will be in charge of a group of volunteers who will meet on a monthly basis either on a given reoccurring work day or a day that their group decides will work best for them. In order for this to work we would need a minimum of five people.

If this is a position that you might be interested in, please contact me at uucmgv@gmail.com. I will be able to give you more specific details about what would be involved in this position.

The Building and Grounds Team will continue to have special workdays as needed in order to work on specific major or unexpected projects. However, they may not fall only on



Saturdays and would hopefully reach out to everyone in the congregation. Also, and importantly, this would be a slow transition so nobody would be left out on their own in the beginning. So, if you feel like stepping out to a new adventure, take the leap.

-Wally



Pastoral Care

*Tom Wernigg, Chair
UUCM Lay Pastoral Care Team*

The Care Team or Parish Care Team, currently led by Gwen Eymann, offers practical short-term support to UUCM members during times of need and when support will help: meals for a time, rides (as COVID-19 allows), grocery shopping, simple errands, etc. The Care Team also sends cards of care, joy, and sorrow and to celebrate members' birthdays.

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team (LPCT), currently led by Tom Wernigg, offers a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges, Team members commit to be available for weekly caring conversations of up to one hour, and for the duration of a congregant's stressful challenge or until a time of closure arises naturally.

In our fall series introducing the Lay Pastoral Care Team members, we turn this month to Corrie Silva.



INTRODUCING Corrie Silva

"Six years ago I was a member of the Ministerial Search Team, tasked with finding an appropriate candidate to serve as minister of UUCM. Each team member had a particular focus and mine was compassion. I wanted to find a compassionate person who would care for and nurture our community. Compassion is important to me because I care deeply about the emotional wellbeing of people. I enjoy my role as a facilitator of the weekly Drop In Support Circle. There I have an opportunity to get to know people on a deep level.

The Lay Pastoral Care program is a way for me to serve the community by offering compassionate listening and to help Rev. Kevin meet the emotional needs of a growing congregation. Those who know me know that I'm a talker and now I'm learning to be a good listener too."

– Corrie

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Tom Wernigg, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and George Dunstan. They are wonderful, kind, heart-centered persons, and we are very fortunate for their caring and skillful presence and their willingness to give of themselves in this way.

ARE YOU FACING A CHALLENGE IN YOUR LIFE?

Please reach out to Rev. Kevin (minister@uugrassvalley.org or (231) 883-1058) or Tom Wernigg (tomwernigg@gmail.com or (530) 575-8766) when you are facing a difficult challenge in your life, and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.



Parish Care

*Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team*

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Caring Team

The sweet, smoky smells of autumn have come around again. The season of preparation for closing doors and windows against the cold reminds us again of the closing off of the world because of a persistent and unavoidable virus. We adjust as best we can. We stack up books to read, make lists of indoor chores and tasks, and remind ourselves we can handle it all. We did this before, we can and will do it again.

Be aware the situation we are in regarding indoor vs. Zoom meetings is fluid. Different groups have been working on various strategies to decide on Zooming or not Zooming. Emails sent out by the UUCM Administration office provide information on changes in the status of in-person meetings as opposed to virtual meetings. Everyone looks forward to the time when using the word ZOOM is a distant memory.

UUCM Connect continues to be a successful way to request help or announce items for sale. If you are not a part of this, contact Carol Fulkerson to sign up.

The Parish Caring Team is as active as ever, making sure requests for shopping trips, card-sending, phone calls, or updates on pet losses, are met. Requests for sending cards for specific occasions are always welcome.

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, chair,
Jenny Dewey, Penny Harlan, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris and Holly Rice

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Caring@uugrassvalley.org or hennifreed@gmail.com



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

Brighter Days are Coming!

The Stewardship Team will readily admit that uncertainty in our future has challenged our planning. However, uncertainty has not challenged the generosity of our UUCM members and it will not hold us back from our belief and commitment to a bright and beautiful future. Wearing our Fundraising caps, our team members are singing "Here Comes the Sun." Watch throughout November for the details of an online event that will bring joyful optimism to our members and treasure to our beloved Community.

