

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2023

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person
and also via Zoom.

*If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to COVID,
please attend online.*

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 10:30 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 6833 or 1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

... See Page 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

MAY THEME: *The Path of Creativity*

May 7 **The Creative Spark**
Lindsay Dunckel, Randy McKean, and Tracy
Pepper, Worship Associates,

*Creativity is central to the spirituality of many UUs – the creative
spirit can be understood as a core life force. Join in as we play with
our creativity and ponder what role it plays in creating beloved
community.*

May 14 **The Iowa Sisterhood**
Rev. Jan Onnie,
with Tracy Pepper, Worship Associate

*Join us for a celebration of the women who moved Unitarian
Universalism into the West.*

May 21 **The Moon Symphony**
with Robin Hart, Randy McKean & Tracy Pepper,
Worship Associates

*Experience how creativity went from a spark of inspiration to a
stunningly beautiful feast for ears, eyes, and spirit. Renowned
composer Amanda Lee Falkenberg and our own Robin Hart weave
their awesome talents together to create an astoundingly beautiful
symphony of sound and sight.*

May 28 **The Goat in the Pick-up Truck**
Rev. Janet Onnie,
with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

*Using the short story by Rev. Meg Barnhouse, let's consider
our options of how to think about traveling to an unknown
destination.*

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Reflections for Renewal Times

Rev. Jan Onnie
UUCM Sabbatical Minister

Sabbatical Impressions

I have spent the past four and a half months with you, existing only as a face on a screen – the clergy version of a talking head. Most of you have only seen/heard me a dozen times. I have seen/heard most of you not at all. But I know you're there. You're reflected in your leaders; in their thoughtful, dedicated handling of the sometimes-overwhelming business of maintaining an institution.

Several things have impressed me. First, your obvious love for your minister. It's a wonderful thing to know a colleague is so well-regarded. It's good for the community and it's good for Unitarian Universalism. It's also good for the minister. Up to a point. Please don't love him so much that you smother him. Just because he knows *how* to do everything doesn't mean he *should* do everything.

Which leads me to the second thing that's impressed me. Your competence. You are the model of the highly educated, community-building, action-oriented-justice-seeking community that defines how people (when they think of us at all) perceive Unitarian Universalists. You have a lot of systems, policies, and procedures. That's a great thing *if* you can make exceptions and *if* you remember to talk – and listen – to each other. Because listening, especially, begets creativity. That's the third thing that impressed me.

What I experienced in worship, especially, was a weekly outpouring of creative energy and imagination. I sometimes felt like Sunday morning was a theatrical production. That isn't a bad thing. Someone once assured me that what worship teams do is put on a weekly performance, a performance for God (however you define that). Whew! I wonder if God might like a break – something a bit lower key -- from time to time.

There's lots more to be impressed with. The way in which you handled the potential building acquisition. When it was obviously not right, you had the courage to pivot away from a deal. The way you care for each other. Your outpouring of support for Jenny was really quite amazing. And I am especially grateful for the risk you took by giving ministry-by-Zoom a chance to work for you. You have played a leadership role in using technology in a way that will enhance opportunities for both ministers and congregations in the years to come.

Mostly I am grateful for the hospitality shown me. You made me feel welcome and appreciated. I anticipate following your adventures and look forward to celebrating your milestones from my valley to your valley. May you be well and always blessed.

– Rev. Jan



REV. JAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Pacific Time

Contact Rev. Jan at revjanet@uugrassvalley.org
or 530-278-5091 to schedule a time to talk via Zoom.

... **Email is her preferred method of communication.** ...

Due to the 3-hour time difference, messages that come after 6:00 PM PT may not be answered until the following day, unless there is an emergency.



Board of Trustees

*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*
president@uugrassvalley.org

I will begin and end this article by saying "Oh, how I miss Kevin!"

In the past few months, the Board has been actively responding to several challenges within our Community. The first arose when complications with the property at Squirrel Creek brought about a change in direction in our search for a new church home. While we were disappointed with the loss of what appeared to be a great property, we were also relieved to have more time to explore our readiness to make such a move. This exploration will be ongoing work for the future.

Next our Community faced the challenge of extreme winter weather during which a member, Jenny Dewey, lost her home. As a Community, we pulled together rapidly in response to this emergency. We raised over \$17,000 from a variety of sources, including generous donations from members, to repair Jenny's home and get her back to a safe living environment. This was a loving and generous response that demonstrates our commitment to our mission.