Please continue your generous contributions. If you are contributing by check to your 2021-2022 pledge, please write the percent of the check to go to your pledge and the pledge year, (2021-2022) on the memo line. More information about ways to give and links are provided on this page under "Online Giving & More."

If you need any assistance with paying online or have any questions concerning your pledge, please call me at (530) 307-9663 or email to: murrington1944@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Maryann
Currington

Here comes the SUN!

Pass the Plate

Each month, UUCM partners with a local organization that is working to create a more just, equitable, compassionate and sustainable world. UUCM's Justice Team makes the connections and the decision about each year's list of partners.

Thanks to generous UUCM members and friends who made donations in September, [Color Me Human](#) will receive \$841 to support its work to "Celebrate, Elevate, Educate, Advocate to create a safe, equitable world for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQ folks." Thank you, everyone, for your continuing generosity!

We are currently completing October collections for [Habitat for Humanity](#), which brings local people together to build homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity envisions a community where everyone has the opportunity to have a safe, decent, affordable place to live.



Our November partner is [Sammie's Friends](#) which offers a safe and caring place for neglected, abandoned, and abused animals to be cared for and rehabilitated, when necessary, and adopted as quickly as possible into loving homes.

Your ongoing support for our partners allows us to make a meaningful difference together!

Online Giving & More

HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GIVE TO UUCM...

- If you do online banking, you can set up your UUCM Pledge as a monthly "bill" and then relax...your bank will automatically send a check out on the date(s) you specify. In addition, UUCM will get the whole amount – no fees deducted.
- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Pass-the-Plate, General Donation, or Pledge.)
- You can mail in a check for your current pledge or plate offering to UUCM, 246 South Church St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. (Please designate in the memo line whether your check is for your pledge, including the pledge year, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal at: paypal.me/uucm (Please leave a note as to whether your offering is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to 833-579-0483. 25% will automatically go to our Pass-the-Plate partner.



A/V Team

*Bob Miller
Coordinator, UUCM A/V Team*



Art & Aesthetics

*Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team*

UUCM TV

A/V Team members Andy and Siobhan are shown below during a Sunday service. Andy is managing the sound derived directly from microphones and from a feed from Jordan's own sound mixer. He manages two "mixes." One mix he passes to Siobhan and Zoom while the other feeds the inhouse speakers for the benefit of the limited live audience. Meanwhile Siobhan selects one of three camera views or switches to input from a PowerPoint slide show. The slide show may include videos when the sound is passed to Andy's board. Siobhan inputs both the sound and the video into Zoom where you receive it at home. If you find this confusing, then your perception is accurate.



Both Andy and Siobhan are listening on headphones. Andy's are connected to a PC which acts as a Zoom client in the same way as those of you at home. Siobhan is listening to the input that she directs to Zoom.

Gary Lauer and Steve Temple have both taken turns working the sound. We hope to recruit and train more folks, so we have enough team members. We want to have a rotation and avoid burn out. On the other hand, it's best to do the job on a regular basis so you become and remain adept. Let me know if you are interested. Familiarity with computer and related technology is helpful.

At 10:00 AM after the rehearsal, Beth Karow offers the entire team a blessing, including a plea to any gremlins to stay well away. This probably helps but they still interfere now and again.

Looking Outside for Inspiration

The Art & Aesthetics team met in person with Rev. Kevin in the UUCM backyard and we did some more visioning on ideas to make this space a visually pleasing and spiritual outdoor spot. Re-landscaping the backyard will be A&A's primary focus for the year. Rev. Kevin had some thoughts on how we might use the space for Soul Matters Circles and small outdoor services, as well as Team and Committee meetings.