We have also changed our organization to adapt to Carol Fulkerson and Mary Lindsay leaving their staff positions. We restructured our administrative staffing to be full-time and in-house, allowing for more support for ministerial functions and member needs. We conducted an extensive job search and were truly fortunate to hire Siobhan Boylan for this new position, who brings her wonderful abilities and spirit to the job.

During all these challenges the Board has continued with its usual work: establishing policies, reviewing progress on tasks, and supporting committees, teams, and members as they carry out the work of the church.

One of the Board goals for this year was "accomplish a successful renewal year." The Board revisits that goal monthly to assess our sabbatical progress and learning. We knew going into this renewal year that sabbatical would be a time of discovery for Rev. Kevin, but it has proven to be a time of discovery for us as well. We have learned that we are a body of people who can respond and adapt to challenging situations in positive, helpful, and creative ways. In the space created by Kevin's absence we have also become mindful of how much our minister does for us, and we are asking ourselves how we can change to avoid putting everything back on his

plate when he returns. The Ministry Council is absorbing this learning as well as the Board. The space between 'Kevin' and 'not Kevin' is revealing how much he did for us all. We are realizing that there are things we can do to lighten his burden and support a healthy balance when he returns. This will be a process that will need to include Kevin as well. I am looking forward to learning what this renewal space has taught him - and then further exploring the ways that we have all grown from the renewal experience.

And so, I will end with the beginning - I miss Kevin! But not because I need him to keep us on an even keel. I know that these past month's challenges would have been easier for me if he were here, but we have been strong and capable without him. I miss him because I miss his spirit and I look forward to enjoying a refreshed Kevin who can step back into a community that has a new perspective on our abilities and the ways in which we can support our minister.

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

Pam Kisor	<i>President</i>
Rene Wiley	<i>Vice-President</i>
Gail Schultz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Janet Dunstan	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Taylor Carey and Lisa Haden

UUCM Committees:

Finance • Governance • Endowment
Nominating

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM 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.



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Leader, Stewardship Team

I found getting started with this article was challenging. Pledges for our 2023-2024 year are coming in slowly and several of our strong supporting members are moving. However, we've added many new members and we are a resilient group. I was reminded of the song, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." We survived the covid shutdown brilliantly. Our members rose to the occasion with wonderful, zoomed Sunday Services. Unlike most traditional churches, we grew during this difficult period. Our UU Principles in this troubled world are valued. We have a clear and beautiful mission statement that is our strength.

Realistically, we do need to find additional funding and one way is through strong fundraising. Creative fundraising can serve more than just raising money. It can bring us together, bring us joy and draw attention to our church from the outside community. If anyone has their creative juices running at the thought of fundraising, please contact me. (Fundraising is technically not under Stewardship. However, we can help direct you.)

For example, our first fundraising event of 2023 is on May 20: Dave Luce will be doing a Spring Wine Tasting! We are all in for a treat. Dave owns the Alta Sierra Shop in Alta Sierra and has wonderful, well-priced wines. Look for more information on this event in the weeks ahead. Put the date on your calendar and we'll have a great time!

If you haven't sent in your 2023-2024 Pledge, please don't wait another day. Every pledge is important, as is each member. If you need a form, they are available in the office or email me stewardship@uugrassvalley.org and I'll get one to you.

We are wrapping up our 2022-2023 fiscal year, and those pledges must be satisfied by June 30. If you are paying by check, please indicate the pledge year on your check. When you start paying your 2023-2024 pledge, please indicate **that** on your check.

With Love and Respect,

-Maryann



Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer
UUCM Board of Trustees

We've had a busy start to the year, with lots of positive changes. We've managed to achieve full staffing, with the addition of Toby Thomas-Rose in late December, Aiden McCarthy in January, and Siobhan Boylan moving to the full-time Administrative Assistant position on April 24. With these changes, we have a thriving music program, now with our lovely choir enriching our services. We have support for our children's programming, with some relief for our Family Ministry volunteers, who I'm sure will now enjoy being able to attend our Sunday Services regularly. And we have on-site consolidated administrative support from someone both knowledgeable about and committed to our community and its vision and mission, with all the skill sets to enable us to manage efficiently and creatively everything from Sunday worship to paying our bills!