We realized that the labyrinth idea that was suggested last month would be difficult to implement due to the slope and that a meandering path with switchbacks would be a better fit. Because it is more level, the upper area will be designated for meeting space instead of the garden bed it is now, and tables, chairs and umbrellas will be added. The meandering path will be on the lower part of the slope, and include potted plants, sculpture and a water feature at the bottom.

Phil Horning took measurements of the area and will be drawing up plans for the renewed space.

This year we will again try to engage the congregation in projects that are spiritually creative. Hopefully we can have some in-person small groups to work on these. We are excited about the possibilities.

Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



Justice Warrior of the Month: Keith Johnson

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

"I was so glad when UUCM revised the mission statement to clearly state that we exist to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just. For me, this has always been the sacred work of this congregation."

So says Keith Johnson, our justice warrior for November. He first joined the UU church in Auburn in 1993 and has been an active member of UUCM since 1997. Justice has always been a focus. Keith was the Justice chair in Auburn and has held that position here for several years. Currently he and Bob Miller serve as co-chairs of the UUCM Justice Team.

In addition to his responsibilities as co-chair, Keith is a member of the Challenging White Privilege Task Force as well as the Carbon Dividend Task Force. He also coordinates the Habitat for Humanity lunch program, the Hospitality House dinner crew, and the UUCM Work Day at IFM.

Keith recognizes that justice work is not always fun. He recalls the Juneteenth gala last summer when the temperature was near 100 and his back pain was awful. But it was all worthwhile because the cause was just and it was a joy to be celebrating with members from UUCM and Color Me Human.

Keith is optimistic about the future of justice at UUCM. "The model of justice work through task forces and partnerships is a great way to build a congregationally based program with a wide variety of justice opportunities for all members." Keith's immediate goal is to help promote existing task forces as well as develop new ones with actively engaged UUCM members. He reminds us that the Justice Team can facilitate and organize justice activities, but only the congregation can actually do justice work.

Thank you, Keith, for all you do.



Keith discussing global warming on a cold day in January

Task Force Updates

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

NEW TASK FORCE – "STOP THE MINE"

An energetic group, under the leadership of Justice Team member Jim Bair, continues to work towards becoming the fourth task force recognized by UUCM.

To become a task force the group must be approved at a Community Business Meeting called by the Board. The board wanted to discover the level of support within the congregation before calling such a meeting. The Justice Team prepared an online survey. A total of 98.4% of the respondents are familiar with the proposed Rise Gold Mine project. A clear majority of 90.5% of the respondents support the establishment of the Stop the Mine Task Force.

With this demonstration of support the board has called a Community Business Meeting for Sunday, November 7th at 1:00 PM by Zoom. Anticipate a short meeting with the focus on a vote to establish the task force or not. If you have opinions about UUCM's participation in the community-wide discussion about the proposed mine reopening, then attend the meeting as your vote will be counted.

Meanwhile activists throughout the community are researching the proposal by Rise Gold and identifying impacts.

NISEAN TASK FORCE



The Nisenan Task Force supported the appearance of Shelly Covert, Spokesperson for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, at the service on October 10th. Shelly and Frank Lawrence dialogued about the campaign to achieve federal recognition. We continue to learn more about the tribe and their legal status as the land acknowledgement is introduced at each Sunday service.

CARBON DIVIDEND TASK FORCE



The SHOE has been out and about again. On successive Saturdays it visited SPD Market, first in Grass Valley and then in Nevada City. Shoppers

Justice News and Activities

were offered the opportunity to send a post card to a legislator of their choice advocating placing a price on carbon with an associated payment to every household. Carbon pricing is a hot topic in both houses of congress.



And, last but not least, two more people posed for a picture with their Citizens Climate Lobby yard sign – UUCM Board President Pam Kisor with her husband, Gary. Have you seen any around Grass Valley and Nevada City? If not, we have one available for your yard.

Contact Bob Miller at: Bob@sierramiller.com.