Going forward after this staffing transition, our personnel situation is up to plan, and being an employer committed to paying fair wages and providing adequate benefits, we have an increase in costs to fund along the way. And we have a challenge! ***As you may have already learned, a generous member of our congregation is challenging all of us to help fund these improvements with a one-time matching gift of \$10,000, running through May 8!*** Let's see if we can lift ourselves up to more fully support our staff and programs going forward.

- Gail

Ways to Give to UUCM

- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Share-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 Share-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 Share-the-Plate partner.

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains presents a

Join wine broker Dave Luce, as he unfolds the intricacies of a selection of wines while you taste and judge for yourself.

This will be a fun evening for experienced wine connoisseurs as well as those just learning to appreciate wine.

In addition to sampling wines, you will be invited to enjoy a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts!

Dave assembles top quality wines, both white and red, at affordable prices. Cash, checks or credit cards accepted.

For tickets and info, please contact Keith Johnson at: justice@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM
246 South Church Street,
Grass Valley

Wine Market!



**Saturday, May 20
6 to 8 p.m. at UUCM
\$25 per person**

Membership Team News & Events

Laura Harter and Kate Canan, Co-Leaders,
Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Want to Learn More About UUCM and Get Connected? Try UU 101

CALLING BOTH NEW AND EXPERIENCED SEEKERS!

If you've been attending services or checking out the website and are curious to find out more, or if you are already a member and wanting to renew your sense of community and of this religious tradition, join us for meaningful and fun connection as well as information at "UU 101," a single, interactive, introductory session. We'll explore the history, principles, and sources of Unitarian Universalism and our congregation's mission statement. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion, because, after all, UU is a denomination where questioning is highly encouraged! The Membership Team will be leading these sessions after church from 12:00 – 2:00 PM on the third Sundays of each month: the next one is on Sunday, May 21.

If you attend one of these sessions and wish to explore in a deeper way, the next Starting Point session will be held this summer after the Rev. Kevin returns. This five-part series is highly recommended for those who are considering membership, and we also welcome current members. Stay tuned for dates.

CIRCLE SUPPERS

Despite the snow, Circle Suppers made a comeback in February and March. Great conversations and wonderful food were shared; special thanks go to our Circle Supper Hosts: Gwen Eyman, Laura Harter, Theresa Houtman, Pam Kisor, Martha Turner, Connie Wright, and Kathryn Young and Taylor Carey. We look forward to having another round of Circle Suppers in the Fall.

CEILIDH FUN!

The St Paddy's Ceilidh in March was just a grand time with great music and food, and per Kate Canan, "'twas a grand craic!" Hat's off to UUCM's very own Kate Canan and Tom Wernigg whose Celtic bands had us all tapping our toes and kept us in happy spirits. Special thanks to the many UUCM members who generously helped make it happen by cooking, selling tickets, working in the Pub, decorating, managing the sound, and sharing a Celtic Blessing. It wouldn't have been possible without Beth Rose, Carol Kuczora, Corrie Sylvia, Theresa Houtman, Lisa Haden, Martha Turner, Connie Wright, Lesley and Chuck Champlin, Rene Wiley, Kathryn Young, Andy Dooley-Miller, Christy Barden, Leonna Sapphire, Sue Hollon,

Gwen Eyman, Michael Bankston, and Carol Richey. It takes a UU village to have a Ceilidh and we thank Shannon Dooley-Miller who enthusiastically brought UUCM and the larger Nevada County community together for this grand party and celebration.

MEET THE MINISTER TEAS

The "Meet the Minister" teas have been a wonderful way to meet Rev. Jan and share time together. We've had great conversation and time to reflect as the conversation meanders without the pressure of an agenda or notes or problem solving.

Come join us for one – Wednesday, May 3 at noon or Monday, May 15 at 5:30 PM. Call Laura Harter for more information.

HOSPITALITY HOUR

We want to thank so many of you all for bringing snacks for our Sunday after-service coffee/teatime and for volunteering to set-up and clean-up. And special thanks to Beth Rose who oversees Hospitality, making sure we have plenty of coffee and tea, and coordinating volunteers.

UUCM CAMPING TRIP THIS AUGUST 18-20

And get ready for summer! We want to remind everyone that there is still time to reserve your spot for this year's Family Camping Trip.