Interfaith Food Ministry Update

September was Hunger Action Month! IFM wants to thank Western Nevada County and

UUCM for supporting their mission for 34 years. UUCM has donated to and volunteered for IFM since its beginning, and that help is greatly appreciated.

IFM has had *Sierra Harvest Food Love* helping them! Their programs teach children and their families about farming and adds fresh food to the food distributions.

Sponsor A Family For The Holidays has begun! \$20 pays for both a meal and the family's regular food distribution. Checks can be made payable to IFM, 440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 or you can pay on the website FeedingFamilies.org

IFM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

IFM is experiencing increased client numbers and the trend is expected to continue through the Holidays. They need more volunteer help than ever! Below are listed the various volunteer jobs, along with shift days and times, and some basic information about what each job entails. Training is provided for ALL positions.

CHECKERS - M W F FROM 9:15 AM TO 1:15 PM.

Job Description: Checkers work in outdoor booths at the drive-through food distribution area, checking in and interviewing clients for their food preferences, and filling out a ticket. They also gather new and client information and log client visits on a database computer program.

DATA ENTRY - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 1:00-2:00 PM.

Job Description: Work either on your own computer at home or at IFM on their computers; log food bag counts for each client and if at IFM, tidy up your station.

Interested in either of the above?

Contact Connie Mattis at 530-272-8489.

TRAFFIC CONTROL - M W F FROM 9:15 AM TO 1:15 PM.

Job Description: Friendly people needed to greet clients as they enter and give them information, reminders, and hand out flyers. They will direct cars to the booths and keep the line from backing up onto the road. *If interested, please contact Jim Luckenbill at 530-265-4655.*

PACKERS AND SORTERS - T OR TH FROM 7:00 -10:00 AM OR SATURDAYS, 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

Job Description: Pack staple bags, specialty bags, smaller items, bag grains, rotate stock and condense pallets. Sort donated food into categories. Stock pantry shelves, pull dented cans or outdated food.

DISTRIBUTORS - M W F - 7:00 AM TO 2:00 PM.

(You are not required to work the whole shift.)

Job Description: Sort food, pack bread and produce bags, sort and bag eggs. Fill orders from clients' tickets by taking pre-packed carts and add options. Note and record the number of bags on the carts, repack empty carts. Clean up your station at the end of the day.

If interested in Packing or Distributing, contact Anna Gloria at 530-277-2920.

DRIVERS- SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 7:00 TO 9:30 AM,

Volunteers need to have a pick up truck, SUV or van.

Job Description: Pick up food donations from local grocery stores. You will be trained with an experienced driver, and route lists and instructions provided. Plan to volunteer at least two days per month. Contact John Bradford at 530-751-6242.

Community Connections – Online Activities

Staying Connected through Zoom

UUCM is partly open, but most meetings are still available via Zoom.

The Board has eased restrictions to allow outside gatherings of up to 20 people and gatherings within the Sanctuary of up to 10 people, socially-distanced and masked.

WEEKLY @ UUCM

Watch your email for links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org

SUNDAY SERVICES - 9:30 AND 11:30 AM VIA ZOOM

STARTING IN NOVEMBER! ON-SITE ATTENDANCE

FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE

Reservations required -- Watch UUGeneral and/or eChalice for a link to reserve your space.



SUNDAY DROP-IN SUPPORT CIRCLE - 10:45 AM

Confidential Peer support. The circle's mission is to provide a place for UUCM folks to drop in (now via Zoom) to give and get a little extra support. Our meetings usually last for 45 to 50 minutes, and the format is a circle where we take turns

(usually about 3 minutes) to share what is present for us. Sharing is confidential. If there is time remaining we do extra sharing in a popcorn fashion. (Advice should be given only when requested or with permission.) We are a sharing and support circle rather than a therapy session.

Please join in as it will serve your spirit, knowing that your presence will be a gift to others.

UUCM Groups Meet via Zoom AND In-Person

There are many groups that meet regularly at UUCM which have moved their meetings to the Zoom app while the danger of exposure to COVID-19 continues. In addition, a few groups are opening up to in-person meetings, observing social-distancing and wearing masks if some in the group are uncomfortable without. Please contact the individual organizers if you are interested in joining!

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE - VIA ZOOM

First Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 11:00 AM

The UUCM Humanist Discussion group will meet via Zoom. Here's the link to join us:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpXSkrHcDkxaGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



Our topic for this month is Climate Change and the Humanist approach to it. Below is the link to the American Humanist Association's Resolution on Climate Change. This can serve as a starting point for our discussion:

<https://americanhumanist.org/key-issues/statements-and-resolutions/resolution-climate-change/>

I look forward to an interesting discussion with you on November 3rd. To be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

WALKING GROUP

Tuesdays: Wolf Creek Trail, meet at the Northstar Mine Parking Lot, 8:00 AM.

Thursdays: meet at 418 Chapel St, GV at 8:00 AM for local walk with outdoor social time afterward. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome.

Please contact Theresa Houtman at Walking@uugrassvalley.org to get on the list.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE – SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. Come make connections with other UUCM women, and have a few laughs, share stories and concerns. We have been doing Zoom meetings for the last year and a half and are continuing to for now. Watch for updates through our group email list.

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 - VIA ZOOM

Men gather to enjoy each others' company.

Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM, and/or

Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

Contact for either group: mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org

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

Contact Jo Waters if you'd like to find out more! familyministry@uugrassvalley.org OR jowaters@hotmail.com

PUUmpkin Pies!

By Jo Waters, UUCM

After a very busy end of October (Pumpkin Altar, Costume Contest, Charlie Brown's Great Pumpkin, Drum Circle), we will take a little breather before gathering the youngsters again on November 17. Due to cooler weather and growing darkness, we will move our pUUmkin patch activities indoors and focus on enjoying the bounty of our harvest. And what could be better than baking some pumpkins into pies? In order to spread the love and promote connection, we will be offering these pies to members of our congregation for purchase. Pick up and/or delivery will be the weekend of the 20th so you can have them in time for Thanksgiving. All proceeds will be donated to a charity chosen by our youngsters. We will provide regular, gluten free and vegan options. Watch your email for details on how to order.



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

For families looking for community service opportunities, consider joining the UUCM workday at Interfaith Food Ministry on Tuesday, November 9 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. This is a time in which only UU folks and IFM staff are in the building, so all ages are welcome. Late arrival is also fine in order to accommodate school and work schedules; just let Jo Waters know at jowaters@hotmail.com or 530-414-6941.

YOUNG & EMERGING ADULTS

Offerings in the wider community for this age group, many of whom are no longer at home, include the Young Adult Revival Network (YARN) at yarn.org and the Free Radical Ministry.



As always, watch the eChalice for details and updates as well as selections from the Soul Matters RE Curriculum which can be done at home.

The Unitarian Universalist Association presents:

**FREE
 RADICAL
 MINISTRY**

A campus / gap-year / post-bridging online ministry for emerging adults

INCLUDING VIRTUAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCES, PERSONAL CONNECTIONS (HANG TIME), AND SOCIAL / SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN A UU EMERGING ADULT GROUP SETTING

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/QPkCbvfVTTZsQfE86>

Full Community Education



Soul Matters: WELCOME TO THE PRACTICE OF HOLDING HISTORY

Let's start with the words of
Parker Palmer,

"Jewish teaching includes frequent reminders of the importance of a broken-open heart, as in this Hasidic tale: A disciple asks the rebbe: "Why does Torah tell us to 'place these words upon your hearts'? Why does it not tell us to place these holy words in our hearts?" The

rebbe answers: "It is because as we are, our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks and the words fall in."

So, a closed heart. It's admittedly a strange place to begin a month of exploring Holding History. And yet, when we are honest, we know that defensiveness, protectiveness and closed doors rule our relationship with history more than we'd like.