When: Aug 18-20, 2023
Where: Plumas Eureka State Campground
Check In: 2:00 PM, Friday, August 18
Check Out: 12:00 PM, Sunday, August 20

This will be our second year camping at Plumas Eureka. It's a beautiful location about two hours north near Graeagle and we had so much fun! We had a fun, easy-going schedule:

Friday night - Gathered around the first evening, played games, sang songs including old commercial ditties and laughed a lot.
Saturday AM - We came together with morning beverages to chat, did a little yoga and eventually some of us packed a lunch and went hiking and swimming in nearby lakes.
Saturday PM - We gathered for a potluck, played more games, played music and sang more songs. Roasted marshmallows and made s'mores!
Sunday AM - More gathering, pancakes, and a little Sunday Service Circle under the trees. Yippee!

We are looking forward to more happy camping memories with all of you! For more information, please contact Beth Rose via Membership@uugrassvalley.org.



Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team
Caring@uugrassvalley.org

We all need extra care sometimes on our journey through life.

The UUCM Parish Care Team is here to help organize practical support for members and friends through times of need, offering support such as home or hospital visits, transportation to local appointments, a ride to UUCM on Sunday, preparing or delivering a meal, shopping, and essential errands. The Parish Care Team also sends cards of caring and celebration, makes friendly phone calls and visits, and assists with hosting and refreshments at memorial services.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If interested in supporting this work, please fill out this brief [Parish Care Team Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Caring Team will contact you as needs arise.

For more information, to request care, or to share word of someone in need of care, please contact us at: Caring@uugrassvalley.org



PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, *chair*,
Jenny Dewey, Magdalene Florence, Robin Hart,
Carol Hyndman, Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris.



Lay Pastoral Care Team

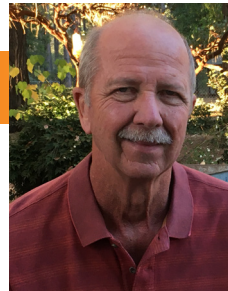
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

Please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team when you are facing difficult and stressful portions of your journey and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg or email: laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org



B & G Team

Wally Holtan, *Leader*,
Building & Grounds Team
B-G@uugrassvalley.org

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

The Building & Grounds Team manages our day-to-day facility needs and goals for improvements for our church's physical environment. We seek volunteers that are willing to help us meet those needs through work parties and project development. These are individuals who like doing projects, repairs, cleaning, or working outside in gardens and yards. There are no requirements for joining, other than enjoying hands-on tasks and working with others.

Whether you are new to UUCM or have been a part of it for a while, if you would like to meet people while doing some fun and interesting things, the UUCM Building & Grounds Team is a good place to start.

-Wally



Art and Aesthetics Team

Robin Hart, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team
art@uugrassvalley.org

The Art and Aesthetics Team meets in person at the church every other month, so we convened in April, but we were busy in March. Phil Horning and Robin Hart helped install Shanti Emerson's show in the library gallery for its March 15 opening. Laura Harter held an opening reception for Shanti last month and the exhibit was very well received by the congregation.

If you want to display art in the library contact us at: art@uugrassvalley.org. We still have openings for November 15 – January 15 and January 15 – March 15, 2024.

LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Shanti Emerson – Ceramics - March 15 – May 15

Linda Siska – Art Quilts – May 15 – July 15

Lisa Haden – Art Works – July 15 – September 15

ANNOUNCING A SPRING ART & AESTHETICS MURAL CONTEST FOR UUCM

The Art & Aesthetics Team is inviting the congregation of UUCM to help us bloom this Spring with a mural contest. If you are young or young at heart, we want you to put your creative hats on and submit a design by the deadline of May 21, 2023. You can get your entry form in the front foyer on the table from one of the greeters on Sundays or you can download it from the UUCM website at <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/mural-contest/>.

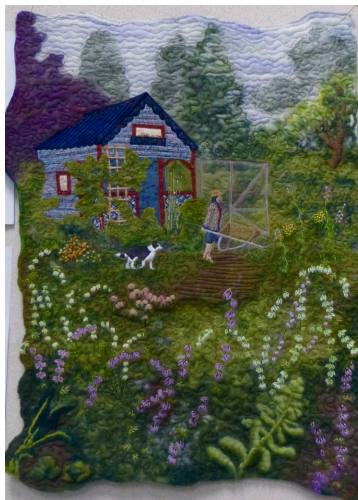
Drop off your entry form with your full-color idea to the church office and place it in the Art & Aesthetics Mail slot or scan it and send it to art@uugrassvalley.org.

The full-size mural will be 6 feet high by 9 feet wide. The entry form is scaled down to the same ratio, 6" x 9", and you can use crayons, color pencil, or your computer paint program to sketch out your idea. The artwork must include a chalice, mountains, and a stream (symbols of UUCM), and an oak tree or Black Oak acorns to honor the Nisenan tribe in the design. Judging will be done by the Art & Aesthetics team, which will decide 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, with the winning design to be blown up and painted on the mural. We will get volunteer help from congregants and RE kids to paint the mural.

*Take care, enjoy our burgeoning spring,
and keep a rainbow in your hearts!*

- Robin

INTRODUCING

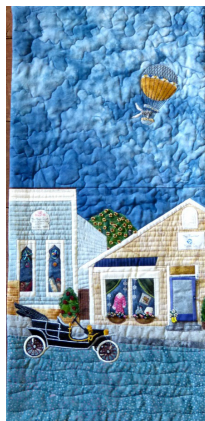


Linda Siska

Featured artist
at our UUCM Library
Art Gallery from
May 15 – July 15

I have always enjoyed making things — whether it was homemade bread or macrame plant holders (remember those?) or a dress embroidered with strawberries for my then young daughter. I did a bit of everything — creative writing, knitting, crocheting, pottery, basket making, stained glass, quilt-making, and German folk art. Of everything I tried, the quilt-making and painting were the two that I most enjoyed, and the two that I still pursue today.

Being a practical sort, my first quilts were traditionally pieced bed quilts, and my first paintings were on kitchen cupboards, stools, and small tables. Over the years, I've learned to let go of "it has to be something I can use" and open up to the possibility of artistic expression as an end in itself. Most recently, I've been exploring the world of watercolor, hoping to make use of my many travel photos from the time we lived in Germany.



What Does the Word Community Mean?

by Jenny Dewey

For most people in the English-speaking world the word community means a neighborhood, a fellowship, a circle, or a parish. There are many synonyms for the word community. Some conjure thoughts of close relationships, such as "ring," while others urge avoidance, like the word "cult."

The word for community in Buddhism is vihara. For Islamic people, the word is khanqah, and for Hindus the word is ashram. These words describe groups of people with fundamental beliefs held in common.

The fractured world we live in today propels people into tribal units. Each unit is a community unto itself. The walls around these tribal units are invisible, yet chasms without crossings define each one.

When disaster strikes, people band together. (Band is another synonym for community). Urgent need breaks down resistance, and neighbors show up to offer help. In times of dire emergency, the barriers between tribes break down, if only for a matter of hours or days.

My trailer collapsed under four feet of snow during the massive snowstorm our area experienced between the end of February and the end of March. Three years earlier a "scam" involving wire fraud resulted in the loss of my savings. I had nothing.

Loss, like grief, has predictable stages. I went through them all. I saw no light at the end of the tunnel. As it is with so many of my fellow human beings, I was without a home.

I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains in Grass Valley. Unitarian Universalist principles promote what some might perceive as goals that

are not achievable. How likely is it that a group of people, no matter how like-minded, can save the planet, or prevent war, or cure cancer?

Much less save an old lady and her cat from homelessness.



Jenny takes stock of her ruined trailer.

My purpose in writing these words is not to promote a particular religious faith. People figure this part out for themselves. My purpose is to tell how a community of individuals came together to raise the funds I needed to rebuild my trailer. I know a lot of these donors-to-my-cause by name. Then there are those who chose to donate anonymously. Then too, under the auspices of the church, a GoFundMe campaign has been created.

The money raised on my behalf allows me to breathe again, to plan for tomorrow, to know I have shelter.

I've never been comfortable being the recipient of gifts. This trait goes back to childhood. Lately I have learned it is all right to accept money when it comes to life-sustaining needs. Rallying around me are people I've known for years, but I never knew this side of them, a generosity that has set me upright on my feet.

Now I know what the word community means. The word has significance it never had before. My new understanding will never be lost to me. Disastrous events can lead to more disaster. Despair can cripple and distort a sound mind. For me, the light at the end of the tunnel is real. Within a few weeks I will be back in my trailer. This is, to me, a miracle.

As for my cat, well, he has his own opinions about everything we've been through, but he keeps his opinions to himself.

Justice News and Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's March Share the Plate recipient, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), will receive \$925.28, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up – thank you all.

As of this writing, we are currently finishing collections for our April partner, [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#).