For instance, very few of us have pasts without pain woven through. And it's just easier to shut out those traumatic times than confront them head on. We are all well taught in the game of sweeping old wounds under the rug.

And of course, there's the unprocessed horrors woven throughout our cultural history. They are the rule not the exception, but we work hard to close ourselves off from them with standard lines like, "At our best, this isn't who we are!" or "As Americans, we're better than this!" The truth is we've never consistently been "better than this." Amnesia rather than a courageous and honest reckoning describes the current character of America's heart.

All of which is to say that there is a deeper relationship between history and vulnerability than we often recognize. Without a heart willing to feel pain and endure grief, the fullness of our histories just can't enter in. Talking about past mistakes requires the ability to vulnerably say I'm sorry. An honest telling of racism requires the painful acceptance that some of us still benefit from the prejudices and oppression of our ancestors. Healing historical racism requires someone suffering the costs of reparations. And telling your full story requires navigating grief over choices you wish you would have made differently.

It certainly seems the rabbis were right. Like those holy words, history in its fullness just sits there until our hearts break open and allow it in.

So, let's not just "remember" this month. Let's not just talk of telling truthful tales. Let's prepare to grieve, to confess, to feel, to forgive. The world needs broken-open hearts, not just good historians. That is, indeed, the only way the past gets in.

SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2021-2022

November: Holding History

December: Opening to Joy

January: Living with Intention

February: Widening the Circle

March: Renewing Faith

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings

Sunday Book Group

UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 PM

November 7 - *Wintering, The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May

A poignant and comforting meditation on the fallow periods of life, when we must retreat to care for and repair ourselves.

December 5 - *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell

A brilliantly written historical fictional account of William Shakespeare's son, who died of Bubonic plague at age eleven.

SELECTIONS FOR 2022:

The Civil Wars of Julia Ward Howe by Elaine Showalter

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

Distant Neighbors: The Selected Letters of Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder by Gary Snyder and Wendell Berry

All meetings will be scheduled every month on the first Sunday at 1:00 PM by Zoom and now, also in person. All are welcome to join for any or all discussions. Contact Theresa Houtman at (530) 277-9294 or BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org if you have questions or wish to be added to the email list.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING FOR SUNDAY BOOK GROUP:

<https://zoom.us/j/92711118322?pwd=c2w5M0VoMEduKzVLQkIFUzJ3S2Zndz09>

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

Join by phone: 1 669 900 9128 (Same ID/passcode as above)

November 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

NOVEMBER 2021

Please note: Most meetings and services are held by Zoom until further notice, but a few are opening up for in person opportunities: Watch for links and meeting numbers through your email from UUGeneral or the meeting hosts and updates on in person events.

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
2	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
		6:00 PM	Starting Point
3	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		6:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
4	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
6	Saturday	7:00 PM	Music Café
7	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:45 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 PM	Sunday Service
		1:00 PM	Community Business Meeting
		2:45 PM	Book Group
		7:00 PM	Choir
8	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
9	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:00 PM	Starting Point
10	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
11	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
14	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:45 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 PM	Sunday Service
		7:00 PM	Choir
15	Monday	5:30 PM	Family Ministry Meeting
16	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:00 PM	Starting Point
17	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees Business Mtg
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids Connection Pie Baking at UUCM
18	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
20	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
21	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:45 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 PM	Sunday Service
		7:00 PM	Choir
23	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:00 PM	Starting Point
24	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
25	Thursday		Thanksgiving Day
28	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:45 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30 PM	Sunday Service
30	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:00 PM	Starting Point



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

Sunday Services are now held at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM both by Zoom and on-site for a limited number of people – reservations required!

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

While the pandemic keeps us home, Rev. Kevin's office hours are by appointment.

Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or minister@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

minister@uugrassvalley.org

admin@uugrassvalley.org

music@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

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

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

MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org

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

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

Kathy MacLeod, Editing, and Kathryn Young, Design/Layout

Staff Contributors: Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Fulkerson