Our May Share the Plate recipient is [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#). Child Advocates of Nevada County provides services that empower and protect children. Their work focuses on three

specific program areas: 1) **Healthy Babies**, a home visiting program for women who are pregnant or have just given birth 2) **CASA**, court appointed special advocates who are trained and supervised to advocate for children in Nevada County Superior Court 3) **Child Safety Puppeteers**, who teach about abuse prevention and reporting to young children.

Thank you, each of you, for your continual compassion- and justice-centered generosity.



Interfaith Food Ministry Update

MARCH MATCHING CAMPAIGN A BIG SUCCESS!

IFM met our goal of \$180,000 in the successful March Matching Campaign. The funds raised will be used to purchase healthy, nutritious food for our 10,000 clients. Thank you to all who donated in March and early April. We are truly blessed!

ANNUAL SHRED DAY COMING SOON!

Owen's Estate and Wealth Strategy Group is once again hosting their Annual Shred Day on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The location is Owens Plaza, 426 Sutton Way, Grass Valley. Suggested donation is \$10/box or bag. IFM is the recipient of the proceeds. Several shredding trucks will be onsite and will shred while you wait (if you want).

For more information, contact justice@uugrassvalley.org.

Stop the Mine Task Force Update

THE RISE MINE VS. US: A BATTLE OF TITANS

By Jim Bair, Stop the Mine Task Force Leader

Rise Gold Mine, Inc., (RISE) has sophisticated consultants and lawyers. It's a battle of the Titans, if you consider the public opponents collectively. But as the two sides face off, I see us as being handicapped, not only by the money that RISE has finagled from high-risk investors and the stock market, but by how the approval process works. We volunteer our time and scramble for donations to get legal advice, while the County policy is to serve the applicants for project approval. We submit thousands of "comments" which are delivered to the County and, although most are copied in the FEIR (Final Environmental Impact Report), a majority are relegated to "master responses" in the FEIR (starting p. 74).

A project of this magnitude must fit in with a huge number of other action items managed by the County. That's why it's vital that we help provide input. I can imagine reviewing over 10,000 pages in the FEIR because I have. In addition, the County also must deal with the project's "expert" consultants and lawyers whose business is to promote developments. These consultants are highly skilled at making projects pass the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and dismissing hundreds of public analyses of the economic and negative environmental impacts including approximately three hundred of ours (from UUCM, neighbors and friends).

Knowing our County Supervisors, some for many years, I feel that they are some of the finest people I know. They depend on County employees to provide them and our County Planning Commissioners with analysis and recommendations. In addition, several hundred of us have provided the results of our investigations in meetings and through written comments. So have numerous organizations such as NID, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Resources District, the City of Grass Valley, the California Department of Toxic Substances, and legal firms.

But it will help immeasurably to continue to send in and speak our strong opposition to the RISE Mine. There's a UUCM announcement coming out about the Planning Commission public hearing, May 10. At that meeting, the Mine "Titan" will be well represented by the County Planning Dept., extremely skilled consultants, and their lawyers. But we have the numbers of people and can stand up to the Mine.

Just imagine this proposed pollution level from the Mine's EIR: "Total airborne toxins and carcinogens: 153.16 lb./day." That's pounds per day blowing everywhere in the wind! (DEIR Table 4.3-19, p. 366).

*Let's continue to counter greed with truth.
Onward together!*

www.uugrassvalley.org/justice/stop-the-mine-task-force/

Community Connections – Online & In Person

Staying Connected

WEEKLY @ UUCM

[Subscribe to the weekly e-chalice](#) for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

Please do not attend in person if you are feeling unwell or have had a COVID exposure. Masks not required, but recommended for those at high risk for illness. Should CDC guidelines change or Nevada County's infection rates increase, our attendance/mask policy may also change.



SUNDAY DROP-IN

SUPPORT CIRCLE - 12:30 PM

The Circle's mission is to provide confidential peer support for UUCM folks on a drop-in basis (now also via Zoom - get link [HERE](#)) 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.

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!

WALKING GROUP

Hey sleepy heads! Our walking group meets at 8:30 AM on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. **Tuesdays** are at Wolf Creek Trail. These winter hours will continue until early sun and heat inspire us to go earlier. Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can be informed of winter weather cancellations. Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org for info.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men gather to enjoy each other's company. Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at UUCM; Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at various offsite locations. Contact for either group: men@uugrassvalley.org



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:30 AM

The Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as Humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy. Discussions explore aspects of Humanism, as well as various topics and their connections to this belief system, with a focus on how Humanism relates to today's world. Subjects for group discussion are chosen by members and optional readings on the subjects are made available prior to the discussion.

When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. We Zoom the meeting for those who are not able to attend in person: [Zoom Link](#)

Please view the UUCM Website [Calendar](#) for the most up to date meeting information. For questions, please contact: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY POTLUCK –

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Group gathering. Come make connections with other UUCM women!

Our next meeting is **Monday, May 8 at UUCM**. We'll have a potluck followed a night of Improv fun with a special guest – Sandra Rockman has been a local theatre artist since 1978. She has worked as an actor, director, playwright, and producer both independently and with many local theatre companies. She enjoys teaching Improvisation as it spans the usefulness from humor and joyfulness to a deeper awareness of impromptu interpersonal relationships.

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 meetings, and you can participate in discussions about our activities.



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

familyministry@uugrassvalley.org



Welcome to the Path of Creativity

By Cheryl Spaulding,
UUCM Family Ministry

Creativity—our theme for the month of May—is such a BIG concept. It immediately brings to mind the creative arts (drawing, painting, sculpting, dancing, singing, acting). But creativity is more than the creative arts. It is really a way of life, something much bigger than any specific activity. It is how we dress, how we play, how we think. According to Mary Lou Cook (1918-2013)—peace activist, artist, minister, and writer—“creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun.” This definition of creativity sounds very much like the bustle of activity that goes on in a UU community like ours.

For example, this month the Art and Aesthetics Team is encouraging us, the young and the young at heart, to participate in a creative process that will result in a 6 by 9-foot mural. Every one of you is invited to submit a proposed design for this mural on a 6 by 9-inch entry form. The designs must include a chalice, mountains, a stream and either an oak tree or Black Oak acorns. The entry forms are available in the foyer. The deadline for submission is May 21, 2023. More details are available on the entry form.

So why not take Mary Lou Cook’s ideas about creativity to heart? Invent a design, be experimental and take risks as you work on that design, maybe break some rules or make some mistakes in the process, and most of all have fun doing so. Be intentional about living, working, and playing with creativity.

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

All Ages Service: Sunday, May 7

Lindsay Dunckel presents “The Creative Spark” in a service designed for all ages to enjoy.

UUCM Mural Contest, May 21 deadline for submission. For details about the contest, pick up an entry form in the foyer.

Brunch Bunch Sunday, May 28: Meet in front of the building on the patio after the service (11:30-11:45 AM). Young people (11 and up) walk to a local sandwich shop to eat, talk, and get to know each other. Forward questions about this event to familyministry@uugrassvalley.org.

Kids’ Connection, every Sunday service in May.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

UUCM Camping Trip, August 18-20 at Plumas Eureka State Park. See the camping announcement under Membership News. It’s not too late to join the trip. Forward questions to Beth Rose at membership@uugrassvalley.org or Shannon at shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org.

Sunday Book Group

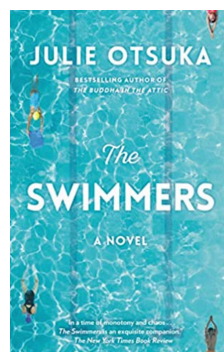
USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30 PM
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Theresa at BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

May 14 - *The Invisible Child*,

by Andrea Elliott, 2021, 520 pages

New York Times journalist Andrea Elliott immerses herself in the life of a New York family suffering from poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and despair. The invisible child is Dasani, a talented girl who wins a scholarship to an elite school in Pennsylvania, which presents a fundamental conflict between her ambitions and her loyalty to her family. This book won a Pulitzer. Presenter: Keith Johnson



Sunday June 11, *The Swimmers*

by Julie Otsuka, (Pub. 2022, 192 pages).

An intensely touching novel – part memoir highlights the relationship between the author and her mother. The author sensitively weaves the progression of her mother’s dementia into the storyline as well as an insightful and humorous story about the community pool members. The repetitive language structure enhances this endearing book.

Presenter: Judith Gropp

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Our book group is always open! Join us to delve into any book that piques your interest as often as you wish. We meet for an hour or so. You are welcome to bring your lunch; several of us

Continued on next page



Soul Matters: Welcome to the Path of Creativity

*Creativity is our ability to dream
things up and make them happen.*
— Peggy Taylor

Dreaming things up. We're all familiar with that part of the quote. Who doesn't love conjuring up new ideas and images? Who isn't impressed when someone takes pieces of what is and - almost magically - presents us with what could be?

However, the same can't be said about the second half of the quote, the part about "making those dreams happen." That side of the creativity equation gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real.

And it's not just the hard part; it's the scary part too. Maybe that's why we avoid it. Putting something new into the world takes bravery, whether that's a piece of art or the art that is you. Being creatively unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon, but it can also lead to being laughed at and left out. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt as well. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.

Once that's in view, it's clear that we also need to talk about "co-creativity" this month. Something as daring as creativity is dangerous if we try to do it alone. Indeed, where did we get the silly idea that artists, innovators and originals are isolated, independent geniuses? When it comes to myths about creativity, that one tops the list. We need to remind each other that there is no such thing as "a person of creativity," only "people of creativity." For instance, new ideas come from the clash of debate. New art emerges only after inspiration from those who've gone before. Better forms of community are built on the back of those who have toiled and sacrificed long before we put ourselves on the line. Bottom line: there are no creators without companions!

It's all a way of reminding us that the secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other. Those sacred sources of inspiration inside us – our imagination, unique voice

and inner muses – are like wild animals: They are hungry to run free but are also shy and easily scared away. They want to come out and play, but will only do so when coaxed and cared for by the inspiration and support of others.

So, in the end, maybe the most important question this month is not just "What do you want or need to create?" but also "Who are your partners?"



2022-23 Soul Matters Themes

The Path of...

May:

Creativity

June:

Delight

Sunday Book Group

Continued from page 12...

meet in the Channing room prior to the meeting to eat our lunch, or you may eat during our discussion.

BOOK LIST FOR 2023

A list of all the books we've chosen through October of 2023 was published in the January "Mountain Chalice" newsletter, so if you need a reminder, or want to order your books ahead, you can find that issue on our UUCM Website: www.UUGrassValley.org

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984



May 2023 Calendar of Events at UUCM

For the most current version of the UUCM Monthly Calendar, please click this link: <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:30 Todos Iguales / All Equal – Lindsay Duncel	4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	1:00 Membership Team Meeting
10:45 Kids' Connection		4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	10:30 Humanism Discussion Group	7:00 Singing Meditation		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			12:00 Meet the Minister Tea			
			6:30 Adult Choir			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30 The Creative Spark	6:00 Women's Circle	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
10:45 Kids' Connection			4:30 Ministry Council Meeting	10:30 Writers' Group		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			6:30 Adult Choir	2:00 Finance Committee Meeting		
				6:00 Worship Team Meeting		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 The Iowa Sisterhood – Reverend Onnie	5:30 Meet the Minister	8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	9:00 Building and Grounds Workday
10:45 Kids' Connection		5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	1:30 Board of Trustees Meeting			6:00 Wine Tasting Event
12:30 Book Group			5:00 Justice Team Meeting			
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			6:30 Adult Choir			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 The Moon Symphony		8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	
10:45 Kids' Connection			6:30 Adult Choir	10:30 Writers' Group		
12:00 UU 101						
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10:30 The Goat in the Pick-up Truck – Reverend Onnie		8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	1:00 Membership Team Meeting
10:45 Kids' Connection			6:30 Adult Choir	7:00 Singing Meditation		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Telephone: (530) 274-1675 Website: uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or in person

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

**Rev. Kevin will be away on Renewal Leave,
and out of contact, from January 16 through May 31, 2023.**

FOR PRACTICAL NEEDS, please contact UUCM's Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, below.
or UUCM Board President, Pam Kisor (president@uugrassvalley.org).

FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS,
please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team:
George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, or Tom Wernigg,
or email: laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS	E-MAIL ADDRESSES	TELEPHONE
Rev. Jan Onnie, <i>Sabbatical Minister</i>	revjanet@uugrassvalley.org	(530) 278-5091
Siobhan Boylan, <i>Administrative Assistant and Technical Support</i>	admin@uugrassvalley.org	(530) 274-1675
Toby Thomas-Rose, <i>Music Director</i>	music@uugrassvalley.org	(530) 274-1675

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

Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:

[Article Submission Form](#)

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS: Kathryn Young, *Design/Layout*, Lesley Champlin, *Editing/Proofreading*